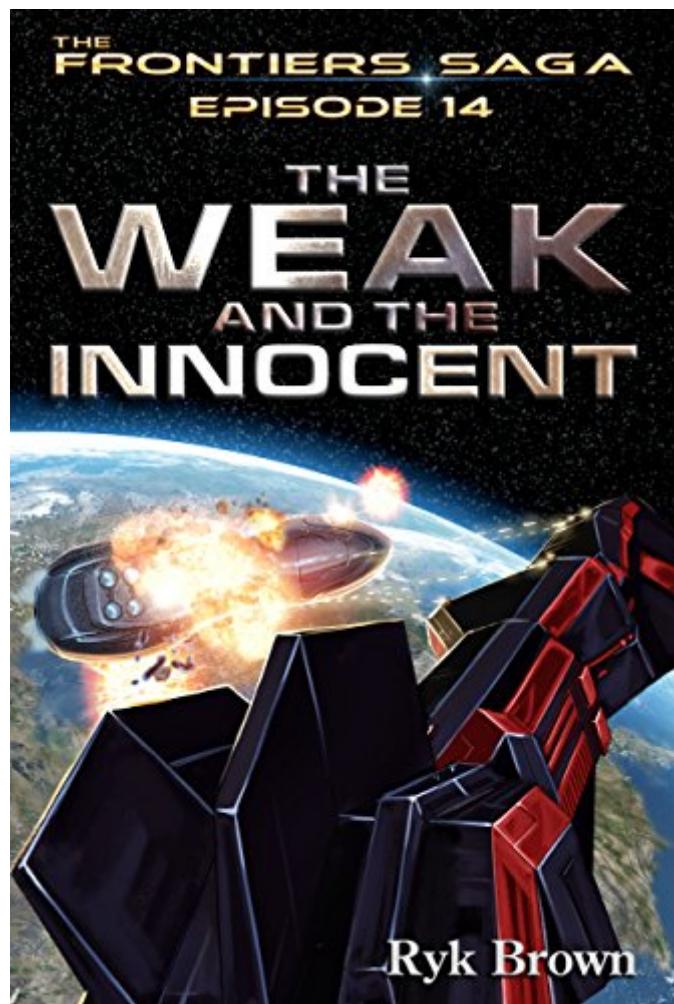


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Ep.#14 - "The Weak And The Innocent" (The Frontiers Saga)



Synopsis

Episode 14 A ship in the hands of their enemyâ |A liberation gone wrongâ |A chance to double their ranksâ |A bold and daring planâ |Their support from the Pentaurus cluster dwindling fast, the Alliance faces new and unpleasant realities in the Sol sector. But untoward changes also bring unexpected opportunitiesâ | The 'trick' is in how you use them.â œThe Weak and the Innocentâ • is a 110,000 word novel, and is the 14th episode in The Frontiers Saga. The Conclusion of Part 1, Episode 15, "Which Other Men Cannot Do" is coming soon!

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Customer Reviews

I always hate to be the lone dissenter among my peers, but I believe a little perspective needs to be added to â œThe Weak and the Innocentâ ™ episode 14 of the Frontiers Saga by Ryk Brown. I have read the series from the beginning and as other fans eagerly await the next episode release. However, I feel the need to point out a few problems. Beginning with episode 12 the whole focus of

the series has changed. What began as a story of maturity for the 4 main characters; Nathan, Jessica, Cameron and Vladimir the storyline completely switched gears bringing in new characters and lessening the role of the originals. Personally, I felt episode 12 was completely ridiculous and episode 13 completely changed Jessicaâ™s character, reduced Nathanâ™s role, and killed off Tug just so his daughter would have an excuse to travel to Earth. Now we get the long awaited for Episode 14. Again the original characters appearance is reduced. Jessica becomes more of a cartoon character, Nathan and Cameron barely appear and Nathan (who has defeated up to ten battleships, battle platforms and cruisers across a 1000 light year span gets himself in a precarious position requiring rescue. Then there is the constant POV 10 to 15 paragraph shifts completely messing with the storyline and leaving several plot threads dangling making things more confusing. Peter F. Hamilton gets away doing POV shifts by writing pages or even dedicating whole chapters, but a few incoherent paragraphs just doesnâ™t cut it. Still, I anxiously await Episode 15 and hope it will swing back to the beginning and Jessica will be the cool calm operative, Nathan the combat genius, Cameron the voice of reason and Vlad, well Vlad.

I'm sure this will be unwelcome by the many fans of this series, but I think the last two books have fallen off considerably in quality. The two main issues I have is that we have so many focus characters, that this is less a novel and more a series of vignettes where we jump from one story to the other. Also, the characters have changed to the worse. Our main character, Nathan, is now just one of many and his interesting tales are no longer the center of the action. Instead, in a fit of PC, the author has shoved the 'feisty female' trope at us. We have the always annoying Jessica Nash now raging around in a constant red faced swagger openly defying her superior officers but allowed to get away with it because...why? I guess it's ok for females although a male or a real female in the military would be tossed in the brig for her actions and words. Then we have the miracle child with an IQ of 420 or so. Tug's daughter emerges full of her 16 or 18 years of age to not only out negotiate businessmen with 40 years experience but then goes on to lecture and dominate a panel of highly experienced aeronautical engineers. Well, girls can do anything, as we are told to believe and that means better than anybody else. This was one heck of a series with Nathan at its center - the reluctant captain who through luck, brains and guts manages to not only pilot his star ship, but to forge alliances and persist where others fail but he does so in a plausible manner. He's not 16 nor does he outdo those who have vast experience over him. I can go on and on with the holes and laughable setups in this volume but that's enough. I'm sure I've earned the enmity of the series' many fanbois already. Will I be on for V 15? Yes. After 11 great novels in the series, one clunker

and now two letdowns, I'm still curious how it wraps up.

I think one word sums up this latest installment in the Frontiers Saga: AWESOME!!!!!! The Weak and the Innocent picks up straight after the battle at the end of book 13 with the remaining scout ships doing everything they can to find the Jung ship which captured scout three. Honestly, my heart was in my mouth for the first few chapters - things are going badly for the all the 'good guys'. The Ghatazhak warriors on Koharan are getting hammered by the Jung; Naralena gets stuck behind enemy lines, and Captain Robert Nash tries to figure out how to stop the Jung from bringing his scout ship aboard their ship and getting their greedy hands on a jump drive. Once again Ryk Brown does a great job in describing the tense action, drawing the reader into each scene with a masterful hand. The characters have become familiar 'friends' and you can't help cheering for them when everything goes well and feeling their pain when they lose friends along the way. Nail-bitting action and drama fill the pages of this fantastic book - I highly recommend the Weak and the Innocent.

Ryk Brown appears to understand the addiction he has created among his readers. He keeps the product coming quickly enough so we don't lose our craving. It's compelling and fast-moving the future of Earth and its far-reaching colonies hang in the balance. Captain Nathan gets shuttled off to bit-part status as Brown in "The Weak and the Innocent" juggles multiple story lines in the "Frontiers Saga: Episode 14." The Ghatazhak warriors play an starring role in many of the most intense action scenes, and the best parts are again where the Alliance fights to carve a chance for survival against the more powerful Jung. Brown's characters suffer somewhat in the mix, but I assume he's pushing forward the larger narrative of battling the bad guys from a hidden planet. We get to learn a bit more about the society of the militaristic invaders and how they lull their populations into thinking they're in the right because native Earthlings are infected and dangerous. They must be destroyed. Propaganda thing and hard to argue with for the hearts and minds of potential fellow conquered peoples. Brown likes to make his characters larger than life and sometimes completely unbelievable. But they're heroes. Heroes get away with stuff normals wouldn't. That's what escapist reading is all about. We just have to go along with the story. And it's a great one, taken as a series.

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