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The Sentinel (The Sentinel Trilogy Book 1)



Synopsis

The humans on the sentinel battle station have waited more than a decade in silence for their enemy's return, a merciless, bird-like alien species known as Apex, who are bent on exterminating all other sentient life in the quadrant. But when a strange warship appears, the crew is thrown into chaos as one faction is desperate to communicate with the newcomers, and the other will kill to keep their mission a secret. For the crew of HMS Blackbeard, a battered Royal Navy warship light years from home, the battle station may prove their salvation. But they must first overcome the reactionary forces on the station who would see them destroyed, and then team up with the survivors before the arrival of a menacing Apex fleet. The first book of the new sci-fi trilogy by Wall Street Journal bestselling author Michael Wallace, *The Sentinel* is an exciting, action-packed space opera for both new readers and fans of the bestselling *Starship Blackbeard* series alike.

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed Michael Wallace's *The Sentinel* which had all the elements I like in my sci-fi reads -

great action, interesting characters, excellent plot, scary aliens (Apex) and great writing that keeps my eyes glued to the pages until the end. I'm a relative new comer to the Blackbeard universe - I read Starship Blackbeard and at the time it didn't float my boat, but after reading The Sentinel my interest has been piqued and I have decided to go back and read the first four books about Blackbeard and her crew. The Sentinel is set in an area further away from Albion and involves the Singaporean Imperium who previously battled the Apex approximately 12 years ago. Commander Jon Li is in charge of Sentinel 3 and for the past eleven years it has been cut off from the Imperium - they have had no contact with their Government and over time the crew have broken into two major factions: the Sentry and Openers, plus the few who are unaligned. Things suddenly change when an unknown ship enters the system which houses Sentinel 3 and The Sentry group subsume Li's authority, taking control of Sentinel 3. With the Apex entering the system hard on the heels of the unknown ship, things are looking grim for Li and the rest of crew, both non-aligned and Openers. Here ends my 'spoilers'. Nope, not going to reveal anything about the unknown ship, but I'm sure smart readers who know the Blackbeard universe can make a few shrewd guesses. Overall, The Sentinel gives the reader an exciting and entertaining read that expands the Blackbeard universe and I have to say the Apex are one scary, repellant group of alien birds - I don't think I'll ever look at birds in the same light again, lol.

The good: 1) I liked the description of the Apex aliens, their interaction among themselves, etc. They make for a good enemy for Albion, the Hroom and other humans 2) The story is well paced and leaves the right amount of openness for the next installment in the series 3) A fairly balanced amount of action

The bad (spoilers warning!): 1) Some of the Singaporean characters are not very credible. The worst is the battle station commander. While it is credible that he would have problems with factionalism, the indecisive way he acts and thinks after the Blackbeard crew arrives is strange, after having kept the station operational for 11 years, etc. The behaviour of some Sentry faction members, especially the leaders, is also not very credible. Why continuing to fight for isolation after being discovered by Apex, even if you do not believe the Imperium is gone? To the point of committing suicide for nothing? 2) Some elements of the plot seem to need more work in order to explain them. e.g. a) how does the Apex queen control the Dutch captain with scent that comes from OUTSIDE the ship's hull??? I would have believed that the chemicals affected the brain to change his behaviour, but then why is the scent necessary? To send orders? How?. b) If the Apex knew exactly in which planet Sentinel was hiding (because they had 8 lances in orbit around it), how come they needed Blackbeard to find it? Despite these caveats, I found the book interesting and

will buy the next installment, as the premises of the story are very good.

The saga continues. Pro- your favorites are back.....good and bad. Liked that Cap and Carivalo aren't pawing all over each other and some new combat tech is introduced. Ok, the flip side, OMG the first three chapters, though important, almost lost me. I gave it chance and found Mr Wallace did not loose his mind and got back on track came out with a winner. Don't expect the "BLACKBEARD" series.....This is more hands on and more character in depth.....

I'm a big fan of Michael Wallace's Righteous series, but this is the first of his SF I've read. An exciting story, written by a master. The rating on my personal spreadsheet is 4.8, with a deduction for not having any sort of ending. I like series, but dislike serials. Ordinarily I would not be suckered into buying more episodes, but I'll make an exception in this case, since it's advertised as a trilogy.

For someone looking for sci-fi action/adventure (even if you're a dummy when it comes to sci-fi lingo), this was a FUN read.I'm a huge fan of Starship Blackbeard, and this was like rekindling an old friendship.Michael Wallace's characters really get under my skin.They amped me up at night while I was trying to settle down for bed. The bad guys are really bad... like either psycho or legit evil. I wanted the teeth punched out of their snarky mouths or wanted to see them locked up... in a pod and blasted into space. The weirdo avian predators disturbed and disgusted me. I want them destroyed.Jess is the heroine that balances out the crazy females in this book. I saw her growth as a commander in this book compared to the other series. Her cute girl-next-door side still peeks through her woman-in-charge-ness, making her feel familiar and relatable. The poor girl can't ever seem to catch a break!The only complaint I have (without giving too much away) is that there are a couple of characters unaccounted for as the action escalates. I hope they pop back up in the later books. I want to find out what happens to them.There is violence, but it's not yucky gory. There is some sexual banter, brief and funny, but no actual content.I love these books. The release dates can't come soon enough.

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