

J. Manliff Kirkman

5.0 out of 5 stars Wow!

May 4, 2016

Verified Purchase

Because of the energy and imagery that stuck with me and called to me, I am now half way through my second reading of the book. And I finding that the second reading is letting me see subtle details of the story and characters that I did not catch on the first read. My typical test of a very good book is how good it is upon the second read. Cataclysm is a very strong story because it has a depth and dimension that expands at a second read.

The characters have depth, even many minor ones. Particularly the so called "bad guys". The "bad guys" are not all bad, and the good guys are a not all that good; thank you for that. All of them are multi-dimensional.

Cataclysm brings together several classic genre ideas in a new way that is both simulating and fresh. Pieces of different sub-genre's are united into a very unique fantasy-off-planet sci-fi reality.

There are many subtle human story details that I find echoing in my brain.  
The heart warming banter that occurs amongst long time friends.  
The dutiful respect shown to adversaries, that must nevertheless be apposed.  
The sense of purpose and meaning to life that drives the main characters.  
The humble reserved power held secret for a greater purpose and goal.  
The compelling sense of duty owed by friends to each other.  
The multiple levels of human character from good to bad.  
Distinguishing the unlikable from the likable by small character difference such as mere but pointed contempt.

Cataclysm is a true Sci Fi fantasy world. A world where we live a compelling 4 dimensional story of humans thriving in an perilous alien reality, overcoming an otherworld apocalypse employing mere human ambition and courage. Reminding me and us to do the same if we but keep the faith and use our creativity.

Please note that:

I received an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

For which I am most grateful.

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Amazon Customer

5.0 out of 5 stars Epic Sci Fi

May 4, 2016

Verified Purchase

Pirates! Androids! Vampires! And that's just in the first three chapters.

This is a new Sci fi epic set in a world beset by a cataclysmic Myst. As powerful forces play war, a group of heroes and rebels liberate sentient androids.

This fast moving story should appeal to fans of space opera and creative world building.[sic]

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Holly Reycroft

*5.0 out of 5 stars* I enjoyed the multi level story lines running at the same ...

May 4, 2016

Verified Purchase

I found it engaging within the first 2 subway chapters. I enjoyed the multi level story lines running at the same time, and could not put it down. The intertwining of classic sailing and futuristic technology was captivating. Mixing of history, the underground railroad, with a twist of rolls was intriguing

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Richard J Bruno

*5.0 out of 5 stars* This was a thoroughly enjoyable book with a great mix of fantasy genres and characters

August 6, 2016

Verified Purchase

This was a thoroughly enjoyable book with a great mix of fantasy genres and characters. I can't wait for the next book!

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tokenography\_com

*5.0 out of 5 stars* It's tough to go wrong with a Cataclysm...

January 2, 2017

Verified Purchase

Moby Dick Meets The Hobbit And They Partake, With Great Merriment, In A Sea of Balvenie 21 Year Old PortWood Finish. How Can You Go Wrong??? Even My Sea Loving Friends Agreed!!!!

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Duc

*5.0 out of 5 stars* Great read

May 4, 2016

Like a sailor on the Shicaine who signed up purely based on the reputation of the captain and was then swept into an incredible journey fraught with dangers and excitement, I got an advanced copy of the book and was hooked after just the first chapter. The authors cleverly introduced a new vocabulary that vividly paints a whole new world. Before I knew it, the myst became as familiar to this old sailor as the sea water itself; fantastic creatures and techno-based creations seems absolutely normal in the world in which I was immersed. I thoroughly enjoyed this first offering and can't wait for the next in this series.

I received an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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Joe Crowe

*4.0 out of 5 stars* Fantasy / sci-fi novel complete with map = awesome.

May 8, 2016

"Always check twice. They'll never believe you're a good with a booger in your nose."

This fantasy novel starts with a map of the fantasy realm wherein fantastic things happen. I really don't need much else from a new fantasy novel. Maps show that the writers really put too much effort into the backstory of their book. I mean that as a high compliment.

The story is a neat blend of sci-fi and fantasy. The heroes are on a ship, and the ship has antigravity projectors. The story is kinetic action-adventure, with a charming cleverness and wit sprinkled throughout. It's got good guys and bad guys and they fight. On a ship, everybody. Anybody can do a fantasy novel in a dungeon or a castle. We all secretly want to fight bad guys on a ship, and maybe sing sea shanties at the same time. Don't try to deny it.

Here's another thing I liked. The writers invented quotes for the beginning of their chapters using people within the world of the story. I don't need quotes from real-life Earth people in my fantasy or my sci-fi. They don't belong there.

At times, it seems like the writers threw every single idea they have in one book. That's not a bad thing. But this book is 534 pages, and I'm going to need to see more from these two guys. I don't think they spent all their ideas in one book. There are still places on that map I want to visit.

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Mark P. Gutis

*5.0 out of 5 stars* A most entertaing first novel!  
May 4, 2016

I have been reading science fiction for most of my life and I was more than pleasantly surprised with *The Myst Clipper Shicaine*. It is not only an entertaining and well-written story, especially for a first novel, but it manages to combine elements of the Age of Sail with pure science fiction. In that sense it was reminiscent of the old and the new of Frank Herbert's *Dune* saga. I eagerly await the next in the series.

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*5.0 out of 5 stars* Worth Reading!  
By TomTon May 4, 2016

"I received an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review."

Crystals, portals, myst, phantoms, characters, and creatures inhabit a world in which there are stories within stories. I was caught up in this journey to save T'Amorach from the first page to the last and found myself asking for more. This is a good thing because it is my understanding the authors intend on writing sequels.

There are Heroes and villains, and enough good and evil to keep me thinking and wondering what and where the next twist would be. I found myself rooting for Gedrick and imagining what it would be like sailing on board the *Shicaine*.

As the journey unravels, the adventure grows in a trail of blood and violence mixed in with a dose of mysticism. This is not a journey for the faint hearted! I found myself in a love, hate relationship with the Lokaryns. New characters seemed to be introduced in nearly every chapter that added to the suspense (kept me engaged and wondering "what's next). But each addition was like a puzzle piece that kept the story moving forward, like the *Shicaine* on it's rescue mission; the future perhaps!

This is not my usual reading genre but it was not difficult to get caught up in the story. The imagery is magical, and the author's style makes the reading easy to understand if at times making me wonder "where is that going?" But that was part of the hook for me. I found myself wanting to read the next chapter, and the next so that I could find out what happened.

In short, I found Cataclysm a good vacation read. I for one want to know what's next.

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*5.0 out of 5 stars*" If your enemy is juggling grenades, don't ask why, throw him another."

By [kristion](#) May 4, 2016

I received an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Cataclysm is abundant with irreverent characters who make poignant observations of the world that will make you laugh out loud; A feat which only Douglas Adams had managed to get me to do previously. I was able to pick up on a few cultural gems in my first read through (away teams wearing red shirts) and I am sure I will find more on my second pass.

This book has built a world divided by dangerous terrain, causing concentration of like-minded groups into secure habitable zones. Each faction has it's own unique methods to thrive in a nearly uninhabitable world. Horse trading between zones occurs naturally due to limited resources. Competing philosophies of each group gives rise inter-zone politics. The interplay between Zealots, Thieves, Merchants, Military, Scientists, and Lokaryns are each unique in the role each fills for one another alone is worth a read.

A large part of the story surrounds the crew of the Shicaine, a diverse group who represent nearly all factions. Together, in part because of their diversity, they experience success by playing to each others strengths despite their individual weaknesses.

Lastly if for no other reason, this book is worth a read for its wonderful nuggets of wisdom at the beginning of each chapter:

"If your enemy is juggling grenades, don't ask why, throw him another."

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*5 out of 5 stars* Shicaine is a BRIGHT start to a world I can't wait to visit again and again!

By [Jenna Baureson](#) May 4, 2016

I am fortunate enough to have received an advance copy of Cataclysm: The Myst Clipper Shicaine in exchange for an honest review.

"Shicaine" starts strong with an immersive new world and a stunning cast of well-developed characters. The authors blend elements of science fiction, fantasy, and sailing into a seamless universe that stands as one of the cleverest feats of literary world-building I've had the pleasure of experiencing. The world grows as

the reader proceeds, revealing an unbelievably rich background rife with political intrigue, moral dilemma, action, and darkness.

The characters are complex, interesting, and captivating and I found myself relating to and empathizing with some and viscerally disliking others (in a good way). The interpersonal connections and hidden history of the Shicaine crew is peeled back tantalizingly at a perfect pace. Each new tidbit reveals a portion of the greater picture in a way that painlessly integrates character history and plot progression.

I lost an entire day and night to this book; I could not put it down. I will gladly sacrifice sleep again for subsequent entries in this series.

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*5 out of 5 stars*

Let's hope this is the start of a long journey...

By [LisaLudoon](#) May 4, 2016

There's a lot of science fiction out there and I've read tons of it. So much of what I've read in the recent past has seemed like a tired rehash of stories already told. But, after reading *The Myst Clipper Shicaine*, I haven't been this excited for, or impressed by, a debut novel in years.

Whether it's the richly imagined world of the T'Amorach zones, the fully-formed personalities of the Captain and his crew, or the compelling mystery at the heart of the voyage, so much about this tale feels fresh and new.

Alternately humorous, heart-felt, violent, and frightening, there is an intelligence to the writing that keeps the reader engaged and turning pages. You can see the landscape, you can hear the drone of the Badlands, and you can feel the yearning of the sentients.

Rumor has it this is the start of a new series. I hope that's true, because I can't wait to see what the next leg of the Cataclysm journey has in store.

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*5 out of 5 stars*

An expansive post-apocalyptic world

By [Zoëon](#) May 4, 2016

*The Myst Clipper Shicaine* is a great read! After you do the initial work of starting to understand the detailed world the story is set in (common to any large-scale sci-fi or fantasy world), the story takes off and keeps you moving quickly through the pages.

This book really stands out for having a really wide scope of characters - androids and cyborgs, vampires, religious zealous, technophobes, etc. - all intertwining as the pages unveil the intricate story of the Shicaine's crew. The story has an equally wide scope as it tackles both the details of individual characters' histories and their reverberations through bigger, more complex events that drive the path of the world.

Because of its scope, I think this story will appeal to a wide range of sci-fi and fantasy fans.

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*5.0 out of 5 stars* If Machiavelli met Sonny on Hornblower's deck...  
By [Reba Lynneon](#) May 4, 2016

The world of Cataclysm has nothing to do with the World of Warcraft game, but everything to do with the political and social upheaval caused by the art of warcraft as practiced by some of the most devious characters I've encountered in a book in a long time. There's a logic to the development of this world, and as you read more of the novel, you gain more of the history. (The epigrams are both humorous and insightful.) The authors have used their diverse backgrounds- medical, tactical, naval- to add to the flavor of the book. I am looking forward to reading what comes next. I received an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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*5.0 out of 5 stars* Phenomenal!  
By [Susan Rachel](#) on May 4, 2016

In the world of fantasy and science fiction, there are many tried-and-true plots. This is not one of them.

You will enter a new world with new rules, new geography, and unexpected heroes and villains; a world where a vampyre and robot are best friends, where ships don't sail on the ocean but on the myst, a world of intrigue, betrayal, and most of all, the bond of friendship and love of a close-knit team. You will meet characters in whom you will become deeply invested and others you will loathe. Amazing story, deep and multifaceted characters. The biggest down side? I finished it and am waiting impatiently for the sequel.

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*5.0 out of 5 stars* Detailed and beautifully written, the story is fast paced and clever ...  
By [kerry meekinson](#) on May 4, 2016

New to science fiction, I must say that from page 1 I was immediately engaged and spent hours at a clip completely engrossed, not wanting to leave this world to head back to the mundane.

Detailed and beautifully written, the story is fast paced and clever from cover to cover. The characters were not only interesting, but appealing. I believe this book will not only appeal to sci-fi fans, but those new to the genre as myself. Excellent first novel and I will be looking forward to the next chapter in this series!

I received an advanced copy in exchange for an honest review.

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*5.0 out of 5 stars* A complex and thought provoking story.

By [Erethelon](#) May 4, 2016

This is an excellent first offering in what promises to be a very engaging and thought provoking series.

Aside from the pure science fiction elements in a setting that evokes a feeling not unlike Patrick O'Brian's Jack Aubrey novels (although quite different), obviously. I was impressed by the allusions to modern issues, especially diversity and the rights of under (or un) represented groups.

This novel should appeal to a wide range of readers and I highly recommend it.

I received an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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*5.0 out of 5 stars* Dorsey Butterbaugh, author of Trilogy in G Minor

By [Amazon Customer](#) on May 4, 2016

T'was my first voyage aboard the Myst Clipper Shicaine and I must say, it was quite a thrill ride. From start to finish, I was engrossed in what was happening around me. I found myself sometime in the future surrounded by a cast of unique and varied characters - some human, some not. As the voyage continues, the plot progresses and you will be caught up in the electricity of the myst, I could tell you how the voyage ends, but that would ruin the story. I will tell you this, however, when the Shicaine docks at a port near you, jump aboard. You will not be disappointed!!

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*5 out of 5 stars* Must-read!

By [C Wilson](#) on May 4, 2016



This is the kind of book you want to spend an entire day reading - the world building is excellent and the characters are incredibly compelling. Cataclysm has pretty much everything you could possibly ask for in a sci-fi story, and the balance between fantasy and technology makes for a lot of interesting conflicts throughout the story. I can't wait to read the next adventures about the Shicaine and am looking forward to the next book!

I received an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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*4.0 out of 5 stars* Absorbing, thrilling, witty, intriguing!

By [Deirdre Martin](#) on May 6, 2016

I'd never read a book in the mash-up genre, but after reading Shicaine, I'm hooked! It was a real page turner, with fantastic description, ace plotting with several unexpected twists and turns, and characters you'll be thinking about long after you finish the book. The humor is terrific; several times I found myself laughing out loud. It's hard to believe this is a debut book, actually. Well done, Sirs. Looking forward to the next one.

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*5.0 out of 5 stars* Loved the detail -- so visual!!

By [CESpuron](#) May 4, 2016

I received an advanced copy of the Myst Clipper Shicaine and was immediately drawn in. What was most compelling is how the writing was so visual. I immediately could see the amazing machines in my mind --in great detail. Their role as the foundation for a great story along with a cast of interesting and unique characters made this book so intriguing.

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but I found myself sucked into this story and its alternate reality

By [Aurora Rey](#) on May 4, 2016

This is not my typical genre, but I found myself sucked into this story and its alternate reality. The cast of characters is huge, but different enough that you can follow their many and varied exploits. I found the melding of old and new especially intriguing. And I desperately want to know what happens next!

I was given an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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**5.0 out of 5 stars** What an awesome read for someone that does not usually read science ...

By [Amazon Customer](#) on May 4, 2016

What an awesome read for someone that does not usually read science fiction. I was hooked within the first few pages. Cataclysm is the kind of novel that you can't seem to stop reading once you begin. To say that Cataclysm was exciting is an understatement. I highly recommend Cataclysm to both science fiction readers as well as a first timer in this genre.

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**5.0 out of 5 stars** Swashbuckling sci-fi at it's finest.

By [Ron Wismer](#) on May 4, 2016

I was given a preview copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I have to say the book left me wanting more of this series. If you are a fan of serious science fiction this is a book for you. The characters are well developed and the story is action packed. You will get lost in the world the authors have poured so much effort into.

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A book to be read, discovered, and read again. A true classic!

By [Amazon Customer](#) on May 4, 2016

Amazing! I was transported to a completely different reality. So vivid, so rich. Sailing into darkness and mystery, while never knowing what truly lay ahead, I can hardly wait to read it again, as I know there is so much more to discover and rediscover. Can't wait for the screenplay and movie!

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**5 out of 5 stars** This is an amazing page turner

By [Richard T. Olshak](#) on May 4, 2016

This is an amazing page turner, and an incredibly entertaining blend of genres like I have not seen in forty years of reading science fiction and fantasy. If you buy this book, just plan to put the day aside and enjoy a very good read.

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**5.0 out of 5 stars** Great Pacing, Nice Blend of Story Elements

By [fang27](#) on May 4, 2016

As someone else wrote: pirates, androids, vampires and more. Blends well many aspects of fiction and science fiction I like. You won't regret picking up this novel and won't be able to put it down!

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*5.0 out of 5 stars* Great read! - If I can quickly and easily ...  
By [Lisa phillips](#) on May 4, 2016

Great read! - If I can quickly and easily picture in my mind what is happening, and it holds my attention so that I cannot stop turning pages, then I will call a book a Great read!

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*5.0 out of 5 stars* a great read.  
By [Jack R.](#) on May 4, 2016  
grabs your interest  
from the beginning . a tour de force storyline, a great read.

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*5.0 out of 5 stars* Awesome  
By [Lynne Albuquerque](#) on May 4, 2016  
I received an advance copy in return for an honest review! This is a must-read for the sci-fi enthusiast!

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*5.0 out of 5 stars* Five Stars  
By [Amazon Customer](#) on May 5, 2016  
I really loved this book!!!!

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*5.0 out of 5 stars* Five Stars  
By [llene](#) on May 4, 2016  
Great Book