

Tom Tarantelli rated it **it was amazing**

"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

Jay Fett rated it **It was amazing**

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."

Kevin rated it **it was amazing**

I am fortunate enough to have received an advance copy of Cataclysm: The Myst Clipper Shicaine for light proof-reading and early 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.

Claire rated it **it was amazing**

What instantly grabbed my attention whilst reading Cataclysm was the blending of different creatures - humans, vampires, androids - in a delightfully intriguing fantasy world.

After a while you become so enveloped in the T'Amorach universe and the depth of the characters becomes so great that you forget that these are mystical beings. They are people. Human and not human. Good and not so good. Doing what people do so well - plotting, enjoying camaraderie of friendship, lusting, and just generally trying to survive their world.

As the various story arcs merge, Cataclysm becomes even more engrossing as it starts to reveal the crew members of the Shicaine's history, alongside the ever increasing threat of war.

It was an absolute pleasure to read - genuinely funny and had me hooked from the first chapter. I can't wait for the next installment.

Sean O rated it **it was amazing**

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

This book is a Sci fi epic set in a world beset by a terrible cataclysm, a strange Myst has destroyed everything outside stable zones and adventures ply the space between the zones in airships.

While powerful forces play a political chess game, a group of heroes and rebels fight to liberate sentient androids.

This is good choice for fans who like space opera, and care more about action and intrigue than realistic sci-fi.

Melissa Kestler rated it **really liked it**

Once I got going, I really loved this book. I cared about the characters and did not want the book to end. I truly cannot wait for the sequel- there WILL be a sequel....

The only reason this received 4 instead of 5 stars is that I felt the flow of the first half of the book was crammed, if that makes sense. It felt like this book really could have been better served by being split into 2 separate books with one for the back story to help this one make more sense early on. Also, the numerous switching from American to metric measurements was distracting.

Mark rated it **it was amazing**

I received an advance copy of this book and was more than pleasantly surprised. 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.

David Prunty rated it **it was amazing**

This is a complex story and very well done for a first time novel!

The genre is science fiction, but the world-building and theme evokes the "lonely team on the run" feeling of the Master and Commander books (although Patrick O'Brian didn't have any vampires in his stories).

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

Ron Wismer rated it **it was amazing**

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.