



Galaxy Blues

Allen M. Steele

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A new science fiction epic from the national bestselling and Hugo Award-winning author.

Expelled from the Union Astronautica space fleet and facing charges of grand theft, Jules Truffant agrees to sign up as shuttle pilot aboard the freighter *Pride of Cucamonga* in exchange for amnesty. After botching *Pride*'s mission to RhoCorenae and upsetting an alien culture in the process, Jules must take part in a voyage across the galaxy to place a probe squarely in the path of a black hole as it plows through an inhabited star system.

Galaxy Blues Details

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Author : Allen M. Steele

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From Reader Review Galaxy Blues for online ebook

Steve Walker says

Still another disappointment from the Coyote universe. I highly recommend the book Hex as the only real addition to the Coyote Univers worth reading. It supplies a lot more information with rich characters and an engaging story.

Galaxy Blues however was again sub par. He writes well which makes it palatable. You always feel like it will get good, that you will get deeper into the characters and the story. But it never happens. He basically develops three characters, the protagonist Jules Truffant, Goldstein a billionaire industrialist, and Rain a young woman with a large chip on her shoulder.

The story attempts to be a rollicking adventure and is only somewhat successful. It's told first person from Jules point of view so we get to hear a lot of his thoughts. He is very arrogant and self confident and I barely tolerated him. It's been him against the world his whole life and any bad or illegal behavior is easily justified in his mind. There is the prerequisite sexual tension between him and Rain as he works to gain her trust (and more ...)

All other characters are cardboard cut-outs to fill the background. I found it offensive that he threw in a middle-eastern, Koran totting, hard core Islamic as the wild card to do the crazy man thing. He did not even take the time to develop this guy other than mention he was on deck once in a while.

We do learn more about the Talus race, but almost not worth plodding through this Heinlein juvenile classic wannabe.

Read Hex! and all of the original Coyote trilogy and the two Coyote expansion novels. I also found Orbital Decay enjoyable.

Bookbrow says

Loved the personality of Jules and the humour in the buildup. Shame it had such a soft ending.

Robert says

I've read most of Allen Steele's book since meeting him at an Orlando con some 10+ years back. I have greatly enjoyed the Coyote series and somehow I missed this one although I had read all the others. I don't recall all the books that well since it has been a while but I might consider this at the bottom of the bunch. What bugged me was the characters just seemed so one dimensional and the situations often seemed so typical, so canned. Other flaws were the value of the marijuana and that the Hdaaj considered it so valuable, just seems awfully corny. The story line itself wasn't too bad and it would seem there is the opportunity for Steele to write another book around Jules. I'm glad I read it but if you haven't read the entire Coyote series and related stories I wouldn't recommend it as a stand alone read.

Chip says

Not quite up to the standard that I'm use to from Allen Steele but then again he's the master of space opera. Overuses the word "copacetic" way to much. Didn't really believe in the love story portion. We get to see more of the Coyote universe including a number of new aliens (though from afar). Much too short but lots of action especially the second half.

Dan says

This book was originally serialized in Azimov's Science Fiction Magazine, which is where I read it. Instead of reading it in the four monthly installments, I waited until all four issues had been published and then read the entire book.

I was completely unfamiliar with Allen Steele's writing and found this book to be, for the most part, an enjoyable sci fi diversion. I tend to lean towards more thought provoking science fiction but occasionally, a good old fashioned adventure story is a welcome change.

One of the best elements of Steele's writing is his emphasis on character development. Often, so called, "hard" science fiction spends too much energy on the technology and world building aspects of the genre and nowhere enough time on the characters who are living through the story. Obviously, strong characters are almost always an essential part of good fiction but, sadly, this is sometimes overlooked by modern science fiction writers.

The only flaw to this book is that the actual adventure itself gets a little boring and predictable at times. For the most part, Allen Steele's story telling instincts and the likability of his characters manage to hold the book together and make it worth reading.

"Galaxy Blues" seems to be part of or related to a series of books that Steele has written about a fictional planet called Coyote.

Joe Slavinsky says

Overall, I really like Allen Steele's stuff. The book jacket comparisons to Heinlein are apt. His style is very similar. Very down-to-earth(no pun intended), altruistic protagonists, well imagined plots, and lots of hard science. All that said, I was a little disappointed, when I finished this book. I mean that despite the fact that I finished it quickly, and it had all of the above elements, it seemed like something Steele could've written over a weekend, almost formulaic. Don't get me wrong. I would LOVE to be able to write such a book, but maybe I've come to expect more from Steele. I've read a lot of good stuff lately, and this is by no means, bad. It's just good, and I think it could've been better.

Jeremy says

Another non-Coyote book set in the Coyote universe. I was never a huge fan of the series or spin-offs, but Steele has kept it just interesting enough to keep me coming back. This one was probably my least favorite. The secondary characters were really flimsily drawn, with one in particular who was little more than a stereotype. (The Arab named Ali. We know little about him except that he seems to be the only one who mutters things in a foreign language even though a number of characters are from various places in Europe. And, not to spoil, but um, let's just say that his actions at the end were pretty predictable given the stereotype).

I only have one Coyote universe book to go, "Hex." I will probably read that one soon. Then maybe I can finally put it to rest, at least until another one comes out.

George says

Yet another great entry in the Coyote saga of books. Now I'm just itching for more! I've ready everything there is so far, but I'm not ready to be finished! At least there's another book coming out this year. I think this has got to be, hands down, one of the most fascinating sci-fi universes that I've ever jumped into. The stories are believable, yet exciting. The characters are very colorful. I love that, even though most of the books can stand on their own, characters and events overlap (especially between this book and Coyote Horizon). It really makes these stories seem like events that are real and not just make believe. I highly recommend this book for anyone that has enjoyed any other Coyote novels. And even if you haven't yet, don't feel like you have to read the others first before you jump into this one (although it'll help with historical background); this stands on its own as a great science fiction novel.

More Coyote please!

Rita Monticelli says

Divertente e veramente... spaziale

Ho una particolare predilezione per la space opera, soprattutto laddove gli autori mettono grande cura nel creare in maniera dettagliata un universo complesso e credibile. Un libro con viaggi interstellari, situazioni d'azione, personaggi caratterizzati da ironia e coraggio ha già ottime probabilità di piacermi. Se poi la storia è carina ed è ben scritto, allora mi conquista.

Questo è il caso di "Galassia nemica" di Allen Steele, una vecchia conoscenza di questo sottogenere della fantascienza. La sua produzione letteraria comprende un buon numero di libri inseriti nella stessa linea temporale, ma indipendenti l'uno dall'altro, per cui li si può leggere in qualsiasi ordine e, una volta ambientati nel suo universo, ci si muove con disinvoltura concentrandosi quindi sulla trama.

La storia di "Galassia nemica" è avvincente, perché, come succede dei buoni libri, non sai cosa aspettarti dalla pagina successiva e, per questo, continui ad andare avanti. Il protagonista è simpatico, non si prende troppo sul serio e più di una volta ti fa scappare una risata durante la lettura. L'ambientazione, pur essendo fuori della realtà a cui siamo abituati, è comprensibilissima per merito dell'autore, che accosta immagini eccezionali ad altre molto più comuni e nelle quali è possibile riconoscersi. Il ritmo è incalzante e anche la parte tecnologica è molto credibile (nell'ambito della sospensione dell'incredulità).

Insomma, un bel libro.

E per una volta devo dare merito a *Urania* di averlo pubblicato in Italia.

Julie Rose says

Very interesting concept, but the writing didn't impress me. The main character is the macho tough guy, capable of everything and jaded with the world. The women are one-dimensional background characters (as are almost all of the other supporting/secondary characters). Many of the major plot twists and events are very predictable, and the general style of the writing feels decades old (women called "sweetie" and greeted with a kiss in a professional setting, the book is full of baseball references, etc).

Lis Carey says

Jules Truffaut has been having a rough time. Because of a cheating scandal involving his younger brother, he's been thrown out of the Union Astronautica and can't, legally, work as a spacer again. He's determined not to accept that, though, and has created not one but two false identities to get back into space, get work loading cargo--and stow away on a starship headed to Coyote, the human race's first colony on a world outside the solar system.

Unfortunately, he has barely escaped from that starship and landed on Coyote in a lifeboat before he's arrested and tossed in the stockade in Liberty. Now, at best, he's looking at a long prison term on Coyote, and at worst, deportation back to the Western Hemisphere Union on Earth.

Then Morgan Goldstein shows up and makes him a different offer.

Goldstein, a wealthy, well-connected, and not overly scrupulous business man, needs one more crew member, a shuttle pilot, to crew his expedition to the Talus to open trade with the hjadd, the alien species most interested in relations with humans. If Jules signs on, Goldstein will make sure he gets released and his case is continued--indefinitely.

As the first human trade mission to the Talus, nothing is simple or straightforward, and no one else on the expedition is volunteering information. Things are shaky enough on board before a mistake at a formal welcome ceremony angers the Talus and leaves them with one--very dangerous--chance to salvage relations.

This is, compared to other Coyote Universe stories, relatively light, a fast-paced, old-fashioned hard sf adventure. There's not a lot of depth here, but it does feature Steele's trademark excellent story-telling skills and solid character development.

Recommended.

I borrowed this book from a friend.

John Loyd says

Galaxy Blues (2007) 266 pages by Allen Steele.

The story is set in the Coyote universe, taking place after the events of Spindrift. The first person narrative of Jules Trussant kept me turning the pages. The characters were good, the story had a very good flow, and besides just this story, Steele also continues the Coyote storyline. We have more interaction between human and alien races, and at the end the Hjadd aren't a complete mystery.

Jules has always wanted to go into space and after graduating the academy, he is on his way, until he is kicked out of the service. Being that he has been blackballed he comes up with the idea of going to Coyote and requesting asylum. Using an alias Jules gets a job on a space station and works for months, plotting a way to get aboard the shuttle. We come in right as he puts his plan into action, the reader is instantly pulled right into the action, the baseball metaphors and planning let us learn something about Jules.

Once arriving on Coyote, Morgan Goldstein the CEO of Janus (one of the largest corporations formerly of Earth), is looking for a crew for his new venture in trading with the Hjadd. Jules now has a choice between joining the crew or being deported. Even without the alternative it sounded like a pretty good job. So off on the first human-alien trading mission they go.

This is another fantastic Allen Steele novel.

Pat says

Decent but distinctly average addition to the Coyote series which sees a cobbled together crew of misfits travel to the headquarters of the Talus and have further encounters with the alien Hadji. Overall it feels very dated (or maybe an homage to the grandmasters of the 50s) & doesn't really push the main story arc far enough to warrant a 300 page novel. It would have worked just as well if not better as a novella or even a short story.

Aaron Anderson says

This is a 2.5 star rounded to 3.

It's always a tricky balance when you try to have a witty, narcissistic, sarcastic semi-asshole as a main character. It can come off super awesome and funny or he can just feel like a dick.

I liked the main character in the very first part of the book, but he got pretty old quick. How does somehow who never thinks before he talks survive in the Western Hemisphere Union, much less in their military? It beggars the belief. Quite literally it's impossible to believe. He acts like an idiot teenager from some utopia who never had to answer for how he talks/acts. That is not what the WHU is.

(view spoiler)

Bettie? says

The title is a tune composed by the PSI crew member. Cheesy, clichéd, weak storyline but great fun, with added black holes.

It's like Bond, James Bond, in spaaaaaace.
