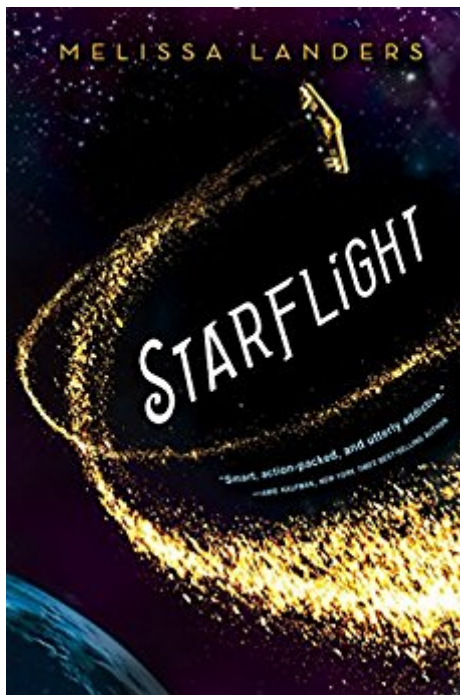


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Starflight



Synopsis

Solara Brooks needs a fresh start, someplace where nobody cares about the engine grease beneath her fingernails or the felony tattoos across her knuckles. The outer realm may be lawless, but it's not like the law has ever been on her side. Still, off-world travel doesn't come cheap; Solara is left with no choice but to indenture herself in exchange for passage to the outer realm. She just wishes it could have been to anyone besides Doran Spaulding, the rich, pretty-boy quarterback who made her life miserable in school. The tables suddenly turn when Doran is framed for conspiracy on Earth, and Solara cons him into playing the role of her servant on board the *Banshee*, a ship manned by an eccentric crew with their own secrets. Given the price on both Doran and Solara's heads, it may just be the safest place in the universe. It's been a long time since Solara has believed in anyone, and Doran is the last person she expected to trust. But when the *Banshee's* dangerous enemies catch up with them, Solara and Doran must come together to protect the ship that has become their home—and the eccentric crew that feels like family.

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Customer Reviews

3.5 Stars. I wanted to give it a solid four, but some of the things that put this book more in the camp of YA than New Adult, really took it down a half star for me. To the good: very exciting and fast-paced! Well written sense of place, you really get lost in these grimy boat machine rooms and the developing romance of our two seemingly different leads. I never lost interest in this one and the surprise near the end was nicely done. This really alternated between leaning towards YA one minute and New Adult another. I really liked the personality clash between the two mains in the beginning. It was unique and refreshing, honestly. Having said that, some of the inner angst was a tad overdone and really the sort of *Spoiler* flowery description of love at the end by Doran to Lara. It might be what a woman wants to hear but to me it doesn't read as what a guy would actually say. You can tell a woman wrote it. It just doesn't ring true. I still enjoyed the love story but having to read the same loving descriptions that sound scripted...is driving me nuts. Overall though, I really enjoyed it!! Fast-paced read which was exactly what I wanted! It felt good to be actively engaged in a book this year! My first time being this year jonesing to read. I'd say worth it.

When Doran and Solara are forced to become allies due to unforeseen circumstances, they team up with a rag tag crew of people, all of whom are running from their own pasts. Add in a clunker of a ship, and you basically have the book version of Firefly. To be entirely honest, I didn't expect much from Starflight. I assumed that the romance would be completely cliché - you know the one I mean, guy is only mean to girl because he secretly has a thing for her, their circumstances force her to see the good in him, and then BAM they're in love. Fortunately, Solara and Doran's romance was much more fun than that. Their hate at the beginning of the book is completely genuine. Doran is a spoiled, pompous jerk and Solara is reluctant to trust him and completely unwilling to like him. Over the course of the book they faced space pirates, humans who have been chemically lobotomized and love to cause pain, and deceitful, manipulative parents. The constant strife they faced bonded them in a very organic way that was a blast to read about. The secondary characters and their interactions really made this book for me. I adored the rest of the crew and am ecstatic to start the next book in the series, Starfall, which features Cassy and Kane. Landers' knack for writing witty one-liners caused me to burst out laughing like a lunatic on more than one occasion. The one thing that kept me from rating Starflight 5 stars was the lack of suspense in the book. Although I never knew what would happen next, I also never doubted that the main characters would escape the precarious situations they were in. I didn't experience the stomach dropping dread that comes from worrying about the

lives of favorite characters. That being said, the means by which Doran and Solara escaped various situations were always clever and certainly made for an entertaining read.

It warms my heart to know this book one because I need more books from this world in my life. I know I am not the first to compare this book to *Overboard* but that is how it starts out. Solara is looking to escape into the outer planets for anonymity and a chance at a new life. She runs into an old high school nemesis Doran. Doran is spoiled, arrogant and makes Solara's life a living hell when she agrees to work for him in exchange for passage. Doran is going to kick Solara off the passage ship and she has to do something. She drugs Doran, he loses his memories and she convinces him to join her on a run down ship named the *Banshee* headed to the outer realms. From this point in the story it becomes *Overboard* meets episodes of *Farscape* or *Firefly*. There are space pirates, run in with the law and on planet shenanigans. I enjoyed *Starflight* because it is: very cute, very romantic, and chalked full of action and adventure. I loved the way Solara and Doran become a part of something bigger and along the way discover there is a whole lot more to this world than meets the eye.

I'd classify this story as a Romance, rather than a Sci Fi novel. I'm disappointed, as I was hoping for a Sci Fi adventure, even if it contained a bit of romance. At about the half way point I'd have called this a romantic caper. A lighter story than I was hoping for, with a heroine who was a mechanic and on the run, I was hoping for something a bit grittier, more adventurous, and a MC who was a bit more kick butt. But at that point, in spite of these disappointments and some eye roll inducing moments, I was enjoying it well enough. And I thought perhaps the second half would improve my estimation. At the half way point I'd have given this a solid 3. Unfortunately the second half became more Romancy, with our heroine and her love interest sharing a fade-to-black night of bliss, and declaring their love for each other. That I could have handled, probably, but ugh, what we had to go through to get there. Thankfully this story avoided the typical angst ridden back and forth of so many teen romance stories. But instead we got accidental ingesting of drugs, under the influence hickeys given, plus matching tattoos. We even were treated to a night on some planet somewhere, that just happened to be having some type of festival, where there were hay rides, a barn dance, a corn maze, and a rigged shooting game, just like you'd find at state fairs or country festivals. I kid you not. Yes, presumably this place was colonized by people from Earth, but come on! This story could have been set on present day America with just a few tweaks. By the end I was just ready to be finished. I'd rate the second half a 2. There are bad guys, chases and narrow escapes, but it all felt

like an excuse and window dressing for the romance. I found the characters likable enough, and this story certainly isn't bad. But it's going to appeal more to the Romance audience than the Sci Fi Adventure audience.

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