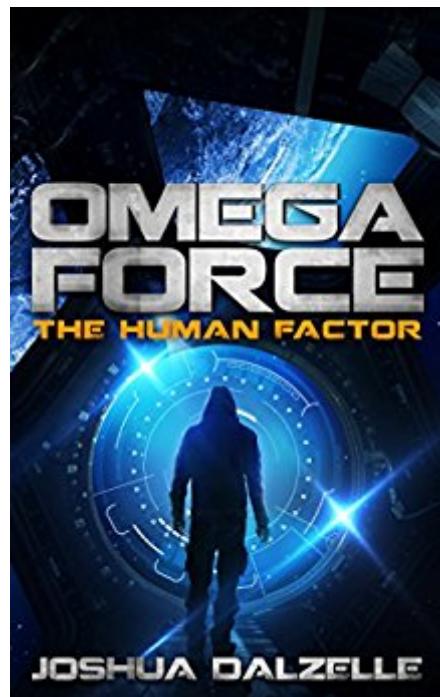


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Omega Force: The Human Factor (OF8)



Synopsis

Captain Jason Burke is a man apart, and not just because he's the only of his kind for thousands of lightyears in any direction. The changes to his body and to his genetic code have made him faster, stronger, more able to survive in his dangerous occupation ... but they've also ensured that he'll never truly fit in with others of his species. He always assumed he would live and die with his crew and never lay eyes on another human again, he was wrong. The mercenary captain learns through back channel information that Earth may be in danger and, worse, that he may have been a contributing factor. He now faces the choice of ignoring the problem and allowing his own species to fight their own battles, or returning to help and risk making the situation worse. Can he just sit idly by while his species faces such a dire threat?

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Customer Reviews

This was great, full of action, the expected humor, new characters, a new enemy, and a new future for Jason's Earth that I cannot wait to see how it all plays out. I've stayed up all night to read this at one sitting, which should tell you how good I think it is. Long live Omega Force!

Ten books into this series and you should know a bit of what to expect by now from the Omega Force universe, and this book does not disappoint. What is it about a good adventure tale with fully developed characters and realistic dialog that is so entertaining? No, it is not a Clancy novel. Yes, the science is a bit loose, and the plot a bit easy to deduce ahead of time, but that makes it a charming bit of military SciFi. Usually by the time a series gets to a tenfold of episodes, the characters fade and the plot lines become paper thin. In many cases it seems like the author become tired of their own creations. It is a pleasure that the Omega Force has reached this point and still feels fresh and involving to the reader. The Human Factor adds several new faces to the familiar cast we have come to follow involved with a plot that is alluring and hints at the future. I am interested to see where the familiar and new characters go from here. Keep 'em coming Mr. Dalzelle!

The Human Factor has the Omega Force returning to Earth in order to save the planet from a megalomaniac involved with very untrustworthy aliens in order to subjugate Earth under her rule. The Omega Force crew interact with a group of mercenaries from Earth in order to thwart the dastardly plans. There are several new characters in this story that I hope will be included in future books in this series. One thing that I missed was the comradship and banter between the crew of the Phoenix. Not as much in this story as in past installments. It was missed. There is a lot of rough and tumble action to keep the reader involved, as well as some introspective moments as Captain Burke realizes how much he has missed his home planet. Oh, yeah... Jason finds out that he has *spoiler alert* a son. That alone makes me really look forward to the next installment. Keep up the good work, Joshua!

I've really enjoyed this series overall and this book starts off pretty great. The crazy situations and character dynamics have all worked well up until the introduction of Earth and all the formulaic issues of greed and power. From the afterward at the end of the book, it seems a lot of readers wanted more humans in the story line and the author delivered. Personally I've really enjoyed the fact that there hasn't been that many humans in the story as it allows a lot more room for alien character perspectives and interaction. So many other sci-fi books all deal with humans interactions and crisis that Omega Force had been a refreshing read without all of that concern. I fear there will be more human drama and slightly less comedy and action as things go forward. Will have to wait and see.

As a whole, I would rate the Omega Force series at 4 stars, which is not a bad rating - the equivalent of a B on a report card. However, this episode went far above its predecessors. Although I've written in other reviews that people hand out 5 stars way too often and way to easily, I could not in good consciousness rate this book any less than 5. As the author noted at the end of the book, he changed a lot of things when writing it, and as far as I'm concerned, he nailed it. I enjoyed the new characters, and I really enjoyed seeing Earth brought firmly into the plot. This book makes use of multiple points of view, not just that of the main protagonist, Jason, and I think it worked very well. It's been a while since I have enjoyed a book as much as I enjoyed this one, which puts the author "under the gun" to get the next episode out! If you've been following this series, what are you waiting for? Buy this book!

Finally! A good reason for Jason to come home...in true defense of his home planet (not the revenge). I really liked this book as it had new players. And the reality that not everyone is out there who is looking "in your best interest." This book shows the Captain's honest caring of his crew. Yes they get on each other's nerves and bicker but when the sh*t hits the fan and there is no way out, the self sacrifice to protect, especially his team that is his real family is true and honest. It is this, the Omega Force members, their teasing, arguing, fighting, the epitome of family that I love so much about this series. But when things turn serious all of that gets pushed into the background so that they can protect each other, with their lives. And isn't this what family is? As a professional chef, my co-workers, it is similar. We tease each other, play small gags on each other, we bicker and grumble, but when the job needs to get done, all that gets pushed away, and you do the job as a professional. They are my extended family (in Hawaiian it is called hanai, Ha-nai). And these books are just like my co-worker family! I cannot wait for the next book or five! I may even have to go back and re-read the whole series while I wait...! Such enjoyable books!!!

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