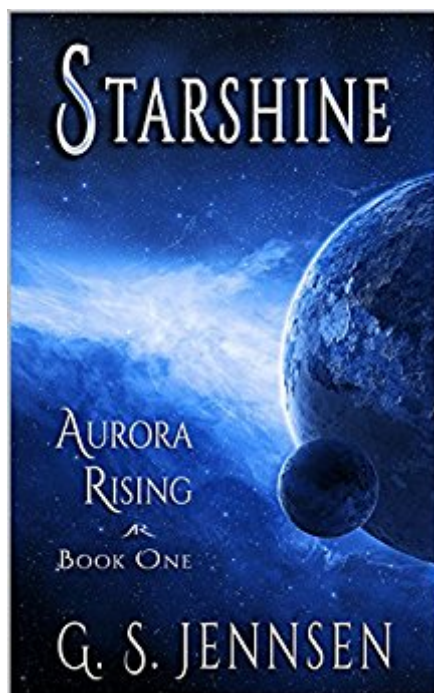


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Starshine: Aurora Rising Book One (Aurora Rhapsody 1)



Synopsis

SPACE IS VAST AND UNTAMED, AND IT HOLDS MANY SECRETS. Now two individuals from opposite ends of settled space are on a collision course with the darkest of those secrets, even as the world threatens to explode around them. The year is 2322. Humanity has expanded into the stars, inhabiting over 100 worlds across a third of the galaxy. Though thriving as never before, they have discovered neither alien life nor the key to utopia. Earth struggles to retain authority over far-flung planets and free-wheeling corporations while an uneasy armistice with a breakaway federation hangs by a thread as the former rebels rise in wealth and power. Alexis Solovy is Earth Alliance royalty, her father a fallen war hero and her mother an influential military leader. But she seeks only the freedom of space and has made a fortune by reading the patterns in the chaos to discover the hidden wonders of the stars. Nothing about her latest objective suggests the secret it conceals will turn her life-- not to mention the entire galaxy--upside down. But a chance encounter with a mysterious spy leads to a discovery which will thrust Alex into the middle of a galactic power struggle and a sinister conspiracy, whether she likes it or not.

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Customer Reviews

Loved it, more please!

Starshine is a fantastic science fiction adventure that will take you across the galaxy to vivid and exciting worlds. GS Jennsen weaves a complex and intriguing plot, and you will keep turning the pages, eager to see how the pieces all fall into place. I really enjoyed this book and look forward to reading the next in the series. The two main characters were absolutely endearing and I can't wait to read more about them. Jennsen's writing is superb, and at times there are sentences or phrases so beautifully and perfectly crafted that one can't help but be impressed. The author's ability to describe character emotions is some of the best I have ever seen. I also particularly appreciated the author's portrayal of female characters. Too often, I read books where the female characters are mere caricatures meant to fill some placeholder role so the men can do all the important things. That's not the case in Starshine. Each of the female characters is a unique individual with believable, relatable motivations and personalities. I loved all of them for that, but was particularly fond of Alex and Miriam and the relationship between them. Olivia was also a very interesting character and I hope to see more of her in the next book. There are a few reasons why I didn't give this book 5 stars. The main issue I had was in the way characters were presented, especially in the beginning of the story. Point of view changes frequently, and with such a myriad of characters thrown at you all at once, it becomes very difficult to keep them straight. The character index is helpful, but might have been unnecessary if the characters were presented in such a way that made them more distinct, memorable, and distinguishable. Many of the characters seemed to blend together for at least the first half of the book, and at times I wondered why the point of view chapters for some of the more minor characters had been included at all. I admit that I am not really an avid science-fiction reader, so this may just be a personal preference. However, I was a little frustrated by how much in-depth explanation of science and technology there is. Scientific concepts have never been easy for me to understand, so some of this felt like it was completely over my head and obviously that's just my own failing. However, it wasn't always the content of these sections that annoyed me, but the way in which they were presented. At times--particularly early on in the book--Jennsen interrupts the action of the story to tell us about some bit of technology and how it works. It's a little off-putting to be reading an exciting spaceship chase only to have it interrupted so that the author can tell you about particle beams. That being said, this was without a doubt an

excellent story. I would certainly recommend it to any science fiction fan and, as I said, I can't wait to read the next books in the series.

Very entertaining tale that will grab your attention and require that you read the entire trilogy. If you like science fiction and adventure, you will love it. Well-written.

Absolutely enjoyed this. Detailed future tech with interesting characters and a plot line that moves at just the right quickness. I'll definitely be reading the second and I can only hope it is as good.

Loved the characters, story and Jennsen's writing is excellent! Highly recommend this epic Sci Fi novel and looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

I love science fiction, and I'm always on the hunt for new voices in the genre, so when this book exploded with positive reviews, it got my attention. I wasn't disappointed. I started reading it at an auto garage while waiting for minor repairs, and after I finished the first two chapters, I remember thinking, "Damn, I kinda wish my car had gotten totaled so I don't have to stop." The first thing I noticed was how much I liked the characters. The two leads, Alex and Caleb, are different in almost every possible way, and even though I knew there was a romance element going in, I wondered how the author would make it work. But it does. It really, REALLY does. The lasting impression I have of this book is how it continually exceeded my expectations. I worried that the science fiction aspect would merely be a front (or a container) for the romance story. But no. The ideas and world building here are some of the best I've ever seen. And every time I thought the story would go in one direction, it would go in a completely different, unexpected, and yet thoroughly believable offshoot. I must have put the book down several times and exclaimed, "WHAT? NO! REALLY? OH MY GOD!" (or some variation thereof) before picking it back up and gobbling all the juicy morsels. I should mention that I read the majority of Starshine in audiobook format (I have a long commute and couldn't wait until I got home to read it.) The voice work is very well done, and the narrator shifts seamlessly from one character to the next. But one particular chapter almost got me into a car accident. I won't say which one, for fear of spoiling it, but you'll know it when you see it. Although, now that I think about it, if I did get into a car accident, I would have solved that dilemma at the top of my review (kidding, of course | maybe). If you love science

fiction, you should read this book. If you love romance, you should read this book. If you love both, well, this is right in your wheelhouse, and I'd challenge you to find something better.

Surprisingly well written. Good character development. Looking forward to reading the remaining stories.

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