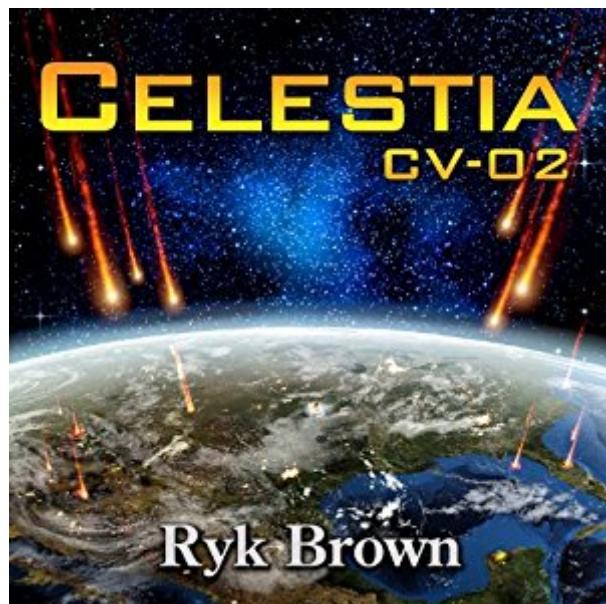


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# Celestia CV-02: The Frontiers Saga, Book 8



## **Synopsis**

A world divided... A ship under construction... A military scrambling to prepare a defense... A moment that everyone hoped would never come... The Earth Defense Force must find a way to defend their world against invasion by the Jung Empire. More importantly, they must protect their newest ship, the UES Celestia, as she may be their last hope.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

To start, this is book eight in the series - you need to start with Book 1, Ep.#1 - "Aurora: CV-01" (The Frontiers Saga) as this is not a standalone read. What usually happens with continuations of a series is they start going downhill as the author has either exhausted his or her creativity or the story should have ended long ago. That's not the case with this series, as you have the exact opposite effect: it slowly started getting better; long-time readers of the series should enjoy this one, as the author gives background on the attack by the Jung on Earth, which sets the stage for the next book in the series - yes, there is another abrupt ending with a teaser and reference to a soon-to-be-published book. Parts of it do seem a little slow, as I'm ready to move forward in the story and see where it goes. One of the better things (to me, at least) is the technology leaps are believable and didn't make you want to call a foul: you can get your arms and head around it without having to stop and think of the science. The author continues to get you into the action, albeit at a little slower pace than prior novels; if you're looking for a good space opera, I highly recommend this one and I am ready for the next one in the series.

First off, I HATE WRITING REVIEWS, but I know Authors need them to survive and make readers aware of their work, so you can rest assured that if I have posted any kind of review you will know that you have found a pearl that will enrich your reading experience beyond measure (at least in my view). My reviews do not dwell on the story line or the characters in the story, they just let you know that I found the story interesting, enjoyable and believe you will also, so be brave and pick up a copy, sit down and experience it for yourself just as I did. (I don't read other peoples reviews, before buying a book) That is all folks, the only other thing I can say is that I am looking forward to the next book from this Author as I really enjoyed this book.

Some other reviews hit the highlights. A lot of this episode was filler - the 'flashback' of the Jung takeover took so long it was almost like reading a short "shadow novel," a la some of Orson Scott Card's later stuff. I'm not sure it was needed. I kept waiting and wondering, "When are we going to get back to the Aurora?" It's not that I was disappointed, just impatient... kind of like, get on with it here, Ryk - this is wasting time. And as for some other ideas: It's about time for Brown to decide one way or another how conflicted he's going to make Nathan Scott. Either decide this back and forth we keep reading about one way or another, or just have Nathan lose it totally and turn the ship over to Cameron and we'll see what she can do. There does come a time when an author needs to decide what a character is going to be and do - Brown is flirting with losing our interest if he can't decide where Nathan is going with this... But still... somehow the story still holds together - kind of. I'll definitely be getting the next release but hope it moves somewhere not quite as scripted or stilted as this one was.

Uh, humm, where's the rest of the book? That was my first thought after finishing this episode. It's certainly not the shortest book I've ever read but it's close! Still, I'm glad the story continues even though we're reading about a bunch of "super" Junior Grade Officers who took over when all, yes, all the Senior Officers on a brand new starship were killed during their first and only action with the Jung. Now back from saving an entire galaxy from an evil empire, Captain Nathan Scott now knows he's going to be the Captain of the Aurora for a long time. I like the author's trick of going back in time to show what happened on Earth while the Aurora was away. Just jump in front of light leaving Earth and you can see everything that's happened the last four months. And man, is the light from Earth ever revealing! I mean you can apparently see and hear private conversations in highly secure underground bunkers just like it was a TV show! Isn't science fiction amazing? Well, if this didn't

work, then we'd had a whole new book without the Aurora being involved. Might have been a better idea than just a tiny little short story. Still, it is a good read. I hope the next episode comes out pretty quick and I hope it's a real book and not just a short-story!

Ryk Brown messes with his readers with "Celestia: CV-02." This what-the-hell title says very little about what's going to happen. But in the tradition of a Flash Gordon serial, it just doesn't matter. Those who have stuck with him through what is officially called "The Frontiers Saga" don't care. To me this is "The Aurora: The Baddest Space Ship in the Known Universe, Episode 8." Brown again takes a hammer to his heroes. He throws everything at them. This was supposed to be the Aurora's triumphant return to Earth. The day of reckoning when the young captain faces his superiors and either gets a court martial or a medal. Instead, he finds that Earth has been invaded by the Jung, an offshoot civilization that split with Earth's thousands of years before. The Jung are expansionist, ruthless and technologically more powerful. Brown leaves the Aurora out of most of the book, starting the tale two months prior to the ship's return. He begins almost immediately with the invasion. There's a bit of political intrigue to start the yarn, and it lays good groundwork. I start to care about a number of the characters. Then Brown kills some of them off. Damn him. But that's what makes this stuff great. Brown knows how to keep up the pressure. Like Flash Gordon, our heroes don't know what it's like not to face danger and pull out partial success despite overwhelming odds. Onward, upward and give me the next one!

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