



Eye of the Storm

John Ringo

Baen Books (Jul 7, 2009)

Unknown \$26.00 (432pp)

978-1-4391-3273-9

The latest entry in John Ringo's Posleen War series reunites family members in a common cause against an enemy more deadly than the Posleen.

General Michael O'Neal is taken prisoner, and his entire Fleet Strike ACS unit-20,000 troops-is wiped out on the orders of the Darhel, aliens who, although allied with humans against the Posleen, hide a secret of corruption and manipulation. O'Neal has discovered humans on the planet R-1496 Delta; the Darhel want that hidden. But they've failed to reckon on the toughness and talents of O'Neal and his daughters, Cally and Michelle, and their willingness to unite against a common enemy-particularly if there's a chance to overthrow the Darhel.

New readers may be a bit lost here and there in references to events in earlier books. But overall this is fast-paced military science fiction with enough weapons, espionage, and strategy to satisfy everyone.

Ringo throws in all sorts of action: the ins and outs of treachery on the part of the Darhel; a kangaroo court hearing that sentences O'Neal to fifty years in prison; a mentat-assisted rescue; the assimilation of a rejuvenated SS Generalfeldmarschall (yes, *that* SS) and his surviving troops, including many of Jewish ancestry, into a new attack force against the new enemy; and the transformation of a WWII heavy cruiser, the USS Des Moines, into a starship/dreadnought that's a match for just about anything the enemy can throw at it.

There's also the added complication of *sohon*, a mental power bordering on magic, and the human and Indowy mentats. These practitioners of *sohon* must question everything they stand for and decide whether they can-or should-use *sohon* to defeat the Hedren, a new enemy race that uses its own version of *sohon* to control conquered species and change reality.

The Des Moines, by the way, has a human "avatar" named Daisy Mae, thanks to a Darhel AID-a device that allows communication anywhere, any time, but which is designed to be loyal to the Darhel. Each AID has a personality, but the Des Moines AID freed itself from Darhel domination, resulting in a personality that perhaps owes as much to a *sohon*-like force as to technology.

New and old readers will find the title something of a misnomer: "There is strife within the tempest, / But calm in the eye of the storm..." That said, they'll be well pleased that this is so.

MARLENE SATTER (June 12, 2009)

Disclosure: This article is not an endorsement, but a review. The author of this book provided free copies of the book to have their book reviewed by a professional reviewer. No fee was paid by the author for this review. Foreword Reviews only recommends books that we love. Foreword Magazine, Inc. is disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.