

Pandora's Razor: Hope's War Book 2

Ray Strong

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In Ray Strong's space opera *Pandora's Razor*, a young woman pays for exposing a corrupt government when her loved ones are targeted.

In the twenty-second century, human civilization has expanded beyond the bounds of Earth. There are colonies on other worlds and aboard family cargo ships. But in a previous volume, Meriel, one of the few survivors of a horrific attack on one such ship, exposed the corruption of leaders across the galaxy.

When life quiets down, Meriel begins to rebuild her life. She lives with a loving partner and his adorable daughters in a desert colony. Still, violence finds her: a cult attacks the planet and dumps mutilated corpses on it. The cult, known as the Archers, targets Meriel personally, framing her for an explosive attack on a distant, peaceful world.

Back in the spotlight, Meriel learns that those responsible for the attack on her family's ship entered a political end game. Meriel and her allies, including her partner, band together to stop The Archtrope, a religious dictator who hopes to establish a new thousand-year dynasty. In a painful twist of fate, Meriel's trial for the attack presents a fraught way out: she can declare that she's responsible, and her allies will be safe; if she refuses, everyone will be executed. Meriel, who is the definition of selfless, is tempted.

With a heroine who wants nothing more than to keep her loved ones safe, but who contends with severe PTSD, this is a book about risking it all for what one believes in. *Pandora's Razor* is compelling science fiction, centered on an admirable woman who fights for her family in a chaotic galaxy.

JOHN M. MURRAY (January / February 2022)

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