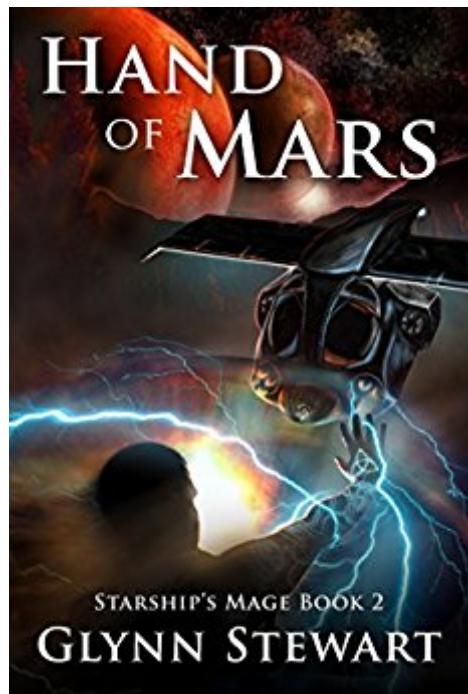


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# Hand Of Mars (Starship's Mage Book 2)



## **Synopsis**

ROGUE MAGE TURNED INTERPLANETARY ENVOYThree years ago, as Shipâ™s Mage of the starship Blue Jay, Damien Montgomery was pursued to the edge of human space by both the agents and enemies of the Mage-King of Mars â” before being brought in from the cold. Now, trained in new skills by the Mage-King himself, Damien has been sent to the planet Ardennes alongside Alaura Stealey, Hand of the King. A rebel movement there has destroyed cities fighting a Governor seemingly lost to corruption. But not all on Ardennes is as it seems. As allies becomes enemies and an entire world comes apart in chaos around him, Damien will find both his skills and integrity tested to the utter limit.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Just finished reading Hand of Mars, the second full-length novel in Glynn Stewart's novel series about Mage Damien Montgomery. It was a thoroughly enjoyable read. Like the previous novel, I would recommend it to anyone who might enjoy quality science fiction with a little "fantasy" thrown in . . but this fantasy has at least a plausible explanation based in genetics and ESP. Stewart's style

has clearly progressed from the original novel, which is understandable given that he has now nearly a half-dozen published novels to his credit. The main and supporting characters are well fleshed out and their motivations are complex. Once again, Stewart takes a refreshingly positive view of future society (which is opposed the current trend in much of today's sf.) One thing I did note is that the "villains" seem a bit less well fleshed out, and definitely more stereotypical, than in the original work. The motivations are not as well explained here, and their actions when confronted with their evils do not always seem logical for "real" people. But this is a minor flaw in an otherwise very engaging yarn. A page turner, to say the least, and Stewart's skill as an author is clearly still on the upward path. Enjoy!

First let me say that I have all of the books this Author has written and I love them all. With the Hand of Mars Damien has grown up and must face the challenges and difficulties that come with his talents and abilities. Filled with action and conflict the book takes the reader realistically through the emotional growth necessary when the responsibility of command demands action; action that can result with no real winners if one "Does the right thing". Too many times people compromise but the author is able to realistically communicate the concept of right from wrong. That evil can masquerade as actions done for the greater good. I truly hope there will be a book 3 and look forward to reading it.

I really liked the first book in this series, Starship's Mage, and so have been eagerly awaiting Stewart's second book. I was not disappointed. The overall feel and pacing of Hand of Mars is different than Starship's Mage but that is to be somewhat expected as the character and situations have significantly evolved since the last book. I thought it was solidly written. The editing was good. I didn't not catch any glaring spelling or grammar issues. The story is good. Pretty fast paced and keeps you interested. My only beef with this book, and this is just a personal preference, is that this book takes place 3 years after the end of the first book. The character has done a good bit of growing up and his powers have expanded quite a bit. I personally would have liked a little bit more about that process. Maybe a chapter towards the beginning of the book talking about it or maybe some "flashbacks" or that kind of thing to show more of how the main character became the badass he is today. Again, that is my personal preference. Overall, this was an excellent followup to Starship's Mage and well worth the time and money.

Before you read this one, please note it is the second book in a series: you need to have read book

one or this one won't make much sense to you. If you enjoyed the first book in the series, the second picks up a few years later and more of a maturing process for young Montgomery as he becomes one of the Hands of Mars. The author has an engaging writing style and makes you feel as if you are right in the middle of the action. I picked this up for \$4.99 in the Kindle store and certainly received its worth in entertainment value out of this one: if you enjoyed the first book in the series I'd recommend you giving this one a try.

No spoilers... Damien is back with a wallop and whilst there were elements of the Omnibus I preferred, this is a good sequel, that leaves you wanting more. I would've liked a bit of insight into Damian's further training but that's just because we saw his earlier development and it might've strengthened the story links.. Character development is good and there's enough action and tension to keep the pages turning. There needs to be a little better attention paid to editing, the lapses are pace dampeners but that's no reason not to enjoy the trip I certainly did and look forward to the next in the series.

This book starts approximately 3 years after the incidents in Starship Mage. The main character has been trained and is now out on his training with a Hand of the Mage king. Good book, the Main character shows some growth when the situation starts to get difficult. Worth a read

This book follows the career of the young Mage, now training to be an agent of the Mage King, from the previous book. Due to his ability to sense magic flow, he has become even more powerful. He is sent with his teacher Aleanna to check out a rebellion in an outlying planet. It turns out that the ruler is insane and power hungry, manipulating both the mages and his population. Aleanna ends up murdered as part of his plot, but her ward escapes and is promoted to a full Hand of the Mage King in her stead. He manages to unravel the plot and the insane ruler is captured. I didn't really like it because of the death of a main character, though. Ah well. It has no DRM, however, so at least you own the book should you buy it.

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