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Valor's Child (Children Of Valor Book 1)



Synopsis

Be careful what you wish for. Jiden's parents barely scrape out a living on the dry, dusty world of Century. Jiden wants more for herself and she is ready to step into a bright future, one which may lead her far from the frontier world of her birth. She has no dreams of following in the footsteps of her military family's heritage, no desire to live a life of hardship. She's just got one obstacle in the path to her dreams: five months of military school. She'll be away from her friends, subjected to long hours and a crushing work load. She'll learn to shoot, to fight and how to kill. Jiden will need every skill she's learned, because her family's enemies have put her in their sights. She's going to have to rise to the challenges in order to survive. She soon learns that her dreams might not be as good as she imagined. With her life on the line, Jiden will need to fall back on the skills she learned and prove that she's a child of valor. She's just got one obstacle: five months of military school. She'll be away from her friends, subjected to long hours and a crushing work load. Yet as the challenges mount, she finds that there may be more to life besides comfort and security things like duty and service.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Engaging story with a likeable heroine, fairly interesting sci-fi setting and good writing overall.

I obtained this book through the Kindle Unlimited program, which generates about \$17,000,000 in payouts to authors each month. However, unless things have changed since yesterday, this will not count as a Verified Purchase. Jiden is almost 17 in Earth years, and on the lonely planet where she finds her home, it's time for her to leave home, and go off to the equivalent of work or college. Nobody majors in Music History on her world; they are fighting too hard to stay alive. Mom and Dad want her to go to college. Jiden wants to get a plum internship with Champion Industries, where her not-quite-boyfriend Tony is placed. Of course, in Tony's case, it was a foregone; his grandfather is THE Mr. Champion. Dilemma: Champion wants applicants to apply ONLY to their program; Jiden has promised her parents she will apply to two other colleges, so: she forges her mother's signature on the Champion application. Parents hit the ceiling. And they ship her off to her grandmother. NOT the sweet cookie-baking grandmother; no, she goes off to the ADMIRAL grandmother, who is in command of the Military Academy. And that's how Jiden spends her summer vacation. I LOVE these stories. I love military sci-fi in general, but specifically, I have deep, deep affection for the stories of basic training. Doesn't matter if it's Heinlein, or Hooten, Buettner or Torgerson: there is a grinding similarity between what THEY went through, and what I went through. If you are one of the fortunate who through some nasty bad luck or nasty bad choices found yourself at some Reception Station with your hair scraped off and needles being jack-hammered into your arms, then you will share the visceral experience: yes; it was like that. If you have NOT had that experience; I don't know. Maybe. I think plenty of non-vets liked Starship Troopers. But, hey: I DID that. I PAID for the memories. And not even if I could be nineteen years old again would I go through that a second time. There is a LOT of backstory here, that some of the characters know about, but others don't. Jiden doesn't know ANYTHING. Her roommate does, however, including the fact that their families have histories with each other. But nobody will tell her anything! They all say, it isn't their story to tell. Well, maybe so; that culture may be close-mouthed. She sure handles the ambiguity better than I would. Three periods to training: equipment issue and orientation; a combat field problem called 'Grinder; extensive classroom presentation. All of that has to be crammed into four months, and that's one of

the not-believable aspects of the book. I'm gonna pass it by, though, because this is a prep school experience. However, unless I utterly read it wrong, the troops are dumped into the intense combat experience of the Grinder after: EIGHT DAYS. Sorry, that idea hits the wall. However, the story is so well told, the entire thing, that I just suspended disbelief, and kept reading. Yes, the story is that good. He probably could have gotten away with other stuff, as well, but he didn't try. So much more I could say! I will not, however, because you need to read it for yourself. Just keep in mind that the plot lines left hanging are on purpose, because the sequel is on the way.

I will admit that I almost stopped reading this book after the first few pages because I found the heroine to be a whiny self-centered teenager and I was afraid the book would be bringingly predictable. I'm very glad I kept going because a large part of the story is how said heroine matures and becomes far less whiny and self-centered. Essentially our heroine gets sent to a military academy prep school for 4 months and this causes her to learn what is important and what isn't. There's more to the story than that though and the action-packed plot delivers a very satisfactory read. While this is clearly the first book in a series, it ends at a satisfactory point with most (but not all) loose ends tied up and (most but not all) villains receiving their just deserts. Not only that, the world building is solid and original and the characters, both good and bad, are well rounded and true to life. All in all it's a very enjoyable read once you get past the irritating parts of the heroine. A well read SF fan will inevitably make a comparison to (part of) Heinlein's *Starship Troopers* and perhaps also to (part of) Michael Z Williamson's *Freehold* (Freehold Series Book 1) but there's plenty of difference - if nothing else there is far less political preaching, and since almost the entire book is taken up with the training, there's a lot more detail on that. Moreover the originality of the world building means that this is anything but a pastiche of military training tales and it compares very well to both books in terms of one's inability to stop reading.

Author Kal Spriggs is at it again and this time he really brought the heat. His latest novel, *Valor's Child*, is by far my favorite book of his. After taking only a day and a half to read (which is quite quick for me considering my crazy work schedule) I was hard-pressed to put this down. The story takes off right away and you get right into the thick of the plot from the first few pages. Jiden, a teenage girl with her heart set on an internship from Champion Enterprises, finds herself caught between her stubbornness and reality as she is sent to military school. Without giving too much more away, she transforms from a somewhat self-centered teen into a selfless leader. Anyone who went to a military college was in the military, or wants to know what it's really like to change from a

follower to a leader should read this book. Not only will it keep you on the edge of your seat, it will make you root for the main character as she faces several challenges and critical decisions that impact herself, and her teammates as they fight to graduate. I certainly related to Jiden and can first hand attest to going through a similar change in my life. Kal Spriggs nailed it with this character proving that there is no greater call than the one of military duty. Can't wait for the sequel.

Great book, I think one of the best yet written by Kal. The drama, the military ways of looking at things from a neophyte's perspective, and how he was able to shape the different characters was simply amazing. great work Kal! A must read for teens who want to understand what life could be like inside a start of a military career through an academy.

Well done coming of age adventure. Jiden grew up a lot though much of her folly was self-inflicted. Her prob seems to stem from being raised by honest people who make the same mistakes she did in believing that the ends justify the means. Hard to accept her blindness given her intelligence but came out ok in the end. This may continue as a good series and I'll be looking for the next installment.

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