



Ghosts

Nicholas Sansbury Smith

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Ten years ago, Hell Diver Xavier “X” Rodriguez fell to Earth. Those he left behind went on without him aboard the airship he once called home.

Michael Everheart -- the boy once known as Tin -- has grown into a man and the commander of Hell Diver Raptor Team. While Michael dives to help keep the Hive in the air, Captain Leon Jordan rules with an iron fist at the helm of the ship. But unrest stirs under his strict leadership as a prophecy of hope sweeps the lower decks.

When a mysterious distress signal calls the Hell Divers to the surface, Michael and his loyal team begin to uncover long-buried truths and the secrets Captain Jordan will do anything to keep. They dive so humanity survives... but will they survive the ultimate betrayal?

Ghosts Details

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Wendy says

“Ghosts” the second in the intriguing and exciting Hell Divers series opens ten years after Hell Diver Xavier “X” Rodriguez plummeted back to Hades, having had no response to the SOS sent to his airship and eluding the Siren swarm with his dog Miles. On board the ship a grownup Michael Everhart (Tin) commands the Raptor Team, while Captain Leon Jordon rules the ship; the death toll for Hell Divers high as they search for parts and power cells in the radiated wasteland of Earth while still-born babies are the norm and cancer stalks the halls claiming more of humanity’s last survivors.

Intertwined in this plot is the search for survivors in the ITC bunker on Hilltop Bastion after an SOS is received, while on the Hive Michael and his team search for the truth about the past, uncovering Captain Jordon’s long-held secrets that he will do anything to cover up.

Set in the future after the death of Captain Ash who wanted to find a new home for the remnant of humanity on the airship, the Hive groaning and creaking after 260 years, a refuge must be found before mankind no longer exists. Into an atmosphere of fear, uncertainty, violence and death, after a harrowing storm and the loss of the ship’s rudders causes an accident that sends Hell Diver Magnolia Kalib hurtling to earth the story heats up when Captain Jordon reluctantly sends a dive team to follow-up on a mysterious distress call and to locate her body. Intensity and suspense escalate not only as the team discovers that she’s alive and someone on board wants her dead but after every confrontation with mutant creatures like the Sirens and the Vultures they discover secrets from mankind’s past.

Fast-paced and action-packed, the plot twists and turns as Tin and Lyla Brower begin to unravel Captain Jordon’s sinister deception while revealing a prophecy and discovering a lost transmission that sends them hurtling to earth to find the Hell Diver Team so together they can search for a Diver long missing. A page-turner as the Hell Divers face off with Sirens and other mutated creatures, this well-developed plot moves to a thrilling ending that promises an electrifying third book.

Among the compelling characters that bring the story to life are calm and logical Commander Michael Everhart (Tin); stubborn, tough and smart Lieutenant Katrina DaVita; the fearless and feisty Magnolia Katib; impulsive and unflustered Layla Brower; as well as the cold, uncompromising Captain Leon Jordon. All add to the tension and drama that swirls around the crew and airship in this post-apocalyptic world.

“Ghosts” is a soaring adventure loaded with a mesmerizing plot and great characters as the Hell Divers struggle to save the last remnant of humanity. I'm looking forward to reading the next book in this series.

J.J. Nordman says

I won this book as a giveaway.

I really enjoyed it without having read the first, but probably best to read in order. Looking forward to the next book. I like post-apocalyptic fiction and this book didn't disappoint. It has an excellent story that I couldn't put this book down. It is action filled and I enjoyed the way the story is written and how the characters are developed.

Veronica says

Picking up ten years after the events of the first book, Ghosts continues the frenetic pace set by its predecessor...maybe even a tad too frenetic. Some breathing room would have been appreciated. Still, RC Bray did another great job with the narration in bringing this post-apocalyptic story to life. The ending left me clamoring for the next book, if for no other reason than to see a certain character meet the ol' head on a pike fate. I'm reeeaaalllly looking forward to that.

Ronie says

Absolutely love this series! Every book happens "in a blink," meaning the read is fast because the story is so compelling. Loved seeing the helldivers back in action, especially coming back around to Everheart.

Kim says

It's nearly impossible to describe this book without a major spoiler for the first book in the series. If you'd like to keep that a surprise before you read it, here's the place to stop.

When book one of the Hill Divers trilogy ended, X (Xavier Rodriguez) was floating in space having missed his rendezvous with the main ship. He had fought off the hideous siren monsters that had followed him up into the stratosphere. Wounded and bound to fall back to earth it was pretty clear that he was dead.

Book two opens with the surprising information that X survived. He's now alone back on an earth that is a nuclear wasteland with massive storms sweeping through and monsters everywhere.

Making his way around the area where he fell back to earth he's found weapons, a cache of food, and, in a cryogenics lab, found frozen people and one frozen dog. He thawed out the dog, made protective clothing for it and now has a companion. He also found a way to send radio signals.

The story jumps to eight years later. There have been major changes in the ship. Captain Ashe retired and, shortly after, died of cancer ... a common disease for many on the ship now circling the globe. The new captain is Leon Jordan, who has developed a relationship with X's love interest Katrina. Captain Jordan is overcautious. He'll barely let the Hell Divers make worthwhile dives for replacement equipment. He's also become a paranoid leader. Worse yet, he has received information that a message has been received from survivors on earth. He also knows that X survived and has been signalling the ship, but he's determined to "protect" Katrina from the information.

With the growing intrigue on the ship some of the Hell Divers discover information about the survivor's message along with information that the monsters on earth were part of a genetics project before the bombs hit.

As with the last book, Smith writes top-notch heroes and great action sequences. The new generation of Hell Divers has a great collection of men and women willing to risk their lives to keep the ship working. But now they need to go against orders on a drop to earth, and into one of the dangerous "red zones", to look for survivors and also to investigate a secret plan that the previous captain had to move the population of the ship down to earth and underground, sure that this last ship can't stay in the sky forever.

Other than X only being part of the beginning and ending of the book, this second volume reads much the same as the first one in the trilogy. If you read and liked that one, as I did, this one will not be a disappointment other than the need to adjust to a new cast of characters.

Laura Thomas says

After the ending for the first book, which nearly killed me, I was clapping my hands in stupid glee when I read the beginning for this second book. I got all silly, talking out loud to myself about how good this was going to be.

It's many years later and there's some new divers in town. They don't have much of a life expectancy and recruits are always needed. When disaster strikes the sister ship and a risky rescue is attempted, no one could have foreseen what was to come. The conspiracies that would be revealed. The secrets kept. And...what horrors waited below, on the surface.

Man, I hope they make these books into movies. They are freakin fantastic. Action explodes off the pages. Creepy things scare the crap out of you. Suspense has you chewing your fingernails. And the character's grab hold of you and won't let go.

Is this book as good as the first one? Hell yes! And I've already pre-ordered the third one. Now waiting anxiously for it to be released. Stay tuned.

Greg at 2 Book Lovers Reviews says

*4.5 Stars

I love a summer sequel; getting reacquainted with some old friends, making some new ones and just enjoying the time spent together. The familiarity of the sequel is comforting. I am already invested in the world, I know the backstory, and I have an idea of where I would like the adventure to go. *Ghosts* fits the summer sequel spot superbly.

In all honesty, I think that *Hell Divers* #2 had some challenges to overcome. You see, I felt like the original was a complete story. I didn't think that I needed anything more, but curiosity got the best of me and I jumped at the opportunity to read book #2. Well, Sansbury Smith kicked this one off with an unexpected bang and I was on board. He created a necessity where there was none.

With X out of the picture, we have a new hero. Our little friend Tin from book #1 is all grown up and has enlisted in the family business. He is the perfect hero to pick up where X left off. He is everything that X is not, yet the two have so much in common. As a reader, I was glad to see that things worked out for Tin, as much as they could in this environment. It was good to see him come into his own. Tin is not X, but he is just as complex. The supporting cast contained a mix of new and familiar faces, each one critical in moving the story forward. The villain, well, he is just pure "Dr. Evil", I loved to hate him.

Ghosts was a great story that pulled me further into the franchise. Unlike book #1, this story is not over, the shit has really hit the fan and I'll be sticking around to find out where it all lands. I have a summer sequel for 2018 already on my list.?

*I received a copy of the book from the publisher (via NetGalley) in exchange for an honest review.

AudioBookReviewer says

My original Ghosts audiobook review and many others can be found at Audiobook Reviewer.

Captain Jordan has a secret – well several, and they are about to be revealed! Tin has grown into a strong man and is Commander of the Hell Diver Raptor Team. Magnolia continues as the fastest Hell Diver of the Raptor Team but makes the ultimate sacrifice. Hell Diver Xavier Rodriguez (X) has been missing for 10 years from an ill-fated return to the ship. They all have one thing in common – a secret that Captain Jordan does not want revealed and will stop at nothing to eliminate the risk of exposure.

Every man, woman, and child on the ship are at risk. Secrets are close to being revealed and those that know them are now on the ground facing even scarier and deadlier creatures than the sirens. Nothing and no-one is safe.

The apocalyptic future that Nicolas Sansbury Smith paints for humankind is horrendous and beyond description. Smith gives us monsters that are fierce and rule the earth – but he further shows us just how far one person can go and will do to protect their beliefs and wants. Not all monsters that lurk in the shadows are what nightmares are made of, but rather the two-legged human kinds are sometimes a thousand times more evil, deadly and ferocious than the creatures roaming the earth's surface in this series.

Smith is a masterful story-teller that keeps his fans riveted to their ear buds (headphones, etc.). The bold, never-ending action and danger is gripping. This is a series that one can lose one's self in and never want it to end. "They dive so humanity survives" – that small phrase describes the book and its action perfectly.

R.C. Bray is perfect for this series. He captures the grittiness of each character and projects each character fully simply through his voice. He adds to the story, making it one of the most difficult books to walk away from until the end. Even then, his voice will haunt you – you will hear the voices of each character long after you finish the book. Talented and skilled at narration, both R.C. Bray and Nicolas Sansbury Smith make an awesome team!

There were no issues with the quality or production of this audiobook.

Audiobook was provided for review by the author.

Michael Hicks says

Readers of the first *Hell Divers* novel will feel right at home with *Ghosts*, Smith's follow-up to last year's hit.

Set ten years after the shocking ending of volume one in this trilogy, the Hell Divers continue to deploy from their airship to explore the poisoned, desolate remains of an uninhabitable Earth. This elite squad of future soldiers are constantly searching for parts to keep the *Hive* afloat and in one piece, a task easier said than done for a centuries old airship that has seen far better days. Adding to the importance of each mission is the unstated fact that humanity itself depends on their success. Aboard the *Hive* are four hundred souls, the last of a very nearly extinct human race.

Adding to the stakes in *Ghosts* are a duplicitous captain seeking to keep secret the truth of what waits below on the devastated planet. As certain factions aboard the *Hive* get closer to uncovering his lies, Captain Jordan will go to any lengths to keep those secrets hidden, including betraying the Hell Divers.

If you've been reading Smith's work for any length of time, then you'll know what to expect here - lots of frenetic military action and plenty of high-stakes adventure set against a high concept sci-fi backdrop, with plenty of horrifying, bloodthirsty monsters thrown into the mix. *Hell Divers II: Ghosts* has all this, plus a few new wrinkles to broaden the scope of the overarching *Hell Divers* story. This is a fun, fast-paced read and it sets the stage for a big, wild, head-long race to the finish in next year's *Deliverance*.

[Note: I received an advanced copy of this title from the publisher via NetGalley.]

PHYL says

This is another excellent book written by the very creative author, Nicholas Sansbury Smith. The story picks up 10 years after *Hell Divers 1* left off. It is a fast paced adrenaline rush! The characters are interesting, different and well developed. I think all readers of Dystopian/Sci-Fi will enjoy this story. . I received an advance review copy from the publisher in return for an honest review.

Nikki "The Crazie Betty" V. says

Worst part about reading a NSS book? Having to wait a whole year for the next one!! WAAAAA!!!

I always wait too long to review NSS's books. It's obviously not that I don't love them, I just always think if I give myself some more time the perfect review will just come to me.

That is not the case. So, I'm going to keep this short and sweet.

If you enjoy post-apocalyptic fiction with a militaristic viewpoint, and you haven't read a Nicholas Sansbury Smith book yet, then shame on you! I can say for certain that NSS is one of maybe 5 authors I will immediately read whatever they write because I always enjoy them. *Hell Divers 2* was no different. I devoured this book once I started it! And if you've read HD1 then you know exactly why. Taking place almost 10 years after *Hell Divers 1*, we are definitely left with a lot of holes to be filled. Many of these are taken care of in this 2nd installment, as the book goes on, but again, we get to the ending and I'm screaming and throwing my hands up in the air as I silently cry and pout about not having the next book yet. HD2 had just as much action and mutants as HD1, but HD2 gives us a whole different kind of villain. A man who is selfish, despicable, and I swear, emotionless. I'll be very happy to find out what his comeuppance ends up being in book 3.

I'm not going into anything else because I don't want there to be spoilers for anyone that is trying to decide if they want to pick up this series, or not. But here's my advice, READ IT! READ IT NOW!!! Then join me in my misery as I wait for book 3...

Received via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Vinay Badri says

My first thought on finishing this rollicking affair is how is this not a movie yet?

A book that is really a cross between Snowpiercer and Reign of Fire and I am Legend, the book packs in action, thrills, politicking, and class struggle in a desperately survivalist post apocalyptic world where what remains of humanity exists on an airship floating around and trying desperately to stay up.

Picking up 8 years post book 1, things have gotten even more desperate for the embattled humanity surviving aboard even as past sins and action come home to roost. We have mostly a set of newer characters as focus in this book but the past never really dies, be it a lost radio transmission or shared histories.

The best part about the book is really how atmospheric it is. The desperation reeks through in the setting, the writing and the characters and there is absolutely no let up through the book. Be it on the airship or on the ground salvage mission, the multiple storylines keep things super tight and different. Be it the action on ground or the conspiracy aboard the ship, the tension is palpable. A blast from the past enlivens things and sets up a chase for the 3rd book, while the survivors have to wrestle with the fact that there might be no hope after all.

Incredible book esp for a middle book of a trilogy. Epic

Lisa Omstead says

If you're on blood pressure medication, you might want to swallow that pill just prior to reading HD2. This remarkable series continues to ramp up the suspense. Ten years after Xavier "X" Rodriguez was left behind on earth's horrific surface, the dwindling survivors aboard the airship Hive are running out of time. Strong writing and an ingenious plot line meld to create an outstanding work of post-apocalyptic fiction!

Looking forward to HD3 and more adventures with the stalwart "RodgeMan".

*I was given an ARC in return for an honest review.

Kristen Burns says

4 Stars

Review:

I received an ecopy of this book via NetGalley. This has not influenced my review.

Much like the first book, this was an intense, gripping post-apocalyptic read. The world-building in this series is incredible and really makes me feel like I'm there, especially on the bleak, terrifying surface. The characters are all flawed and gruff, but most of them are still likeable and good people. The concept of the airship and the hell divers is such a unique one (I mean, come on, just look at the kickass suit on the cover). In short—these books are so well thought-out and well-written, and there is so much to love about them.

I felt like this book suffered a bit from middle book syndrome though. It seemed kind of repetitive (the ship was falling apart, hell divers had to go on dangerous missions, the surface was filled with mutated monsters that tried to kill them, etc.), and even though it did eventually start getting to the secrets mentioned in the blurb, it still seems like little actually happened plot-wise. But the things that did happen were significant, some info was found that shed more light on the world and the creatures, and it seems as though a lot of interesting stuff is going to happen in the next book.

There was one major difference between this book and the first one though, and that was the main characters. I admit I was disappointed to find out X wouldn't be a main character in this one since, to put it simply, his character was awesome, but all the hell diver POV characters were just as unique and well-written. I've read a lot of books lately in which all the third person POVs sounded the same, but I never found myself getting confused about whose POV I was in while reading this book. And for anyone who has finished Book 1 but is unsure about whether to continue because of the ending, ***SPOILER*** (view spoiler) ***END SPOILER***

There was also Captain Jordan instead of Captain Ash this time, and JORDAN WAS AN AWFUL PERSON. He liked to pretend he had the best interests of all the people on the ship at heart, but most of his decisions were actually as selfish as selfish can get. If you like a good hate-able antagonist to root against, you won't be disappointed. ***SPOILER*** (view spoiler) ***END SPOILER***

Overall, despite some repetition in the plot, this was a gripping book that I didn't want to put down with flawed but good-hearted characters, intense scenes, and a unique, complex post-apocalyptic world!

Recommended For:

Fans of Book 1 in Nicholas Sanbury Smith's Hell Divers Series. Anyone looking for a crazy, intense, gritty, gripping, unique post-apocalyptic story and gruff, flawed, but still likeable characters.

Original Review @ Metaphors and Moonlight

TG KMT | QUESTL♥VE says

is book #3 out yet..?

I FREAKIN' NEED IT NOW.

Awesomeness.
