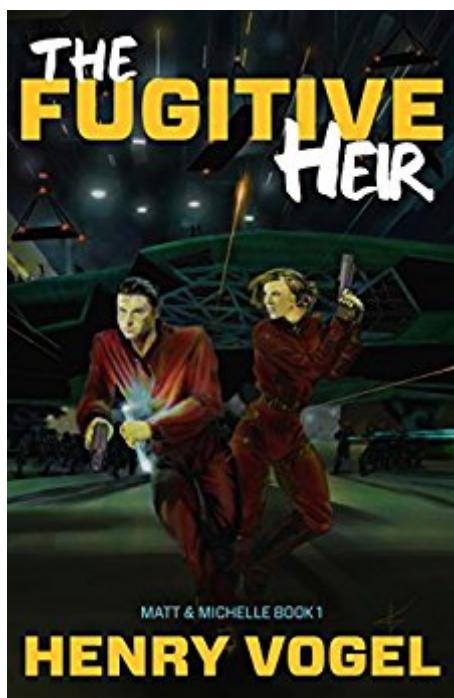


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The Fugitive Heir (Matt & Michelle Book 1)



Synopsis

“My parents are not dead! Everyone thinks I’m in denial, and have been ever since my parents vanished seven years ago. Everyone thinks I should just shut up, and accept the vast inheritance coming my way. Everyone thinks I should let it go, and get on with my life. Everyone is wrong. I know my parents are still alive but if I reveal how I know, I’ll be drafted into Psi Corps. But my inheritance can fund my search for them. I didn’t count on deadly opposition from the board of the very company I’m about to inherit. There are powerful people involved who will go to extreme lengths to protect their dark secrets and silence me forever. But those people don’t know about my three wildcards—my rebuilt spaceship, my best friend who doubles as my bodyguard, and the psychic powers I’ve kept secret my entire life. My parents are alive, and I’m going to find them and save them—whatever it takes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If this novel was around when I was young, it would have been one of my favorite books. Now in my sixties I can't overlook some things that I would have as a teenager. Like why hundreds of years in the future they still use pads to hack computer systems, as surely both items will be long gone by then, and then the "paperwork" that is needed in the future seems silly as well. **HOWEVER**, the story itself, the "every boy's fantasy" romance, and the perfectly paced action forces me to give this five stars and wish that I was 17 again! And believe me, I will be reading the next M&M novel.

I usually approach reviewing a book on by reading several of the other reviews on the same book, first. I dislike it when I wind up saying almost the exact same thing as half a dozen other people. I'd like my review to look at the book differently than others have. Surprisingly - or, just maybe, not so surprisingly - I can't manage that with this book. Out of some 25 other reviews, my thoughts pretty much matched the gamut of comments made by others. The book is a fun, fast-paced read, eminently enjoyable from page 1 onward. The author's style that reminds me very much of Robert Heinlein's young adult science fiction stories (Red Planet, The Star Beast, Citizen of the Galaxy). The story's main characters - Matt and Michelle - are a pair of bright and energetic young people, around 17 or 18 years old (you can pin it down from clues in the text), each harboring a couple deep, dark secrets. Together, they set off in an old spaceship that Matt and his father restored in their 'garage' as a 'father and son' project, hoping to find Matt's parents - who have now been missing for seven years, just long enough to now be declared officially dead. Of course, his folks were the heads of a multi-trillion dollar, federation-wide corporation, and Matt is the presumptive heir to the 'throne'. If he can stay alive and un-disappeared, that is. The book moves at a brisk pace, once the two teens set out on their quest, and each one brings a 'particular set of skills' to the task at hand. The skills may seem far-fetched, at first, but - as the story progresses - the logical reasons for their having those skills are revealed in a well-thought manner. The action of the story is tightly woven, moving the two main characters from one danger to the next with skill and care, and I enjoyed the fact that they don't always 'defeat' their antagonists so much as 'outwit' them. For the parents in the audience... Yes, the book has some violence. You can't have a story that features pirates and space battles without at least a little bit of violence. However, the violence in this story is neither gratuitous nor graphic. Also, there is some sexual content in the story. These are two teenagers who fell in love with each other years earlier - but never suspected that the other shared their feelings until now. They do, indeed, make love, but it's not graphically depicted, at all. All in all, I enjoyed this book immensely, reading it from start to finish in an afternoon and evening. I noticed,

on the author's website, that Book 2 in this series will be available in August of 2016, and Book 3 is in the process of being written. You can rest assured that I'll be grabbing both volumes as soon as they're available!

All in all, a good romp. The banter between the two leads is fun and, as others have stated, they manage to honestly outwit their opponents more often than they defeat them by other means. Story never gets weighed down. Gets politely "racy" from time to time, but it would not offend your grandmother, I think, so plenty safe for teens and even pre-teens. But I am subtracting one star because some elements were not developed enough. One major character shows up unexpectedly near the end and says he will explain how he did it later - pretty sure he never did. The eventual reveal of the main antagonist is somewhat marred by their not having hardly any screen time up to that point. In fact there were barely any suspects for chief villain to be had, outside of faceless members of the board (Ah, capitalists - must be evil!). Basically, it had the elements of a really good mystery, but failed to pay off in that respect. Definitely looking forward to the further adventures of Matt and Michelle.

The story is about an empath and his bodyguard. The empath's parents have been missing for seven years, and are about to be declared dead. The empath knows his parents are alive because of his empathic abilities. Problem is that if he reveals how he knows, he'll be pressed into the psi corps. He must find his parents on his own. After a number of revelations about shady business practices, he finds his parents. Typical YA stuff with undying love, etc. We could have definitely left out chapter 21 as the grand reveal in that chapter really lowered the quality of the story. Think the author got hurried in wrapping up the story. Before that, I really liked it as the adventure held my attention. Easy read. Fairly good grammar. Good vocabulary.

I've read and reviewed a couple of books by Henry Vogel. This one was the second I read (but not the second reviewed), and convinced me to try others that he has written. It's not a complex plot. A young man who is about to inherit a fortune insists on trying to find out what happened to his parents and soon discovers that someone doesn't want him to find out. He manages to start his adventure accompanied by a former classmate who soon becomes far more than a simple friend, and hijinks ensue. Simple idea, but well executed and containing characters who grow as they work their way through the mystery and adventure. Honestly, the mystery itself was not world-shatteringly expansive although it is better camouflaged than some. And the action felt a bit piecemeal at times.

Yet, the whole is definitely greater than the pieces. The endearing and well written characters, combined with a tale that never bogs down make this a great story

I liked this book so much, that even though I read it free with my Prime membership, I purchased it as soon as I was finished. This was a fast paced story, that was well written and had well developed characters. This is my favorite type of space opera, where the story is centered on the characters, not the science. Looking forward to many more adventures with M&M!

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