



Avalon

By Mindee Arnett

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For fans of Josh Whedon's cult classic television show *Firefly* comes a fascinating and fast-paced sci-fi thriller from author Mindee Arnett, which *New York Times* bestselling author Kiersten White calls "a heart-pounding, tense joyride of a novel."

Jeth Seagrave and his crew have made their name stealing metatech: the devices that allow people to travel great distances faster than the speed of light. In a world where the agencies that patrol the outer edges of space are as corrupt as the crime bosses who control them, it's as much of a living as anyone can ask for. For years Jeth's managed to fly under the radar of the government that executed his parents for treason—but when he finds himself in possession of information that both the government and the crime bosses are willing to kill for, he's going to find there's no escaping his past anymore.

With pulse-pounding action, a captivating mystery, and even a bit of romance, *Avalon* is the perfect read for hard-core sci-fi fans and non-sci-fi fans alike.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Jeth's parents were the preeminent scientists of the Confederation until their final mission ended in tragedy and they were suddenly charged with treason and executed. Since then, Jeth has been in the forced employ of an interstellar crime lord, aboard the Avalon. It is a ship specially designed by Jeth's parents to navigate and explore the Belgrave, a sector of space that gives off inexplicable power fluctuations; many consider it haunted. Jeth is finally given the opportunity to captain the Avalon when the crew are sent into the Belgrave to salvage a stranded Confederation ship said to hold a dangerous weapon. Little does he know that this mission will set off a chain of events that could have far-reaching consequences and fundamentally challenge his understanding of his own family's history. This is an exciting piece of science fiction that keeps up its energy from beginning to end. Fans of the short-lived but beloved Joss Whedon television show *Firefly* will find this book especially enjoyable, and it is sure to be one of the most popular releases in the genre this year.—Ryan F. Paulsen, New Rochelle High School, NY

From [Booklist](#)

Arnett's fast-paced space western combines S. E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* (1967) with television's *Firefly* in what appears to be the beginning of a promising series. We meet a motley crew of renegade orphan teen mercenaries who form their own family by choice. Their mission is to steal metatech, the mysterious force that allows interplanetary travel faster than the speed of light. Seventeen-year-old Jeth leads the gang of teen metatech thieves, who work for the villainous Hammer Dafoe. Jeth and his 13-year-old sister, Lizzie, lost their space-surveying parents seven years ago, when the Interstellar Transit Authority executed their parents for unspecified treason. Jeth's primary objective is to buy the family's legendary spaceship, the Avalon, from Hammer, escape his despotic reign, and establish a quiet existence away from Hammer and the Interstellar Transit Authority. But nothing is going to come easy, and the appearance of a strange, possibly alien child and a beautiful, fierce teen scientist further complicate matters. It's not a deep read, but it's a riveting one, and sci-fi fans will gulp it down in one sitting and ask for more. Grades 8-11. --Debbie Carton

Review

"Avalon will pull you into the darkest reaches of space-and you'll be glad to be there. A heart-pounding, tense joyride of a novel." (Kiersten White, author of the New York Times-bestselling *Paranormalcy* series)

"This is an exciting piece of science fiction that keeps up its energy from beginning to end ... it is sure to be one of the most popular releases in the genre this year." (School Library Journal (starred review))

"Arnett's fast-paced space western combines S. E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* (1967) with television's *Firefly* in what appears to be the beginning of a promising series. Sci-fi fans will gulp it down in one sitting and ask for more." (ALA Booklist)

"Secrets, betrayal, family, team work, and love are all at the heart of Arnett's book. It is a plot-filled story with twists and turns that will keep readers guessing about what will come next." (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA))

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Davy:

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