

Chapter 1 : Star Of Damocles | Download eBook PDF/EPUB

Star of Damocles, the second installment in Andy Hoare's tale of the exploits of Lucian Gerrit and the Clan Arcadius, follows directly on the heels of Rogue Star. This time, however, Hoare amps up the action while maintaining the development of his characters, spinning a space yarn that is terse and tense, and reads quite well.

The initial contacts ranged from friendly negotiations and trade to outright hostility. It was some time before the Tau Water Caste diplomats understood the fact that the humans they had encountered were merely the forgotten outcasts of an incomprehensibly vast interstellar empire that stretched across the entirety of the Milky Way Galaxy. Though many of the more passionate leaders of the Tau Fire Caste called for a war of conquest against the Imperium, the Ethereals issued their instructions for the integration of the Imperium of Man into the Tau Empire. The Water Caste were to align themselves with nearby dissident human factions and over the course of several decades of patient negotiations insinuate themselves into the courts of several dozen Imperial Commanders Planetary Governors. Alien goods and technology flowed through the markets of these border worlds in blatant contradiction of the laws of the Imperium. Upon a score of worlds, Water Caste envoys whispered long-rehearsed words into willing ears. In the ensuing power vacuum, the Tau Empire expanded, claiming for themselves those human worlds that came to be known as the Farsight Enclaves. An uneasy peace ultimately descended across the war-torn border sectors of the Imperium and the Tau Empire. The Imperium had demonstrated but the smallest fraction of its size and power, yet the Tau had gained invaluable insight into its methods, strategies and tactics. More importantly, the Tau had learned that those humans who were disenfranchised or rejected by the Imperium could be manipulated. Surely, the Tau Ethereals reasoned, no matter its size, no power so given to devouring its own people could ultimately stand before the manifest destiny of the Tau to expand the Greater Good across the galaxy. These worlds were known by the Administratum to harbour rebellious tendencies and when they did flare up in rebellion following their contact with emissaries of the Tau Empire the Inquisition knew exactly who to blame. Wherever possible, when challenges to the authority of the Imperium of Man were discovered, war followed to exterminate the threat. M41 another such Crusade was unleashed in the Lithesh Sector. A string of Imperial sub-sectors stretching out between the Damocles Gulf and the Perdur Rift Anomaly had suffered extensive disruption due to Eldar pirate raids and Warp Storm activity. As the Imperium sought to restore its grip on the region, it was discovered that a previously unknown intelligent alien race called the Tau was allying themselves with rebel Imperial factions. The peril of these local alliances was evident in the number of alien trade goods and artefacts appearing in the nearby Imperial star systems. Inquisitorial investigation of the dissident worlds by the Ordo Hereticus revealed evidence of Tau activity in adjoining sectors. The conclusion was that they represented a major threat and Cardinal Esau Gurney of the world of Brimlock called for an Imperial Crusade to be dispatched to purge the aliens. The Crusade was based around a dozen capital starships of the Imperial Navy, 5 provisional companies of Space Marines made up of contingents supplied by almost a dozen different Chapters and 19 Regiments of Imperial Guard, seven of them from Brimlock. The first move was towards the Timbra Sub-sector where human colonists had long coexisted with the aliens. The Crusade first reasserted Imperial rule in the rebellious Garrus and Kleist colonies. Individuals implicated in dealing with the Tau were seized and punished at a special assize held before the furious Crusaders. The Imperial colonies secured, the Crusade forces moved on and engaged the Tau for the first time on their own territory in the uninhabited Hydass System. The Crusade fleet attacked immediately, but found the Tau starships to be capable of launching powerful torpedo salvos at long range, breaking up the Imperial formation. Bomber waves were launched but these were countered by Tau Escorts launched from their capital ships. Getting inside the Tau formation, they inflicted heavy damage and discovered that Tau starships lacked broadside firepower. The Tau launched more Escorts as a screen while they disengaged. One Tau starship was unable to withdraw and exploded while the crew was in the process of abandoning ship. The Imperial Crusade fleet then moved deeper into Tau Empire territory. It was defended by an orbital space station, a number of system ships and the remnants of the Tau fleet encountered at Hydass. The Imperial fleet closed quickly, pounding the

orbital station as they approached. Its armaments were not as extensive as had been believed at first and the Iron Hands Space Marines in the fleet boarded it. The Tau fleet disengaged almost immediately and was not seriously damaged. It was conjectured by the Imperials that the Tau were evacuating their key personnel from the planet rather than bothering to defend it. It was to serve as the Imperial forward base for the ground campaign on the world. Astartes from the Scythes of the Emperor Chapter established a landing zone and the 17th Brimlock Dragoons Regiment of the Imperial Guard were landed to provide heavy support. The Tau response was swift and consisted of an extremely well-armed mechanised infantry formation with armoured support. The Dragoons suffered heavy losses when enemy infantry wearing Battlesuits ambushed them in rolling ground. When the 9th Brimlock Fusiliers were landed, the Tau resistance crumbled and all Imperial objectives were quickly attained. The planet was duly cleansed of xenos taint and claimed for the Imperium. As no great strategic benefit was to be had from conquering the world, it was subjected to orbital bombardment, melting the ice around the Tau colonies and destroying them in flash floods. It proved to be much more formidable, mounting an array of heavy Railguns whose first volley crippled the Honour of Damlass. The Imperial fleet escorts attacked the orbital station while the main battlefleet swung towards the Tau vessels. The Tau fleet concentrated its torpedo salvos against the Regent Lakshimbai, a Dauntless-class Light Cruiser, which resisted heroically until a lucky Tau shot caused a massive bulkhead collapse which then triggered a plasma drive overload, destroying the vessel with all hands aboard. Arriving piecemeal, the Imperial starships gradually won the advantage, although on this occasion the Tau continued to fight despite taking a terrible pounding. The Imperial Escorts suffered heavy losses fighting the Tau orbital station. As soon as they were closely engaged, though, the last piece of the Tau trap was sprung. Appearing seemingly out of nowhere after suddenly powering up their main systems, a Kroot warsphere headed directly for the Imperial troop transports. The transport flotilla had no choice but to scatter. Leaving the rest of the Imperial fleet to finish off the Tau warships, the admiral had turned his vessel about, planning to help the Escorts when the Kroot warsphere arrived. Accelerating to maximum power, the great starship overtook the lumbering warsphere and turned across its path. From the first exchange of weapons it was clear that the Blade of Woe carried the greater weight of fire and its lance salvos quickly ripped the warsphere to metallic shreds. Yet the Crusade fleet had won only a pyrrhic victory. Although the warsphere, Tau fleet and the orbital station were destroyed, it was at the cost of 4 Imperial capital ships and 14 Escorts. The Tau ambush had come very close to succeeding and brought a new respect for the Tau as combatants to the Imperial fleet. Expecting a new Tau fleet at any time, the Imperial ground assault quickly commenced. Protected to the north by mountains and to the east by the sea, a short advance southwest put the Imperial invasion force before the first of a number of major Tau cities along the coast. The drop was contested by large numbers of Tau aircraft but eventually proved successful. The full force of the Crusade was finally deployed and the invasion began. With Titans and armoured formations as the spearhead, the Crusade ploughed relentlessly toward the Tau city. As it advanced, enemy missiles, fired from beyond hills and woods, started to inflict heavy losses. Units had to be detached to drive back the Tau spotters, but these were in turn engaged by Tau jump troops equipped with cloaking fields. One of these was made up of Titans from the Legio Thanataris. This was countered by Tau Manta missile destroyers, the same craft that had been launched in the earlier space battles from the Tau warships. These the Tau countered with their own finest soldiers -- their heavy jump troops. Operation Hydra Their advance halted, the Imperial forces, commanded in this operation by General Wendall Gauge of the Imperial Guard, had to dig in to avoid the worst of the Tau firepower. The Tau possessed superior night-fighting capabilities which they exploited, moving up to extreme range and opening fire, only to withdraw at dawn. Space Marine combat patrols with their genetically-enhanced senses helped to stem this problem, but the Imperial losses continued to mount. As the siege wore on, more Tau arrived at the front from elsewhere in the world each day. General Gauge concluded that the Crusade had stumbled onto a major Tau population center within their empire and that his resources were insufficient for the task before him. Plentiful reinforcements had been promised at the outset of the Crusade but none had arrived. Inquisitor Grand of the Ordo Xenos was all for evacuation of the world followed by an Exterminatus order, as the Tau were clearly too dangerous a species to be allowed to continue to exist. He formed his Titans up with the Brimlock Regiments and attempted to force

the river line of defence down the right flank, trapping the Tau against the sea. As preparation his artillery pounded other sectors of the front and Imperial Navy fighters began an offensive against Tau airfields that was costly to the Imperial pilots but kept Tau aircraft from the front. As the assault continued, it was countered by ultra-mobile Tau units deployed from the ubiquitous Manta missile destroyers. Resistance from the Inquisition and Adeptus Astartes to this course of action was overruled by the arrival of an express astropathic order in late M41 from Inquisitor Kryptman to return to Brimlock with all available forces as quickly as possible. The Tau sensibly realised that getting in the way of the Imperial evacuation would serve no sane purpose and parleys held under flags of truce were honoured by both sides. The first seeds of cooperation between the Imperium and the Tau Empire were sown, though these would take time to bloom in the aftermath of such a brutal conflict. In the course of the Damocles Gulf Crusade the Imperium had learned to respect the Tau skills of war and the Tau had discovered the true scale and bitterness of a galaxy they had previously thought to just be theirs for the taking. The message from Inquisitor Kryptman had informed the Crusade command of the first Tyranid attacks upon the Imperium and within the Segmentum Command all hope of a quick victory over the Tau had already faded.

Rogue trader patriarch Lucian Gerrit and his family get swept up in an Imperial Crusade to track down and exterminate the alien tau. Having crossed the desolate area of space known as the Damocles Gulf, the fleet arrives on the borders of the tau empire. Can Gerrit's resourcefulness save the day.

With the press of a control stud on the arm of the throne, the area in front of Lucian was filled with a static laced, greenish projection. The holograph, a priceless example of nigh extinct technology, projected a three dimensional image into the air, a grainy, flickering representation of the space around the Oceanid. Sarik was a Space Marine, and Lucian did not doubt he would be outraged at having been spoken to in such a manner. But Sarik could take a joke, of that Lucian was sure. Offset by one-fifty as planned. Studying the holograph, Lucian saw that his vessel was still a good distance from its target. He scanned the other ships holding formation with his. The Rosetta sat at three kilometres astern, a rogue trader cruiser captained by his son, Korvane, and another two kilometres further on, the cruiser Fairlight, commanded by his daughter, Brielle. Dozens of other vessels were spread out across an area of space spanning fifty kilometres port and astern. Lucian spared a thought for their target, but only a brief one. Its glittering, icy rings scored the blackness of space, causing Lucian to wonder what manner of substance or reaction might be generating the interference they seemed to transmit across a wide area of the void. Before Lucian could continue his invective however, another voice emerged from the howling comms channel. Oceanid, this is Fairlight. I repeat, do you read me, father? He looked instead to the flickering holograph, the device, or more accurately, the sub-space sensor banks that fed it, evidently beginning to suffer from the same interference plaguing the communications systems. Amid the grainy, imprecise projection, he finally saw the target. Lucian felt his pulse race as adrenaline flooded his system. These were the moments he lived for. Evidently, the master of the Oceanid was not the only man to enjoy the rush of ship-to-ship combat. The tone of the ancient drives grew lower as their volume increased, and every surface of the bridge shook visibly as virtually immeasurable power was bled from the plasma core and squeezed through the engines. Lucian smiled as he watched the holograph, the relative positions of the other vessels swinging wildly as Raldi brought the Oceanid into a stately turn to starboard. He looked at the holograph to check that the master of the Nomad had done likewise, when a curse from a sub-officer caused him to look up. His mind raced as he tried to piece together exactly what he was seeing. Interference, certainly, and there was something else, but what? The main pict-slate at the centre of its console lit up with a representation of the gravimetrics readings of the area of space around the Oceanid. No wonder he needed so many servitors, he mused, dismissing the thought as his eyes fixed on an anomaly. Go ahead, but make it quick. Lucian held his breath, not realising he was doing so, before the holograph showed that the Nomad was rapidly bleeding power from its main drives while its shield was being raised. He let out his breath. An instant later, and the viewing port was filled with a great, blinding flash of purest white light. Nevertheless, flickering nerve lights rendered him almost blind. His vision clearing, Lucian looked to the holograph. The projectile had struck the Nomad amidships, half way down her port bow. Ordnance, prepare a broadside. The target, towards which the stricken Space Marine frigate still sped, was now visible. A mighty space station, shaped like some giant mushroom, blue lights twinkling up and down its stalk, wallowed at the centre of the viewing port, its bulk black against the lurid seas of the planet around which it orbited. A vessel emerged from behind that station; the same vessel that had come so close to destroying, in a single shot, a frigate of the White Scars Chapter of the Adeptus Astartes. The Oceanid shuddered as the port weapons batteries unleashed a fearsome barrage towards the tau vessel. Lacking a solid firing solution for the war spirits of the super-heavy munitions to follow, the majority of the shells went wide, their fuses detonating them at random across the space between the two ships. If Lucian had meant to destroy the tau ship he would have waited, but had he done that, the Nomad would now be smeared across a hundred square kilometres of local space. The tau vessel aborted its shot against the Space Marine frigate, its blunt nose coming around to face the greater threat presented by the Oceanid. I am in your debt. As the explosions cleared, the greasy black smoke left in their wake almost entirely obscured the other vessel. Lucian judged that the distance between the

two ships would level at an impossibly close five hundred metres before they parted once more. Five hundred metres, he mused, remembering just how deadly another tau vessel had almost proved at such a close range in a previous engagement. There was too little time for an effective broadside, but he had other tricks up his sleeve that the tau had yet to see. At seven hundred metres, Lucian could make out the details of the flanks of the tau vessel, though he could not fathom the meaning of the many symbols or icons applied to its surface. At six hundred metres, the drifting smoke and debris of the broadside cleared enough for Lucian to pick out the point against which he had ordered the lance strike. At five hundred and fifty metres, he saw it clearly, and so did the ordnance officer, who communicated a series of final adjustments to the turret crews. A horizontal line of clear blue light appeared at the centre of the module, gaining in height as it was revealed to be an armoured blast door opening upwards. A row of armoured figures was framed against the blue light, the like of which Lucian had seen before, from a distance, the last time he had fought the tau. An instant later the lance batteries spat a searing beam of condensed atomic fire at the tau vessel, parting the smoky clouds, spearing the open bay, vaporising the armoured figures, and passing clean out of the other side of the module, accompanied by a rapidly expanding cone of fire and debris. He crossed to the wide viewing port and looked out across the narrow span of smoky void between the two vessels. The ships were rapidly passing one another in opposite directions, the tau vessel veering to its port in a course that would take it away from the Oceanid and towards the station. Even as Lucian watched, the wound punched in the tau ship by his lance strike slid past, almost filling the entire viewing port. He judged the hole to be at least twenty metres in diameter, and as it passed across the dead centre of the port, he was afforded a view right through the enemy vessel, to open space beyond. The Nomad passed across that space, the tau ship turning towards her. Lucian realised why the enemy ship was seeking to disengage from his own: He drew breath to order a change in course, when another sight greeted his eyes. A shoal of miniscule white objects, each propelled by a small, blue jet, was swarming across the gap between the two ships. So these were the cause of the fire control failure, Lucian realised. They were some kind of decoy, each, judging by their movements, possessed of some manner of machine intelligence, their density and erratic course confounding any effort to get a target lock on their mother ship. Mister Raldi, bring us in hard on the orbital, I want every ounce of power through the mains, but be ready on the retros. The tau vessel had passed from view, to reveal the tau orbital beyond, and in its shadow, the floundering Space Marine vessel. Misty contrails snaking from her aft section betrayed a massive hull breach through which oxygen was bleeding uncontrollably. An angry burst of static was followed by the distorted, barely audible voice of the Space Marine. Will you accept my aid? Lucian prayed that the Space Marine would put pride aside, just this once, and accept the aid of another. In the meantime, speak your plan. In the meantime, I suggest you continue on your course on momentum only, and shunt all available power to your aft shields. He took in the relative positions of the remainder of the fleet. He was even more pleased when he saw that the other vessels, even further out, had yet to close in on the action. Steady, he thought to himself. The glory was not his yet, and he still had a Space Marine frigate to rescue, a tau cruiser to take care of, and a space station to capture. This would match the exploits of old Abad, if he could pull it off, Lucian mused. Abad had taken on a Reek voidswarm at the Battle of Ghallenburg, and single-handedly stemmed the tide of filthy xenos interface vessels as they made planetfall. Lucian would do likewise, he determined, and to hell with the others. He looked to the holograph and saw that the alien space station lay three and a half thousand metres off the starboard bow. The tau vessel was completing a stately turn that would bring it directly behind the Nomad. It had yet to open fire, but Lucian judged that it would not be long. Hard to starboard, full burn all port retro banks. The banks of mighty retro thrusters mounted along the length of the port side coughed into life as power was cut from the main drives, the Oceanid entering a manoeuvre that would see her slingshot right around the alien space station. An instant later the viewing port dimmed automatically, once again, its simple spirit too slow to respond to the flash. Despite this, he saw the tau space station etched in stark silhouette, for the Oceanid was now on its far side with the tau ship on the other. He looked to the ordnance officer, who read off his report. Her shields are almost gone. He had no choice, for his vessel would not complete its manoeuvre for several more, long, potentially painful minutes. He saw that the tau vessel was trying to overtake the Nomad. If he could intercept their ship before they were lined up, he knew he would have them. If he could

not, then all was lost, for the tau would have the perfect firing solution and the frigate would be doomed. Then the thought resurfaced: Crossing to the viewing port and squinting to make out the enemy ship as the distance closed, Lucian yelled in elation. Lucian laughed out loud for the sheer joy of it. The position, Lucian knew from prior experience against tau cruisers, of its forward weapon turret. Then it came to him, and he bellowed for the communications channel to the Space Marine frigate to be opened one more. Bleed all power from all available systems to near-space vox. A flashing tell-tale informed Lucian that the near-space vox was receiving all the power it ever would. This had better work. The swarm of tau decoys was almost upon the Nomad when her drives spat into life, and they were incinerated in an instant, seared to ash and scattered into the void in a matter of seconds.

Chapter 3 : Star of Damocles by Andy Hoare

The Rogue Trader series, currently composed by Rogue Star and Star of Damocles, written by Andy Hoare is about a family of Rogue racedayv1.coming on the Eastern Fringe of the Ultima Segmentum their sources of profit are shrinking as trade is slowly drying up, affected due unknown reasons.

Thu Aug 01, 9: Page - the Damocles Gulf region is dominated by vast gaseous nebulae, clouds of stellar matter dozens of light years across. And which is taking weeks for the Crusade fleet to cross. So we see that whatever funkiness is happening in here, its also affecting warp speeds. Page Baru said that the Gulf was quite unlike any other place in the galaxy. It was as if the Gulf was some barrier or boundary placed entirely deliberately, to keep intruders from penetrating the region in which the Tau Empire lay. Beyond it, amongst the blue nebulae, lay something even more incredible. The blue clouds of the region were, according to Baru, not entirely natural in their origins. It was the last portion of the report that gave Lucian pause. It was, according to the veteran navigator, a "young" region, as if time was turned back or the fabric of space cleansed of the passing of aeons. It was as if the region was a place out of time, still existing in the pristine state that would once have applied to the entire galaxy. It was charged with potential, as if the void just waited upon some wondrous event, as if it in fact existed purely to facilitate that event. More confirmation of the weirdness of the Damocles gulf, and perhaps yet another contrived reason why the Imperium seems to have trouble merely swatting down the tau. What I do find interesting is that this region of space is described as "young"- which I take to mean that the warp in this region is not nearly as turbulent or "tainted" as in the rest of the galaxy. This also suggests it is artificially created, and whoever did it arguably did it recently I dont think it was there the last time the Imperium swept through this system. Korvane sat at the rear of the bridge space, the crew arrayed to his side and the pilot occupying the station below him. He stared out of the multi-faceted cockpit canopy, brooding at the system before him. He forced his mind onto anything other than the pain and the substance that would mask it. It was a meaningless appellation as far as Korvane could tell, in all likelihood named for one of the explorators who had passed through six millennia before. Whoever Kendral was, he had not returned to settle the region named after him, and so no one would ever know what deed had earned him the right to have an entire region of space share his name. The system had no name, just a designation within the sub sector: A crewman, hunched over a glowing terminal, answered, "Passive readings confirm the presence of at least a dozen stellar bodies, my lord. We are approaching the nearest as ordered. Looking through the canopy, he caught his first glimpse of the world in question. With only the passive sensors to rely on, the scouts would need to make a close pass in order to gather much more information, and this they would do as the world came into view. You will follow my orders to the letter, or you will stand down. The pilot instigated a change of course that levelled the small vessel out. The horizon reared up from below, filling half of the view, the light of the distant star casting a ghostly halo above. Korvane leant back in the acceleration couch and scanned the readouts around the bridge. It felt both liberating and frustrating to be in command, not of a mighty cruiser with thousands of crew, but of a scout wing of four vessels, each with only a few dozen crew. It was the first time in his career that Korvane had undertaken such a mission, though he felt supremely confident in his ability to carry it through. He sighed as he admitted that in truth, he was glad to be away from the crusade fleet, from the myriad demands of running his vessel. He reflected ruefully how his stepsister had attempted to do something similar, and made such a mess of it. Well, he would prove that he was fully capable of making things work on his own, and to bring honour and profit to the Arcadius through his own actions. Also, a scout wing of four vessels with a "few dozen" crew each. Distancee of three kilometers "and closing" Page "Contacts closing at seven fifty kilometres per hour! The speed of the aforementioned tau aircraft. Page "Contact closing," the sensor operator announced, an edge of alarm in his voice. Korvane looked around desperately for the cause of the warning, before the pilot heaved upon his controls and the vessel lurched violently to portt. An instant later, what was obviously a high velocity missile streaked past upon a billowing contrail, before veering off and disappearing from view. This occurs, chronologically, shortly after the "seven fifty kph" statement on the same page. A few seconds worth of

dialogue with the pilot saying they need to run, Korvane ordering it, and the ship zipping up towards orbit. Whereupon the Tau accelerate and fire. This tends to suggest broadly a range of at least a couple kilometers for the weapons, though the Tau may not have fired from longer range due to need to identify other targets or they may not have been equipped with sufficiently long range weapons. It's also possible, even likely, that as scout craft these vessels are highly stealthed and harder to detect. Also note that the Tau craft are using missiles in an air to air engagement. The tau ships also outrange and out-accelerate the Imperial recon ships. Several kilometres long, the vessel was slab sided and sharp-prowed, and bristled with weapons turrets and sensor arrays. She bore the scars of hundreds of battles. Lucian knew the battleship to be a fearsome opponent in a fight, her broadsides easily the match for any tau vessel he had yet to witness. Page The nine escort squadrons that the capital vessels would rely on to provide close protection against enemy vessels Each squadron consisted of three or four sword frigates or destroyers of various types, and each was lead by a squadron leader proven in battle many times over. And this is, we should note, a "minor" and rather unimportant Crusade. We may deem it possible or likely, given the command structure of the Crusade, that the forces were amassed from resources at the Sector level of Imperial government, at most, probably no higher. This, in turn, suggests to us the scale of forces the Imperium could amass in a fairly short period of time to attack a rather small, unimportant empire - and this is still out in the Imperial "backwaters", much less an important sector of space. God knows what range this is meant to indicate. With the 27th dispatched to deal with the outpost, rd was the leading escort squadron. Range of some of the escorts from the main fleet. Of course, at a thousand kilometers, any station as large as or larger than an Imperial warship should be visible to the naked eye in some noticable manner. Page As the spear tip of the fleet passed the five hundred kilometre mark, lucian saw the energy spike he had anticipated. Coming to the viewing port, Lucian watched as the distant speck of light that he knew to be the Nomad altered its course sharply to starboard. A second later, a brief blue light flashed for an instant and was gone, its source invisible at this range. The station is actually still beyond visual range, which is appropriate given the distance. Hoare got it right this time. Page Lucian braced himself against the bulkhead, though he knew that Oceanid was unlikely to be the target of the second shot. A second wink of blue light appeared in the darkness up ahead. An instant later, a bright spark appeared as the ultra-high velocity projectile struck its target. The station is firing on other targets, again, similar range, and virtually instantly. Page - Tau weapons outrange the guns mounted on a Dauntless-class light cruiser. Even the forward lance batteries are shorter ranged than the railguns. OF course, this also smells of tau wank, but An instnat later, and the attack struck the Regent square across the forntal shield arc, unleashing a blinding explosion as the shields converted the attack to energy and bled it off into space. Again firing and striking instantly at range. Although "energy" could mean anything energy in this novel is as badly butchered as the term "kilometer" is. Page - Dauntless light cruiser mounst at least two lances forward. Page Blue flashes marked the discharge of its hyper velocity weapons, each propelling an indiscernibly small , but impossibly dense, projectile across space. This is hardly "unbelievable" speed, since Imperial torpedoes can easily move at tens or hundreds of kilometers per second alone, nevermind railguns or broadside missile launchers. Not sure what "impossibly dense" means - the Tau mayhap have some exotic materials composing their projectiles perhaps. Denser than uranium or tungsten, perhaps? He could order a broadside without the aid of fire control, but even at two thousand metres, an impossibly close range at which to engage a nother vessel in ship-to-ship combat, he could not count on making his shots count. Computerized fire control for weapons systems. To highlight this absurdity, lets put it in perspective. At 2 km, the oceanid is less than one ship length away from its target, which is, by its nature, going to be verylarge. It will be very much within easy visual range of the Imperial vessel. We also know from BFG that weapons batteries strike "instantly" from across even tens of thousands of kilometers. Given that, it should take no more than.

Chapter 4 : Rogue Trader Books by Andy Hoare from Simon & Schuster

A WARHAMMER 40, NOVEL STAR OF DAMOCLES Andy Hoare Andy Hoare «Star of Damocles» For Graham, who said I could. IT IS THE 41st millennium.

Exploits Rogue Star Lucian Gerrit is a rogue trader – a starship captain of the Arcadius dynasty granted ancient trading rights along the Eastern Fringe of Imperial space. The Arcadius travels to the planet of Sigma Q to meet the contact, fitting the description of a Tau, who is supposed to supply them with the archeotech. Upon fetching the crates and packages and storing the majority of it aboard the Fairlight, the Arcadius fleet breaks the warp for Mundus Chasmata once more. She is infuriated that they are being treated as lowly gunrunners and sets about destroying the deal with Luneberg. Upon arrival the family attends a formal banquet with the noble class of Mundus Chasmata and their leader. Brielle however is late and infuriates Culpepper, causing tension between him and Lucian. After removing her to their quarters, Lucian chastises his daughter and returns to Luneberg to smooth out the situation. She also discovers that the populace are highly into strange artefacts, some obviously faked. Upon observing the strange behavior of the people she runs into Naal, Lunebergs court attendant and overall assistant. Naal takes Brielle to a club frequented by the upper class, where upon she witnesses a hovering sphere levitate the loose objects of the room and produce a orbit of the objects. This appears to have spell-like effect upon those who watch, causing them to start to conduct sexual behavior with others. Brielle wakes up the next morning surrounded by naked people, being likewise herself, indicating to have participated in an orgy yet not remember it. She leaves and makes for the palace and once more. However whilst agreeing upon a new deal Brielle interrupts, after injuring Korvane and pushing through, causing Luneberg to snap. He demands that they agree to his terms or else they will be captured and held upon the planet. Lucian disagrees, shoots Luneberg with a shot from one of his Jokaeren rings, causing Luneberg to spasm and lose control of his orifices. Escaping to Brielles shuttle the Arcadius take Naal with them as Brielle has formed an alliance with him the night before. They reach the orbital station above the planet and proceed to undock their respective vessels. Whilst this is in progress Korvane and the Rosetta are engaged by the station, which is firing a weapon of an alien design, later revealed as of Tau design, which accelerates an object to hyper velocity, similar to a rail gun. Lucian, in the Oceanid moves into the station and unleashes two devastating broadsides, critically damaging the station and sustaining light damage himself. The Arcadius then proceeds to break into the warp for Arris Epsilon, planetary system of Zachary Droon, rival of Luneberg. Prior to entering the warp, a fleet of unidentified vessels is detected. He is then taken in by Arris Epsilon security forces and embarks for the surface where he meets with the Imperial Commander, Zachary Droon. Korvane is told that he will do so with the help of mercenaries that Droon has hired who then descend onto the planet, revealing themselves to be a Tau battleforce, whose emissary then has Droon willingly take an oath, becoming part of the Tau Empire. Instead the astropath tells him that for twenty to thirty light years surrounding them, worlds are singing of freedom, alluding to rebellions e. Lucian leaves his astropaths chambers and is crewman telling him their augurs have detected a fleet approaching the system. They lower their system usage to ten percent to keep their sensor signature low and undetectable. The fleet enters orbit around Arris Epsilon, where Lucian then moves closer to the planet until they are 25 kilometres from the Tau fleet when they are detected and raise a comm channel with the fleet, stating that the Arcadius wishes to approach. Once the Oceanid is alongside the flagship of the Tau Gerrit demands that they surrender, power down their vessel and prepare for boarding. The Tau refuse, to which Gerrit launches his readied broadside, crippling the ship, he then moves forward to cross behind the ship, firing another broadside into the drive section of the Tau vessel causing it to violently explode. The Oceanid then navigates and takes out another ship after suffering some light damage and then proceed towards the Rosetta. However before they can complete this manoeuvre they detect Luneberg and his fleet, made up of two cruisers, one being his flagship, the Borealis Defensor and some escort ships, heading directly for the Oceanid. Gerrit decides that he will charge straight through the Chasmatan fleet breaking apart their formation and from there they rejoin with the Rosetta. One battlesuit reaches the armourglass of the bridge and starts to cut through. Korvane orders that the

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one torpedo which the Arcadius has in its possession be fired on a ten second fuse, destroying the swarm of battlesuits, just as the one assaulting the bridge breaks through the glass, collapsing the pressure of the bridge deck. The torpedo creates a blast wave that washes over the Rosetta, causing yet more damage and takes one of the Tau vessels out of action as well. Lucian goes to protect his sons ship as the four remaining Tau craft take aim at it. Onboard her own ship, Brielle turns to her side, stating "One good turn deserves another, eh Naal", whereupon he replies that "Indeed my lady. My masters will have much for which to repay you. With a strong financial status created, the Arcadius then leave the Arris Epsilon system. Lucian decides that he will hang around the Damocles Gulf for longer, knowing that new opportunities for the Arcadius are moving his way. He then orders Master Raldi to make for Kleist , a system apparently recently seceded to the Tau. However the enemy is very resourceful and the crusade runs into big trouble.

Chapter 5 : Rogue Trader 2: Star of Damocles analysis and discussion - racedaydvl.com BBS

Rogue trader patriarch Lucian Gerrit and his family get swept up in an Imperial Crusade to track down and exterminate the alien tau. Having crossed the desolate area of space known as the Damocles Gulf, the fleet arrives on the borders of the tau empire.

Chapter 6 : Title: Star of Damocles

So being insanely bored and figuring its time for an update, I'm starting Star of Damocles, the second installment that combines the wonders of Tau wanking with Rogue Trader wanking into a single convenient yet slightly nauseating package.

Chapter 7 : Lucian Gerrit - Warhammer 40k - Lexicanum

Star of Damocles (Rogue Trader) Amazon Rogue trader patriarch Lucian Gerrit and his family get swept up in an Imperial Crusade to track down and exterminate the alien tau. Having crossed the desolate area of space known as the Damocles Gulf, the fleet arrives on the.

Chapter 8 : Star of Damocles (Rogue Trader) - PDF Free Download

STAR OF DAM OCLEs The second Rogue Trader novel By Andy Hoare Lucian Rogue trader patriarch The following is an excerpt from Star of Damocles by Andy Hoare.

Chapter 9 : Any novels about rogue traders? - + THE BLACK LIBRARY + - The Bolter and Chainsword

Rogue Star () and Star of Damocles () chart the fortunes of rogue trader Lucian Gerrit on the Imperium's fringes, and Savage Scars () picks up the tale as the White Scars battle the T'au on the planet Dal'yth.