

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



P. M. Griffin

Pauline (P. M.) Griffin has been writing since her early childhood. She enjoys telling a good tale, and since she always works with characters and situations deeply interesting to her, she finds the research as rewarding as the scribbling and keying. Griffin's Irish love of story telling coupled with her passion for history, the natural world, and the above-mentioned research have resulted in fifteen novels and nine short stories, two Muse Medallion Award winners among them, all in the challenging realms of science fiction and fantasy.

She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her cats Shamrock, Mollie, Jinx, and Katie and two tropical fish aquariums.

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STAR COMMANDOS II PARIAH

The immortal space saga of the STAR COMMANDOS continues in this new 11th volume of the valiant Commando Unit featuring: Capt. Varn Tarl Sogan, Col. Islaen Connor, Capt. Jake Karmikel, Sgt. Bethe Danlo, and their faithful mascot, the Jadite, Bandit.

When their fighter, the *Fairest Maid*, develops mechanical problems, the Unit sets down on the watery planet of Elaine of Avalon. While making repairs, one in their company, the former Admiral Varn Tarl Sogan, War Prince of the Arcturian Empire, is none too welcome. Conspiracy is afoot to bring harm to Capt. Sogan and his comrades. Yet the greatest danger on Elaine of Avalon may not be its human inhabitants, but the monstrous creatures of its seas: the Barracands, two to three meter eating machines; and the over one-hundred foot Leviathan with teeth the size of sabers.

From every quarter the STAR COMMANDOS must defend one another from a hostile populace and a deadly environment if they are to escape back into the safety of space.

"An exciting account of future heroism among the stars and victory from defeat, written to keep one reading impatient at any interruption. The Star Commando adventures are excellently handled action tales outstanding of their kind and this is one of the best. Time spent reading it was like a grand vacation for me."

Andre Norton

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PARIAH

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Excerpt...

Varn Tarl Sogan's mouth went dry. A sick, cold dread rushed over him, a fear he had experienced all too often on Thorne of Brandine.

"Ambush!"

Sogan and Connor shouted the warning in the same moment.

The War Prince catapulted across the breadth of the flier and out, flattening and shielding the Federation Admiral with his body.

Even as they crashed to the pavement, fire blazed through the air immediately above them.

The Commando screamed in agony as the edge of the bolt seared the flesh of his back. A second burned through his left arm in the same instant. The blaster that had come automatically into his hand discharged. He sent out no slender beam this time but a broad one requiring little fine aiming to find a target. There were two garbled cries, and no further bolts came at them, not for the moment.

"Sogan..."

"Stay still! They will be on us again!"

The Arcturian fought the pain and the darkness threatening to envelop him. He knew if he let go now, they were both dead. There looked to be a small army ranged out there in front of them...

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