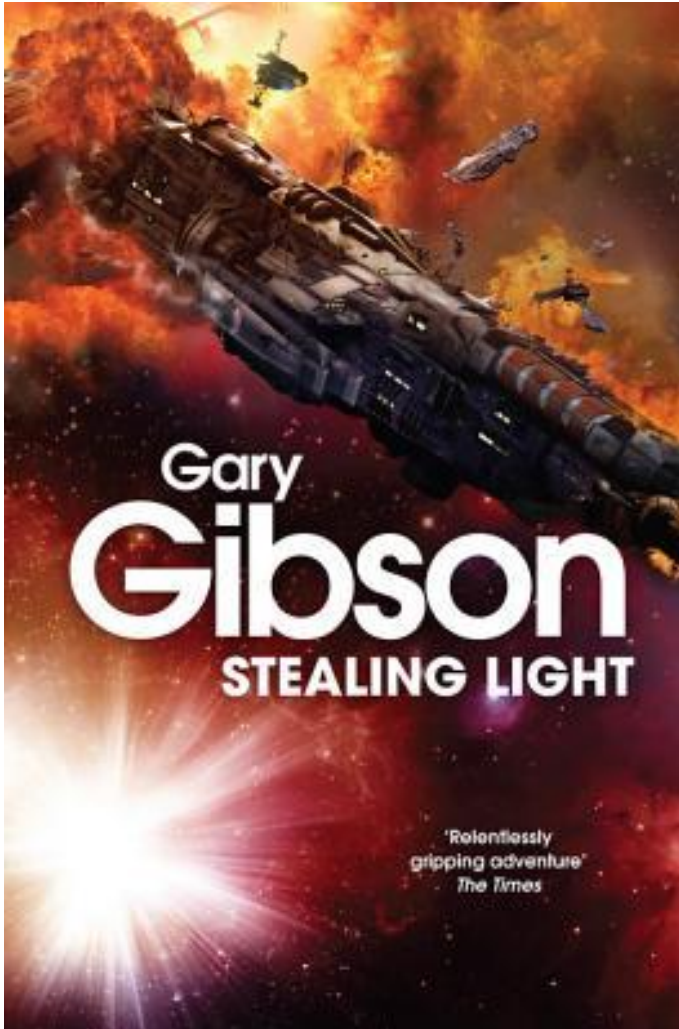

Gary Gibson

Stealing Light (The Shoal Sequence #1)



Title: Stealing Light (The Shoal Sequence #1)

Author: Gary Gibson

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Description

For a quarter of a million years, an alien race has been hiding a vast and terrible secret

In the 25th century, only the Shoal possess the secret of faster-than-light travel (FTL), giving them absolute control over all trade and exploration throughout the galaxy. Mankind has operated within their influence for two centuries, establishing a dozen human colony worlds scattered along Shoal trade routes.

Dakota Merrick, while serving as a military pilot, has witnessed atrocities for which this alien race is responsible. Now piloting a civilian cargo ship, she is currently ferrying an exploration team to a star system containing a derelict starship. From its wreckage, her passengers hope to salvage a functioning FTL drive of mysteriously non-Shoal origin. But the Shoal are not yet ready to relinquish their monopoly over a technology they acquired

Insightful reviews

Kristi Jones: From the blurb this book sounded just my cup of tea. Unfortunately it's bogged down with a cast of one-note characters and poorly chosen language. Every action scene is dogged by repetition of key words, things keep 'literally' happening, and I'm still wondering how something can be 'extremely inconclusive'. The book would have benefited from a ruthless editor to cull the extraneous adverbs and keep the idioms to a minimum. That said, I felt the flashbacks were the strongest part of the book.

The plot had enough interesting elements to keep me reading, but I couldn't shake the feeling i'd read all these before in better stories. Fallen Angels and Engines of God had some truly captivating (and terrifying) derelicts, Peter Watts' A Word For Heathens did the religious implant thing excellently, the honey trap idea has been used successfully in so many good novels it is now a firmly established space opera device. In comparison, this book just isn't memorable in its treatment of any of these areas, and that saddens me, because with a bit more work I think it could have been.

Lena: This book seemed to me a mixture of fantasy/sci-fi. That's because a lot of the space theories and devices which were great were never scientifically described. His world lacks in that department. Generally in my opinion the world wasn't very clarified. We didn't learn much about the consortium the shoals or even the human empire. On the other hand the premise was interesting and so were the ideas about the machine heads and the weapon FTL technology. The characters were interesting and out of the cliché league. I liked the ending, too. It made sense and left us wandering about the next adventure. Nice book overall but it could and I hope it will be better. I'll probably read the sequel.

Neal Asher: And yet another one! I enjoyed Gary Gibson's other books, Angel Stations and Against Gravity, so was looking forward to this. I wasn't disappointed. It's big meaty space opera combining many of the elements I enjoy. It's dark, wide-screen, concerns survival-of-civilization events and is populated with the kind of smart and often nasty characters that have

become a staple of present day space opera, with the addition, when it comes to the Shoal, of some particularly Banksian aliens. I particularly like how he has dealt with implants, religion, AI and just the whole set-up of this future. And there's exploding spaceships! I picked up this near 500-page book and roared through it in no time. Nice one, Mr Gibson.

Dirk Grobbelaar: I'm joyful to work out the likes of Neal Asher writing an assessment for this novel right here on Goodreads. In fact, if you will have loved Asher's Area Opera novels, you will likely take pleasure in this too. I definitely did. I am a sucker for tales that function derelicts, alien or otherwise. I frequently benefit from the exploration and experience of asking yourself that more often than not accompanies this theme. Upload to dose of excessive octane action, fascinating aliens, a millennia previous mystery that's very deadly, plenty of cool tech (I in particular loved the Planet Engines) and a filthy "used future" consider and you are already greater than midway there. The rest, of course, is plot and characterisation. Thankfully this novel did not disappoint. The pacing is kind of livid too, which relatively will get these pages turning. In the end, I wasn't too shocked on the means the unconventional closed (it's now not particularly a cliffhanger, however it is not too a long way removed). This tale is way too vast to inform in a single novel, and is outwardly the 1st in a trilogy. It really is through Nova War, which I think I will get to shortly, as I am very curious how this can be going to unfold. If you're keen on Area Opera the place larger is healthier and also you benefit from the tradition novels (Iain M. Banks) or the Agent Cormac novels (Neal Asher) you need to a minimum of supply Gibson a try. There is even a little a Deathstalker vibe. Based on these within the know, the sequels to Stealing Gentle are even better.

Walford: eventually obtained via this. What to say? Gibson at moments struck me as a comfort prize for the greatly-missed Iain M Banks, yet no. Maybe an unfair comparison. Gibson does the type of large-scale vividly-rendered mises-en-scene my space-opera-loving middle years for. Beautiful well. The plot gallops alongside however the cardboard cutouts these kinds of very fascinating issues are taking place to by no means come to existence and it is demanding to care. Gibson saved wasting me yet then I would strength myself to continue. To determine what happens. So there's that; uncertain if I'm going to proceed with the trilogy, though.

Vineet: I discovered the galaxy-spanning storyline round the Shoal is surprisingly comparable to the Dwellers (The Algebraist through Iain M Banks) and Pierson's Puppeteers (Fleet of Worlds via Larry Niven & Edward M Lerner). However, I do consider that this actual novel wanted a few refinement, because the writing tended to encounter to me as patchy and disconnected, in particular while switching all at once from first to 3rd person. Total it took away many of the amusement from the e-book because it used to be now not a gentle learn - similar to an early novel by way of a brand new writer. Lovely convinced notwithstanding that the tough edges should be cleared up within the subsequent book. As a sequence though, in actual fact this has nice potential. Expecting the following one...

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