

Dear %FIRSTNAME%,

Rogue Submarine Newsletter

Volume 25

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Rogue Readers,

1. The Series Lives On!
2. Rogue Neptune-Outlaws
3. Rogue P

1. The Series Lives On!

Jesus told stories. The Old Testament Proverbs writers, especially King David, also told stories. Turns out, the word 'Proverbs' in Hebrew can just as easily be translated as 'Parables'.

So, I guess it's okay that I keep writing fiction.

After I finished Outlaws, that took six months to sink into my head. And since Rogue Neptune and Rogue Outlaws didn't kill the Rogue Submarine series, who am I to declare dead that which lives on?

Most importantly, I tried to walk away but couldn't. I looked everywhere except this series for my writing projects. I did ghost writing. I wrote some Kindle Vella stuff that's awaiting the Vella platform launch. But the series has again called me back.

I tried to walk away after Avengers, but the ideas for Betrayer came.

I tried to walk away after Defender, but the ideas for Enforcer came.

I tried to walk away after Outlaws, but the ideas for Rogue P assaulted my brain over the last week or two, and that means I will write it.

2. Rogue Neptune-Outlaws

The two-book experiment is six months old, and it's inflicted less damage on the series than I'd feared.

I started the two-book concept to explore the flexibility and endurance of the growing fleet. With four ships, there's a greater reach, and the Goliath/Specter – Xerses/Wraith split allowed the commanders to exert their influence across the entirety of Yemen's long coastline.

What I didn't plan was COVID and my personal reaction to it.

In an over-informed world, I saw media outlets no longer as agents of truth but agents of agenda. I'm sure there's been bias throughout the history of reporting, but I saw its zenith in 2020. My reaction was to run to the truth, which for me is God.

I said in a prior newsletter that I couldn't write fiction anymore since the truth has become so precious and scarce. As I was finished Outlaws, I didn't care about the critical response. I wrote from the heart without a single concern for my so-called writing career. I'd written long enough, and if Outlaws was the end, let it be one God would approve.

That's all I'll say to avoid spoilers for those who haven't yet read it.

That's all I need to say, since the series lives on, and the darkness over my writing has passed.

3. Rogue P

Will it be Rogue Poseidon? Probably. I think that's the easiest and most obvious name for it.

The mercenary fleet heads to Nigeria to patrol the shores and exert the Xerses' influence (railguns, missiles, drones) over inland villages oppressed by the Fulani terrorists. The Wraith will provide protection to the Xerses but will receive a visit from a vengeful and capable adversary.

As a deviation from the norm, Jake will shift to land-based operations. He ran the fleet from Renard's command center in Mercenary, but this time he'll be in-country optimizing the Xerses-Wraith influence.

That leaves the Specter in port. Also, Cahill and the Goliath will miss Rogue P while the Australian works on his marriage and while the Goliath gets upgrades to match the Xerses.

But the series' unwritten Golden Rule remains intact: the ultimate conflict is resolved by the fleet's assets facing other maritime assets. Otherwise, it's no longer the Rogue Submarine series.

I tentatively expect to publish Rogue P by yearend or early next year.

Thanks for reading! - John