



 **VOLUME 1** 
THE STAR-FIRE SAGA

**THE FLIGHT
OF THE RAVEN**



S.K. ASHLEY





About the Author

SUSANNE ASHLEY completed her 'Diploma of Professional Children's Writing in 1999, and is now devoting herself to writing full-time. Prior to that she worked as an Integration aide in schools and as a child-care worker. She lives in Victoria with her husband Stan, and 15 year old daughter Sarah.

Published in Australia by Temple House Pty Ltd,
T/A Sid Harta Publishers ACN 092 197 192
Hartwell, Victoria

Telephone: 61 3 9560 9920, Facsimile: 61 3 9545 1742
E-mail: author@sidharta.com.au

This edition published 2006
Copyright © S.K. Ashley 2006

The right of S.K. Ashley to be identified as the Author of the Work has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

This book is a work of fiction. Any similarities to that of people living or dead are purely coincidental.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher, nor be otherwise circulated in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

Ashley, S.K.
Volume One: Star Fire—Flight of the Raven
ISBN: 1-
pp140





Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my dear family for their unwavering support and Sid Harta Publishers for this wonderful opportunity....







☼ *Chapter 1* ☼

Escape of the Raven

The water fountain erupted into a cascading rainbow of brilliant colours as Saffyre Travertine and her friend Sakura put the final touches to their life-like puzzle.

“Wow, Saffyre,” said her twin brother Xavier as he sat down to join them. “It looks fantastic!”

“We’ve been working on it for ages,” Saffyre told him.

“Yes,” agreed Sakura. “It was really hard to get that three dimensional effect like a *real* water fountain.”





S.K.Ashley

“Hey, Saffyre,” came a mocking tone. “Wanna see the whole thing fall down?”

Startled, Saffyre looked up. Red-headed Platona and her four friends gathered around with sneers on their faces.

“What is it?” Saffyre asked annoyed. “We’re busy!”

“We’re pretty busy too,” Platona said, her voice heavy with scorn. “Doing this!” She kicked at the puzzle and it crashed to the ground in pieces. Her friends began to laugh hysterically.

“Real heroes aren’t you?” Xavier cried, his green eyes flashing with rage. “You always wait until the teacher on duty, leaves the room before you start your juvenile antics.”

“Juvenile!” Platona yelled. “I’m not the one building infantile puzzles.”

By now a crowd had gathered around them in Star Fire Central High’s leisure room.

“Leave them alone Platona,” said one small boy bravely. “We’ve all had enough of your bullying.”

Platona walked over to him. “Look at this,” she jeered. “Little Jaimz is sticking up for his pathetic friends.” She leaned over, grabbed him and gave his arm a vicious twist. He yelled with pain.

Xavier made a move for his pocket. “Leave Jaimz alone,” he warned.

“No Xavier,” Saffyre cautioned. “Let me handle it.” She took out a long pencil shaped object and pointed it at Platona. “It’s your last chance Platona. As Jaimz just told you, we’re all sick of your bullying. Do the right thing and let him go, or suffer the consequences!”

2





“You don’t seriously expect me to believe that thing will do anything to me, do you?” Platona said sarcastically, “You couldn’t invent a new paper bag let alone...”

Furious, Saffyre pressed the button on her new tervy-blaster. Platona squealed as she rose into the air and spun around several times. She stopped with her nose millimeters from the ground. Her eyes were wide open with fear.

The crowd erupted with laughter.

“What’s going on here?” boomed a voice from the doorway. It was Mr. Ludus, one of their least favourite teachers. He would often sneak up on students and seemed literally to materialize out of thin air, at a moment’s notice.

Shocked at his sudden appearance, Saffyre dropped the tervy-blaster; Platona shrieked and crashed to the floor.

Mr. Ludus fixed his cold, grey eyes on Saffyre.

“Go to the Principal’s office NOW!” he roared. “You know weapons are forbidden.”



Platona rose into the air and spun slowly around as Mr Ludus turned purple in the face.

Saffyre gave a cry and woke up with a start. *That awful dream again, she thought.* Several weeks had now passed since she’d used the tervy-blaster on Platona. The outcome had been unpleasant, with the device confiscated. Platona had come through the ordeal relatively unscathed. The worst thing as far as Saffyre was concerned, had not been the trip





S.K.Ashley

to the Principal's office but the look of disappointment in her parents' eyes.

"You were dreaming about old Ludicrous again, weren't you?" grinned Xavier, as he waltzed into her room. "Hadn't you better get a move on? Home schooling starts in a couple of minutes and you haven't even dressed nor had breakfast yet."

Saffyre sat up. "Zavier," she said crossly. "Wait outside while I get ready. Amega should have woken me up earlier."

Zavier shrugged. "I think she wanted to let you sleep in. And quit worrying about Platona! She's lucky I didn't blast her with the chabazite. Saffyre, your new tervey-blaster was a *dream*. The look on Platona's face was priceless!" He was still laughing as he left the room.

Saffyre popped her breakfast tablet into her mouth. *I think I'll have cereal this morning*, she thought, and immediately a delicious honey flavour filled her mouth. She then stepped into the Transformer, which washed her down, dried her, and zipped her up in a brilliant, royal blue coloured bodysuit. This all occurred in seconds and within a circular wall that gave her privacy, something badly needed when you shared an apartment with three other teenagers and two adults, as Saffyre did.

She was brushing her long, chestnut hair when an alarm sounded and a huge plasma screen descended. Three mornings a week, the young teenagers were home schooled promptly at nine o'clock. The other two mornings they went to Star Fire Central High. On home schooling days, the bedroom that Saffyre and her sister Amega shared, turned





neatly into a schoolroom. Their huge king-size beds folded away neatly into the wall and four workstations appeared.

At that moment her elder brother Lazar walked into the room followed by Amega and Xavier.

A female face appeared on the plasma screen. “Good morning Saffyre, Xavier, Amega and Lazar.”

“Good morning Miss Kessley,” they chorused as they took their places at their workstations. Each workstation included a comfortable chair and desk with numerous drawers. Each workstation, coloured to the user’s preference, also had a small plasma screen and tiny headphones that were incredibly light and comfortable.

“Please place your headphones on your head. Remember to switch on your microchip wrist straps to retain all of today’s lessons. Today’s history lesson covers the period 2001 – 3001, downloading the information now.” Ten minutes later Miss Kessley spoke again. “That was a long history lesson today as we covered 1000 years. Now the geographical information of the same period will be downloaded, commencing now.” Five minutes later Miss Kessley spoke again, “Sending your math’s lesson now.”

A few minutes later Xavier wiped his brow. “Whew! That was a lot to absorb. Do we get our break now?”

“You may have your break after language instruction. Today I’m sending updates on the 25 most common languages spoken on Earth and the in excess of one million forms of communication spoken throughout the universe. This is a particularly long update and will take a full fifteen minutes. You may then break for five minutes.”

At the end of fifteen minutes, Miss Kessley disappeared





S.K.Ashley

from the screen and a giant screen saver picture of Star Fire City appeared. It was a totally enclosed city with shiny apartment buildings that contained everything a person could need. An intricate moving pavement system enabled travel around the city in seconds. Each apartment block had a mass of sparkling windows that enabled the occupant to appreciate views over the city, while at the same time blocking any attempt to view the interior from the street. Each apartment appeared to occupy only a small area, but once inside it was astounding how much space it held. Saffyre stared at the screen. *It was a beautiful city, she thought, but how wonderful it would be to go beyond its boundaries; to go out into the great outdoors for the first time. Now that would be really something!*

“Well, what shall we do today?” asked Lazar. Amega and Lazar were sixteen years old and usually took it upon themselves to organize the group, particularly while their parents Mia and Dexter, were away on business. Typically, the four headstrong teens usually had four very firm opinions on what they liked, (or didn't), and were often reluctant to get going at all.

“Don't start Laz,” groaned Xavier, “I've still got brain freeze from all that info.”

Lazar laughed. “You know that your new microchip has plenty of memory to store up to a thousand times what we learned today. Anyway be glad that languages have been streamlined. Why 1000 years ago there were hundreds of cultures and languages on Earth alone.”

“Don't say that too loudly,” warned Amega. “You'll give Miss Kessley ideas and she'll make us learn them all.”

6



Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

