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hangs in the balance.

BOOK ONE

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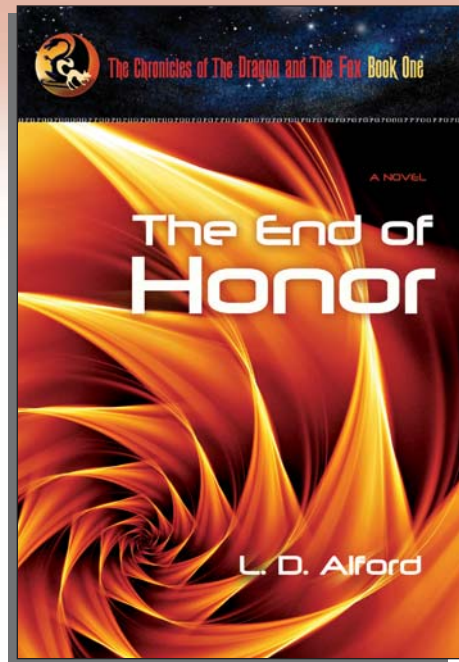
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The death-knell of the Human Galactic Empire has sounded—it is the crash of an axe against the virgin white marble of the Hall of Accords. It is the bitten-off cry of the Lady Lyril Neuterra, whose head lies sundered from her smooth shoulders. It is the death of the Emperor at the hand of his own son. It is the whirlwind of a thousand ships sent to enforce the new Emperor's will. And only Prince John-Mark, the Emperor's youngest son, can bring the Empire back from the edge—back to peace and honor.



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L.D., an experimental test pilot with over 6000 hours in more than 60 different kinds of aircraft, also served in worldwide military operations as a member of three different operational combat squadrons. He earned a B.S. in Chemistry from Pacific Lutheran University, an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Boston University, and is a Ph.D. candidate in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Dayton. He is a graduate of Air War College, Air Command and Staff College, and the US Air Force Test Pilot School. He is widely traveled and has spent long periods in Europe and Central America. He's a featured writer for [www.WingsoverKansas.com](http://www.WingsoverKansas.com) and the author of *Centurion*, *Aegypt*, and *The Second Mission*, as well as the other novels in The Chronicles of the Dragon and the Fox series: *The Fox's Honor*, Book Two, and *A Season of Honor*, Book Three.

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