



## Dead Soul

*Michael R. Hicks*

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## **Dead Soul** Michael R. Hicks

Three years after the brutal first contact encounter with the alien Kreelan Empire, the Confederation is desperate for a victory. With over a dozen worlds under siege by legions of Kreelan warriors, President McKenna orders her military leaders to deliver a victory, no matter the cost, to give humanity hope.

Ichiro Sato, his wife Steph, Roland Mills, Scarlet, and the irrepressible General James Sparks are once again at the sharp end of the spear in a mission to take back the colony of Alger's World from the alien invaders before the Kreelans have exterminated the human population.

But overwhelming firepower may not be enough. For leading the Kreelans is Ku'ar-Marekh, a warrior priestess who is feared even among her own kind. With her spirit trapped between life and death, drawn to war from a lonely sojourn among distant stars, she is known as the Dead Soul...

## **Dead Soul Details**

Date : Published (first published October 1st 2011)

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Author : Michael R. Hicks

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## **From Reader Review Dead Soul for online ebook**

### **Lisa Hapney says**

I was completely sucked in by the first two books. Though I enjoyed this one, it wasn't quite as much of a draw for me. I wasn't as drawn in by Ku'ar-Marekh, the Kreelan warrior priestess that was the Kreelan focus for this volume and I really don't feel that I need to be told multiple times that she cannot feel any emotional attachment in great detail. I got it. I would have really liked to see more about Tesh Dar, the warrior priestess from the first book as she was a very interesting character and I had hoped she would be back in business by the last book in the trilogy, but we did get more time with the Empress this time and that was pretty interesting. I will say that I read the prequel series first after having read Mr. Hicks' Foreword at the beginning of Empire from the Redemption trilogy because I wanted to read the story in chronological order so there may be more of what I'm looking for in that story line later, but I can't say at this point as I have just begun reading Empire. Additionally, things with the main human characters all wrapped up a little too quickly in the last chapter of the book like it was an afterthought. Other than Ku'ar-Marekh and the final few pages, I enjoyed the read and continue with my recommendation of the series, but do have to say that the third book, in my opinion, wasn't quite as good as the first two; however, that may not be the case for others. I really like Mr. Hicks' storytelling style and think he's a very good writer. If you enjoy an science fiction adventure of the military flavor you could certainly lose yourself in the series for a couple of days.

This review originally posted at <http://tjsbookblog.blogspot.com/>

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### **Paul Schofield says**

This engrossing story continues on, urging you to keep turning pages. Many reviewers liked this third book of the trilogy more than book two. I actually liked book two better because it told more about the Kreelan Empire. The story continues from book two and the military action is written with the same high quality, energy, and attention to detail. My only reservation is that the action goes on and on and on. I found myself wishing for a break with more attention to character development and descriptive narrative about places and ideology. The story felt like a high powered ten round heavyweight fight that had been extended to thirty rounds with no end in sight. At times I longed for the bell to finally ring. It finally rang and the ending left me unsettled although the author tied everything together with plenty of room for the story to continue.

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### **David Murray says**

Really enjoying this series., going to have to slow down, going thought them too fast.

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### **David Berkley says**

#### **Worthy Third Volume in the Series**

Starts a bit slowly but once the story gets rolling, hang on! As we get to know and understand the aliens the

bloodshed is more meaningful and disturbing. Volume four awaits.

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## **Graham Maxwell says**

Conflicted about this one. While not the best written or balanced book, I devoured this and the two before (The Last War and Legend of the Sword). And will now be reading In Her Name: Redemption, the collected trilogy Hicks wrote previously (although set later in the same universe).

Sooo.. dealing with humanity's first contact with an alien race, feline humanoids the Kreelans. I suppose my reservations lie primarily with the tangled (and to my mind inconsistent) code of honour this warrior race follows, secondarily with the main human characters with whom the story sticks - they seem a little superhuman to me.

On the other hand, I have read FAR worse written science fiction and to be fair to Mr Hicks, he does push the action at a blistering pace. Eminently readable and enjoyable.

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## **Cameluta says**

The war between human colonies and Kreelan Empire continue; but now the main Kreelan character is Ku'ar-Marekh, high warrior priestess of the Nyur-A'il. She is feared not only by the enemies, but also by her own fellow warriors. What I really liked about her was that she suffered all the time because she wasn't able to feel anything. The meeting between her and the Empress, when for a short moment she became alive again, was heart breaking...

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## **Marianne Søiland says**

Hicks has done it again. This is an excellent novel, and one among the very best I've read in this genre! This sixth book in the "In Her Name"-series holds the same quality as my favourite Sci-Fi/Fantasy trilogy, which also happens to be Hicks first three novels in the same series - "In Her Name: Empire, Confederation & Final Battle". Thinking of it, I may put "Dead Soul" on the very top! This is a true pageturner, and I only had a short night between the first and last part of the book. I could not put it down!

The new Kreelan warrior - Ku'ar Marakh - is frighteningly scary, even compared to her blue companions. Allison as an early teenage "mini-heroine" develops beautifully throughout the story. I was very happy to meet Valentina Sikorsky again - the girl with the enhanced body and extended functionality from the previous book "First Contact". And Roland Mills, he is the perfect hero! The humans can finally match the blue warriors in warfare, with Ichiro Sato as "the chosen one" commanding fleet officer.

Hicks has his own beautiful way of developing unique characters, and it is brilliantly done! They have a wonderful depth to them, and they are so credible you may wonder where he picks them :-). In this novel you get everything - the fight between the Kreelan race and humanity, love and sacrifice, tactical warfare and hand-to-hand combat. You don't have to read the other books in the series to thoroughly enjoy this one, it stands very well on its own two feet, but I recommend you spending time on each and every one "In Her Name" books. You will not be disappointed!

No one above, no one even close! Being a reader is so enjoyable and rewarding when you find authors like Hicks!

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## **Brandon says**

An interesting trilogy. I look forward to seeing what a hundred years of advancement is like and how the war ends.

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## **Phoenix Reads says**

It had been a long time since I read science fiction, but I decided to expand my reading to new genres and picked up Empire (In Her Name: Redemption, #1) by Michael R. Hicks. I found it to be a wonderful blend of epic fantasy and sci fi.

So read it, loved it, and immediately bought Confederation, and Final Battle.

Michael Hicks created the world of Earth after it had taken to space, having built far-flung, loose colonies that behaved similar to our own nations here on Earth - mistrusting, not necessarily ready to help or support one another, and having fierce differences of opinion.

Humans were not sure they were the only sentient species in the universe and had not given up looking.

I love the characters, which Michael Hicks is a master at creating, a massive number of them as the series progressed, and some wonderful key players such Ichiro Sato.

But the best characters in the series were among the Kreelans, a society whose ideals were so foreign that it was easy to hate them. And yet, the author managed, at a point, to gain my understanding for them and even empathy. Imagine a society of female warriors, whose lives were totally dedicated to battle. And they were so skilled at war that there was no one left anywhere to conquer - they have taken on every sentient society they found and annihilated them.

To die in battle was the ultimate glory to the Empress. So they fought and were happy to die in her name. Until they found the humans, they had the problem of having no more wars to win. So this war-like society was excited to have a new game of war to play with what they felt were somewhat worthy opponents. Even though the humans were Neanderthals when it came to technology. Nor did they have their powerful magical skills. So the Kreelans had to use ancient technology to even the odds. Because if the win was easy, it was not honorable.

You ask, were there only females in this strange society? Well, no. But to tell you about that would be a spoiler.

So we had a clash of two completely different societies - the Kreelans who had terrible powers, and who did not find killing immoral, and the humans who found killing abhorrent but a necessary evil of war - a war in which they were powerless to win.

I was riveted to the entire exciting series.

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### **Gary Weinman says**

This is book 3 in a series. However, I just figured out that this is the prequel and in a very Star Wars way, it is books 4-6 that are the "real series". I've read a lot of the reviews of this author and this series, and it seems to be either "The greatest thing ever" or "It was so bad I gave up". I can see both sides, but when it comes down to it, I like the story and I grew to enjoy and care about the characters. I'm guessing since the next book takes place 100 years after this, I won't see these characters anymore. I will miss them. I'm going to take a little break from this series to read a couple of things that I'm way behind on, but I will be returning.

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### **Lisa Kinlin says**

#### **Fun read**

If you like science fiction / fantasy stories , then you will like this trilogy. It was fun to read and kept my interest.

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### **Per Gunnar says**

This is the last book of the first trilogy in the In Her Name series by Michael R. Hicks and it is another very enjoyable read. Now, before someone nit-picks about it not being the first trilogy, it is the trilogy that the author himself recommends that you start with so therefore I consider it to be the first trilogy.

The book continues the war started by the Kreeleans for some rather obscure reasons involving a prophecy about having to find "the one". It's still not very clear why they have to slaughter everyone else in the process but I guess it is part of the mystery around these books. The humans have switched to war footing and are cranking out bigger and better warships as quickly as they can. However, as usual, there people (politicians of course) that tend to make decisions for all kinds of wrong reasons and a symbolic victory over the Kreeleans are sorely needed to keep some colonies in line. So thus the stage is set for some clobber time.

As with the previous books this one is very well written and you are easily swept along while reading it. The characters are enjoyable and the action is plentiful of course. The book ventures even further into the mysterious magical ways of the Kreeleans and this is where I have a gripe with these books. Again when the human are getting the upper hand one of the Kreelean priestesses comes along and magically changes the playing ground with their totally inexplicable powers. that really bugs me. I have no problem with the magic part in books like the Lost Tales of Power series because there you expect it but in these books it is like the Kreeleans want's their "honorable" fight but only as long as they have the upper hand. If the humans get the upper hand then they cheat.

Regardless of this these books are very good. I was in some doubt after having read the first one but now I am quite happy that I continued the series.

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## **Mike Crate says**

In Her Name: Dead Soul is the final book in the second cycle of stories telling of the war between the Human worlds and the Kreelan Empire. After the brutal battles on Keran and Saint Petersburg the battle is joined on a number of fronts but the time has come for the Confederation to fight back and reclaim a world if for no other reason than to give hope to the humans who are now realising this is a fight to the death, failure means the extinction of the human race.

On the agricultural Alger's World the Kreelans have attacked and the human task force comprising of the most powerful warships built engage the enemy while thousands of marines make planet fall to take on the occupying forces. As the long bloody battle commences we are drawn into the experiences of both the young survivors of the initial invasion, the recon units who have landed prior to the attempted liberation and finally the marine contingent. The biggest hurdle to overcome is the Kreelan Priestess Ku'ar-Marekh the last in her line whose soul is fractured and longs to die but will not sacrifice her life and dishonour her Empress. Whilst the story of Dead Soul follows the theme of previous books with the battles of the individuals immersed within the vast scale of global and space combat we find some nice touches when dealing with characters both human, alien and in some cases not quite fully one or the other. This all adds huge depth and enjoyment to the story and makes this a fitting end to the current cycle and despite being shorter than the previous stories the ultimate pay off from characters we've followed is most satisfying.

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## **Phillip M Lewallen says**

**I said it before and I'll say it again . . .**

Michael Hicks has created a masterpiece in this series! This is my second reading and I am still enthralled by the sweeping, all encompassing majesty of the series! I would give it a higher rating if possible. You will never read anything comparable. A must read!

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## **Auburn1975 says**

Again an outstanding book with an intense epic romantic sci-fic theme. As the 6th book in the on-going story (that I hope will NEVER end), we come back to humanity as they consolidate cross planetary defenses, resources, and unite to battle with the alien Kreelan Empire. Michael Hicks is a Master storyteller. I find I can not learn enough about the Kreelan and most often hope that both sides could win in the too often sudden death events that flow one after another. As designed, I find that I deeply care about the characters and the on-going conflicting goals by both sides. In Her Name: Dead Soul was PERFECTION as a follow-on to the bigger previous stories and the destiny to come. Not only can I not wait to find out what happens next between this point and the first book but I also long to see if Mr.Hicks is clever enough take us to after In Her Name: Final Battle. Will the Kreelan help put humanity on their path? Can Resa come back? What's to come...I just can't wait.

I have enjoyed these six books more than any other epic in 2011 and totally agree with another reviewer who wrote: "No one above, no one even close! Being a reader is so enjoyable and rewarding when you find authors like Hicks!"

