



Star Marines

Ian Douglas

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With the planet's fighting men and women deployed across the galaxy—battling in the noble cause of enslaved humanity—the insidious Xul have reached across space to devastate the unsuspecting Earth with asteroid fire. Without warning, a once majestic world is reduced to near-rubble—and the very future of humankind is in dire jeopardy.

Interplanetary leaders are on the brink of abandoning Earth and its colonies to an overwhelming enemy. But Brigadier General Garroway of the Marine Interstellar Expeditionary Unit is unwilling to concede defeat—not as long as there's a single marine willing to give his or her life in defense of their embattled homeworld. The ultimate battle is about to be waged—with breathtaking new attack technology, an ancient code of courage, and the help of an ally race that once inhabited the Earth—in a war that will alter the universe forever . . .

Star Marines Details

Date : Published January 30th 2007 by Harper Voyager

ISBN : 9780380818266

Author : Ian Douglas

Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Space, Space Opera, War, Military Fiction, Military Science Fiction, Fiction, Fantasy, Hard Science Fiction

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From Reader Review Star Marines for online ebook

Dominc Bender says

A GREAT end to the Legacy Trilogy buying much needed time for Earth in preparation for the return of the Xul race also known as the Hunters of the Dawn. The last visit of the Xul culminated in the destruction of interstellar allies and the human race being sent backwards in racial/societal ascendance of technology and existence. The next trilogy The Inheritance Trilogy will cover the repercussions of this book and bring out the end of the story arc either giving mankind the ascendance it has earned or proving the Xul the GREAT DESTROYERS of histories long past maintaing their hold on the universe.

Marty Ponnoch says

With the ending of Star Marines, the Legacy trilogy came to a most satisfying conclusion. The action sequences throughout the entire series was taut and frightening. The book personified what hard science fiction is all about. High tech weaponry and law bending physics were more than a meal to satisfy the hunger for knowing what the future may hold. Looking forward to reading the "Inheritance" trilogy to see where the Corps and humankind end up in the survival of the fittest galaxy. Semper Fi Ian Douglas

Michael says

This is the third book in the Legacy Trilogy by Ian Douglas. In this one the Hunter's of the Dawn also known as the Xul have sent a ship to attack Earth by sending several asteroids to smash into the Earth's surface thus destroying all traces of mankind. The Marines manage to board the Xul spaceship and destroy it but not before it has managed to send several asteroids hurtling toward the Earth. The High Guard manages to deflect or destroy all but one. It smashes into the Earth and kills billions of people and starts another ice age. The survivors know that the Xul will send another ship to finish the job the first one started so a desperate plan is devised to sent the Marines and Navy to Sirius to do the one thing no race has ever done to the Xul. Attack them and destroy them! Even though the Xul have vastly superior technology the Marines hope that a surprise attack with make the difference between victory and defeat. This is another great example of Military Science Fiction. I recommend it to all fans of Military Science Fiction and fans of Ian Douglas.

Harry says

I like the idea that humans go out into the Universe and kick ass on galactic bullies.

Tom Folsom says

Like the last two books in the series, this is candy, but nice candy. Aside from one part where the writer confuses which of the two characters whose last name is Galloway he is writing about (or rather, which

experiences each had had), it was decently written. Just... nothing special at all.

Matthew says

Not a complaint, really. The detail of the disaster on Earth is overkill, and its not holding my attention.

Chidi Okonkwo says

I bought this item from Borders Bookstore some time ago. This book was epic in its scale, and the author has a way of drawing you into his scenarios via his vivid descriptions. This Trilogy story follows a lineage, tracing the male ancestry of the Garrows, a military family; and it shows how a writer can create a very interesting legacy, while showing cool technological advancements from one book to the next. Gunnery Sergeant Travis Garroway is the main hero and his uncle, General Garroway, is also part of the Star Marines.

I enjoyed the story, yet the global devastation that took place on Earth [due to the Xul alien's bombarding the planet with giant asteroids] was something that I found rather disheartening. But as survivors, the human race survives that strike and start mounting an offensive against their diabolical foes.

Eventually the Star Marines [hailing from the futuristic US Navy / the Military] head out on a mission to infiltrate the home world of the aliens, utilizing gigantic warp-gates created by another alien race that actually precedes the evil ancient Xul [octopus-like beings that appear to be highly evolved machine minds, whose origins are unknown]. There are some peculiar aquatic aliens called the N'mah that do help the humans, sharing technology with them, which helps them with the warp-gate tuning, advanced propulsion systems [via inertia dampeners], and things of that nature.

As in most of his books, Ian Douglas has a way of creating scenarios that involve high-level politics, which go on behind the scenes at times of war. These deliberations between national officials and military brass occur prior to the Navy space expedition, and the writer knows how to showcase immense contention, as people of authority argue on whether the ends justify the means; and they debate on the necessity of expensive war vs. attempting diplomacy. Yet the discussions are not tied to the USA invading another nation like China. Instead the discussions are centered around war in space against the Xul, and how wise or viable/doable it is.

The Xuls are definitely an advanced race. They create gigantic needle-shaped ships that are larger than cities, engineer them with internal black holes, and utilize those black holes as infinite "energy wells". Then they harvest that energy via quantum methodologies as a power source for conducting movements across millions of miles in space at near light-speed.

In this tale, the Moon and Mars have been colonized quite a bit, so the people of Earth have settlements there. But due to the initial alien attacks that caused the global tsunami, no one wants to stay in the Milky Way. In fact, some interplanetary leaders end up abandoning Earth via giant cruisers for fear of total annihilation by the Xul. These rich bureaucrats do leave the planet in their giant ship, and embark on a journey to Andromeda System, which will take them many years at near-light-speed. They sleep in special capsules for the long journey [yet their shocking fates are presented in the next Trilogy written by the same author].

Eventually the Marine Interstellar Forces are sent to hunt down the aliens, blow up their alien world in the distant Night's Edge Star System, destroy one of their mother-ships, steal advanced technology from one of their vessels via an infiltrating military AI drone, and destroy the ancient warp-gate that leads back to the Milky Way System.

There is a lot of action in this one and it is well paced, in my opinion. Character development isn't the strong point in this book, and some may feel that the development of the main theme is dragged on. Yet that is merely another opinion, since the author sequentially builds his case, showing human life and survival before and after major catastrophes. Remember, the human race on Earth almost gets destroyed and 1/3rd of the population is terminated, due to the giant asteroid and the global tsunami; and that sets the solemn tone for roughly the first half of the book. It's about 370 pages, but it still feels a lot longer and heavier - in terms of its well-written and technical content.

As a sci fi artist/writer, I found this book inspiring. And I recommend it for sci fi fans who enjoy military science fiction stories.

BobA707 says

Summary: Hard core military SF, the marines vs aliens with space flight thrown in, politics and corporate greed etc. All good stuff with the good guys coming through. Friendly aliens and nasty aliens

Plotline: Pretty straight forward plot with the marines doing what they are supposed to

Premise: Lots of interesting concepts, with a major technology imbalance (humans being the wrong side)

Writing: Not bad the reader is right there in the action

Ending: All good

Pace: Never a dull moment!

Andreas says

This is book three of the sequel trilogy to the exciting Heritage Trilogy. Set a hundred years further in the future, the books flesh out the backstory significantly and satisfyingly. The Marine Corps focused action remains, improved if anything. Douglas (a pen name for William H. Keith) writes about battles, troops and equipment with a gritty and realistic tone.

Star Marines

The action now jumps forward a century and a half, but the main characters are still Garrows. The Hunters of the Dawn, alerted by the destruction of their ship and gate in "Battlespace", have decided that humans are a threat. A Hunter ship appears in Sol system and attacks. Earth is devastated. The Marines launch a Doolittle Raid on the enemy, trying to buy the humans time. By the end of the Legacy Trilogy things are still very much up in the air about the future survival of humanity.

While the “Marines rule” theme in these books can sometimes be a bit heavy handed, this is quality military SciFi. The back story, only hinted at in the Heritage Trilogy, is fully fleshed out and well imagined.

<http://www.books.rosboch.net/?p=650>

Darrell says

I think this has been the most enjoyable of the six books in this series so far. It was nicely paced with plenty of momentous sequences but not just an action slug fest. There was good plot development and the background material felt a lot more solid and original than some of the previous books that have tended to be repetitive in this regard. I really enjoyed how the in system space engagements played out. The final strike on the Xul base was starting to seem way to far fetched but did come back to some semblance of believability and I was quite pleased with it as well. Although there are some glaring omissions in defense capacity for such a technologically advanced and paranoid enemy that would have made such a result unlikely. It still read very well and definitely kept the pages turning.

Steve says

Both trilogies are a good read...lots of action and interesting speculation on how technology will affect humanity.

James Cox says

Another good story in this series. Great action and great sci fi.

Mike (the Paladin) says

This one gets a 4 star rating, but I must admit it would be a slightly lower 4 than the last book in the series. Where the first two novels revolve mostly around a John Garroway this one picks up some hundreds of years later.

We are still following members of the Garroway family (as we were in the Heritage Trilogy [a series I need to reread as I didn't get into it well the first time]). The story here is good. There is plenty of action and the term "space opera" fits it well. We are introduced to a "race" or "species" who have been mentioned in the series before.

The earth is again different than it was...the politicians and high brass are still as frustrating as ever...oh yeah and the Earth may soon be completely wiped out.

The story here does quite a bit of time collapsing as we rush from plot point to plot. On the other hand there's no slow down or lack of action. That's what this one primarily is, an action military science fiction read.

Light read but pretty good. The years fly by and the climax sets us up for the next series. These are still the "United States Marines" and they know it.

Semper Fi, enjoy.

elidemelnibone says

Je vais prendre le temps de faire un commentaire parce qu'à la fin de la 2ème trilogie, cette série m'accroche de plus en plus . Star Marines est peut-être mon préféré des 6. Est-ce parce que je deviens petit à petit citoyenne (de lecture) de cet univers et m'y sens de plus en plus confortable en anglais avec le vocabulaire, les armes, les batailles ... C'est un univers qui s'étend dans toute la galaxie avec des distorsions vitesse / temps (si j'ai bien compris), de nouvelles technologies très bluffantes (je ne suis pas scientifique mais je suis curieuse du futur), des Ais dont le rôle est de plus en plus important jusqu'à être décisif (j'aime la présence des Ais aux réunions des chefs..) des Alien amicaux, des Alien ennemis impitoyablement destructeurs de civilisations. Les Marines s'inspirent de leur expérience militaire passée pour leurs plans de bataille et j'aime bien aussi ces rappels historiques. Enfin LA terre est en très grave danger et les humains décident un affrontement en territoire ennemi. Je ne veux pas chercher si tout se tient vraiment et l'ennemi est peut-être un peu endormi dans sa toute puissance.. Je suis juste embarquée avec les Marines, Ooh Rah ! j'aime l'excès des batailles, et s'en sortir in extrémis. C'est un livre tourne page !

Steven Allen says

This was a decent conclusion to this series. I will not keep the books as I do not believe they are worth a reread, but I did enjoy the reading. Good escapist literature that you do not have to pay too much attention to. I like how the author let the readers know what happened to earlier characters, without bogging the story down with the new cast of characters.
