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Legionnaire (Galaxy's Edge Book 1)



Synopsis

The Galaxy is a Dumpster Fire A hot, stinking, dumpster fire. And most days I don't know if the legionnaires are putting out the flames, or fanning them into an inferno. A hostile force ambushes Victory Company during a reconnaissance-in-force deep inside enemy territory. Stranded behind enemy lines, a sergeant must lead a band of survivors against merciless insurgents on a deadly alien world somewhere along the galaxy's edge. With no room for error, the Republic's elite fighting force must struggle to survive under siege while waiting on a rescue that might never come. When you think you've surrounded the Legion... you've just made your last mistake.

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Customer Reviews

The Republic army is sending a bunch of its soldiers on a diplomatic mission to the planet of Kublar. The Legionnaires, an elite special fighting force, is sent as well. Ostensibly there to help make peace with the natives and broker an agreement for resource development, the soldiers are there to protect the Republic forces on this mission. Venturing into hostile territory on their vehicles, they get

twitchy when they see the natives gathering along their route. But there are rumblings that the Mid-Core Rebels are secretly supporting a sect of the Kublar forces. When a tense situation erupts into violence, will they succeed in their mission or will they die trying? The Legionnaires are elite soldiers for a reason, as one of them worth a hundred regular men with their training, tactics, and deadliness. Outfitted with custom armor, artificial intelligence in their form fitting helmets, they are a formidable fighting force to be reckoned with. This is proven repeatedly as they fight against odds that are stacked against them. With each battle they engage in, we see why they are the best. Whether it's against the natives, dealing with strange alliances, powerful weapons, surprise turnabouts and unexpected setbacks, they do their best to adapt and win. This is not just a straightforward story, as some military science fiction can be. Your typical genre novel can fall into the trap of feeling like a videogame, where you see a gun bounce around your screen as bad guys pop into and out of your field of vision. It's also easy to be desensitized to the violence on your screen as you blow away bad guys. But this novel is more complex and layered than that simplistic description. These battles are won by boots on the ground, developing strategies on the fly, working together as a team to take down the enemy. These scenes are intense and riveting, as we experience each struggle to survive through the eyes of Sergeant Chhun as he takes down one enemy after another while trying to avoid being killed. You cannot help but feel your pulse race in these scenes, as your breath quickens and you move your head to avoid getting it shot off your shoulders, as I did while being engrossed by each page I read. Each battle is different, each one presenting a different challenge for Victory Company to overcome and the quality of the writing here is where the author, Jason Anspach, shines the most. The strategy used to win these battles is multifaceted and fascinating as the problems multiply. Of course, no plan survives contact with the enemy but how they adjust to each brutal engagement and try to win is part of the suspense. By the time you've reached the end of the novel, you feel like you've served along with their forces, as the story immerses you so deeply into it. You experience the recoil of the weapon in your hand, feel the heat of the battle sear your skin and smell the carnage around you as you face off against the enemy. The brotherhood of your fellow soldiers, bonded together and forged in battle, you don't just become emotionally involved. You personally experience fighting for each other, your loyalty towards one another and you are inducted into the Legionnaires by proxy as you read. You are one of them as you feel the weariness and relief as the battle ends, you assess your casualties, check your supplies and figure out what your next step is. Ooah. What I liked was the main character, Sergeant Chhun, and why he fights and whom he fights for. It's not just a shoot 'em up story, it's about the men you fight with and we clearly see why he

feels this way. It's one thing to say it and another to see that motivation demonstrated effectively in the novel. The soldiers are disillusioned with the politics that surround the officers who serve with them, including the cowardly Captain Devers, who is the man you come to hate for multiple reasons as you will see. Each soldier, whether minor or major, gets a chance to shine and differentiate themselves from the others. Their pasts, their training, how it all shapes their present worldview and their duty to one another has molded them into Victory Company. Each one of them is an individual but collectively, they are an almost unstoppable force. These soldiers are not just killing machines, they feel when they make mistakes and assess the battlefield for any advantage they can get. You can see how each battle scars them, their determination and grit evident in their plight no matter how bad it gets as tanks battle and air support rains hell down on the battlefield. The Kublar are also cunning warriors and are not easy to subdue or defeat. Their culture is fleshed out with just enough detail to see what their motivations are, helping you understand their thought processes and see just how alien they really are. From their different clans to alliances they develop, these creatures fight with a ferocity that proves their mettle against the Legionnaires. This is especially apparent in the final battle of the novel, in which everything is thrown at the Legionnaires in the hopes of eradicating them once and for all. Just when I thought the novel was over and I thought I could relax, it's punctuated with a spellbinding epilogue written by Nick Cole, adding an exclamation point to the story. It regales us with an enrapturing tale of the military machine wrongly used for political gain and how it affected one soldier for the rest of his life. You viscerally feel the impact of this story deep in your gut at the horrors described here, providing additional context to what it's like to be a soldier working for a large galactic government. You know you have a fantastic story on your hands when you start reading faster than your usual speed because you can't wait to see what happens next. As a result, this novel is military science-fiction at its best. This story is the first in a series of novels taking place in a universe called Galaxy's Edge. This universe was developed as a counterpoint to Star Wars and its sprawling saga. For example, stormtroopers in Star Wars has very poor aim and weak armor. However, in this universe, the stormtrooper equivalent is the Legionnaire, with pinpoint aim and strong armor, feeling like a legitimate threat instead of cannon fodder. As a result, it feels like Star Wars with its fresh take on space opera but it's not Star Wars. It is its own unique entity, with a history and continuity all its own. Written and developed by these two authors, I tremendously look forward to seeing what they write next. This is a universe full of promise and adventure and I will eagerly get on board to see where they take me next.

These guys know what they're doing. This pair of seasoned authors have decided they just don't give a damn anymore and they're going to write what they want to write. And they've done it well. This book is obviously a well put together allegory of America in Afghanistan and Iraq. These Legionnaires are Rangers, Marines, or Striker Brigades, take your pick. There is an obvious and purposeful element of Star Wars in the mix as well. As they call it Star Wars not Star Wars. Differences like the fact that the Legionnaires hit what they shoot at unlike their Storm Trooper counterparts just make this an improvement on the old model. I loved every word of it, and as a soldier in the past myself, some of it got to me emotionally. Simple things like loyalty to your fellow soldier on the line are hard to get right and these guys did it. After writing this I'm going to go sign up for their website and podcast. Semper Fi.

Dang. Indie Sci fi is the gift that keeps on giving. The dialog felt authentic and the whole story moved at lighting speed. Already have the next book pre-ordered.

Nice story. Would like some better context on the lingo. What happens to ECO? I'll read the next one to find out.

First rate, gritty space marine combat stories. If you're into this type of genre, you will greatly enjoy this book. Can't wait for the next one to come out.

Legionnaire is packed with action from start to finish. This is a must read. I will revisit this book again vvvry soon :)

Well-written action with a host of interesting characters. As a retired soldier, I enjoyed it, and I could certainly see the influence of our recent conflicts, overseas. However, the story fell short in several places, and it never quite developed into the novel I was hoping for. There are several clever SF tweaks to the tactics the legionnaires employ, but there's nothing exceptional about their gear or strategy that truly sets them apart from the way combat is fought, now. In fact, once you get down to it, it's not that far removed from the Battle of Rorke's Drift. One of my biggest pet peeves about military SF is that the battles are basically fought the same way they are, now. Weapons, tactics and strategy have evolved significantly since World War 2 and Vietnam. Why wouldn't they evolve that much more by the time we are fighting wars on other planets?[Spoilers]Finally, and this is more specific to this story, the groundwork is laid for a much more interesting story. The legionnaires find

Republic scientists during a battle. One has specialized communication skills that they need, in order to call for off-world backup. From the description provided, either the 'scientists' are actually spies with direct connections to the commanding admiral of that sector, and there's a lot more to this story, or the ending is basically *dues ex machina*, and there was no other way to save the legionnaires. The story of why spies were on the planet, and how an army of off-worlders was raised to fight the legionnaires is a much more involved and interesting story. On the other hand, *deus ex machina* endings are the lazy, unimaginative writer's cheap way out of giving some serious thought and planning to the conclusion of a novel. I was actually pretty pissed off at the end of the novel that it ended this way. One way or another, there was a better story to be told. But, the characters and story telling were very good, and I really wouldn't have been so angry at the end, if the story hadn't been so enjoyable, up to that point. I'll give the next novel in the series a go, but if it lets me down the way this one did, I'm done with the series.

I suppose someone who knows and appreciates combat lingo would like this book. I don't and I didn't.

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