



Flesh and Iron

Henry Zou

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There are reports of an uprising on the planet of Solo-Baston. Indigenous forces are rebelling against Imperial rule, led by the mysterious 'Dos Pares'. Amidst the conflict, the 31st Riverine Imperial Guard are dispatched to seek and destroy a vital piece of weaponry, but find themselves beset on all sides by hostile forces. And what they originally thought was simple tribal warfare soon reveals a much more sinister activity. Henry Zou's latest novel serves as a prequel to Emperor's Mercy and delivers non-stop action and mystery in the grim world of Warhammer 40,000.

Flesh and Iron Details

Date : Published March 1st 2010 by Black Library

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Author : Henry Zou

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From Reader Review Flesh and Iron for online ebook

Jonathan Birkett says

Slightly different from the normal IG 40K novel. Did reflect the brutality and person interest that drives the 40k universe. Twist was a little obverse.....

Jimmy says

40K does Vietnam.

A good portion of the book us following a cliché Nam storyline. The writing is enjoyable and engaging but the back of your brain is calling the plot points fairly reliably. Then you reach a point in the book and there's more book than you expected. The obvious climax... Well it's A climax just not THE climax. And that is what makes this book a little bit more than a run of the mill 40K cliché fest.

Tom says

This is the second novel based in the WarHammer 40k universe I have read. The first being the first in the series "Emperor's Mercy". While this is the second in the trilogy of "Bastion Wars" books I honestly didn't see anything in this book that tied it to the first one. Which means if you haven't read the first one, this one won't mess you up not knowing what is going on.

We primarily follow two characters. One is a person who is the chief of a local tribe, and one who is a Colonel in the Imperial Guard. it's set in a swamp/jungle type planet so you have lots of Vietnam-esque type fighting. You have political intrigue between the Navy Admirals wanting to get all the credit, to the religious caste having a dark secret that if comes to life will discredit them, so they are both fighting against the Imperial Guard's success which creates an interesting and surprising change and you find yourself rooting for someone you wouldn't think you would.

I am just starting in the hobby that is Warhammer 40k game, and the twist and intrigue was enough to make me not want to play the human forces anymore, and view them as evil. So it was a pretty fun twist.

Moonshad3 says

It's warhammer shut the f** up and read everything! Yes i'm acting like a fanboy, but how can i resist it is an amazing universe with so much lore!!!

A little bit about the book:

On the planet of Solo-Baston, indigenous forces are rebelling against Imperial rule, led by the mysterious Dos Pares. Colonel Fyodor Baeder and the 31st Riverine are sent to reclaim vital weaponry for the Imperium, but are decimated by native resistance.

- "Blessed is the mind too small for doubt".
(Librarian Isador Akios of the Blood Ravens)

Jacob Stiver says

Zou really coming into his own. Carries on the grit from the first Bastion Stars novel, but the story-telling is a little more polished.

Lilith K says

Not usually something I would be interested in. It was a bit difficult to get into it but the last quarter of the book went by really quickly and ended on a satisfying note. This was very much a random pick up, I don't know much about the warhammer lore. It just happened to be a book a friend left over. It takes awhile to warm up to the characters, I enjoyed the change in Baeder and Mautista. They both started off with a different view of the world and had it quickly distorted by warfare. Other than the short scenes with Kaplain and Duponti, I really didn't like any of the other characters or cared much about them. But the last half of the book made the read worthwhile.

Tarash_bulba says

If not for the the last quarter of the book and the ending, I would have given it a 3 star. But, as it stands it gets a well deserved 4 star from me. A sometimes bland and standard book which turns up the action volume two thirds of the way and gives a surprise twist and a very satisfying ending.

(Maybe)SPOILERS : It is one of the few books in the 40K universe (if not the only one) which shows very well how normal people fall into the grip of chaos for all the right reasons...and the irony is that all of them are hardcore loyalists betrayed by the same imperium which they have given their lives to protect. Very well done and believable. I liked it that it also shows that Chaos is more than just frothing insane power hungry madmen (altho' there is that as well, partially) and that it is a viable alternative to the oppression and evilness of the Imperium. The Blood Gorgons show that, time and again in both this book and their namesake book. That and the Apocalypse Now vibe. Thumbs up.

Matthew Dame-Brusie says

Even better! I don't want to spoil anything, but WOW!!!
40k does Vietnam! and so damn well!

I liked where it went, I liked how it got there, and I was so wrapped up in the story I didn't even pick apart the like one part that seemed a little implausible. Henry Zhou is fast becoming my favorite author in the 40k universe. and honestly I thought the ending was going somewhere else. man was I wrong.

Will Read this too!

Richard says

The weaker of the three Henry Zou books, *Flesh and Iron* tells a fairly standard story up until the climactic battle near the end of the book where everything begins to really pick up and the plot turns itself around with a fantastic twist. I particularly liked the connection to *Emperor's Mercy* near the end.

Marc Chong says

Excellent book. Zou combines the fiction of the 40k universe with plausible wartime situations. Excellent twist at the end leaves you rooting for the side you never expected to.

Bernd Velling says

Interesting reading , I felt myself reminded of *Apocalypse Now*

Nicholas Mastrodicasa says

I'm a big fan of the Imperial Guard and like how Henry Zou did it.
