



Star Corps

Ian Douglas

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*In the future,
earth's warriors have conquered the heavens.*

*But on a distant world,
Humanity is in chains ...*

Many millennia ago, the human race was enslaved by the An — a fearsome alien people whose cruel empire once spanned the galaxies, until they were defeated and consigned to oblivion. But a research mission to the planet Ishtar has made a terrifying — and fatal — discovery: the Ahanu, ancestors of the former masters, live on, far from the reach of Earth — born weapons and technology ... and tens of thousands of captive human souls still bow to their iron will. Now Earth's Interstellar Marine Expeditionary Unit must undertake a rescue operation as improbable as it is essential to humankind's future, embarking on a ten-year voyage to a hostile world to face an entrenched enemy driven by dreams of past glory and intent once more on domination. For those who, for countless generations, have known nothing but toil and subjugation must be granted, at all costs, the precious gift entitled to all of their star-traveling kind: freedom!

Star Corps Details

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From Reader Review Star Corps for online ebook

Chidi Okonkwo says

I own the entire Legacy Trilogy, purchased from a local borders book store. This book was exceptionally well written. The author infuses his knowledge as a retired naval officer into his writing and he sets up the space-faring U.S. Marines in an exciting world that is highly detailed and well thought out.

This premiere story is set in the year 2138, and the contrived gadgets and technologies are excellently described by the author. The young main protagonist, John Garroway, was well developed. You get to see how he thinks, and that is a critical part of building any classic character. There are lots of battles in this one, as the heroic Marines race across several light years to liberate their imprisoned distant human relatives from the clutches of an evil alien race called the Ahanu.

But before the crusade in outer space begins, there is a struggle on earth: political standards clash with human rights and voiced personal beliefs, as the national government officials deliberate with military elites upon the profitability of sponsoring the Marines on their very expensive mission. And ultimately, a compromise has to be made...

As a fellow author of a sci fi action Trilogy [The DSNG Chronicles], I highly recommend this series, because it is well paced, well written and action packed. It is definitely worth adding to your collection if you are a fan of Military Sci Fi works and you enjoy technical descriptions tied to ingenious gadgets and futuristic technology.

Ben Davis says

The staples of military science fiction don't really fit my tastes. This I discovered while reading yet a third author who included the very same pet peeves that had me lambasting the last two authors I'd read in the genre. I should have known when I read Captain "Warhurst" going over battle plans inside his head computer that I was in for more of the same. The action shifts starts out on a distant battlefield then shifts to Earth where the protagonist is exchanging the high life for a role in the underrated, unappreciated marines.

Upon arrival at basic training four-eyes discovers every marine knows of this legendary ancestor of his. This works well to the protagonist's advantage because after completing his training he is punted off into space...with no space-borne training. Sealed inside a cryogenic chamber the antagonist speeds off towards his rendezvous with the feared Xul. Victorious in battle he ascends a hill, casting a spell over his fellow marines.

Apparently humans have long been the slaves of an alien master, blah blah blah, Earthlings somehow escaped only to be found by their former masters. Many human slaves exist in the galaxy and the marines must go free them. Oh and the pyramids are somehow involved. Hmm...sounding a little familiar? Yeah it's the Stargate movie. (which despite what some may say is not the same as the pissed on television show that was more interested in copying Star Trek than originality and...)

Douglas copied his story wholesale from Emmerich and Devlin. Not that there's anything wrong with that

but the fact that he didn't bother change anything suggests a lack of interest that negated the whole back story. I wasn't impressed with Star Corps but I would recommend it to hopeful authors as an example of what not to do.

P.S. While digging through some storage boxes I noticed to my displeasure that I'd reviewed the wrong book. Star Strike was the novel that I'd read; it's part of the Inheritance Trilogy.

Dirk Grobbelaar says

I read this on the back of a whole spate of Military SF novels, and the fact that I did not find it stale or *same old* is testament to just how entertaining it is. Even though *Star Corps* is the first in the *Legacy* trilogy, it is not the first in Douglas' series dealing with Space Marines. No, these are not Space Marines like you would find in the Warhammer universe. This is an extrapolation of the current Marine Corps, and what it might entitle in the not so very distant future, should mankind explore the stars and find them less than friendly. Some of the basic assumptions of the story are very interesting, even if not entirely new. Aliens that have ruled Earth in ancient times have ferried away a lot of humans for slave labour on distant planets, and even though Earth was liberated, one planet still exists where humans are being used for less-than-honourable purposes. Of course, this cannot be tolerated, so it's war! I especially enjoyed Douglas' depictions of the Alien psychology and how they differ from Humans. Is what they are doing really so wrong if it is unacceptable only from a Human point of view (in other words: who died and made *Humans* the benchmark for morality)? In fact, this is a theme that forms an integral part of the story. There's a good bit of mayhem in here as well, with a really cool Epilogue promising even more entertainment in book 2: Battlespace: Book Two of The Legacy Trilogy.

Thomas says

Douglas, Ian. *Star Corps*. Legacy Trilogy No. 1. Harper, 2003.

Let us just say that originality is not a primary goal when Ian Douglas sits down to crank out another adventure of a U. S. Marines expeditionary force doing battle on faraway planets. Set in the same universe as his *Heritage* trilogy, the *Star Corps* Marines land on Ishtar—really, that is the name of the place. There is an alien enclave in a cave that must be nuked, a la *Starship Troopers*. There is a population of human slaves, whose ancestors were kidnapped by aliens thousands of years ago, that must be freed. Action is a premium for Douglas, and he does it well. If you like fast-reading military action with a predictable plot, this one is for you.

James Cox says

I love Stargate and this book had a lot of great elements that reminded me of that tv series. Awesome!

Clint says

Shoot first jar heads never change. Neither do the profit at any cost corporate types. Good enough to finish and continue on, but glad it's just 3 books.

Josh says

If you're looking for some space marine war action just for entertainment purposes, then this does a pretty decent job of it. The book was heavily focused on action, as you would expect, with little in the way of character development. The character who turns out to be the main character did have some time devoted to his backstory, and he does grow as a marine during the process of his first mission and the main conflict. There isn't really much more to say. It didn't meet my expectations for it, and there was some adult language and content. I doubt I will follow the rest of this particular series.

Joe Ricca says

I am putting this book down. I think it is the narrator, not a fan of his style and it just keeps taking me out of the story.

J says

It's a cross betw. Starship Troopers, Stargate SG-1 and classic elements such as 2010. In fact, there were times I had to stop and think if I wanted to continue reading because of a clearly blatant rip off from Starship Troopers. The writing is not anything on par with Peter Hamilton or Frank Herbert, rather it's more straight forward "Galloway did this" and "Ramsey said that" type writing. It lacks a particular finesse that the aforementioned authors have achieved. But it does have PLENTY of gratuitous action scenes with all the trappings of your typical military action writing. What it lacks in scope it gains in easy of reading. I read this very fast and was pleased. And while Hamilton's Night's Dawn Trilogy or Herbert's Dune series are hard to put to film, this book could easily be adapted.

Brian Turner says

After the discovery of alien artefacts around the universe, then the discovery that the aliens took humans to use as slaves, a mission is mounted to bring them home. Prior expeditions have been lost, so the Marines are sent in first.

Various mega corporations have their own vested interests in the affair, as well as international and political agendas.

The story is good, but suffers from the same traits as every other Marine based sci-fi.

Civilians, politicians and non-Marines are greedy, craven, self-centred types who stop the Marines doing their job until everything hits the fan and they have to rush in to save the day.

One of the characters is shown going from boot camp to actually seeing action, which works as a good way to introduce some explanation points and show the action from someone who isn't a grizzled veteran.

Scott Holstad says

I'm not sure what it was about this book, but I just couldn't get into it. I tried for several days, reading 20-30 pages a day and just being bored and frustrated. Frankly, I thought the premise was dumb. I guess that's the basic problem for me. Somehow, somewhere along the way, humanity has discovered an alien species called the Ahanu that predates humanity and that came to Earth centuries ago, built the pyramids, possibly genetically coded humans and then took thousands of them off to their distant planet to serve and breed as slaves, for 10,000 years or more. How we discovered this and them is not mentioned, at least as far as I ever got in the book, because after 187 dreary pages, I've given up. Somehow, humans have made it to their planet and have been there for some years, archaeologists, scientists, diplomats, Marines, businessmen, etc., and these reptile-like creatures go insane at one point and attack the humans and apparently wipe them out, although most of their technology is prehistoric, except for one gigantic weapon that blows starships out of the sky. Earth has discovered this and is putting together a Marine task force of some 1300 Marines to go rescue any surviving humans and put down the alien rebellion and hopefully save the human slaves, as well as to stabilize the world for another starship of multinationals coming to form businesses and governments, etc. The catch? It's a 10 year trip -- one way. So each Marine has to make a 20 year commitment, not counting the two to four or more years they'll be on the alien planet. Okay, shoot me, but how frigging stupid is that??? Virtually all sci fi writers deal with FTL drives, hyperspace, interstellar drives, etc. Basically, it's possible to get to your destination light years away, in some cases, hundreds of light years away, in hours/days/weeks, not a freaking decade! Where's the science? If mankind has colonized the moon and Mars and can somehow already travel to this alien planet so that they've been there for five years working on stuff, that means that A) they went there 15 years ago and B) they should have the technology to invent FTL drives. Indeed, when the government is getting important Marines and scientists off Mars back to Earth, instead of it taking numerous weeks and months, they take special flights that take a few days, so they do have some technology available. So, what the hell? Is Douglas just a dumbshit writer? Can he not think of normal sci fi standards? Why make such an extreme scenario, one that's so outrageously unbelievable? It boggles the mind. And then to cap it off, for some reason, one American company is given a monopoly on everything on this alien planet and tells its potential partners it plans on shipping the slaves back to Earth to sell ... as slaves for a return on its investment. WTF? I bought this book cheap at a used bookstore, thank goodness, but because it had a pretty good rating and excellent reviews. Indeed, the reviews were so good, I bought the entire trilogy! Now I find that I don't want to read any of them. And I doubt I will. At least I didn't spend much on them. Stupid premise. And too many points of view, too many characters. Additionally, in terms of military sci fi, Douglas not only can't touch David Weber at all, he can't even touch Chris Bunch. Not recommended.

Mike (the Paladin) says

Not a bad book at all. I've been on a military science fiction "jag" lately and the majority have been good

books. This one was also.

Some years ago I read what is apparently a prequel to this book...or started it. It was so slow off the mark I dropped it and never went back to the series.

But I liked this one...and it started off pretty slowly also. That means I need to go back and reread it...then I'll have to re-rate and re-review it. Oh well, what are we if we can't double check to see if we were wrong?

As noted this one picks up at a bit of a "leisurely" pace with the author laying out his pieces on the game board. Once they are finally set up to his satisfaction however he touches the spark to the fuse and sets off the action.

Let me say here that this is not a deep literary tome to be perused by those seeking great philosophical insights...but if you've picked up a book titled Star Corps looking for that there may be other problems you need to deal with so I won't belabor the point.

What'ja got here is prime, grade A literary junk-food. It's brain candy of the highest order.

So...be prepared to clean up and air out the house once you've read it to get rid of the smoke, fire, blood, wreckage and so on. Then sit back and enjoy...until of course you get to the inevitable cliffhanger ending. Then go out and pick up the next one.

sigh.

Andrew says

This book is like a mix of Starship Troopers and Stargate SG-1, but with the United States Marine Corps instead of the Air Force. It has several staples of good military sci-fi - sentient aliens (who in this case have probably played a part in humanity's evolution), a coming of age story for a young man, and lots of fighting with high-tech weapons.

The Legacy trilogy occurs after the Heritage trilogy, which I have not read yet. Anyone can jump in here and get up to speed on the situation, both on a galactic and personal scale. The world-building (or universe-building) reminded me of Stargate, but it has original features and is well thought out. (view spoiler)

The only problem I had with this book is that it seemed to drag in the middle. There are a lot of descriptions, and for a while it was hard to slog through the details. Then the story picked up and I had more fun.

If you like military sci-fi, this is for you.

Andreas says

This book one 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 satisfactorily. 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.

Descendants of the An, prehistoric overlords of Earth, have been discovered on a planet in a nearby star system. Suddenly, the delegation sent there is attacked by these "Ahannu". The Marines send a relief expedition on a ten year voyage (one way) to regain control. This book introduces the Marines featured in the first two books of the trilogy, in particular John Garroway, descendant of the main characters from the Heritage Trilogy. The Ahannu are just a bit player in galactic terms, though.

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>

Michael says

This is the 1st book in the Legacy Trilogy by Ian Douglas. This book takes place about 60 years after the events in the last book of the Heritage Trilogy. Once again the Space Marines have been called upon to serve their country and their planet. Only this time it's at another star system. The star system is about 8 light years from Earth and even with our most advanced space ships the trip will take about 10 years just to get there. The crew and the Marines will be in hibernation for the trip so between that and time dilation from traveling at near light speed it will seem as if only a few months have passed. They have gone to the Llalande star system to free captured human slaves from the AN, a race who had visited Earth nearly 10,000 years ago and were nearly destroyed by another alien species known as "The Hunter's Of The Dawn". They had taken human slaves from Earth and fled to the planet Ishtar in the Llalande system. It is now up to the Space Marines to free these human slaves. This is first rate Military Science fiction and I highly recommend it!
