



Wings of Fire

Dale Brown

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Wings of Fire Details

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From Reader Review Wings of Fire for online ebook

Dennis says

Although I'm still reading and enjoying Dale Brown's books, he's getting a bit outside what could feel realistic. It's fun, with amazing new weapons, but just doesn't feel "real". It is a good read though.

Ultan says

Patrick McLanahan flies into a storm of troubles in a spectacular new thriller, packed with high-adrenalin flying action and adventure.

Ostracised by the government, the Air Force and even his own family, Patrick McLanahan has reached rock bottom. Or so he thought. While testing cutting-edge weapons in the skies over Libya, he and his private team are drawn into a power struggle between North Africa's rulers. In the face of tragic loss, unexpected defeat and ultimate betrayal, the ex-USAFA general must quickly decide where his loyalties lie. For it may be too late to stop the destruction rolling across the Sahara. And this could be McLanahan's final battle.
"When a former pilot turns his hand to thrillers you can take their authenticity for granted. His writing is exceptional and the dialogue, plots and characters are first class...far too good to be missed"

Kerwin Jn says

a good techno thriller

TheIron Paw says

I've read a couple of early Dale Brown and found them poor to mediocre, but thought I'd try this for a holiday read. Turned out to be a waste of time: predictable plot, cardboard/stereotyped characters etc. I was half way through this when I found a book exchange shelf in an inn with Terry Pratchett's "Interesting Times" - it was a great exchange for me.

Sandy says

Excellent, even if overly descriptive.

Troy says

Awesome story! Author has an incredible grasp of military hardware and tactics.

Doug says

As I have come to expect from Dale Brown, this story is excellent. I was exposed to tons of technological aeronautics (too much sometimes, yes) and concurrent personal story development and I loved every moment of it. Several unforeseen circumstances arise and some have unexpected results. A wide array of bombing and strafing events wowed me while keeping me intrigued.

I haven't found a Dale Brown book yet that I didn't love.

Ed says

#10 in the Patrick McLanahan series.

#10 - Patrick McLanahan series - Forcibly retired Air Force Gen. Patrick McLanahan leads the Night Stalkers on secret humanitarian ops. His latest contract, from Big Oil, is to destroy missile sites set up by Libyan president Zuwayy, a Muslim fanatic who deposed Khadafy and wants Egypt's oil fields. Zuwayy kills Egypt's president; the president's widow, former American air force pilot Susan Bailey Salaam, barely escapes. Patrick's team attacks during the uproar and destroys the missiles, but many soldiers are captured, including Patrick's wife, Wendy. Susan, wildly popular in Egypt, decides to run for president and sees the Night Stalkers as her secret weapon against Zuwayy's aggression. Needing a base from which to rescue Wendy, Patrick agrees to help Susan take action when a deadly nerve gas wipes out an Egyptian army post. Meanwhile, the Night Stalkers' weapons lab in Nevada is facing a coup led by the parents of a child science prodigy who takes laser weapons to a new level and gives the Stalkers a deadly edge.

Jan Thong says

entertaining

Robin says

This one isn't quite as heavy on "new" technology as previous entries in this series, but focuses more on the tactical use of the equipment that the previous several books developed. While the battle scenes were somewhat interesting, they were also, to my mind, a bit unbelievable. While I can buy into the "tin man" battle armor and systems, I have problems with the fact that only 1-3 men in this armor can defeat whole platoons and brigades of heavy armor, helicopters and other heavy weapons.

Also, the main character, Patrick McLanahan, who had been a quite engaging character in previous books, was extremely unemotional and one-dimensional in personality, especially in light of his personal losses. It isn't until the end of the book that we start to see the old character return to form.

However, I will be interested in reading the next several volumes due to the introduction of a pre-teen physics and weapons systems genius. Dr. Kelsey seems like a very interesting character to develop and works well with John Masters' character. I look forward to their partnership in future books.

Ed says

I questioned why I finished this book and came up with two reasons. One, I have a compulsion to do so. Two, I wanted to see if Brown could work out an ending that didn't strain all credulity.

Although, this book pretends to be military fiction, it is actually science fiction. The weapons which are described in excruciating detail are often a figment of someone's imagination. The scenarios are always set in some indeterminate near-future.

The plotting is spotty. At one point the story line skipped two or three events that we were supposed to figure out led to the event we were reading about. Characterizations are cardboard-like. The bad guys are unremittingly bad and the good guys are perfect. The piece de resistance was the introduction of a nine year old girl-genius with an MIT PhD, who could design weapons that experienced engineers could not even imagine. Talk about Childhood's End.

There was a time in the distant past when I liked Dale Brown's output. Those times are gone. Like Tom Clancy, he has gone as far with this genre as he can go. The ending of the story, here, was beyond belief. Even the practice of allowing weird things to intercede in a science fiction novel were of no use.

I doubt if I will read any more of his books.

Mark says

Very entertaining and fast paced military techno-thriller; not much down time during the story due to multiple plots going simultaneously. Over the top in some spots, corny in others, and better than many movies I've seen lately... 4 stars

Henri Moreaux says

Patrick McLanahan is back into the action in *Wings of Fire*.

It's not a bad book, and 10 books into the series there certainly is the danger of an author falling into the same old - same old trap; in order to avoid this two main characters of the series are knocked off. This seems to be a bit too far in the opposite direction though for my tastes. It was all a bit cheesy and underwhelming, one of the deaths didn't seem to link into the plot much, yeah Pat's sad but it quickly fades into the background only to be brought up at convenient points.

That being said, it's a pretty good techno-thriller and there are worse ways to spend an afternoon.

Neil says

This book was LOOOOOOOONNNNNNG! I realize it was over 440 pages, but it still took a long time to read. I cannot say it was nearly as ‘good’ as the first time I read it; I do not remember being that impressed with it the first time I read it, now that I think about it. The character development was so-so, the plot was okay, and the flow of the story was boring/slow/sluggish. It was not an exciting read. So why did I finish it? Because I have this annoying tendency to finish what I started in hopes that it will get better and redeem itself by the time I finish it. It was an okay book; not the best, but most definitely not one of the worst I have ever read.

(view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

This book was nutso crazy, in some respects. It had cool technology (view spoiler), a Libyan rebel prince (view spoiler), a former female USAF officer ‘now’ married to the Egyptian president, assassinations, Russian mobsters, a new formation of a United Arab Republic, Islam apparently ascendant in Africa, oil fields, nuclear weapons fired in anger, spies, murder, revenge, and a female Russian bodyguard/assassin with bizarre sexual fetishes matched only by her [apparently] exquisite beauty.

It also had President Thorn in charge of the US, so we get more of his brand of ‘government’ and ‘world leadership’ by doing nothing to assist America’s ally, Egypt, in her time of crisis with the Libyans. Susan, after being elected President of Egypt, calls Thorn to ask for his assistance in protecting Egypt from another Libyan attack. Thorn’s ‘international policy’ of refusing to use American troops to defend other countries is again restated in this novel [which, in some respects, does make sense; on the other hand, there are numerous treaty obligations that would require American troops be used to provide assistance if an allied nation were under attack]. Thorn says there is not enough evidence to warrant any kind of intervention on the part of the American military. Susan then tells of how Libya has already used nuclear bombs [neutron bombs] and plans to use more; the American President then tells the Egyptian President that if Libya is prepared to use “more” nuclear bombs, then America will in no way send more troops [or carrier battle groups] into the region to face a potential nuclear exchange. Susan’s question on page 336 was ‘brilliant’ when she asked” “My warning is real enough so you won’t send your ships anywhere near Egypt, but not real enough to assist us?” It was a valid question on her part.

The author has given the American President a bizarre form of ‘appeasement policy’ in this ‘scene’ because Thorn tells Susan maybe she should give Zuwayy what he wants to prevent another attack. This is similar to what Chamberlain did prior to WWII; he chose to appease Hitler in hopes that Hitler would stop attacking and conquering surrounding nations. It did not work. It is bizarre how Thorn does not see how his ‘international policy’ is no different than Chamberlain. At the same time, he does make a valid point that America is not the world’s police officer [my words, not the author’s this time, about being a global police officer] [337].

I saw in other reviews people comparing Kelsie Duffield with a book by Arthur C. Clarke called *Childhood’s End* because of Kelsie Duffield. Kelsie is a child prodigy and did get a little annoying in the book. At the

same time, she could be an interesting character at times. Jon Masters finally met his match in her! I'm on a rabbit trail, though. What I am getting at is that now I really want to read Clarke's book, based on the number of comparisons [albeit negatively in nature toward Brown's book].

It was an okay book. Despite taking me what felt like forever to read it, I am still glad I reread it.

Maynard says

Dale Brown's "Wings of Fire" is complex, smart, and exciting. Combine a futuristic U.S. weapons company with American mercenaries made up of former military elite, put them in an inflamed Egypt facing off against an aggressive Libya, and we have the ingredients of an explosive and fast-paced thriller. This was my first reading of Dale Brown, and I am now a fan. To be fair, not every reader of thrillers will find Brown's work readable, as he invests much time into detailing the technology. I found it incredibly interesting; others might not.
