



Stark's Crusade

John G. Hemry , Jack Campbell (Psuedonym)

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The Barnes & Noble Review

Stark's Crusade is the concluding volume of a popular military science fiction trilogy written by former U.S. Navy officer John G. Hemry. The first two books, *Stark's War* and *Stark's Command*, began chronicling the life of Sergeant Ethan Stark, a living military legend who is sent to the moon to take back control of what America believes is its property. (After the Cold War, America became the last superpower and dominated the world economically. Other nations, and corporations, were forced to begin colonies and manufacturing plants in space.) In the ensuing war, Stark realizes the war has nothing to do with peace or justice, but with greed and television ratings.

Stark's Crusade ends this epic adventure. Stark, now the acting commander of the rebel American military forces on the moon, must deal with the United Nations declaring him an outlaw while also taking on the entire American military and his own mutinous forces. (Paul Goat Allen)

Stark's Crusade Details

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Author : John G. Hemry , Jack Campbell (Psuedonym)

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From Reader Review Stark's Crusade for online ebook

Jessica says

An entertaining series became eye-rollingly silly in this final installment. The characters frequently compare themselves to the Spartan 300 and win through the power of American!Democracy! I'm surprised the cover wasn't of a crying bald eagle draped in the US flag.

Fred Hughes says

Jack Campbell (or John G Hemry which is his actual name) spins another space opera, this time on the moon, in this the third book in the Starks War trilogy (the others being Stark's War and Stark's Command). Stark is the commander on the moon although he still reports to the senior civilian position. The USA on Earth appears adamant that they retake the Moon base and keep sending more sophisticated deployments to do that. The latest being autonomous "robot" like creations.

Can Stark defeat someone without a soul ?

Can the Moon base be successfully defended if the USA on Earth sends all their resources ?

What about the unrest on Earth with what is happening there ?

Campbell wraps up this trilogy in eminent fashion.

Well developed characters. Nicely evolving story line. Well worth the time to read.

RECOMMENDED series and author.

Morgan Ives says

The Stark series, and in particular this final book, cemented Hemry as an author I admire. He managed to create a believable resolution to a complex and realistic situation. Even more, he created characters who face similar problems to what I face every day and whose decisions I look up to.

Throughout the books, the characters are faced with leaders who only lead for their own selfish interests and profits, at the expense of those beneath them. Sound familiar? It did to me. Stark's people are able to develop a better system, where the people on the front lines are given latitude to make their own decisions, rather than being micromanaged. In Stark's system, leaders function as broad decision makers who are there to facilitate the "grunts" and provide a buffer against outside repercussions.

I actually feel like I learned a lot from this series. While Hemry does not depict a Utopia, his solutions to the leadership problems facing us today--political, social, and military--are incredibly reasonable. I wish all the management at my work would read these books and take them to heart. The theme is not hard to pick out (it

is still a bit preachy in this last book), but I think it is worth preaching: Leaders should serve the people, not themselves.

Niels Bugge says

Half-way evaluation (if you feel like this during the book, don't give up!):

This series is turning into the opposite of everything I liked about the Lost Star-series :(The heavy-handed morality and remarkable good luck of the protagonists is getting annoying. And many of the limitations are simply plain weird:

How can the army claim any sort of moral superiority or behaviour? According to the book, the US have been using their military for jingoistic and dirty warfare. The soldiers are well aware of this, and warcrimes must have been committed by every grunt holding a rifle. Yet still the common soldier is portrayed as morally superior and supporting every stupid (and passifist) whim of the main protagonist.

Why should a decapacitation operation against a bunch of renegade soldiers cause a public outrage? The US does that kind of things with drones all the time today, and nobody complain about massive civilian casualties.

Why can't you kill fellow americans, if they attack you? What happened to "honoured traditions" like plain self defense?

Why bother about some constitution that has allowed government and cooperations to screw you over for centuries?

Why bother about a civilian society that has turned their back on you? And why should the civilians sympathise with you when you're causing a massive economic downturn threatening what poor livelyhood they have left.

Why not declare independence and hit back 'till the bullies stop bothering you?

Post book evaluation: Wrapped things up nicely, four stars.

Brandon says

This was a good series. Some of the elements reminded me of Al Steiner's Greenies universe. I enjoyed the ending.

Caleb says

This is the third and final book in John G. Hemry's Stark's War Trilogy.

When I first picked up this series i wasn't sure I would like it. I'm not much of a fan of science-fiction in general, and usually dislike military science-fiction. This book redeemed the genre for me. Without spoiling too much, I really like the way Stark chose to handle the final battle. It's good to see honor and loyalty win out, even if it means the risk of losing the end.

All in all a great series. I highly recommend it for anyone likes the genre and those of you out there looking to try something new.

Indy Kochte says

This book picks up after the events in Stark's Command. The story flows pretty well, and in most respects I think this book is a step better than the previous two, if only because of the character and world/environment development that has taken place over three books. It's a more complex story that is woven now than before.

Story summary: America back on Earth still wants its Lunar colony back, and wants the military forces there to be hanged. They try coercion, they try trickery, and they try direct attacks. Meanwhile other "enemy forces" (governments or corporations, whoever they are, remain nameless) attempt a direct attack or two, succeeding at first, but then are driven off by Stark and his division. There's even a minor rebellion in the ranks (kinda funny, rebellion against those who rebelled against the established order) that is put down non-lethally. Toward the end America is desperate and commits itself to direct attack upon the colony by using autonomous robot drones supported by the remaining human combat force America has. This was the only part of the book that glitched for me and felt more contrived than not, even though the stage was set earlier in the book for this battle to occur. It did allow for a good resolution to the series, and a way for Stark and his army to not have the unending hostility from America.

There is a lot of other action and interaction that I glossed over, and sacrifices made by some good characters in the book. Best for you to read it. :-)

All in all it was a good book and series. The only technical fault I could find with the series is Hemry's color description of the Moon. It is not the washed out gray many think it is. Rather, it is more tan and brown. Even being as involved in astronomy and space exploration as I am I did not really realize this until my interest was piqued to try to recreate some of the battles in the series through miniatures gaming, and I went to paint up a unit of 15mm soldiers. Something niggled at me about the color and camo schemes so I did a little research on what the true color of the Moon is. Turns out the Apollo astronauts gave a lot of descriptive color to the lunar surface, from tans to brown to brown-gray and chocolate brown. What you see during moonrise is closer to its real color than not. It's just that it's so bright the colors are washed out, and most photographs people have ever seen were black and white, so the cultural perception is that the Moon is gray. So I give Hemry a bye on this technical detail. :-)

Papal Bull says

By the third book I could see remarkable similarities with the author's series about the Lost Fleet. The Stark's War series was okay. The author's second try with the Lost Fleet was much better. I liked the Lost Fleet series. I also liked the spinoff series about the Lost Fleet. I did not like Stark's War that much, however it might be because I read the author's better work first.

The Stark's War series was on my list to read for about 8 years. There is not a great selection of military sci fi. This series would be at the bottom end. The third novel struggled throughout but I enjoyed the ending.

Robert says

This is the final volume of the story begun in "Stark's War."

I was surprised by the ending and felt it was appropriate. As with all of his other works, I thoroughly enjoyed this book and highly recommend it.

Elar says

A whole series have been nice insight to optimistic soldier who wants to improve military and its operations. A little bit too naive and over patriotic for my taste, but on the same time one possible future where bureaucracy and corporations are even more in the driver's seat and regular people just follow orders.

Adam Vanderlip says

A fun ending to the trilogy with big smiles all around. This book may be a bit gung ho USA at times but its heart is in the right place and I enjoyed it a great deal.

Tufty McTavish says

Some interesting scenarios in this one, but still way too much mil vs civ hoo-rah speeches and utter idiots in charge.

Daniel says

Another solid book and ends the trilogy quite nicely.

Jeff Yoak says

This was a solid and admirable finish to the series and good as a stand-alone military sci fi novel. Overall the series was a bit weak in my opinion and I think the author was basically learning as he did it. I probably would have abandoned it if I hadn't read and loved a later series by the author before this. It was interesting to watch his growth as an author through his first three books.

One pleasant surprise to this book is that he managed to make his hero much more compelling. In the previous book, Stark is a fairly simple, straight-forwardly good guy thrown into a tough situation and shining through. It is a common theme that heroics isn't so much a remarkable person as a normal and basically good person thrown into remarkable circumstances. The situation developed to allow creation of a much more substantial hero which is always a major plus for me in a story.

The initial themes of the dual dangers of technology enabling greater micro-management of soldiers by those far removed from the situation and of the increasing alienation between the military and civilian populations as the military gets smaller and pulled from a smaller subsection of society in a post-draft world remain constant through the series and are actually well wrapped up. An "If this continues..." theme can be a hard one to develop and it was way too heavy-handed in the first novel, but I believe it was elegantly handled by the end.

Dariusz says

W trzeciej cz?ci autor napcha? tyle frazesów o honorze, bohaterstwie i honorze Starka, ci??kim ?yciu i honorze podoficerów, g?upocie i braku honoru oficerów tamtejszych, honorze i honorze ?o?nierzy, ze zabrak?o miejsca na akcji? (nie licz?c fina?u). Ale za to by?o sporo o honorze. No i bohaterstwie. Ale g?ównie w rozmowach o tych?e.
