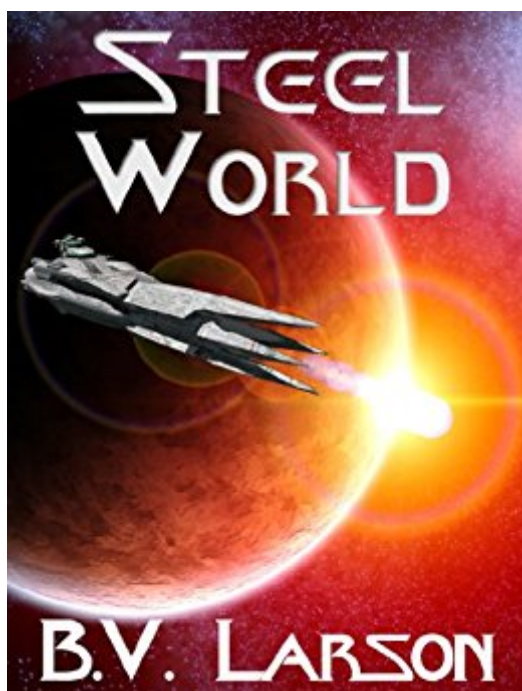


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Steel World (Undying Mercenaries Series Book 1)



Synopsis

In the twentieth century Earth sent probes, transmissions and welcoming messages to the stars. Unfortunately, someone noticed. The Galactics arrived with their battle fleet in 2052. Rather than being exterminated under a barrage of hell-burners, Earth joined their vast Empire. Swearing allegiance to our distant alien overlords wasn't the only requirement for survival. We also had to have something of value to trade, something that neighboring planets would pay their hard-earned credits to buy. As most of the local worlds were too civilized to have a proper army, the only valuable service Earth could provide came in the form of soldiers—someone had to do their dirty work for them, their fighting and dying. I, James McGill, was born in 2099 on the fringe of the galaxy. When Hegemony Financial denied my loan applications, I was kicked out of the university and I turned to the stars. My first campaign involved the invasion of a mineral-rich planet called Cancri-9, better known as Steel World. The attack didn't go well, and now Earth has entered a grim struggle for survival. Humanity's mercenary legions go to war in STEEL WORLD, bestselling author B. V. Larson's latest science fiction novel.

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Customer Reviews

Steel World has a lot going for it. Larson's imagination is so good, it's almost as if he really lives in the future world he's created. Not only does his main character join an army of sorts, Larson gives us every detail and the technology behind it. And when the technology was unknown, there's still enough detail for the reader to make an educated guess as to how it might work. Steel World is about a young man, James McGill, who runs out of options when his mother loses her job and his family has to move to a smaller apartment, and James has to drop out of college. With his world shaken to the core, James thinks he can just join one of the mercenary armies that the Earth hires out to fight the battle the more civilized worlds don't wish to, or just plain can't anymore. Confident in his abilities, James takes the test and waits to see which elite army will have him. Unfortunately for James, his test indicates that he's not qualified for any army but the one no one even knows exists. With no other options, other than to spend time on his parents' couch, James joins up and soon finds himself on Steel World fighting reptilians with a weapon that doesn't do much more than piss them off. I loved the characters, especially James who takes rebelling and makes it an art form. This is an exciting, well-written, character-driven novel with a world that feels as real as the one I'm living in now. Steel World is fun to read and I'd finished it before I'd even realized it, and of course I now want a sequel.

I listened to Steel World on audible. The story was written and very well read. My only complaint was that due to some language and sex scenes, I was not able to share Steel World with my kids. Neither were over the top, but both were inappropriate for them. I will continue with the series and look forward starting the next edition.

Somewhat familiar theme here with a rebellious young man in a shadowy covert paramilitary unit killing aliens with underpowered weapons. He is also a tail-hound who manages to be at the schwerpunkt of each tactical event. Latrine lawyers will love him. Enjoyed this book very much.

I was skeptical because I didn't think Larson could pull off another great series like Star Force, but he has, in spades. I loved loved the entire ride. It's totally UNIQUE with lots of great characters and the all of human life at stake but for different reasons. Reminiscent of Heinlien's Starship Troopers and Scalzi's Old Man War. Summary: In short the Galactic Empire shows in 2052 and says join us or you all die. We join of course, BUT in order to join you need something to trade with the galactic community. Our tech is laughable, our foodstuffs not valid, so we offer soldiers for hire. We are the cosmic mercenaries for hire. John McGill signs up after losing funding for college and with no other

prospects. Unfortunately, his test scores and psych profile aren't palatable to the top more popular easy Legions, so he joins a low ranking Legion who gets all the hard, dangerous jobs and is deployed to Steel World to protect some mines and settle a dispute between opposing factions of the aliens there. BUT, these aliens have tricked them into coming. You see, the galactic empire is watching and these aliens want to prove their better than the humans by beating us and taking our mercenary status away. If that happens, earth will have nothing to trade and will be destroyed. Let the battle begin. There's also things going on with John and his commanding officers but no spoilers. FUNNY: I'm not sure if Larson means it to be funny but I was lmao. No, it's not slap stick humor. It's just that when the troops die, they can be regenerated and that makes for some funny situations related to trying to get each other killed etc. Also, Larson is great at creating alien races with lots of personality and disdain for humans, which makes for funny situations. Here's a non spoiler example: (McGill and his team are caved in underground with the enemy and his commanding office suggests they kill themselves and wake up all regenerated, which is met with silence and appall. Blah Blah. I could go on forever. I'm a Star Force fan girl and now I'm a fan of this series as well. I can't wait for more .McGill is a great main character prone to pissing off his higher ups and finding ways to stay alive and win. Lots of great supporting characters too.

This is a hard to put down little book. I'm not the first to say that you'll read the second half of it in one sitting. I didn't believe the previous reviewer until I found myself doing exactly that. The characters just make you want to keep reading, once you get used to them, and the bizzare twists and turns Mr. Larson comes up with in this book don't let you put the book down. I mean, where in the world did he come up with the notions he played out in Steel World???... from beginning to end. I was honestly suprised over and over with where this book went. I couldn't have thunk some of these crazy deals, much less predict them reading. I haven't had a novel raise my eyebrows like that in a long time. Lots of ground combat, believable and entertaining characters, and plot twists that will leave you scratching your head and cheering... what's not to like? Not much. This is the best nice low price e-book I've picked up in a long while. I sure hope there will be follow ups, but he's set a pretty high bar with this one.

Downloaded this book to my Kindle several months ago and have just now gotten around to reading and reviewing it. If you like scifi, this novel is pretty good escapism and will hold the interest of most readers. The action and plot move along quite nicely. I just ordered "Dust World" this trilogy's sequel. If you are a bit more discriminating with your scifi this book might rate closer to 3 Star. There

are a number of minor editing errors and the "aliens" are not very original or particularly interesting - they are basically dumbish-dinosaurs and ray-gun toting lizards. At the same time, I'm personally drawn-in to the series strongly enough to see where it goes from here.

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