



A War to the Knife

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Tyler Callas is the pampered heir of a high-level Corporate Council executive, groomed from birth to take a seat beside her as a member of the ruling class of the Commonwealth society. But the bloody war with the alien Tahni has hit close to home and Tyler wants to join the military, something his powerful mother won't allow.

Desperate to escape her control, Tyler changes his identity to Randall Munroe, a product of the poverty-stricken Underground, and enlists in the Marines. There he flourishes, becoming a member of an elite Force Recon unit and striking deep behind enemy lines. But when his platoon is assigned to take back the colony on Demeter from the Tahni, the mission falls apart, most of his comrades are killed and Munroe is wounded, separated from his unit and left for dead on an enemy occupied world.

With no other choice, he organizes the civilian colonists into a resistance movement and begins fighting against the occupation with limited supplies and no support. As the situation becomes more and more desperate, what began as a high-tech, interstellar conflict will become a war to the knife...

A War to the Knife Details

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Author : Rick Partlow

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From Reader Review A War to the Knife for online ebook

David P. Duffy says

Solid "C, C+" Quick Moving Read

"Recon: A War to the Knife," authored by Mr. Rick Partlow, is the first book of a series, that reads relatively well, quickly moves (after the first 20%), has some missteps, and is middle-of-the-road, military SciFi.

The story takes place about a century and one-half in the future. Humanity has discovered a network of "wormholes" within the Sol System that branches out into the galaxy, construct separate FTL technology, colonized a great number of planets, fought one, abridged war against an alien race, the "Tahni," and is governed by a "Commonwealth," which in turn is controlled by a "Council," corrupt and self serving. An heir to one of the elites, falls afoul of his mother, has a temporary genetic redo, along with some cosmetic surgery, and joins the Commonwealth Marines to escape. Munroe, becomes a Recon Marine, is the sole survivor of a unit destroying ambush, on an operation to retake an occupied colony, is found by the remaining "resistance" elements, leads the guerrilla forces, and helps free the planet.

First, the "nuts and bolts," the writing, is only so-so. There are structurally many defects. The first quarter of the book is wasted on "flashbacks," explaining Munroe's mommy issues, his special, hero Marine, great-grandfather's mentoring, and sundry items. It just muddles the narrative flow, and undercuts both the great-grandfather/great-grandson relationship. Once out of confused timeline, the remainder of the book moves well. The author's gratuitous, insincere, and commercially greedy assignment of sexual orientation to a few passing characters, without foundation or story need, is lazy at best, dishonorable at worst. The storyline, plots, are reminiscent of guerrilla bands in the Pacific (with particular reference to the Philippines) Theatre against the Japanese Empire, and to lesser degree, partisans fighting the Nazis in the European Theatre, during WW II.

Overall, "Recon: A War to the Knife," is an "ok" read, not a particularly good or great one.

The book is recommended and was fully read via Kindle Unlimited.

Leif Dolan says

Knife fighting means that you get up close!

Very interesting character in this book. Hard charging Marine Recon. Out to save the world. Next comes the intelligence assets The Glory Boys

Well is cowboys and aliens. So you know who wins but how makes this a good book

Michael Wood says

Great Alien-Conflict/Military Space Opera Volume 1

Partlow has created a very interesting galaxy, in which humanity has been governed by the "Corporate Council" since the first war against an alien race. Humanoid, but not human, these aliens are driven by a religious belief that the galaxy is theirs...humanity disagrees, of course...

Our protagonist is the only child of one of the top corporate council members. His mother is a domineering and unemotional woman who engineered his DNA for success. However, our seventeen year-old hero is more impressed by her grandfather, a former U.S. Marine, with whom he has a close relationship. When the aliens attack again, he wants to join the Marines. An unusual (by human standards) war ensues.

The protagonist is believable, but this first volume is about becoming a Marine, rather than coming of age. A combination of the training offered by his grandfather and fortuitous events sets the plot, but this is much less believable. As in the majority of space operas, he is the luckiest man around.

RECOMMENDED AS: GOOD MILITARY SPACE OPERA...A LA "STARSHIP TROOPERS".

Layne says

Great characters, good story, worth the read.

This has all the pieces that I look for in the books that I look for. Action, relationships that matter, life and death scenarios that make me believe that the author has had some interaction with the real thing.

I did appreciate the cameo involving some aspects of "The Glory Boys" and reminded me how good that read was and to read it again.

Virginia says

Good plot, good characters what else could you ask for? Characters and dialogue were believable. Will read rest of series

Sgt Maj says

Good, Enjoyable Read

I felt author did a very good job in maintaining character development and action throughout entire story. Not sure how everyone feels about flashbacks, but most authors don't really understand how to use and strangle, kill their stories without realizing it. This author used flashbacks expertly to maintain action going throughout, no dead spots of dreary monologue for character, tech soapboxing.

Author obviously has mil knowledge and expresses mil action well -- rolling off your shot and MC saves his own life with an infantry fundamental, basic used for past few centuries. Movement is life -- solid knowledge n nuances throughout and reader learns weapon, equipment capability as it's used versus the standard classroom w pages of text readers have to go through as they get schooled in these new worlds we get introduced to. Not a fan of the standard break in story, get schooled for pages -- frequently boring techno speak - and back to where exactly were we?

Several issues -- some leaps of credibility here n there and other than MC, can't say you get emotionally involved w anyone else except for one. Maybe spoiler, but characters you get feel for, want to know more but aren't around after a few plus chapters.

Credible, entertaining, relate-able characters, interesting story and interesting 'universe', good tempo throughout. AND..... THANK YOU, AUTHOR! for not dragging us through boot camp, ITR, BITS, AIT, +,+,... Genre is overwhelmed w RPG authors using Emery like training authentication of their books.

Fred Burnam says

Wolf Squad

Book was a good read. I hope you have a good series. Keep up on your writing for you write a good book.
Luther

BobA707 says

Summary: Lots of action, reasonable plot the premise is not right, but overall not a bad story

Plotline: A bit one threaded and not too many surprises, but moves along nicely

Premise: I like the aliens but the political set up doesn't really work

Writing: Pretty good, gritty.

Ending: Our hero is a hero

Pace: Never a dull moment!

Simon Sobo says

A War to the Knife?

I don't know if the title has some hidden meaning, but it's an excellent story. Strong characters, believable dialogue and future events that seem entirely possible. An outstanding read and now I'm on to the next book in the series.
