



The Blackness Between

Howard Tayler

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This is the second print collection of Schlock Mercenary, and it is chock-full of new footnotes and sketches, plus 8 pages of never-before-seen bonus story explaining how Schlock got rich escaping from the circus. This 100 page, full-color collection can stand alone, but makes an ideal companion volume to Under New Management.

The Blackness Between Details

Date : Published November 15th 2006 by The Tayler Corporation

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Author : Howard Tayler

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Genre : Science Fiction, Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Humor, Fiction, Space, Space Opera

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Yashima says

The story is definitely picking up pace and drama. The drawing is improved. I am getting addicted to Schlock!

Child960801 says

Shorter but good.

Jessica says

Another great collection of Schlock, with all the expected humor, aliens, monkeys, and explosions. My favorite thing about the collections are the footnotes on nearly every page, as Howard's "explanations" of things are often more riotously funny than the strips, and that's saying a lot.

Bradley says

This was full of interesting conceptual space opera like planet sized dark matter entities that like to eat annies and yahoos that live on a huge chain of jacks-shaped space stations. It had delicious resolutions to the story arc, too, including a huge portion of self-delusion. I'm really getting a kick out of these.

Garrett says

I have to admit that the first volume (chronologically) didn't really pull me in. But, because I know Howard, I kept coming back to the story and the current storyline at the website. And, I started to get hooked.

Chronologically, this is the 4th (I believe) book in the series, and though Howard was still honing his art skills at the time, the storyline was very engaging and often hilarious.

I highly recommend the series and the web comic!

Shannan says

Tagon seemed to be especially stupid in this book. I enjoyed it immensely!

Gareth Otton says

This is the second Schlock story I have read and I found it much harder to read than the first one was.

I think that these stories are incredibly funny and I am sure that somewhere underneath all that humour there is a story somewhere that is quite interesting. The problem is that with every page more interested in a punchline than a story the whole thing feels disjointed and quite hard to follow with any interest.

In a world of stand up comedians, Schlock Mercenary would be the type that specialises in one liners and that style of humour just doesn't work well when part of a larger story line.

It is a shame as there is potential there. Hopefully it will be realised in the next book.

Jessica Petree says

Schlock's books are hilarious and awesome - I've barely got into the "good stuff" yet of the series, but this book cracked me up. So many great laugh-out-loud moments - Kevin continues to amuse; Breya is back and so much more!

Jesse Whitehead says

To review a Schlock Mercenary book is to shout redundancies at the heavens. The usual statements still apply – the art is getting better, the writing is getting better, the _____ is getting better.

Howard Taylor has created something completely unique in the world of story telling, and I'm not talking about how he made a main character look like a pile of poo and still lovable. Or maybe I am. I'm not really sure.

I first heard of Howard Taylor when I started listening to Writing Excuses – a podcast that he does with Dan Wells and Brandon Sanderson – and discovered that, while the others can be quite funny, he is the funniest of the lot. I was also impressed when he made the claim that he had a new comic up every day since his comic went live.

I decided to check it out and jumped right into the middle of the story. Nothing made sense for a while but it was funny enough that it carried me through until I started to understand.

Now I've started buying the early books – the comics that I missed – and I've come to learn something. Howard Taylor is not just telling a lot of jokes about a hero that looks like a pile of poo – though he does do that – he's detailing a future history that happens to be a poignant satire of our own western culture.

Satire is difficult because it has to be satirical – if that sounds tautological to you that's because it is – but that doesn't make it any less true. Howard Taylor is creating something here that is unique because it is funny and exciting and it makes sense and has great characters and is teaching me something about the way I think (I can't speak for everybody else). That last one seems the most important to me.

Read it.

Rachel says

I love these series of comic books! Goofy humor, great sci-fi plot, and the ominous hum of Schlock's plasma gun. What's not to like?

The author, Howard Tayler is one twisted, but very, very funny guy. He's also one of the nicest guys you'll meet.

Howard Tayler writes one of the longest running web comics. Check it out at <http://www.schlockmercenary.com>
Then buy the books, you won't regret it!

Nihonjoe says

Yet more fun from the mind of Tayler. Looking forward to more.

Kadja Draenor says

The second book published and the fourth chronologically, Howard continues to keep the story great and the jokes funny. As with all of the series, I suggest reading it! But go ahead and visit the website first.

Note: My rating may be biased by the fact that the author is a friend of mine. But only by one star, at the most. It really is good!

J.J. says

This story was slightly more confusing than I like, and ended a little bit oddly. A lot of new characters are introduced in a somewhat confusing manner. The clunkiness of the storyline was disappointing, but again, the writing and art *continue* to improve, so there's that. Obviously going to keep reading.

Vernon Ray says

"If Charlie's gonna dance the Foxtrot, I'm not gonna stand around wearing a dress." Captain Kerchak, page 29.

That is my favorite line ever from an endless supply of quotables from Tayler's work.

This book also contains the best moment (so far) for my favorite character Ellen (Elf) Foxworthy. Page 32,

I'm not going to spoil it for you.

(Also reading the print versions gives less bleary eye-ness than the online version.)
