



Rebel Winter

Steve Parker

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On the brutal battlefields of the 41st Millennium, the life of an Imperial Guardsman is harsh and short. On the snowy wastes of Danik's World, a regiment of Vostroyans is ordered to hold their ground to protect the retreat of other Imperial forces. When their own orders come to move back, they discover they have been stranded behind enemy lines. Cold, hungry and running out of supplies, trapped between rebel forces and hordes of orks, can the Guardsmen ever fight their way back to safety?

Rebel Winter Details

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Author : Steve Parker

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From Reader Review Rebel Winter for online ebook

Michael T Bradley says

For whatever reason this one just did not work for me. I've liked a fair amount of Parker's work, so I'm not sure if it was just him finding his 40K "voice" here or what. The first chapter was a horrible slog for me, and after that it got a little better, but the overall plot just held zero interest for me. I enjoyed the snooty commissar, his assistant, and the sniper, but everyone else was just painful to read about. Could be it gets a lot better in the latter half, but I did not make it that far.

Zaphied says

The cliffhanger at the end sounds like some shady Inquisition stuff. And of course it was interesting and so far as I can tell not followed up on. At least not by any novel fluff.

Christian says

A company of Vostroyan Firstborn must fight through Ork lines to bring a political prisoner back to base to be debriefed. It was a straight forward mission read full of action and moments of human interaction. The ending, although abrupt, showed how the soldiers in the field really didn't know about the intrigues at headquarters level.

Liam Carlington says

A tragic story of the imperial vostrian 5th battalion

Matt says

This book is basically orks vs. space Russians, and it's every bit as entertaining as you'd imagine. Steve Parker is one of the better 40k writers, and his other Imperial Guard novel Gunheads was very engaging, so I had high hopes for this book. I wasn't disappointed. Although the protagonists are total caricatures of Russian/Cossacks, the author manages to fill them with personality. The dialogue is average to good, but the pacing and plot are the high points here. Parker never lets up on the action and keeps the meat-grinder going. Heavily recommended for any fan of the IG.

El-jorro says

Bookworm Speaks!

Warhammer 40k

Rebel Winter

by Steve Parker

Acquired: Half-Price Books

Series: Warhammer 40,000 Novels

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Black Library (July 31, 2007)

Language: English

The Story: On the brutal battlefields of the 41st Millennium, the life of an Imperial Guardsman is harsh and short. On the snowy wastes of Danik's World, a regiment of Vostroyans is ordered to hold their ground to protect the retreat of other Imperial forces. When their own orders come to move back, they discover they have been stranded behind enemy lines. Cold, hungry and running out of supplies, trapped between rebel forces and hordes of orks, can the Guardsmen ever fight their way back to safety?

The Review: Bookworm is a member of many fandoms across the creative hemisphere. Star Trek, Star Wars, My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic, Fallout and a few others. Warhammer 40k stands out among all of them. For one thing, Bookworm owns more books about the 41st Millennium than all the others combined. Also because of something a little more esoteric. Warhammer 40k is one of the most fantastical and one of the most visceral human franchises he has ever seen.

Star Wars and Star Trek have one thing in common: They represent idealism. Pure and Noble heroes out to save the day in a rich universe ripe for exploration. Warhammer 40k on the other hand, is the complete inverse. It may be a rich universe, but it is a universe of darkness. The stars are filled with monsters and madmen that want nothing better than to bite your face off among other terrible things.

Life for the majority is a merciless grind and the 'heroes' of such a universe are monstrous beings crafted to freakish proportions by half-forgotten sciences and oftentimes the product of entire cultures whose only purpose is to battle. Literally...the entire industrial and social output of the planet Vostroya is to produce soldiers and weapons for the never-ending Imperial war effort.

One such culture is the Planet Vostroya and the Vostroyan First Born. There is no going home for them. Maybe one or two of them may live long enough to go back and train the next generation of Vostroyans, the rest will die unsung.

This immediately makes the characters, not so much relatable, but appealing. They already have a gripping narrative. The inklings of the larger Vostroyan culture that filter through the narrative are very fascinating. The history of previous campaigns also add an interesting context to explain the Vostroyan's what they are and also highlighting the brutal nature of the galaxy they live in.

What was really one facet of the story that kept Bookworm going was the same thing that kept the regiment going: They never gave up. That is true for a great many stories in Warhammer 40k. No matter how hopeless it became. No matter how many died. No matter how much the enemy outnumbered them, the Vostroyan's never stopped fighting. To do otherwise would spit on their homeworld and their Emperor, to which to both

they dedicated their lives. The whole text could be seen as one, long, last stand, which are always a great sell.

One scene that exemplifies this is where the regiment is forced to drive through a firestorm and when they make it, they realize that the driver has died. He was being burned alive throughout the ordeal and never stopped or even cried out. As said by the leader, "he died a true Vostroyan." That scene really grips at the heartstrings. There are several more in the book and instead of bringing them down, it only pushes them forward.

Final Verdict: In spite of its fantastical surroundings, *Rebel Winter* and indeed many of the tomes about the Imperial Guard are probably the most realistic depictions of war there are. There is little glory, just a long grind. It involves soldiers that are tired and hungry and not feeling particularly brave. When victory is achieved, it often feels hollow, but is not much else to do but square their soldiers and go on to whatever comes next. That is Warhammer 40k is so addicting. It is so relatable on so many levels. Even in a culture as corrupt and oppressive as the Imperium of Man, noble traits like duty, honor, loyalty, self-sacrifice still have not died.

Four Snowflakes out of Five

thecultureworm.blogspot.com

Paulo "paper books always" Carvalho says

This was the third book by the Imperial Guard novels. The first *Fifteen Hours* by M. Scanlon and *Deathworld* by Steve Lyons. What can I say? It continued the great debut and the second book (my favourite of the series).

The book had a decent Commissar for once... Reading several book you tend to get incompetents, or heroes that completely fail to act like Commissars. He was also interesting, in that he didn't always get on with everyone else. In fact, many of the characters didn't...usually anyone the heroes don't like turns out to be a coward, traitor or deserter at some stage later on. That didn't happen here and that was very good. Anti-Cliche. The soldiers acted like soldiers and die the Medicae in the end of the book instead of the "fight to the death" to save the wounded just give them something to ease them off into death so the orks can't get to them before he goes to fight to his death. In the beginning and the end the main character is on trial... I think that there wasn't much point putting the trial in, and no real reason at all sticking Space Marines, the Inquisition and an infil-traitor in. Not all books in 40k need SMs and Inquisitor. But it was not that important and relevant to story. In the end I would recommend this book to anyone who wanted to read a Soldiers point of view book. As I would recommend *Fifteen Hours*.

Georgy Wilband says

Steve Parker's first written 40K book and my last one of his to read. I still really like his style although I can see how it has developed a little since this first novel. He is a master builder of characters that you want to know about and most importantly care about. The story is not to be overlooked however as he weaves a good

tale and end with the promise of more to follow. I am hoping he will write more for Black Library.

Darkcharade says

certainly a story you won't regret reading but overall just average for a w40k novel. sure there's a few interesting twists near the end which could set up a few very good sequels but as they are they're simply dead ends with no plan to finish them off. personally unfinished stories are a pet peeve of mine and while he may have meant to revisit the story he thus far hasn't.

Maitland says

The key thing to 40k books is being realistic about what they are and aren't going to be. These here are 4 pulpy, ridiculous, action-laden stars. If you like the universe then dive in.

David Hellstrom says

first book on the Vostroyan's, and one of the best stories on the Imperial Guard.

Jamie Wates says

Similar to fifteen hours, it is also really addicting but also gory.

John says

It's an OK book for those die-hard 40K fans, especially if you play IG. Went kind of slow and I was hoping they'd build up some background on the two protagonist units (orks and chaos).

Nicholas Mastrodicasa says

Imperial Guard against Orks, the most satisfying mix.
