



Throneworld

Guy Haley

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Book 5 of The Beast Arises

A new threat arises on Holy Terra – the eldar, attacking the Imperial Palace from beneath. And in the depths of space, an unlikely alliance discovers a secret that might save the Imperium from the marauding orks. But can they survive long enough to tell anyone?

The Imperium's situation has never been more grim – an ork attack moon hangs over Terra, and ork armadas ravage human space. To make matters even worse, eldar strike at the heart of the Imperial Palace, forcing humanity's defenders to fight on two fronts at once. Though it seems nothing can stop the orks – neither brute force, science, nor faith – an unlikely alliance in the furthest reaches of space uncovers the first clue how to defeat the greenskins. The Adeptus Astartes now face an almost impossible task - taking news of this discovery back to Terra through a galaxy teeming with orks.

Mysteries abound as the eldar make their presence felt in the midst of humanity's war for survival. And fans of the Imperial Fists and Iron Warriors will be thrilled – or appalled – to see rivalries (sort of) put aside as loyalists and traitors work together against their common foe...

Throneworld Details

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From Reader Review Throneworld for online ebook

Daniel says

I read this in one sitting and it was a good addition to The Beast Arises series. I am not quite sure how many there are in this series, but this one was as good as the better ones in the set so far. The Ork moon still menaces the Earth and the dissembling and chaos from the High Lords of Terra is still strong and in full swing. Meanwhile, the Last Wall has been called by Slaughter, the last living Imperial Fist Space Marine in existence. Successor Chapters and the might of the Black Templars come to his aid, and with a request from Mars, a vast force is assembled, shutting down an interesting discovery, an Ork gate. This is the reason the Orks stream forth in numbers beyond imagining. Also, the giant War Boss of the Orks is defeated, though this doesn't seem to matter much in the grand scheme, as it is kind of a forgotten detail in the overall story arch.

This book ends with another cliffhanger and I can't wait to see what happens next. As a reader of many WH40K books, this series is a strange beast, in the fact that it takes place many years in the future and many things have changed in the 40K universe. It is a very unusual and fresh take on the genre and so far I have been delighted to take it all in.

Danny

William Spencer says

The Beast Arises series is a fantastic set of books, that really show the scale of a galactic disaster while keeping the stories individual and compelling.

That said I think Throneworld is a dip in the series so far. The action is great and the fight back against the Orks really starts going, but it plays a lot like a filler. No story arcs really wrap up or move on too much, and those segments that do start, like the Templars and the Iron Warriors, really doesn't progress the overall story too much.

The last four books pushed the momentum along and this book, though filled with fast paced action, does nothing to speed along the story. I look forward to the rest of this series still, up there with the Horus Heresy.

Patrick Rauland says

There wasn't much of an Eldar presence for one to be on the cover.

Glyn says

A satisfying continuation of the impressive "Beast arises" arc.

Whilst there is nothing horrendous nor indeed tedious about the book which does flow very well there is a

slight hint of mid series lag here. There appears to be a sense that halfway in there is a need for a turning of the tide which is fine, though the "weakness" discovered does not appear to have been a part of the curb stomping defeats the Orks have given the Imperium up to now. Purists may wonder at the reasoning behind the sudden improvement of Imperial forces as well but I am content to let the series play out, it does appear narratively significant.

Characterisation continues to be strong and the Dreadnought Marshal character is a brilliant addition you actually read him with a Brian Blessed voice over playing in your head! Some of the fights seem to go the way they do purely out of narrative necessity rather than fluff expectation but that is a small complaint.

Nick Krump says

Best so far.

I wondered what would happen when multiple authors used the same characters in the same series and how much the characters' would change between authors. This series flows so smoothly that there isn't even a way to discern between them other than to say that the character growth and the storyline are benefitting. Great series so far and diving right into book 6.

Dave says

When Games Workshop/Black Library announced last year's long "Warhammer 40,000" event story line, "The Beast Arises," I was pretty skeptical. I wasn't exactly sure how a 12 part novel series about a massive invasion by the Orks (a faction that I find interesting in a force of nature sort of way, but never really as compelling villains) could maintain momentum and my interest. The kick off novel to the series though, "I Am Slaughter," was by Dan Abnett, one of my favorite 40K and comic writers. So I decided to give "The Beast Arises" series a shot.

"I Am Slaughter" was pretty good, but I was kind of underwhelmed by book two, and book three had some interesting parts. Then something surprising happened with book four, "The Last Wall." I suddenly found myself won over and invested in the conflicts and characters of "The Beast Arises" event. I'm happy to report that my enthusiasm has only grown after reading book five, "Throneworld," by Guy Haley.

I was prepared not to like "Throneworld" because it's cover featured a member of another 40K faction I find pretty underwhelming, The Eldar. 40K's space elves do play sort of a large role in the opening chapters of "Throneworld," but they are not a huge part of the novel. Haley handled them well too. It was interesting seeing them running wild on the Imperium of Man's home turf of Terra, and their interactions with one of the series main character's Drakan Vangorich, the Grandmaster of the Imperium's office of assassins, were pretty interesting. Plus those interactions set the stage for some other compelling dynamics that could be explored in the series second half.

One faction that does play a decent sized role in "Throneworld" that Haley does a pretty fantastic job with is the Adpetus Mechanicus, the Machine Cult of Mars. I used to have zero interest in the Mechanicum. I

thought they were one of the most boring factions in the world of 40K. Then I read Graham McNeil's "Horus Heresy" novel, "Mechanicum" and realized how interesting they could be, and in "Throneworld" Haley further illustrated why Mars is one of the most intriguing worlds in 40K. Quite a bit of the action in the novel involves mystery and intrigue on the Mechanicum homeworld as an ambitious and power hungry Fabricator General advances a secret plan that might lead to victory over the Orks and civil war against the Imperium. Standing in his way are several of Vangorich's agents.

The rest of the action in "Throneworld" involves 40k's most ubiquitous faction, the Imperium's Space Marines, which is fine because Haley utilizes them in fun and fascinating ways. Space Marine stories need action and there's plenty of really cool, intense, and apocalyptic set pieces in "Throneworld," but like any good stories the best Space Marine tales are ones that feature strong, vibrant, fully realized characters. There are plenty of those types of Space Marines in "Throneworld."

The most fascinating of course is Koorland AKA Slaughter, the last surviving member of the Imperial Fists. Watching him rise from the tragedy that cost him his Battle Brothers and grow and change from a front line soldier into a cunning galactic hero and leader has been one of the most satisfying parts so far of "The Beast Arises."

In "Throneworld" you get to see Koorland kick-ass and continue to grow as he leads "The Last Wall," an army of different Space Marine legions descended from the Imperial Fists, into battle against an Ork Attack Moon (I'll never get tired of typing the words Attack Moon! So cool and imaginative!) and deals with the treachery and machinations of the people in charge of the very world he's trying to defend, The Lords of Terra.

My favorite parts of "Throneworld" though had to deal with some Space Marines new to the larger action of "The Beast Arises," the Imperium aligned warriors of the fanatical Black Templars legion and the Traitor Legion known as the Iron Warriors. Part of the reasons I find Space Marine Legions so fascinating is each Legion has it's own cultures and customs. I have not read much about the Black Templars and in "Throneworld" Haley shows off their best and worst traits. The Iron Warriors are allowed to be equally nuanced as well. You don't forget they betrayed humanity and the Emperor, but their main representative in the book is allowed to be both articulate in his reasons and charismatic.

Kalkator, the Iron Warriors, leader is a fun and interesting character. So is Magneric, the relentless Black Templar High Marshall and cybernetic Dreadnought that is leading a force to hunt down and destroy Kalkator and his grand company of Iron Warriors. Their scenes together are fascinating because of their dynamic as both hunter and hunted and former friends. Plus you get to see what happens to that dynamic when it's confronted by the savage monstrosity of the Orks. I hope to see more of Kalkator, Magneric, and their respective Legions in future installments of "The Beast Arises."

So with "Throneworld" my investment and excitement over "The Beast Arises" series has grown. I look forward to reading the next entry in the series, and more books by Guy Haley. I believe this is my first book I've read of his and I can't wait to read his return to "The Beast Arises" with "The Beheading" (The final book in the series) and "Dark Imperium," which moves the timeline of 40K forward in some directions that sound exciting.

Anthony Giordano says

"So, here we are at Book 5 of The Beast Arises. Where we last left off, the Proletarian Crusade ended with a true "Last Wall" - moving mountains on the ork moon over Terra which closed shut on the Crusaders which had made it to the surface. Only one survivor is confirmed - Galatea Haas, the Arbiter who served as one of the story's protagonists.

Following this, the near unthinkable happened: ambassadors from the ork moon came down to demand surrender from the High Lords. Yes, orks walked through the hallowed halls of the Palace on Terra. And they made utter fools of the people in charge. As if this wasn't enough of an affront to all Imperial sensibilities, ringing alarms hailed the arrived of new guest within the Palace: the Eldar.

I had equal amounts of excitement and trepidation heading into Throneworld. I was psyched that Haley was finally getting an installment in. My worry? Eldar. Personal taste. All respect due to those who like the Eldar, but I really can't take them. So, I was a bit worried that they would be a focal part of the story; meaning that no matter how well Haley wrote the book, I still wouldn't enjoy it because, you know, Eldar.

Then again, someone recently told me that I worry too much. They are correct.

Haley's Throneworld is a pretty outstanding entry in the Beast Arises story line. I would go so far as to say that it is tops as far as pure authorial quality is concerned. Haley gives us a book that, instead of focusing primarily on one or two of the continuing arcs, while the others inch along, budgets the pages fairly among all existing storylines. He does this seamlessly within the lean page count; giving us what satisfies like a 300 page in a tome that boasts under 200.

But how was it overall? And what of the introduction of the Eldar? Synopsis and my take to follow, with some small spoilers. There will be a major spoiler section, later on, when I list the few complaints I have with this book.

So, it turns out that the Eldar involvement in Throneworld is pretty much contained to the first 20 or so pages. It turns out that the Eldar interlopers dashing through the palace are a Harlequin group, led by one Lhaerial Rey, who has been sent by Farseer Ulthran to deliver a message directly to the Emperor. And so, this merry motley group cuts a bloody swathe through the ragged remnants of the Imperial Palace's defenses.

Meanwhile, Koorland leads the assembled Last Wall on a mission to disable the ork moon lingering over Terra. On the way in, Slaughter receives some very helpful advice from Vangorich regarding the nest of vipers that masquerade as the High Lords of Terra.

Also, we get some more information regarding what is transpiring on Mars under Fabricator General Kubik's watch (Kubik being one of the only High Lords that isn't an absolute moron). Vangorich's assassin/spy cell is uncovering dark and unsettling secrets; but the closer they get to the truths, the more exposed they become. And, again, Kubik is a man-machine that plans well for these contingencies.

Finally, we get a story arc involving Dreadnought-Marshal Magneric of the Black Templars. In a bit of a rogue move, Magneric ignored the call to the Last Wall, opting instead to continue his millennium-long pursuit of Warsmith Kalkator, leader of the Iron Warrior contingent introduced in the last book. Their game of cat-and-mouse culminates on the sand-blasted world of Dzelenic IV, where they must quickly choose alliances in an urgent game of "enemy of my enemy is my....friend or enemy?".

That's the overview. Now, let's look at it element by element."

You can read my full review here:

<http://hachisnaxreads.blogspot.com/20...>

Taddow says

Closer to 3.5 stars in my opinion.

Overall I enjoyed this novel. The deeper intrigue of the politics of Terra and the Space Marine Chapters that make up the Last Wall were enjoyable. The space battles were awesome. The land battles and boarding actions were awesome as well. And seeing the Officio Assassinorum plot thread starting to reveal itself was good stuff. I especially like the scenes of the infiltration of the Eldar and the Harlequin attempt to breakthrough the Imperial Guard and Adeptus Custodes into the inner sanctum of the Emperor to deliver their "message." But (minor spoiler) herein lies the weakest part of the novel. This message seemed too generic to justify the presence of the Eldar in the book, not to mention the vanquishing of the entire Harlequin troupe sent to deliver it. Maybe if the message had more significant meaning (like insight into stopping the Ork threat) then I could see the justification for the extreme means to deliver it. Perhaps there will be more to the message in a future book in the series, but at the time of this review, I saw it only as a way to have the Eldar/Harlequins and Custodes play a role in the story and describe their awesomeness, but little else.

Abhinav says

You can read the full review over at my blog:

<https://shadowhawksshade.wordpress.co...>

A galaxy-wide Ork invasion that heralds the rebuilding of their lost empire on an even greater scale yet. Political bureaucracy and infighting that paralyses the Imperial response. Secret and possibly traitorous experiments being carried out by the Cult Mechanics. Terra itself directly threatened. A Chapter lost. Entire sectors lost. Possible Chaos interference. The Beast Arises series has it all it seems. The previous four novels have been rather revolutionary in many ways, and as the story progresses there's always another big twist just around the corner.

With Guy Haley's Throneworld, the series marks the third straight novel which is among some of the best works to come out of Black Library in the past five years. I've read a fair number of novels from Guy Haley and he's always impressed me with his narrative styles and his plot twists. That all holds true for Throneworld as well, in which we see the Eldar themselves getting involved with the Ork-Imperium conflict, even as the larger narrative progresses well beyond the weirdness happening on Terra, for the stalwart sons of Dorn have managed to consolidate their power and beginning anew their campaign against the Orks.

Note: Some major spoilers from the previous novels and this novel are mentioned here.

In David Annandale's The Last Wall we see something rather shocking when some Ork ambassadors visit Terra from the attack moon that is besieging the capital world of the Imperium. That in itself was incredibly

shocking, but of course the writers just didn't leave it at that did they? And with the whole Proletarian Crusade that happened in the middle of the novel, itself a high-risk, high-reward gambit that failed, this was just the Orks rubbing the collective Imperium's incredible bad luck in its face. At the end of the novel, we saw that following the visit from the Ork ambassadors, an Eldar strike force penetrates the crumbling defenses around Terra and straight into the Imperial Palace. All of which sets the stage for some more fantastic moments in Guy Haley's *Throneworld*, which is a knocker in the same league as Gav Thorpe's *The Emperor Expects*.

We know from the pages of the *Horus Heresy* novels that Farseer Eldrad Ulthran of the Eldar Craftworld Ulthwe is a psychic contemporary of the Emperor himself. And that the Eldar tried numerous times before the Heresy unfolded to stop it in its nascency and that they failed utterly. So fifteen hundred years on, what is really left for them to do? That is one of the main questions that Guy attempts to answer in this novel and I think he provides the foundation of some solid responses to those when Eldrad sends a troupe of Harlequins, the Eldar version of traveling monks who are peerless warrior-mystics as well, to the Imperial throneworld.

The entry of the Eldar into the conflict had me really excited. They've always been one of the more interesting xenos species within the Warhammer universe and I always enjoy reading more about them. On that front, the narrative that Guy set up was a bit of a disappointment since the Eldar don't do anything too significant as events unfold. However, he does give us some downright fascinating action scenes as the Harlequins go up against the Imperial Palace's defense troops, the elite Lucifer Blacks, and even the Adeptus Custodes who are the personal defenders of the Emperor himself! That part was just mind-blowing to me. All throughout the series this has been a question that has really nagged at me: what are the Custodes doing in this conflict? This all-too brief look at them did a lot to assuage those concerns and only made me wish to see more.

What I also loved about all of this was how this side-plot intersects with the side-plot involving Inquisitors Wienand and Veritus who are currently fighting amongst themselves to prove their own philosophies the superior of the other. At this point in time, the Inquisition operates as a grand monolithic entity, without the specialization of roles it has adopted by M41, so this conflict between the two Inquisition agents makes sense and the coalescing of their different perspectives is something that I was reading very intently. We are still very early in the "history" of the Imperium, at a time when much of what we see finally in M41 comes into being, and that's one of the strengths of both the series in general and *Throneworld* in specific.

Andrey Nalyotov says

Here goes another episode of our splendid book/TV series — *The Beast Arises*. This time it was an episode mastercrafted by a talented fella Guy Haley.

As an author he has a lot up his sleeve. His own sci-fi, W40K novels and even his first HH novel (which even if with the few setbacks) was almost a masterpiece.

As with every TV show some episodes are better/worse than others. In case with "*Throneworld*" — it's definitely an improvement for a series. A very good episode — to set things of for the midseason finale.

Book is fantastically written — Guy Haley style is truly great as an author and each of his books are a joy to read. It's easy to read, understand and think over.

Minor spoilers ahead.

As with good TV show — TBA books has a width range of main cast with addition of several minor characters, which get's from book to book and definitely has a part to play. Same goes here with our lovely small role of an Arbiter, who was left stranded on the orc moon after the 'illustrious' Proletarian crusade in

book 4.

The main cast is doing exactly the same, as in the previous books — politicing, fighting, scheming and planning for the future.

Novel follows the same line mentioned in the previous books — Terra, Sons of Dorn, Mars and elsewhere. At Terra, by book 5 Drakan is still the same charming fella he was in the previous novels, and the only one with sound logic and brains. Everyone else at Terra are total of imbecilic morons and self-loving toads. Sons of Dorn in the meantime are doing what they do best — saving humanity hides and shining on the main frontline at last. Another masterfully crafted feature added with them is a mass terminators assault. Guy Haley had a previous experience in crafting that type of warfare in one of his previous novels - 'Death of Integrity'. In 'Throneworld' he mastercrafted it to the topnotch heights.

In the meantime, at Mars machination of tech-priests has gone to the new heights. Even our lovely assassinorium clade are shocked with the results. Mars by now, has become a laboratory of madmans and heretekes, with totally different general course for the future, than the one Terra proposed. Now i'm totally interested to see - how the martian priesthood would be punished for their heresy later on.

Elsewhere is focused on Black Templars and Iron warriors remnants of the Great company fighting orcs. Haley wrote an amazing stuff — but Iron Warriors/Black Templars part seems just like a filler, with nothing to add to the main plotline for now. To fully review that line, we should probably wait for it's continuation and results further on. Right now, it's a page filler. But at the same time Haley is able to show, that even enemies of enemies could be friends before the growing orc menace. In that part of the storytelling author was able to show the real menace of Beast's orc. Something other authors with grand events weren't able to accomplish.

The novel is so amazing I would have given it 6 out of 5 stars. But first 3 chapters ruined the grand amaziness. As with every book/TV show there good chapters/episodes and the bad ones.

Don't get me wrong — 'Throneworld' is a fantastic novel that going up in awesomness with each page, except for the beginning. In the book plot synopsis we have a dire mentioning of war against eldars inside Imperial Palace. But guess what — they are guests for 20 pages. No more. In military (especially sea warfare) there is a 'kiss' principle. You always can get annihilated in response for your actions. But the first chapters with eldars, freely running inside Imperial Palace and Internal Sanctum of the Empra? A small group of eldars killings hundreds of Custodes in direct combat? Custodes — the fething custodes that in great numbers could even slaughter a Primarch? Who are the champions of great skill on it's own.

As Aaron Dembski Bowden said sometime in the past - eldar could be swift, impossibly capable fighters - but on the SM battlefield they would be slaughtered in seconds. And here we have fething Custodes. Hundreds of them. Dying like moths near the flame. That made me so disappointed - I thought I would drop the book right where at the start. But - I gave it a go and haven't regret it even a bit. It goes awesomely cool further on.

Read it - you will not be disappointed. After all episodes in the middle are almost always good, setting things up for the midseason finale.

It's a well deserved 5 out of 5! Totally worth to read.

Dylan Murphy says

Oh man, Throneworld. Guy Haley rocks his way into The Beast Arises series with a monumental bang! The story was utterly fantastic. Guy Haley masterfully picks up the strands where other authors have left off and runs with it. The novel opens with the Eldar, the insanely exciting cliff-hanger of book 4, and things get moving very quickly. This part of the novel was definitely one of the best, following the troupe of Eldar Harlequins as they tore through Terra to reach the Golden Throne. Guy did a fantastic job at capturing their wistfulness and arrogance, as well as their very fluid and alien combat. And for the banger of an intro, we

finally got to see the Adeptus Custodies! Man was that a treat. Getting to see them now, 1500 years after the Golden Age was awesome. I don't agree with some of the mumbling online that they were showed as underpowered or a victim of the Worf Effect (which can definitely happen in 40k). I really loved the continued evolution of the characters, and the setting as a whole.

The politics on Mars escalating was insane. Red Heaven finally moving into position while the Martian Priesthood continued to delve further into their own experiments (Really dying to see where they go with this!)

Getting to see where Kalkator went after his AWESOME intro in book 4 was amazing, and seeing his Black Templar hunters come into it was great. That whole story arc was probably my favourite of this novel, as Guy Haley wrote some very awesome Iron Warriors, and his previous experience with the Black Templars really showed. The whole scene from before to shortly after the alliance played out like a movie (and a good movie at that!). The Iron Warriors and the Black Templars having to put their bad blood aside to fight for survival, the witty quips and sarcastic remarks were just immensely entertaining to read. That whole story line had me itching to turn the page and find out what they would get up to. I was also surprised by the wonderfully used and portrayed irony of this part of the story. Really just goes to show that Guy Haley is easily amongst the top authors at Black Library.

Back on the home-front, The Last Wall finally arrives to Terra and the Space Marines as a whole get to wade into the fight against the greenskins. Seeing the interaction between the chapters of The Last Wall was a treat, and getting to see them fighting, dying, and achieving victory together was glorious. Seeing our Imperial Fist grow into the Chapter Master he is destined to become was also wonderful. I think Guy did the politics on Terra involving the Imperial Fists and The Last Wall exceedingly well, and getting to see the politics really amp up for the next installment of the series was great.

And of course, Our wonderful Grand Master Draken Vangoriach was an absolute delight to read, with hints dropped at the founding of the Ordos of the Inquisition and the Master Assassin finally playing the game and winning, I really look forward to what happens from here on out. We are but 1 book away from the half-way point, and I doubt the series is going to slow down much before the blood end of The Beheading!

DarkChaplain says

Review also published here

Throneworld ties with *The Last Wall* for my season favorite to date. This is down to its high focus on Terra, as the title suggests, and with it all the politics and scheming that make this series shine. It also picked up a few plot points from earlier installments that I thought had fallen by the wayside, or been resolved off-screen.

First off, though, I have to say that the cover art is somewhat misleading. The Ulthwé Farseer depicted may or may not appear (depending on the artist's intent; it does not fully match previous art of the character that did appear in the book), and the Eldar's involvement in *Throneworld* is relatively slim, if impactful, full of flavor and answering some questions I know many readers had so far. Where are the Adeptus Custodes? What are they doing? Is nobody concerned about the Emperor's well-being (or whatever you'd call it, considering he is entombed atop his Golden Throne)? We get glimpses of all of these points, and I was

satisfied with them, and the Eldar's appearance.

A point of contention on fan forums has been the way the Custodes have been hit by the Worf Effect. I see where they are coming from, but didn't feel like it was undeserved. Faced by a Harlequin Shadowseer and a Death Jester, and surprised at that, they didn't fare too badly, and the whole scene just *worked* for me. It highlighted the sheer arrogance and superiority complex of the Eldar magnificently, and showcased how different these Custodes are from their Heresy counterparts. They are isolated, away from the courts of Terra, only concerned with the Emperor. They also felt diminished from the proud lions of war we saw in the Horus Heresy series.

It added to the decadent feel of the Imperium at large, and Terra in particular. Mankind might have been at peace for long centuries, but their golden age is over. Things have changed significantly, yet not so much as in the 41st Millennium. They still pretend and delude themselves here.

Besides these early scenes, we get to see the Last Wall in action, soon after the failure of the Proletarian Crusade. They make to assault the Attack Moon above Terra, which results in some glorious action scenes and even the big boss himself gets his first outing since volume one.

Throughout it all, we see Koorland's relationship with his fellow Chapter Masters grow, even in unexpected ways. It was a joy to read, especially for the unexpected little bits strewn throughout.

The Last Wall's arrival at Terra throws the Senatorium into an uproar, even scares the High Lords. But all of it is played off in such a wonderful way, including celebrations of the heroic Chapters and underhanded insults by the Lord Guilliman, that my hatred for the High Lords has only risen further.

Following Chapter Masters Koorland and Thane around the celebrations and politicking, watching their growing frustration with the High Lords and the whole situation, was impressive, and I had various scenes play inside my head for a while.

These scenes on Terra are the strongest parts of the High Lords plotlines so far. They set the tone for escalations to come, and confront the sons of Dorn with the harsh reality of not only having to confront the Orks, but also Terra itself.

Meanwhile, the situation on Mars escalates at last, with the Red Haven cell of assassins deployed multiple books ago coming into action. I loved the infiltration scenes, and the techno-cruelty of the Adeptus Mechanicus. This plotline will be exploding soon, and I thought the author did a great job spreading oil all over the red sands of Mars.

The other big plotline focuses on Warsmith Kalkator of the Iron Warriors, who was introduced in *The Last Wall*, and will seemingly feature in future books as well. Last time he was facing the Orks while being hounded by the Black Templars. These Templars finally enter the stage personally, led by Dreadnought-Marshal Magneric. Magneric has a history with Kalkator, and indeed, his whole Crusade comes down to having been friends with the Warsmith until the outbreak of the Heresy.

As the marketing blurb already spoiled, the two factions, Iron Warriors and Black Templars, are forced to ally temporarily to fend off the Orks and avoid destruction. I saw a lot of outcry about this one, even before the book was released, solely on the basis of how the marketing department over at Black Library tried to shock people into picking the book up.

Things aren't as straightforward as one might think here. It is an alliance of circumstance and necessity, uneasy to the very core, and only held together by the Iron Warriors' survival instincts and the honor of the

Templars. The relationship between the two leaders also plays a big part, and we get to see them trading verbal blows all throughout.

In fact, these debates are the highlight of this string of events. They argue about the nature of the Emperor, man or god, the Black Templars' adoption of the Imperial Creed while throwing away the Imperial Truth. Kalkator even draws parallels to Lorgar's chastisement by the Emperor (see: *The First Heretic*), while Magneric quickly becomes invested in trying to *save* Kalkator from the abyss of treachery - or at least his soul - by repenting and converting to the Templars' faith.

It presents the iron-hard pragmatism of the Iron Warriors, embodied by Kalkator, facing off against the powerful faith of the crusading sons of Sigismund. On top of that, we even get to see how their fanaticism and faith can impact the flow of battle.

One of my favorite quotes from the book is the following:

‘I am not going to convert to your pathetic creed, Magneric. For if I cannot trust a man who lies, I trust a god who does so even less.’

It does a fantastic job highlighting the Emperor's paradox, and the hypocrisy of the Imperial Creed, which is once again mirrored by Ecclesiarch Mesring back on Terra. His role in future novels will be interesting to follow indeed!

But at the end of it all, Haley's passion for the Black Templars is showing. After reading his Space Marine Battles stories about them, soon to be collected in *Crusaders of Dorn*, I was expecting no less from him. There are subtle differences between both eras' Black Templars, but they both share the fanaticism and faith that they are known for. It was also cool to see Haley giving the spotlight to a Dreadnought once again, after the glorious audio drama *The Glorious Tomb*, which is easily one of my favorite audios produced by Black Library to date. What I'm saying is: He's got the subject matter down really well by now, and was the logical choice for this plotline.

The Beast Arises is at a very high point as of this installment. Events are in full motion, and allegiances are shifting. There are many clues as to the future, but for the time being, I am happy with the present depicted in *Throneworld*. It is another stellar entry in the series, and prepares the series for the next big boom.

Jean-Luc says

This is book #5 in the year-long event known as *The Beast Arises*. In the previous book, the Proletarian Crusade was pulped to death almost immediately after landing on the Ork deff star lounging above the homeworld of the Imperium of Man. Even worse, the Orks sent *ambassadors* to demand an Imperial surrender! The High Lords of Terra were too worked up to give an immediate response, and that's when the Eldar launched an attack on the Golden Throne itself!

Except the Eldar aren't attacking. They're there to deliver a message to the Emperor, who is too busy sitting immobile to care about orbiting Orks. The Custodes, the Emperor's bodyguards, refuse to sign for delivery, and all hell breaks loose.

Koorland returns to Terra as the newly minted chapter master of the Imperial Fists, and he orders the

assembled Imperial Fists successor chapters to attack the deff star! Arbitrator Galatea Haas, lone survivor of the Proletarian Crusade, survived long enough to learn the ins n outs of the Ork construct. With Haas' help, Koorland launches an attack on the deff star's teleportarium, where the Orks are preparing the final invasion of Terra!

Meanwhile, Marshal Magneric of the Black Templars finally corners his ancient enemy, the Iron Warriors Warsmith Kalkator! But Kalkator is cunning: how can the Black Templars kill the Iron Warriors if they both get killed by Orks! That's right, realpolitik forces the Black Templars to team up with the Iron Warriors, and it is SO GOOD! SO FUCKING GOOD! And totally plausible!

Last, but certainly not least, Drakan Vangorich's assassins are learning bits and pieces of what Fabricator General Kubik is up to on Mars. Orks can't blow up Mars if Kubik teleports the planet somewhere else! What happens to the Imperium after Kubik runs away? Not his problem!

Despite the near infinite freedom of the Warhammer 40k universe, there's so much that individual creators can't do because the lore wouldn't allow it... but in this series, so far removed from the 41st millennium, the authors have been let loose and *it shows!* I've read a few of Guy Haley's short stories before, but this was my first time reading one of his novels. The pacing, the back-and-forth, the multiple viewpoints, and the revelations combine to form unforgettable poetry.

Tom Pollard says

You know what? This is a really good book.

The Beast Arises series has in my humble opinion struggled to live up to the standard set by Dan Abnett in 'I Am Slaughter', but this one really does come close. The problem with this series at times is that it features so many character perspectives it's hard to keep up sometimes. Whilst it is true that there are still a number of different perspectives in this one, no less than previous books in fact, it seemed a little easier to keep up with what was happening, I think that was because they were less spread out that it was easier to follow.

This book starts to bring all those perspectives together and the threads start to make sense, you begin to get an idea of how and why each of the characters are doing what they are. That brings me onto the characters, one of the main things that has always drawn me to the background produced by Games Workshop is the imperfect nature of their characters. The blurred lines and how not everything is black and white, every now and then there is a disturbing area of greyness where you feel yourself sympathising with, and even rooting for someone you desperately want to hate. It's not a matter of good versus evil, because sometimes the good guys are just as bad, if not worse than the bad guys.

In terms of the action, it does as ever take place at an incredibly frenetic pace and leaves you wondering whether certain people are going to make it. The sign of a good action sequence is one that leaves you feeling breathless at the end, so fast paced was it and this book just about manages that. Throw in political intrigue and no small amount of suspense and you've got yourself a very good book indeed.

To summarise: This is a good (though not great) book that manages to excite and keep you guessing the whole way through. It's a crowd pleaser I would say, plenty there for fans of the lore and enough to draw in fans no matter your preferences in terms of your favourite models. Not a great deal there for people who aren't already fans of Warhammer 40'000, but then that's not really the intention of this series.

Definitely worth four out of five stars.

Darkcharade says

Another book that moves the story along but not a memorable one. The marines finally return home but beyond that it is mostly posturing and political movement behind the scenes.
