



Blood World

B.V. Larson

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A dirty deal was struck. Humanity was allowed to keep three hundred rebellious worlds. In return, we declared war on a powerful enemy from beyond the frontier.

A frantic build-up of forces has begun, but the task is hopeless. Seeking allies, Earth's legions are sent to BLOOD WORLD. A planet on the fringe of known space, where the people only respect masters of combat.

Earth's Legions must impress them, but other alien powers have been invited to join the contest. The prize consists of billions of loyal troops—Earth must win.

Fighting and dying and fighting again, the struggle is half-mad—but so is James McGill.

BLOOD WORLD is the eighth book in the Undying Mercenaries Series.

Blood World Details

Date : Published November 5th 2017

ISBN :

Author : B.V. Larson

Format : Kindle Edition 366 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Space, Space Opera, Fiction

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From Reader Review Blood World for online ebook

Ahmed Baghdady says

Leaving us waiting for more

Didn't think this series could still hold me enthralled.... But I think it's reached a point where either the story expands either on the frontier war with earth or with the core or wraps up, otherwise McGills antics just become repetitive.

Don't get me wrong I would certainly love for the series to continue... But it needs something to advance the storyline.

Lars Vanderbur says

Classic BV Larson

Enjoyable light read, but you need to have read previous books in the series to understand this one. Always makes me laugh with the over the top guy machismo that Centurion McGill displays. I would say this book is more like a stepping stone book to the next one in the series. Seems like McGill is slowly being fleshed out as more than a simple characterization of a sex driven male, but along the way he does indulge.

Leather says

Amazingly fun, hilarious, great background story : The undying Mercenaries are better and better each time.

Manuel says

If books can be compared to movies, then this entire series would be an Hollywood blockbuster to be consumed in a big theater along with lots of popcorn and soda. To be enjoyed for the pure fun it is and not deeply analysed as a profound world-changing experience.

That said, the book follows the same recipe applied on all other books in the series. Our hero continues to jump from trouble to trouble, and always finding beautiful women in the process to seduce.

Yes, it portraits women in a very simple and sexist way, but this is to be enjoyed and not deeply analysed, right?

So... will keep looking for a new installment of the series.

Caleb M. says

4.5*

If there was some magic thing I could say to get people to read this series, I would say it. It's just so much fun the whole way through. This book is more of the sweet goodness that I've pointed out in my other reviews, so if you aren't sure what you would be getting into, check out my other reviews.

This book in particular is sorry if like the Undying Mercenaries version of the Hunger Games. Or like the book version of a multiplayer deathmatch session in your favorite online multiplayer shooter video game. Lots of fun.

Greg says

The Undying Mercenaries series always has been a mix of fun and stupid. As I'm not generally a military sci-fi fan, it had enough story to keep the book moving, but I'm finding myself growing bored and finding the series flaws grating. James McGill, a man, gifted with the luxury living and dying many times over and now father, seems impervious to learning anything. There's no enlightenment, and while the forever young, life fast and die-hard aspect almost makes his forever skirt-chasing antics tolerable, ever since he found his way into the pants of Turov the series has become a "herem" fantasy. James McGill seems incapable of appreciating any women beyond her curves. Each book brings yet another woman to bring into his revolving bedroom door of women whom somehow fall under his dopey "c'mon girl, just wait for a second" spell. While sexual politics are bound to change in the future and especially in one where space soldiers are forever young, it's too chauvinistic to be taken seriously. It's been the main criticism I've had ever since McGill wormed his way into his commanding officer's panties. I'm not hypersensitive to such things hence how I made it to book eight but I'm nearing my threshold of non-stop ogling. There are hyper-sexed sci-fi series like Peter F Hamilton's Commonwealth saga that pulls off such antics, but Undying Mercenaries isn't mature or nuanced enough to make it feel anything more than like an undersexed male's fantasy.

Blood world isn't exciting, and while it expands on the universe, it does little to further the glacial moving plot line of "things are not what they seem" in the Galactic Empire. Sure there's more gore, new aliens, a few call-backs to previous books like the dinosaur-ish aliens but there's only so many times one needs to rehash Claver's machinations or the uncertainty of Turov's motives. The novelty of being birthed by disgusting organ filled machines charm has worn off. Somewhat likable side characters like Carlos seem frozen as much as McGill. The book is a paint-by-the-numbers outing. There's yet-another-female conquest with an off-world alien woman who's culture just so happens compliment James' sexual appetite. There's a battle that must be fought tooth and nail on the ground, the usual back stabbing and of course everything works out (mostly) in the end.

What was once a fun outing is starting to feel like a chore, and that's too bad. The series started out with a bang, but with the content churn of an author like Larson, I suppose there's only so much one can expect. I've certainly wasted my time on far worse books (The Lost Fleet remains one of the worst series I ever powered through) but my interest is waning fast.

Bill says

So at this point Larson has started to really privilege the larger "series plot" over the "episodic plot" of the

individual book. That isn't necessarily a bad thing (the books are still fun and do have individual plots formulated around the protagonist's adventures on a particular planet) but it is worth noting. I am beginning to be impressed by the degree of psychological complexity the author is hinting at in the protagonist. On the flip side, all of the non-protagonist characters are pretty flat—fun but not especially dynamic.

Msew says

A wild ride that sets up the next part of this series!

James McGill is at it again! All the characters we love and hate are in this story and they don't disappoint.

I don't want to spoil anything, but I will say that Graves actually laughs. Or at least says he thought something was funny.

And now we have to wait and wait. It will be worth it!

Antonio says

Haha.. if it isn't old James McGill.
(an audiobook review)

In the evolving story of James McGill..errr wait. Is this story about earth and the galactic empire or James? I'd argue James. The great thing about this ongoing series is the characters. They stand out. Standing out screaming their intentions and goals. This new story pits the same mercenaries of earth on a interesting mission. A big move to etch out a bigger plan for all those of earth. Without dropping any spoilers, you should know that James will have a voice. As he always does. The infamous hero of his legion. He'll face the same amount of adversaries on all sides. From his ranks, his superiors, and enemies of all sorts. Action packed. Great science. Loss and comedy.

I highly recommend this next installment of Undying Mercenaries.

Jim says

We're back with James McGill, Centurion, Legion Varus. Yeah, that guy! He's managed to stay out of trouble for awhile since the Legion hasn't gone on a mission for quite sometime. During this downtime, he spends his days in his shack behind his parents home in the "Georgia Sector". Things are kind of peaceful right now, well, as peaceful as they can be with his, now twelve-year old daughter, Etta around. She's a very wild child raised for awhile by her Mother, Delia, and Grandfather back on Dust World. We'd call people on that plane savages since there wasn't much but dust and dirt on the entire world. Being brought back to Earth didn't change Etta much. She still does what she wants to but does have some grudging respect for James McGill, her Father.

But, this time the peace isn't exactly shattered by something Etta has done. No, that come in a very strange and frightening way when Primus Graves shows up a this shack door. That's never happened before and

James doesn't know why in the world it happened now. And, to make matters worse, Primus Graves tells James McGill that he's sorry but he's been volunteered for a new mission. Now, Primus Graves have never ever came to McGill for anything other than an explanation of the trouble he's currently causing. But, since there's not trouble with the Legion that James knows about right now, he's terribly cautious about this action on the part of Primus Graves. He is told to report to Central the next day so he assumes he'll be going on some kind of mission, but Primus Graves didn't quite mention what that might be; he just apologized for "volunteering" McGill. That sounds pretty dangerous.

So, McGill heads off towards Central HQ where he hopes he'll get some answers to just what he's gotten himself "volunteered" for. He doesn't get far when he's met by Primus Winslade who's the Adjunct for Emperor Turov. Why he's out picking up James McGill is a real mystery and then James finds that all his troops are being picked up. Now he's really worried about what this mission might entail.

When they get to Central, he's met by Primus Graves who again seems kind of sorry for McGill and his troops. They are to go through a series of "test" for what reason no one knows, but the winner of these tests will go on the full mission. Strangely, everyone of the brass seems to be indicating to McGill that he and his troops would be better off if they failed these upcoming tests.

But, that's not the way James McGill has been trained. He's also learned quite a bit about leading his troops and knows how to handle a bunch of misfits since he was one himself for a long time. Now as a Centurion, he's responsible for all these misfits and feels it somewhat necessary to keep them alive, unless mission success dictates otherwise.

So, off we go on another strange mission. We don't even get to the new world, Blood World, before our ship is attacked and James McGill has to step into action. Unfortunately, his action prove to other interested parties that he's a very skilled and determined warrior. He seems to be the leader of everyone since he's always at the forefront of every battle. James McGill as the leader of Legion Varus! That's got to be a mistake. You'll find out the truth as you read the rest of the story.

I really enjoy reading about James' daughter, Etta. She is a real brat, but seems to at least get along with James pretty good. She stays with James' parents most of the time. They are getting along in years and his mother has contacted some kind of fatal disease, but, as usual, James is going to do something about that even though the government says his parents don't have any insurance and have no money to pay for a special kind of surgery. But, back to Etta. James is going to have a lot of fun when she starts getting interested in boys, teenage boys. Some how he's going to have to figure out some way to get a bunch of teenaged boys through a revival machine, because once they tangle with Etta and she doesn't like their advances, she might just off them for the hell of it. She's James McGill's daughter after all. She also has told James that she's going to join the Legion when she is old enough. That's going to be frightening for the Legion.

Don't know when the next book will be released, but I'll definitely be looking for it.

Bethany Rutledge says

Looking forward to the next book in the series. Could we see a bit of an arc in future books for McGill? I'm not sure if he can become more of an irreverent womanizer at this point. Also, I'm wondering if there is an arc, if he's actually becoming more callous and less empathetic which may ultimately make him less

relatable?

But maybe changing him would ruin the entire thing, I'm not sure. Regardless enjoyed this entertaining installment!

Kevin says

[James dropped his armor in his room before going down to the tech level., because the blood on his armor would have upset the techs.

Yet, when he went to the engine room, he dropped his visor and drew his gauntlet. Hmm... (hide spoiler)]

Leif Dolan says

Live, die, repete

This is one good story. It has the Mil-Sci-Fi, mystery and humor, with a bit of a love story. The premise of being killed then coming back the next morning is a nice method of writing for this author and this series of books. There is a longer story about to happen!

Faraji S. King says

Good ole James McGill back at. You keep writing them, I'll keep buying them.

Sabion says

I can't explain why these books are so fun. Enjoyable characters and interesting interactions. I always want more when I'm done these.
