

Come and Take Them

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Number five in the Carrera military science fiction series that started with *A Desert Called Peace*. Military leader Carrera faces down a threat from progressive totalitarians and wins the freedom of his country on a frontier planet.

The Carrera saga continues with entry number five, and the sequel to *Amazon Legion*. Carrera. Relentless. Machiavellian. Without compunction. Victorious. Pity his enemies. Be thankful he is on the side of freedom from totalitarian domination.

On the colony planet of Terra Nova, soldier turned political leader Carrera has achieved his revenge, destroying those who killed his wife and children in a terrorist strike, and helping to establish a free country. But Carrera's fight is not over.

War with the Tauran Union is inevitable. Carrera has been preparing his new country for this all-out conflict for years, intending to drive out the last vestige of foreign imperialism in Balboa, the Tauran Union Security Force. He doesn't care that he's outnumbered one hundred to one. He doesn't care that the Taurans are one thousand times wealthier. A true Machiavellian, Carrera is convinced that gold cannot always find good soldiers, but that good soldiers can always find gold. After all, his good soldiers have already found quite a bit. Moreover, he's been preparing for the war he intends to start and fight on his own terms, while the TU has been preparing for a progressive fantasy.

But then his own government calls a halt even as the commander of the United Earth Peace Fleet, High Admiral Marguerite Wallenstein, injects a dose of realism and spine into the Tauran Union. Any other government, giving similar orders, Carrera would overthrow without hesitation. But this is his own creation; he must follow these orders.

But the Taurans are provoking Balboa mercilessly, and Carrera knows that sooner or later, he must fight—only now the task will be more difficult and more bloody. No matter. When that time comes, Carrera knows he will do whatever it takes to win. He is, after all, Carrera.

About prequel, *Amazon Legion*:

"[I]nterplanetary warfare with. . .[a] visceral story of bravery and sacrifice. . .fans of the military SF of John Ringo and David Weber should enjoy this SF action adventure."—*Library Journal*

About Tom Kratman's Carrera series:

"Kratman's dystopia is a brisk page turner full of startling twists...[Kratman is] a professional military man...up to speed on military and geopolitical conceits."—Best-selling author of *America Alone* Mark Steyn on Tom Kratman's uncompromising military SF thriller, *Califate*

"Kratman raises disquieting questions on what it might take to win the war on terror...realistic action sequences, strong characterizations and thoughts on the philosophy of war."—*Publishers Weekly*

Come and Take Them Details


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I.F. Adams says

If you're this far into the series, you kinda know what you're getting at this point, though chronologically its a bit of an oddball, overlapping with the prior 2 books, just more at the "big" picture level than the last one.

Anywho, not a whole lot I can add that I haven't said in prior reviews for the series, its some extremely detailed world building and moderately complex geopolitics and scheming. Like the prior, its greatest strength can also be something of a weakness; its agonizing detail and plodding progress at times. Also like the prior books, pulls no punches in its politics and views, for better or worse.

Probably not going to read again for a long time, but already started the next one in the series cause well, crap, I gotta know what happens. And I'm a sucker for big fortresses and looming sieges.

Coyora Dokusho says

I read the free chapters they posted of the ARC on webscriptions... I want the rest sooooo bad!!!!

Read the rest and...

It was awesome!!!!!!

I'm totally shipping Khalid X (someone) He met her for the first time in this book and I was so happy~

I really want to read the History and Philosophy by Marqueli and her husband, does it really exist? I support programs like Habitat for Humanity, literacy programs and the ones that do micro loans in third world countries where there has to be sweat equity. Are those kinds of programs supporting the evil too? (>.<)

Anyway, super awesome~

Capndiesalot says

A continuation of a good storyline. Strategically, satisfying.

Dale (Aus) says

I enjoyed this book and like the way the story continues to unfold. I had already read the Amazon Legion which runs parallel to this book so found the book confusing to place until I started coming across cross over moments. It didn't take away from the strong story and great characters in any way and I again look forward

to more.

Felix says

Furious action with a believable political landscape creates a fascinating read.

Dan says

A good read, 3.5 stars.

Eric Berry says

If you are looking for an excellent military sci-fi book, it's a great example solely from an entertainment perspective. However, once again Kratman hits a home run in his takes on social issues and culture's impact on a military force and vice-versa. He is not afraid to integrate recent issues in American and Western cultures. He says things many are thinking, and puts beliefs into action in the context of the Carreraverse; if you are easily offended these books may not be for you - but perhaps you should read them and consider other alternatives.

Dave Kaelin says

I love all of Kratman's books.

Sure he goes a bit overboard in making his points. But with America being the cesspool of surrender monkeys that it has become, this should be mandatory reading for all males in America...and women.

It confused me a bit as it covered ground (albeit in more detail) already covered in the last book.

Kratman always throws a good tale out there.

I agree more often than not with his politics as well.

I'm so tired of the Politically Correct class of Americans.

Warren says

Excellent story

As the Republic of Balboa continues to grow and find it's voice in Terra Novan world politics, the author weaves an exceptional read with tight story lines and colourful characters. Though some complain that the

author is too technical, I have found the storytelling and background superb. (Though my military background may make me a bit biased.) I look forward to the next installment. Recommend this series.

Kevin Baker says

I've read several of Tom Kratman's books in this series, and I've liked them well enough, but I can't say I really ENJOYED them. I think I get some sense of the author's mood when he or she is writing. John Ringo, for example, I think is having a good time when he's putting words to paper. Lois McMaster Bujold is FEELING what her characters are feeling when she writes. Larry Correia is just having a blast whenever he's cranking out prose.

Tom Kratman is... Lecturing? Sermonizing? I'm not sure there's a proper word for it in the English language, and English has chased down, bludgeoned and stolen more words from more languages than any other that I find that difficult to grasp.

I get the impression that Mr. Kratman does not actually ENJOY telling a story, and that bleeds through in his writing. He's technically very proficient, explaining how military organizations work, expanding on the psychology of the characters, detailing the environment, tactics, strategies, philosophies, politics. He's very thorough. And I am receptive to his worldview.

But I read fiction to be entertained. If it also educates me, that's a bonus. If all it does is educate me, I'm probably going to go find something else to read. I choose non-fiction for that.

Is "Come and Take Them" a bad book? By no means. But I didn't have the strong urge to stay up until ridiculous hours just so I could finish it like I did with Ringo's "Under a Graveyard Sky" either.

Your mileage may vary.

Kjirstin says

Excellent addition to the series! I'm only disappointed that we're merely partway through what we know will be a long war (from book #4), and that I'll be waiting to see what happens for another long while...

It's hard to review this in isolation because this one leaves so many plot threads hanging. You learn more about the machinations of the key players in the strategic game, and I'm starting to have suspicions about where the series will lead as time goes on... Great fun, and (as I mentioned before) I only wish I had the whole series available to me right now. I do hate waiting for the next installment...

Beau says

I enjoy the Kratman books. Many years ago, I was enjoying Gor novels by John Norman. I overlooked all of the parts that I didn't enjoy in those. Kind of the same thing here.

What I enjoy is that a well prepared military, that trains and feeds and innovates, can jump on a bigger

opponent and whup them. I like stories where the arrogant big guy gets his eye poked by the underdog little guy.

I have to question the role of the media to incite sides to war. Not because it can't happen in the real world, but because I think it's too likely. To the extent that the story makes anyone question the story about a provocation, it ought to be required reading.

A terrific shoot-em-up. Can't wait for more.

Michael Rutkowski says

Baen Books needs some strong editors to reign in Tom Kratman like they need to reign in David Weber with these long wordy books ! This book comes in at over 775 pages and the first 600 pages is about training and explain the same things over and over and over with the minutest details again and again ! Alright already ! Once the war and battles begin around page 600 the book becomes a very, very entertaining read !

Jeff says

As it builds to the realpolitik, the last resort of kings, war, raises it shaggy head and takes a bite of those do not prepare to fight tomorrow's battle. Harsh, brutal and Carrea goes for the win.

Derek Weese says

This was supposed to be, or so I thought, the big payoff in the buildup of Kratman's series: war with the European Union, I mean Tauran Union. It was, just not like I expected.

The book is mostly build up, though this isn't bad. Kratman is a good writer, he knows his craft and his humor, often times dark, and his politics (which will offend everyone, at least sometimes, which is good because he's making you think)and his lecturing fill up a large portion of the book. But it's, as always, done through the guise of the story itself which is about building up a Latin American-I mean South Columbian, nation in order to be a first rate military power to stand against globalism, the UN-crap, I mean the United Earth and the European Union-crap I mean Tauran Union.

The actual payoff, the war itself, comes in the last 200 pages of the book. And really only covers the first DAY of the war itself. Though it's so amazingly well done, and show's Kratman's professional admiration for European soldiers (I'm assuming he worked with all of these types of guys and gals in the past in his military career, he had to have, his respect for his 'enemies' comes through in the writing.)and their fighting abilities. This book and 'The Amazon Legion' overlap somewhat, and parts of each show up in each other though the Amazon Legion clearly goes much further in the story as far as time goes.

Overall this was a good book, though I had a couple of minor grievances.

- 1: Why the hell wasn't the coolest damned assassin (or one of them) in science fiction used except for a couple of brief paragraphs? Khalid, said badass assassin, only shows up very briefly. Slightly disappointing.
- 2: Lourdes, Carrera's wife, and an important character is also all but absent.
- 3: As are, for the most part, the Russian-crap I mean Volgan troops allied with the BDF, Jimenez (a character

I had really grown to like). Also, final gripe, Janier, the smarmy, sleazy, love to hate him French guy mostly because he's just so goddamned French, is just different this time around.

Janier is one of those characters that you hate him so much you end up liking him. I don't know, maybe Kratman did too. Either that or current French strategic decisions concerning the growing terrorist problem in north and west Africa had caused him to soften a little concerning a portrayal of French military officers. Or maybe he actually has French fans. I don't know, but Janier changed. This isn't necessarily bad, but he's no longer the main villain. He's actually, kind of, noble and honorable now. Sigh...

Overall a good book, I just wish some of the characters I had been following for the first three books had stuck around. Rather than sit on the margins.

In the end: if you want a good war story, a **REALISTIC** portrayal of military operations as well as geopolitics, and if you aren't afraid to be lectured on politics from time to time (you don't have to agree), then this is a good read.
