



Drifter

William C. Dietz

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The first rule of smuggling: Speed is a smuggler's best friend.

Tricks of the trade. Lando learned them from his dad and granddad, the best in the business.

The second rule of smuggling: Go for the small deals. You will make more and live longer.

A ladies' man, a con artist, a total professional That was Lando.

Forget the rules.

Then he was hired by a beautiful woman to do a job on a world called Angel. Now he's involved with her - and a dangerous group of hell-bent revolutionaries...

Drifter Details

Date : Published September 1st 1991 by Ace

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Author : William C. Dietz

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From Reader Review Drifter for online ebook

Jennifer Olsen wagner says

Good space story, would have given it more stars but didn't feel connection between the love interest, he tried to make you think there was an emotional connection but I didn't feel it.

Diogenes says

Unassuming sci-fi with a smuggler for a hero, this was readable but far from exceptional.

David says

to read

Lulu says

Solid pulp sci fi.

John Abbott says

Good book, well written, most seemed plausible, and the characters seemed to stay in character all the way through. I have the second and third books ready to read soon.

Matt says

Overall a good trilogy, however it does seem to get a little "loose" in the last book (Drifters War). Interesting story and characters

Mike Sorenson says

Alright science fiction adventure novel. Nothing too special. About a smuggler who takes a job for some non violent religious extremists to deliver some fertilizer to their half of a colony planet. The other half is owned by a mining corporation. The corporation wants the planet to strip it for minerals while the religionists want a home. The religionists hatch a plot to neutralize the mineral resources so the mining corporation won't have any interest in the planet. The protagonist gets caught in the middle.

The story is quick with little detailed science involved, although it isn't necessarily space opera. The action is

good, written in a military sci-fi style. The main story finishes and then drags on a couple of more chapters in an unrelated tale involving the smuggler and his father (intro for the next novel I suppose). Odd story arc. It is the first of three books, but it is a standalone novel. Anyway, I would give it 3 out of 5 stars. Some adult situations, not for kids.

Nerd note: By eliminating the mineral content of the planet the colonists have essentially done what the mining corporation set out to do. All living organisms need minerals to live otherwise they get sick and die. Chalk one more dead planet up to extremism.

Ashke says

It's not that this book is bad or poorly written- far from it, with the acceptance of some necessary space opera cliches. It's that where I usually tend to devour these types of stories, such was not the case here, as the writing tends to be technical and dry. Where some books start slow and pick up speed after the first quarter, this book was the opposite for me. The initial segment detailing the main character, Pik Lando's, smuggling venture with his ship the Tinker's Dream, and his acquirement of a certain cargo job to the planet known as Angel was much more interesting than what it dissolves into. By the time the story reaches Angel, I lost interest and never picked the book up again. Maybe it got better from there on out and it was stupid not to stick with it. But I found myself not caring less by that point.

J. _(?)_/_ says

3.5 stars

Good story, but mediocre narration. Very 1960s feel.

My OCD will demand that I come back to finish these at some point, but I'm just not sure there's enough here to get invested in.

Mediocre, but acceptable narration.

Chris Ellis says

Fun little book about a space smuggler who falls in with the right sort of people by taking on a job for them. These folks have renounced all violence and won't touch a firearm, but their hired smuggler (Pik Lando - great name!) has no such restrictions.

Really a boy meets girl (with a different outlook on life) boy wins girl, boy loses girl, but gets to shoot a lot of stuff in the meantime.

Very open ended ending that was more like the first couple of chapters for a new book.

May or may not follow up on what looks to be a series.....

Ivan says

Pik Lando (no, not Lando Calrissian) is a smuggler whose ship, The Tinker's Damn, looks ratty and neglected but is actually in excellent shape. Lando is a master of deception and good at the smuggling business, but he has an honest side to him too.

Lando is hired to help a pacifist doctor named Wendy Wendeen, whose community The Chosen are at war with powerful corporation Mega-Metals for control of the planet Angel (which has a "halo" -- check the cover art). The Chosen want only a place to live, farm and raise their families, while Mega-Metals wants to mine the planet for metals. Lando isn't too keen on going against Mega-Metals until a brutal event makes it a personal thing for him.

Lando and Wendy develop a physical relationship, but their differing personalities make a lasting relationship impossible, something that hurts Lando more than he ever expected it to. However, he sticks to his guns and adheres to the agreement made, even though he is risking his life unnecessarily in doing so.

Deitz has a decent writing style, though a bit inconsistent, which can be distracting at times. He also jumps relentlessly from one character's mind to another within the same chapter, which works for character development but works against storytelling. Also, the final few chapters of the book are more like a mini-story that feel like a set-up for a sequel (and it has two sequels) and make a somewhat clumsy if action-packed ending for the book.

So, it's okay. Not great, but okay.

Michael says

This is the 1st book in the Drifter series by William C. Dietz. In this one a smuggler named Pik Lando takes a job for a religious group living on a planet that is half owned by them and half owned by a mining company. The mining company is trying to drive the religious colonists off the planet so they hire Pik to smuggle an engineered bio weapon that will eat all the minerals that the mining company mines for a great profit. It is hoped they will then lose interest in the planet and leave the colonists alone. Pik is an experienced smuggler and can't help himself when it comes to helping the underdog. After all, what could go wrong? A good read in the Space Opera genre.
