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Dust World: Undying Mercenaries, Book 2



Synopsis

The Galactics arrived with their Battle fleet in 2052. Rather than being exterminated under a barrage of hell-burners, Earth joined a vast Empire that spans the Milky Way. Our only worthwhile trade goods are our infamous mercenary legions, elite troops we sell to the highest alien bidder. In 2122 a lost colony expedition contacts Earth, surprising our government. Colonization is against Galactic Law, and Legion Varus is dispatched to the system to handle the situation. Earth gave them sealed orders, but Earth is 35 lightyears away. The Legion commanders have a secret plan of their own. And then there's James McGill, who was never too good at listening to authority in the first place.... In *Dust World*, book two of the *Undying Mercenaries Series*, McGill is promoted to Specialist and sent to a frontier planet outside the Empire. Earth's status within the Empire will never be the same.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I like B.V. Larson's books, but I wish he would at least give a passing nod to Jack Vance. Those of us who love Vance will recognized big chunks of Vance's *The Dragon Masters* in both *Steel World* and *Dust World*, even to the point of calling creatures "Juggers" and "Trackers". In *Dust World*, a people live in caves, fearing the technological race which visits them periodically, enslaves them and conducts breeding experiments to produce monstrous semi-humans. Humans have to storm the ship..yikes, that's nearly a plot-steal.If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then Vance has been flattered heavily.Regardless, Larson can move a story along, he'll surprise you and keep you interested.

Same characters as the first book, different planet, different aliens (kinda). Though the action often becomes very intense, keep in mind that this series is "lite" scifi ... meaning it's more space opera than serious science. That's OK, just as long as you understand what you're getting into before you begin the series. There are many original concepts in these books, and actually, I enjoy this genre of scifi just as much as many others - as it's more than passably good entertainment, but personally prefer the more serious (believable) forms of scifi. It is characters like "Carlos" that burn me out. I understand why authors include his personality type in a novel (the real world is full of jackasses) but too much of his idiocy gets tiresome very quickly. Bottom line: this is a good series ... and I ordered and just began reading book three last night. Review to follow.

What I enjoy best about Larson is his ability to write with droll, tongue in cheek, farcical prose. Really good at it, I must say. I would read his stuff just for that to tell the truth. Very insightful about human motivations, especially our shallow fears and marginal expressions of basic humanity; yet, he always has his principal character shoulder the moral high ground, in a very human way, when the chips are down. Then, somehow he manages to figure out a way for some type of happy ending, realistically acknowledging that things are perfect. They just worked out this time. Yes, definitely want more in this series, see where it goes. Reminds me in some ways of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Universe. Hope we do not meet up with high galactics that have been managing a great deal of the galaxy for a million years, with a vast bureaucracy similar to our own, or even worse, the Russians. Yikes! Write on, please!

One of my favorite authors has done it again. Another enjoyable read providing many hours of great reading. So far I haven't read a book by B.V. that was a waste of my time. His characters make sense to me as does the background of each story. One day future generations will look back on these stories and realize SF writers were writing about their future. Anybody who enjoys this genre will enjoy this author's writing.

So, I got an email from with a special price on this book. It looked like something I might be interested in, so I called it up in the "store" and then discovered that it is, of course, the second book in a series. I went ahead and bought "Steel World", the first book in the series as well as this one. I'd never read anything by B.V. Larson so I really didn't know what to expect. I can tell you that my big 62" TV needed to be repaired by the Geek Squad so I thought I'd kill some time and read this

series. It was on a weekend and I ended up reading both 400 page books in about 3 days. I couldn't put them down once I started reading. An extremely interesting story that weaves some history about the old Roman army set in a future that is not too unbelievable. Highly entertaining.

Really awesome universe that Larson has created here, as is his style. The story definitely has some bumps, and some things not explained in the first book are answered here, albeit in a kind of "oh and this is why that is how it is" sort of jarring way. The story itself is pretty interesting, very Sci-Fi of course, and to my surprise, there were things that happened that were actually quite surprising. I do think the ending could have been resolved in a different way, in exchange for a longer book overall. Though I did like the result of the ending, the way it got there in the last few chapters felt much more fast-paced than the rest of the story, which gave it a rushed feeling. I have at this point read the 3rd book, Tech World, and I'm still super interested in the series and look forward to finishing it, and starting up on some more of Larson's series.

I loved these books, the first (Steel World) and Dust world create a universe that is alien and yet familiar. Getting right into the story, Dust World starts right off, and you get the ugly look at what the last one has done to Earth, and everyone is tightening their belts so to speak... Leagion Varus is called upon to find out if the other colonized world by humans (here to for thought perished) is going to cause problems FOR Earth, or help her. I hope that more will follow, as I am interested in what happens to the Galaxy as a whole, as things seem not as clear and calm as the Galactics make it seem...

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