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Patton's Spaceship (The Timeline Wars Book 1)



Synopsis

An unstoppable conspiracy of terror and death threatens a million alternate Earths in the first book of the Timeline Wars science fiction series. There are a million different Earths across an infinite number of timelines—and every one of them is in peril. Mark Strang became a bodyguard and private investigator when terrorists killed his family; now he spends his days protecting Pittsburgh's helpless and abused. But while on a mission to save the life of a ten-year-old girl, Strang is inexplicably cast into an alternate reality, transported to a different time on another Earth, where America was defeated in the Second World War and now suffers under the brutal yoke of Nazi oppression. Joining up with the remnants of the Resistance in the Free Zone—and allied with such notable commanders as George Patton and John F. Kennedy—Strang is suddenly a marked man and the last hope in a desperate fight for freedom, not only on this world but on countless others. For a war unlike any other is raging across time and dimensions, threatening every possible Earth, including Strang's own. And the enemy will not rest until the entire multiverse is in chains. In his epic and action-packed science fiction saga the Timeline Wars, John Barnes takes alternate-history SF to new heights, ingeniously reinventing and reinvigorating a genre popularized by such acclaimed authors as Harry Turtledove while joining the stellar ranks of Robert Heinlein and Joe Haldeman.

Book Information

File Size: 1249 KB

Print Length: 336 pages

Publisher: Open Road Media Sci-Fi & Fantasy (July 8, 2014)

Publication Date: July 8, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00L2TDQH2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #61,614 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #192

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#198 inÂ Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Time Travel #214 inÂ Kindle
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Customer Reviews

I love alternate history, especially when it involves time travel. So this series appeared to have all the ingredients I would need to find it enjoyable. Add to that that I had read some of John Barnes earlier works, and while they were nothing profound, I found them enjoyable. This book started out in fine fashion, but the moment the hero, Mark Strang, encounters the Crux agent, things seem to go off track for a while. His entrance into the alternate earth was poorly written, in my opinion. Barnes gets back on track shortly thereafter, but can't seem to sustain any stretch of good writing. The book bounces between periods of excellence and mediocrity. At one point, the protagonist Strang is in a car with electric windows, which have been disabled by gunfire. So he cranks the window down. Huh? I've never seen a car with both electric windows and a crank handle, have you? Well, it IS scifi. Late in the book, Strang makes the revelation that he became a bodyguard because he likes to hurt people. Charming. Also, off target. Throughout the book to this point I got the impression that, while Strang did resort to violence when necessary, it wasn't something he enjoyed. All in all, this book was very uneven in both its tempo and its writing style. I almost gave up on it about a third of the way through, but I muddled through and was glad I did. There was just enough there to make it possible that I will read the subsequent books in the series.

Barnes started this series with an enticing pilot! And as with most good SF, he changed one thing from science fact (as we know it) and held other science stable. Great action.

Probably the first author whom I adored and wanted to read everything he wrote was Robert Heinlein. This book, and writer, reminds me very much of Heinlein (without the sometimes wacky ultra-right-wing politics). This is really good writing. Engaging narrator, fast-moving plot that draws you in, well-constructed world, thematic considerations that make you think about the issues. I need to find more of his works and get them.

This is not a good example of John Barnes literary prowess. Rather a workmanlike effort that gives us a rousing but somewhat drawn-out yarn. Mr. Barnes 'borrowed' from the animÃ© BATTLESHIP YAMATO, wherein the Japanese super-battleship Yamato is turned into a starship.

This book needs a proof reader to correct simple mistakes. It took away from the story line of the book.

I liked the lead character and am looking forward to seeing Porter as a grown-up. Felt bad about John Glenn, he deserved better.

This book started out as a crime/detective-type tale which completely engaged me, before morphing into pure alternate history/multiple timeline science fiction. Highly recommended.

I found the story to be very interesting and well written. I haven't read very much alternative history the twist of the time line jumping made a good story.

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