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Swarm: Star Force, Book 1



Synopsis

Earth arms marines with alien technology and builds its first battle fleet! Kyle Riggs is snatched by an alien spacecraft sometime after midnight. The ship is testing everyone it catches and murdering the weak. The good news is that Kyle keeps passing tests and staying alive. The bad news is the aliens who sent this ship are the nicest ones out there. A novel of military science fiction by best-selling author B. V. Larson, *Swarm* is the story of Earth's annexation by an alien empire. Long considered a primitive people on a backwater planet, humanity finds itself in the middle of a war - and faced with extinction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is my second reading of this series. Yes . . . It was that good--at least for me. I guess my excuse for not reviewing this or any of the rest of the books in the series was that I was too busy reading. Would I recommend it? Yes for anyone who enjoys military SF. And except for Kyle having tactical skills far beyond his experience would suggest, the author does seem to understand the inner workings of the military mind and a lot of the terms and slang I recall from my service in the Navy. So if it's good enough to want to read it again why only 4 stars? The not so Good. This is not classic literature. It is a fun read and should be taken as such. The main character, whose voice tells us the story, is something of a cartoon hero. How can one be a college professor and a farmer? Both--when done well--are full-time jobs. To enjoy the story, you must be willing to suspend disbelief and accept that he acquired his superior skill from reading of military history from Sun Tzu to the present day. On the other hand Kyle does make costly mistakes.

So he is not perfect. There is graphic violence throughout the series. One can easily counter that this is a galactic war and war is a messy business. The Good Excellent world building is evident throughout. New solar systems and sentient creatures are identified and given unique language and mannerisms. In fact a good share of the comic relief throughout the series comes from one particular population. The battles in space are very credible. Exotic and not so exotic weapons have their own strengths and weaknesses that have great effect on the outcomes of battles. There is intrigue throughout as numerous assassination attempts are made on the main character. There are very few mistakes in the text. There are no more than a handful of grammar or word usage "speed bumps" to stop the flow or the story in each book. Kyle has character flaws that make him more appealing and the story more interesting. That he recognizes and agonizes over them gives him character. While this may be read as a stand-alone story, its real value is in establishing the world and some of the characters that will carry it forward. If you enjoy a good military SF yarn, I believe you will enjoy the entire series. And you might want to purchase the collection. Highly recommended!

I never review stuff but I had to put in my two cents for the Star Force series. I'm usually a light reader, one chapter and fall asleep kind of guy. Well I've read all 9 Starforce books in 15 days. Since the first chapter I was captivated. I was so impressed that I'm now reading another Larson series. Larson has a very unique way of building his characters gradually, which brings the reader to learn the characters in a natural way. The reader will become invested in the characters. The hero in the series particularly stands out. By the end you can help but admire this fictitious character as he is both very human and larger than life. This series is an epic. Has love, violence, loss, victory, evil, good, some scenes are sexy, some are vile, humorous. If you are a sci-fi geek, you got to get this now. They need to make this series into three movies someday, even if they have to hack out a ton of stuff, I'd buy the blurays. 2 points I want to make that are negative, so be warned. 1: be prepared to spend a lot of money. This book may only be \$2.99 but the rest jump up to \$5.99. You won't be able stop and will end up paying over \$40 to read them all. That said, BV Larson keep my money you deserve it. You wrote something special here. 2: Be prepared for some annoying type-os. I'm assuming this is 's fault somehow. They fortunately do not impede the enjoyment of the story significantly enough for me to give a 4 star rating. The books are that good. Still, you idiots mind hiring a proof reader over there? Getting sick of paying top dollar for a less than perfect product. That said, get this book now!

This book really moves along. The writing is somewhat terse, but the action keeps it going. No, it's never going to be a Huckleberry Finn, but then again, Mark Twain never wrote about alien robots snatching people from the ground and nanoteching their bodies! This is the first of many books to follow using most of the same characters, so the ride will be a long and entertaining one. What is surprising is the imagination of the author who keeps coming up with totally unexpected turns of events. You won't be able to predict what will happen next and the story line does not fall into any kind of framework that is simply replicated with small embellishments. No, B. V. Larson keeps hammering new adventures and that's the fun of it. I am already two books past this one and it doesn't slow down at all. But, do read the books in order or you might have a hard time figuring out what is going on, though if you skip one you would probably be able to catch up eventually. There are no microscopic explanations of the technology, just a quick few sentences on what the technology does. This tends to move the story line along. Most of the characters are not developed in depth, either, but the main one does have subtle changes as the story goes along. Enjoyable, nonetheless.

B.V. Larson is a bit of a throwback, the kind of writer who introduces a strong character and then subjects the poor guy to tragedy so heart-rending a lesser individual would simply lie down and die like a dog. Not Kyle Riggs. His two wonderful kids get killed in the opening scenes of Larson's "Swarm." And Riggs avoids death at the hands of some evil, unknown force only through sheer anger. He's not defeated. He's angry. And he wants payback. What Riggs discovers is a computer-driven ship that wants a leader. He's been subjected to a test. Only the strong survive. The ship is one of hundreds sent to earth by an unknown race to prepare it for wholesale slaughter from another batch of mechanical beings. Riggs, a professor from the University of California, Merced, understands binary code and computing. It's his gig. He reprograms the machines. Good thing too because the challenges are fierce. Earth is doomed. Riggs joins with Sandra, a student from his university who just about kills him, and another ship captain of questionable ethics to save the planet. It's a fast ride with a lot of thrills. And very little down time.

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