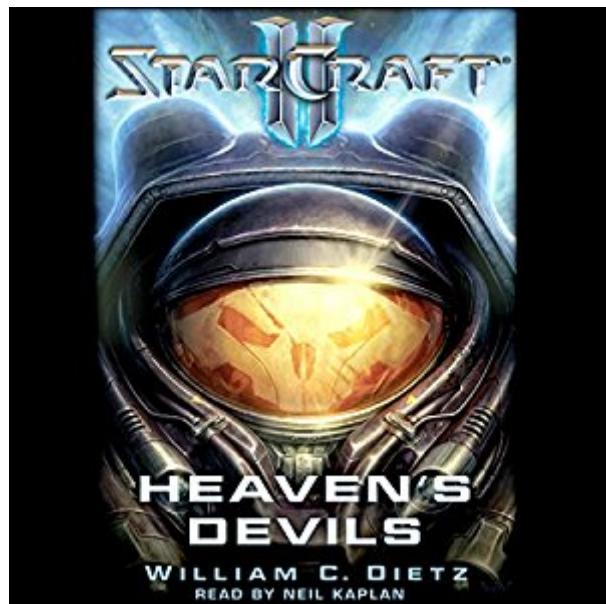


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# Starcraft II: Heaven's Devils



## Synopsis

For the poor, hardworking citizens of the Confederacy's fringe worlds, the Guild Wars have exacted a huge toll. Swayed by the promise of financial rewards, a new batch of recruits joins the fight alongside a slew of mysteriously docile criminals; and a few dubious military leaders. Eighteen-year-old Jim Raynor, full of testosterone and eager to make things right at home, ships off to boot camp and finds his footing on the battlefield, but he soon discovers that the official mission is not what he's really fighting for. For the first time ever, StarCraft enthusiasts will learn the origins of the enduring friendship between the young upstart Jim Raynor and the streetwise soldier Tychus Findlay. Watch as they battle on the front lines of a fierce interplanetary war and bear witness to the Confederacy's rank corruption; corruption so reprehensible that it rains immeasurable death and destruction upon the government's own people. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Heaven's Devils (2010) is the first SF novel in the StarCraft II series. It takes place during the Guild Wars after Tarsonis becomes the capital of the Terran Confederacy. In this novel, Jim Raynor is a farmer's son on the planet Shiloh. Times are hard because of the War and his parents are barely making a living. Tom Omer is a friend and classmate of Jim. The two exchange video puzzles. Hank Harnack is another classmate of Jim's, but they don't like each other. Jim won a fight with Harnack just before they enlisted. Tychus Findlay is a Staff Sergeant in the Confederacy's Marine Corps. He is busy selling captured weapons on the blackmarket. Ark Bennet is the scion of an Old Family. He

has just graduated from upper school. In this story, Jim and Tom join the Marine Corps for the signing bonus. It should cover the taxes for this year. Besides, now their families will not have to feed them. The new recruits leave Centerville on a bus. Harnack has also joined and is on the same bus. They spend the night in a school gym. When Harnack breaks into line ahead of Jim, Raynor headbutts him and then knees him in the groin. The new recruits are shipped to Turaxis II on the troopship Hydrus. Several violent criminals on the ship break out of confinement. Harnack hits a convict and a dozen or so decide to take him down. Raynor grabs a crutch and hits a con who has Harnack in a headlock. Another con pulls the crutch out of his hands and hits him. Jim and Harnack go back to back and stand against the criminals. Afterwards, they become bosom buddies. Meanwhile, Ark is given a mickey and sold to a Marine Corps recruiter. When he comes to, Ark insists that he was shanghaied. Nonetheless, he is inducted into the Corps under the name Ryk Kidd and sent to Boot Camp. Ryk is exposed to the usual irritations as a Boot, but he finds that shooting is a joy. He qualifies as a sniper while in Boot Camp and is sent to the Advance Sniper course. He begins to feel better about himself and welcomes having a role where his actions make a difference. Tychus has a buyer lined up for some surplus weapons when his captain calls out the Tactical Response Team. They use an enemy dropship on the raid. Then Tychus figures out that his captain has them firing on civilians and decks the officer with his rifle butt. Tychus gets time in Military Correctional Facility R-156 on Raydin III. He definitely doesn't like the facility or the guards. He does get a bit of revenge on the guard sergeant. This tale introduces Jim to military theft. Harnack has a ball. And Ryk discovers some disturbing things about his father. This series is not exactly chronological. This novel is close to the end of the sequence and Jim returns home in the last of the series. This storyline continues in *Devil's Due*. Recommended for Dietz fans and for anyone else who enjoys tales of armed conflict, military crime, and disillusioned soldiers. Read and enjoy! -Arthur W. Jordin

While I've heard of Raynor and caught a small amount of his lore through *Heroes of the Storm*, I've never played *Starcraft*. That's how I can tell this is a good book. I really couldn't put it down and I feel like I learned a lot about characters I'm only slightly familiar with. The only thing I would say is that the abrupt off in the night ending left me hanging a bit more than I'd like, but it did succeed in getting me to buy *Devil's Due*.

I bought this book after playing through *StarCraft 2* and becoming enthralled with the newly introduced character Tychus J. Findlay and his enigmatic past with Jim Raynor. Honestly, my main

hope when buying this book was that the author stay true to the characters--and he did. No disappointments there. Dietz did an excellent job of tying the characters, their appearances, and their language into the StarCraft 2 game and world, although some of the dialogue was almost cut-and-paste (e.g. Firebat unit and Hank Harnack). I found myself pleasantly surprised with the story, which was very entertaining, and Dietz's humor frequently made me laugh out loud. Mostly, though, my five-star rating is for hitting the characters spot on and doing justice to their relationships. I can't wait for the sequel, Devil's Dues!

It was officially announced - the release date for the much anticipated sequel to StarCraft. For years, unofficial release dates on pre-order websites kept getting pushed back. I had learned to stop getting my hopes up as each false date approached; but this time the announcement comes straight from the source. Soon, we will be swept away to the Koprulu sector to not only witness, but experience the events that will decide the fate of mankind and the two races incubated by the Xel'Naga. Now that it is so close, so real, I am watching the pot again, waiting for it to boil. It seems somehow farther off and I need something to satisfy the craving for just a few more weeks. The first single-player storyline, *Wings of Liberty*, will feature Terran hero Jim Raynor whom we met in the original game. What better way to prepare than to read this book about Jim's early military career and the events that shaped his character? With that said, this book is NOT a biography of Jim Raynor. While his story provides the main plot line, a good bit of this book goes to the exploits of Tychus Findlay and several sections are devoted to character development regarding the other members of the 321st as well as the bigger picture narrative that drives the Devils' chronicle. For the non-StarCraft-fan, William C. Dietz provides a realistic portrayal of military life, war, corruption and politics. For us StarCraft junkies, he fleshes out the Guild Wars and exposes the atrocious state the Confederacy was in even before the Zerg and Protoss showed up. The question is not whether you should buy this book - of course you should - the question is whether Blizzard should have put so many excerpts on the SCII official website. The answer is, no. As of this posting, they've got ten of them available. The most recent is plucked from chapter twenty-two, well into the story; and while they do their job of drawing you in, these snippets give you an unpleasant sense of déjà vu as you read through the book. If you haven't read the excerpts yet, don't; but either way, definitely read this book.

I'm a big fan of all the star craft games, still sucks they never finished Ghost...but the books help fill the void the games leave out in the storyline. And this one tells of Raynor and Tychus back story. Its

great!

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