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Chains Of Command (Frontlines Book 4)



Synopsis

The assault on Earth was thwarted by the destruction of the aliens' seed ship, but with Mars still under Lanky control, survivors work frantically to rebuild fighting capacity and shore up planetary defenses. Platoon sergeant Andrew Grayson must crash-course train new volunteers all while dulling his searing memories of battle with alcohol and meds. Knowing Earth's uneasy respite won't last, the North American Commonwealth and its Sino-Russian allies hurtle toward two dangerous options: hit the Lanky forces on Mars or go after deserters who stole a fleet of invaluable warships critical to winning the war. Assigned to a small special ops recon mission to scout out the renegades' stronghold on a distant moon, Grayson and his wife, dropship pilot Halley, again find themselves headed for the crucible of combat and a shattering new campaign in the war for humanity's future.

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Customer Reviews

I enjoy military science fiction. With a few exceptions, many of these books are heavy on action, but not necessarily great on character development or realistic plot scenarios. The hallmark of all the

books in this series is that it portrays a believable future, delivers plenty of action and portrays many likable and mostly believable characters. I just discovered this series and pretty much inhaled all four books in as many days. For me it's like one long book. I won't take the time to go into details about the plot, but the story of a young man escaping from a future welfare project from Hell and enlisting in the military to eventually battle mindless, unstoppable aliens is an exciting read. Marko Kloos is a great young writer! You don't need to start from the first book, but you really should. This is a terrific series and I can't wait for the next book.

First of all, I love Marko's series. I preordered this book and pretty much ripped it open when it became available. Chains continues the progression of the battle against the Lankies, setting up what presumably will be the final battle in the next installment. The author clearly has military experience and that gets conveyed into a level of detail that makes the battles feel realistic and the world authentic. Which is what the series is really about--above all things, soaking the reader in a fully realized experience of being in the military of the future. Yet in some ways, this is becoming a problem. The universe Kloos has created begins to feel a bit dull. Just like the military, where every hour of intensity is surrounded by days of monotony, since the story has now painted humanity into a corner where there's not much wonder left to find or things to do as humanity's colonial commonwealth crumbles, I felt like much of the book was just kind of "stuff." This won't stop me from being a fan or continuing to read. And Chains delivers for the most part on the action. But I miss the sense of the unknown and ensuing excitement of the first two books. Keep writing Marko--this is by far one of the best series on the market--but don't sacrifice the fantasy escape for the sake of detail or procedure.

Book number four of a five book series plus a couple of novella ebooks. The fifth book in the series is planned to be released in Feb 2017. The printing is trade paperback in POD (print on demand) format, my favorite. And Kloos gives a very personal shout out for the four people working at 47North, his publisher. You want milsf, I've got your milsf right right here. The series is all about Starship Troopers except everything is going bad. There are no wins against the aliens home planet here. The Earth is under siege and all XXX most of the colonies up to 150 light years away have been found and conquered by the Lankies. The ten billion people living on Earth in 2115 are starving as the Lankies continue to throw things at the planet. The governments don't give out food stamps to the teeming masses anymore, they give out a daily two kilocalories of badly flavored soy. Except that two kcals is closer to one kcal with the food shortages. Even the one billion people living

in the North American Union are starving. BTW, this is the best personal statement that I have read in quite a while. You might have had to own a dachshund in order to truly understand: "Marko lives in New Hampshire with his wife, two children, and a roving pack of vicious dachshunds." BTW, I am tempted for five stars, very tempted. Pretty good number of reviews for a book that has only been out for a month. The first book in the series now has 2,355 reviews. Somebody needs to give this series an award, it is that good.

This is a good solid entry in the series and a nice step up from the previous volume. I reviewed the previous volume and expressed a good deal of reservations about the book and the series' direction. While I'm sure the author doesn't know I exist, he addressed all those concerns in a prologue which acts as a segue between this book and the previous. There is a gap of several years in the story which is bridged by the prologue which puts a good many things to rights. A major element lifting this series above the crowd is that the main characters (they're all here eventually) are growing and changing according to the events which they experience. No character is nearly the same as he or she started out in volume one. In seeing them as we see real people living, learning, loving, losing and growing as we become attached to them and care about their welfare. At least twice in this book, I was sure we were going to lose a character I cared about a main one. I won't spoil to say if the telegraphing of this from the author proved true or a red herring. Fans of all action books will find this one a bit slow. We spend a good deal of time with the characters as they live during a lull in the Lanky War. There is some action but mostly character building and low violence action. There is one rather mysterious encounter with a Lanky ship but then we start tooling up for another adventure tangent to the main war. At about 70% we're off on this adventure which makes no sense at all until maybe the 98% mark when the Twist comes in. I knew there had to be a twist or nothing made any sense. What bothered me a bit is that none of our well known intelligent characters said what was glaringly obvious what they were doing during this tangent war was pointless. Of course, it wasn't but the specifics of why it wasn't didn't come clear until the very end of the book. I think it was far out of character that none of our favorites in the book made that observation while experiencing the adventure. Any reflective reader would see it in an instant. Still, in the end, like the other entries in this series, we have well liked characters off on other adventures. I'm ready for Book Five. It holds the promise of a Big Event.

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