



Carnifex

Tom Kratman

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Revenge: it won't bring your wife and kids back, but it might help with the nightmares.

Patricio Carrera has been waging what amounts to a private world war to bring to justice the murderers of his family. He's raised an army and air force and used them. He's raised a fleet and he's about to use that. He's suborned one republic and is about to undermine another. He's tracked his enemies across half a world, breaking, in the process, any notion of international law that stood in his way.

Now he's deployed his legions to Pashtia, penultimate hideout of the *Salafi Ikhwan* who have made him what he has become. But with each step further from his home, revenge seems no closer. And with each step he leaves behind him a little of his dwindling humanity.

Revenge is a dish best served cold. Yet the trail itself grows cold, as cold as the snow-capped, windswept mountains of Pashtia. Only Carrera's hate still burns hot, and that's a fire that is slowly consuming him.

Carnifex Details

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Author : Tom Kratman

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From Reader Review Carnifex for online ebook

John Stark says

Interesting novel. Very interesting ideas about human nature, politics, and military strategy.

I.F. Adams says

Another fantastic bit of war-porn and social-political commentary from Mr. Kratman. Ill admit to actually really liking them. I don't necessarily agree with everything, but it occasionally actually gives some pause for thought, which is not something someone expects from this sex and violence riddled romp.

Im torn on some parts there where I like seeing perspectives on how to build and support a "real"-ish army, but sometimes it just drags because of it. Has some of that ponderousness I sometimes associate with great, but dense, traditional "Hard" sci-fi.

Greg says

While I like this series and this book, there seems to be a focus on sex bugs me a little.

Also this is a VERY "right" book and series, so if you're left leaning, not sure if you'd like it.

Roberta says

Second book in the series. Patricio Carrera has built a military force for his adopted country of Balboa that is technically a mercenary company for the express purpose of revenge.

A loosely veiled critique of our world, its countries, and progressives, Kratman shows how a military should prosecute total war to defeat an enemy through his fictional legion led by the honorable and ruthless Carrera who seeks revenge for the death of his wife and children at the hands of Salafi (Moslem jihadist) terrorist.

A solid story that is gritty in its portrayal of the horrors of war. Recommended to aficionados of military SF.

True says

Fun series, great escapism, gets annoying at points when he tries to hard to match the nations and politics of the current world era to this future world, but it's not a totally new trick. Piers Anthony did the same thing with Bio of a Space Tyrant. Worth reading and keeping. Kratman's thoughts on warfare, government, the role of soldiers and citizenry have direct tie ins with Heinlein's thoughts on the same subjects.

Felix says

A good read-almost non-science fiction, but from today's headlines. The afterword is quite eye-opening in ways!

David Broussard says

The second book in the series we continue the process of Carrera taking his revenge on the Salafi terrorists that killed his wife and children. After success in Sumer (Iraq) the Legion del Cid returns home. The Progressives have won their election and as a result have fired the LdC. But...the war still rages in Pashtia (Afghanistan) and eventually the Federated States of Columbia (USA) will have to turn once more to the LdC.

So Carrera extorts a huge sum from the FSC and the Legion deploys to Pashtia. They are able to win, mostly because, as in Sumer, they do not restrain their Area of Operations (AoO), nor their Rules of Engagement (RoE). Meanwhile back home the first ships of the Clasis (Latin for fleet) are deployed on anti-piracy operations in the Mare Furiosa (Pacific) around Uhura (Africa) and in the Nicobar straits (Borneo?).

At the same time back in Balboa (Panama), Parilla, Carrera's partner with the LdC, has decided to run for President in the upcoming election. This is a threat to the status quo and the primacy of the Tauran Union (EU) and current gov't so they, of course, work to prevent it.

Will Carrera find Mustafa the architect behind his family's murder? Will the Salafi terror network defeat an aging WWII escort carrier? Will Parilla win the election? What will the High Admiral of the United Earth Peacekeeping Fleet (UEPF) do to stop Carrera? To find out you need to read the book, of course.

Col Kratman has again penned his "near-Earth" view of current geopolitics and allows us to view the world as it might be instead. As the story grows the depth grows as well and the history is explained. We start to see, even more so, the cracks in the UEPF and its rigid caste system, but we also start to see that Carrera can, and perhaps has, gone too far. It has been almost a decade since the attacks, and how he can manage to maintain such hatred is part of the character study. It is indicative of the nature of the conflict that hatred changes us into something that might very well be as bad as what we fight. Has Carrera stepped over that line? Perhaps...or perhaps not. I am reminded, in part, of the line that Jack Nicholson's character in "A Few Good Men" tells Tom Cruise's character..."we live in a world that has walls, and those walls have to be guarded by men with guns...you want me on that wall, you need me on that wall." Carrera is the man on that wall and he protects those that need protecting from a planet that is desperately trying to kill itself. Is that us? To an extent...I wish it wasn't, but it is. That is partly what makes this book so compelling to read.

Michael Rutkowski says

lots and lots of military action which I love but definitely adult fare! not for youngsters!

John Davies says

Not a bad followup book to his first in this series, but the future/past flashbacks confused me a few times. I look forward to reading the next book.

Tim says

Better than the previous book...for certain values of better

James says

The second book in the Legion El Cid series. Continues on from A Desert called Peace. Builds on the characters you first met in the first book and develops the concept and worlds brilliantly. This was the fourth book I read as an e-book and will continue to purchase and read more this way. The moral dilemma facing the major character and his protagonist at the end of the story is well written.

Daniel Hamad says

As with the previous book in this series, the author takes what might be a valid political point to a ridiculous extreme. Only good storytelling saves this from the waste bin.

Dan says

Lengthy, but good!

Howard Anders says

This is the second book in Mr. Kratman's "Carrera" series. In my view it is at least as good, probably better than the first book. In "Carnifex," Kratman continues to use the fiction of "future" events on a planet colonized by Earth, to critique recent military actions in Panama, the Gulf, and Afghanistan. The series is also social commentary on the possible result of current political and social trends. Since the series takes place in the future, "Duque" Carrera has the history of these events to guide him in avoiding the same pitfalls. How he manages to do so, is what makes this series exciting military science fiction.

Beau says

Lots of loose ends. Plenty for the next book. Or the one after that.

I almost felt like he would rather write books than tell the story.
