



Gabriel's Redemption

Steve Umstead

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North American Federation Navy Commander Evan Gabriel was dishonorably discharged after a disastrous mission on a far off world called Eden. He's spent the last five years hiding from his past, from those responsible for the failed mission, from those responsible for running him out of the Navy, and from those originally responsible for making him into who he was - a highly-trained, physically and mentally augmented Special Forces soldier. Two mysterious visitors appear unannounced at the door of Gabriel's seedy hotel room in the slums of Jamaica. His past has finally caught up with him.

From the decaying Caribbean to politically-charged South America, from the back alleys of Mars to a tiny colony on a planet six hundred light years from Earth, Gabriel's Redemption is a near-future military science fiction story of a personal journey seen from the perspective of a soldier who has lost everything -- one who desperately needs to redeem himself not only in his government's eyes, but also his own. Interstellar action and political intrigue mix with one-on-one battles on the surface of a frozen planet in Book One of the science fiction-adventure trilogy.

Gabriel's Redemption Details

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Author : Steve Umstead

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From Reader Review Gabriel's Redemption for online ebook

C.p. Bialois says

Within the first few pages you're taken into the world of Evan Gabriel as he's "drafted" into helping an alien species against the tyrannical company exploiting them. As the adventure grows Evan is faced with demons from his past as he works to set right the world he finds waiting for him.

Richard says

I am a fan of sci-fi and the Kindle (and Twitter) has helped me discover authors such as Steve Umstead. *Gabriel's Redemption* is Steve's first novel and is a nicely written sci-fi novel where Earth has colonized Mars and a wormhole allows for discovery of planets. Besides the story, I enjoyed the author's resourcefulness with his use of technology, gadgets, bio-tech, and his vision of what Earth will be like in the future. The only minor criticism is the novel starts a bit too slow (back story for main character) and ends a bit too fast. Looking forward to reading the other books in the trilogy.

D. Leask says

In a Nutshell:

A down and out former military heavy weight finds himself re-instated on a top secret mission to stop drug trafficking.

First Thoughts:

It's all very cliched and unimaginative as far as plot line goes however Steve Umstead uses this simple plot line and character to create a very imaginative and believable world around. His detail and style make *Gabriel's Redemption* a quick study and suspension of disbelief is easy to achieve as he takes current 20th century technology and imagines it as it would evolve with the world from now until when this story takes place. I am very impressed and although I can likely figure out how it will end that doesn't mean it's not worth finding out if I'm correct, and even if I am correct I won't be disappointed.

Thoughts Upon Completion:

An excellent first book and well written. It's very easy to image Gabriel's universe as Mr. Umstead's descriptions paint a very vivid picture of how it is. He is able to do this without making it seem contrived either.

Gabriel's Redemption does fall short in a couple of ways though. It seemed odd to me that hard living hard fighting men (Both Bad and Good) didn't swear. The use of the word Baggin' seemed like an odd choice and made the fact that the language in the book was very much 'G-rate' obvious. The other criticism I have is that the ended seems a drawn out, I don't want to spoil it but somethings can be left unsaid, however after learning that there is indeed a sequel in the works it may work as part of the build up to that.

Overall

This is a Sci-Fi story and very comfortable as such. Steve Umstead put a lot of thought behind his characters and settings making them jump off the page. Gabriel is sure to become more relaxed as the stories go on as will Mr. Umstead and both will continue to entertain I'm sure.

Shay West says

Gabriel's Redemption will take you on a thrilling ride full of twists and turns and great characters.

Evan Gabriel has something in his past that troubles him, and a faceless man he sees through the haze of a smoke filled gymnasium. He is pulled back into active duty in the North American Federation and finds himself on a ship bound for a planet known as Poliahu. He is told he is to stop the murder of the indigenous lifeforms to harvest a part of their brains to make an addictive drug known as dew.

Gabriel soon finds himself in the fight for his life, and that of his team. Things aren't always what they seem. If Evan Gabriel can figure out the truth, it just might lead to...

Gabriel's Redemption.

Scott Pfeiffer says

This was pretty good yarn. I finished it quickly, a good sign, and enjoyed the main character enough that I bought the second book and started it immediately upon finishing the first: high praise from me. If you enjoy sci-fi action adventure you should give it a read.,

Glenn Skinner says

Gabriel's Redemption takes us into a highly believable glimpse of mankind's not too distant future. The story revolves around a dishonored North American Federation Naval special forces commander Evan Gabriel, called back into active duty for a special mission. He is enticed with promises of redemption for past convictions. The Story takes place in a distant galaxy on a desolate ice-covered planet. The story is well written, and the characters are brought masterfully to life by the author. You are pulled quickly into the story and the pace never let's up until the very end. The world of this future is both believable and interesting. The author took great care covering the smallest of details to make this world perfect. The plot has finely woven twists and turns to keep you on your feet. The technology portrayed through out the story is both interesting and believable. Enough for any Sci Fi junkie.

I found this book a thoroughly enjoyable read. I could not put it down. This is a very well written Sci Fi action adventure. I highly recommend it to any age.

Pavarti Tyler says

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of Gabriel's Redemption from the author after I sent out a request for Indie Sci-Fi books to be considered for inclusion in my upcoming blog post on NYX Book Reviews. Umstead was not guaranteed inclusion in the review nor was a review even mentioned. However, after reading his book I would like to include it in my list of recommended reads.

Gabriel's Redemption is a near future science fiction work that includes all of the hallmarks of top quality sci-fi. Umstead has created a readable, accessible and highly engaging world where intrigue, aliens, drugs and intergalactic travel work together seamlessly. There is never a moment in this book where you think to yourself: *well now that didn't make a lick of sense!* Instead we are presented with a combination of real and imagined science that is so commonplace to the characters it never occurs to the reader to question it.

Evan Gabriel is a taciturn and troubled man who has buried so much of himself in order to survive the horrors and injustices he has witnessed that he has become a mere shell of the hero we come to know and love by the end of the book. Quickpaced, Gabriel's Redemption is an easy read. It flows from scene to scene and moment to moment flawlessly, always leaving the reader begging for more. By the third chapter I was so hooked I read the entire novel in one night.

Umstead deals with issues like honor, responsibility and human nature. While deep in thematic content the forward thrust of the story never stops. In this way Umstead has been able to create a rich, dynamic and believable world with a cast of characters who entertain and inspire. The bad guys are quality villains and the aliens are just strange enough to evoke the reader's inherent xenophobia. At the core of the story is one man's pain and regret and the opportunity to redeem himself.

My only complaints about Gabriel's Redemption are not reasons not to pick it up.

1 - It's a military based fiction which I personally don't generally enjoy. Umstead does a phenomenal job of making the military jargon and topics accessible to non-military readers without sacrificing the details. It just doesn't speak to me. I was able to enjoy the story despite this which if anything speaks to the author's skill at weaving a compelling yarn.

2 - It's not in paperback. This is one I'd love to have on my shelf.

Similar books you may enjoy:

Battlefield Earth: A Saga of the Year 3000

Mr. Spaceman

Ron says

Flunked the 100 page test, but I read the whole thing. It didn't get better. As pulp fiction it's a rousing tale; as science fiction it's poor. Cliché ridden. Sophomoric. Flunked high school physics.

"Drop dead gorgeous"? "(or in a few thousand years) an opposable thumb"? An asteroid hit straightens a planet's axis tilt and boosts it into a higher orbit, which is still circular? "I'm a paperpusher at heart."? Obvious data dumps for the reader's sake. An acoustic guitar on a combat mission? Plot holes and

inconsistencies throughout. Hero who sleeps with junior subordinate?

Don't waste your time, unless you happen to like pulp fiction.

Jim says

I used to read SciFi quite often when I was younger and, while I still enjoy it as an occasional pastime, it is not my main area of interest.

I think My. Umstead does a good job offsetting up his version of the future. I particularly like the timeline he sets out at the end of his novel as it sets the scene for this series of novels - Gabriel's Redemption being the first in the series. We have a world in the not to distant future where Mars has been colonized and interstellar travel is accomplished through wormholes. The novel is fast paced and I think will be much enjoyed by fans of the genre. I would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone who likes SciFi.

While the author does take some care to tell us the backstory of the main character, Evan Gabriel, I found most of the other characters to be not realistic. As is often the case in the thriller genre, action replaces realism. This is not bad as this is meant to be entertainment, rather than thought provoking. All in all, a good debut to a series that many will find enjoyable.

R.B. Wood says

Disclaimer: I'm rather fond of Steve Umstead as a friend and fellow #pubwrite. We met at ReaderCON this year where he presented me with a signed copy of Gabriel's Redemption. That being said, if I didn't enjoy his writing and the SciFi thriller GR is, I would have sent him a quiet e-mail rather than posting a review.

This first of a series follows Commander Evan Gabriel of the near-future North American Federation. As the title suggests, this is a tale of a soldier's journey redeem himself, not only as a warrior, but as a man.

Umstead has created a futuristic world I look forward to exploring in further adventures. He paints a wide picture—a matte painting, if you will—that sets the tone both for humanities future and the far-off world of Poliahu. The character-rich story is non-stop adventure (think Jason Bourne travels the stars) and a completely immersive read.

Fantastic character development, “Lord of the Rings” style scenery and an attention to detail that was a pure joy to experience.

Dannie Hill says

Gabriel's Redemption by Steve Umstead is a science fiction that I have been waiting to read for a long time.

Books like Gabriel's Redemption are the reason I started reading science fiction as a young man. It brought back great memories of space flight and strange new worlds and spacemen fighting to save entire planets. What a great read.

Steve Umstead has written a book that reminds me of Ray Bradbury and many scifi authors from the past. I could see in Steve's writing that he has knowledge of combat tactics, both with squads and hand-to-hand. The author's imagination is amazing as he brings this new world to life.

Gabriel's is given a chance to once again do what he was born to do. He and his team work through deceit and treachery to save new found life forms and the people who would protect them. This story is not all combat but what science fiction was meant to be, an adventure.

Read Gabriel's Redemption and you will be taken on a ride through possibilities and page turning adventures.

Anyone who is a Treckie or science buff will love this tale. Steve Umstead has done a wonderful job and I look forward to reading more of his great stories.

Al Boudreau says

Every so often, a book comes along to cause a shift in one's thinking...Gabriel's Redemption was one of those books for me. I've never been a reader of the Sci-Fi genre, but I read Umstead's book blurb, and became intrigued. As the ebook was a relative bargain, I took a chance on it. I'm pleased to report that after having read Mr. Umstead's novel, not only will I read future works by this author, but I've actually developed a genuine interest in the genre.

Umstead made some decisions in his debut that really worked for me. The story line was set one-hundred, sixty-five years in the future. The technological advances Umstead created for this future world seemed quite logical, and plausible, never causing me to question the clever weapons, and equipment he created. There were enough characters involved to produce a comfortable dynamic, without overdoing it. Their depth and development were well conceived, which added a richness to the plot. I found the pacing comfortable, allowing me time to absorb, and adjust to this new world.

If I were to change anything about Gabriel's Redemption, I might have suggested a longer book, as there was certainly room to elaborate on several plot points. However, this is merely an opinion, and in no way detracted from the overall quality of the read.

Steve Umstead is a fine writer with a vivid imagination...likely a huge fan and voracious reader of the genre. It was obvious to this reader that he did his due diligence in learning the sci-fi genre inside and out before trying his hand at crafting a work of his own. As a result, I highly recommend Gabriel's Redemption.

David Brown says

Meet Evan Gabriel. He's your lovable military flunky. Does the right thing, saves his men, gets knifed in the back by political nepotism. You want the truth! You can't handle the truth! Anyway, in this little gem of a

book, Gabriel is reactivated for duty after a dishonorable discharge during the latter half of the 22nd century.

The assignment is to stop a designer drug called Dew from overwhelming the military and the human race at large. The twist is that it comes from off planet, a long way off planet. That should be all you need to get you revved up and ready for reading Gabriel's Redemption, a well conceived and executed science fiction, military thriller.

The tech is thought out and sprinkled throughout the opening at a smooth pace, as is Gabriel's character. Overall, Umstead offers us a shining example of why independent authors are here to stay. Oh, and the other two in the trilogy are available as well. Read it! Review it! Share it!

B.C. Young says

Gabriel's Redemption by Steve Umstead tells the tale of a man named Evan Gabriel. Evan's past haunts him, but the opportunity arises for him to make up for what happened. He accepts a mission to a far off planet, Poliahu, to find and capture a drug lord. And what he finds upon arriving at the planet, not only surprises him, but has the potential to change all human lives dramatically.

The Good: Gabriel's Redemption is a very well written book. The author's use of words is very easy to follow and not cluttered with too much information. I particularly like that the author uses colloquialisms more in the writing than proper grammar. This doesn't mean that the writing sounds unintelligent. Rather, you feel like a friend is relating the story to you. It's actually very pleasing to read this style of writing. And I can honestly say this is the first time I read a book that made me feel that way.

The Bad: This is a very minor gripe, because overall, the book does a fine job of explaining details about the characters. However, the main character, Evan Gabriel, doesn't appear enough in the book, in my opinion. I feel like there is more about him and his personality that the author should reveal but never does. I understand who he is as a character, but feeling more of that within the pages (or maybe I should say locations) of the book would have been nice. Although it is completely possible that this was the author's intent, since this book is part of a trilogy and the author may further develop the character in future books.

The Ugly: There is one thing about this book that would greatly improve it. Cut it in half and you have a great story! However, this is not the case. The book clocks in at around 66,000 words – which is a good length. However, the first half of the book is very slow. The author introduces many characters and their personalities, but I feel that it just drags. While there is a goal introduced in the beginning of the story, it takes way too long to get to that goal and introduce the next one. It is not until about halfway through the book that it really picks up and becomes interesting. I feel shortening this book would have made it better.

Overall, I liked Gabriel's Redemption. I see great potential within the world the author has created and hope that the next book in the series improves upon some of the aspects mentioned above. If you're into trilogies, give this one a shot, because the ride is just getting started.

Shenandoah Sleasman says

I am not one that delves too deeply into science fiction. I enjoy Star Wars and Star Trek; I adore Firefly.

However, I do not often leave the mainstream and explore the other sources of sci-fi that is available to the reader. So, when I met Umstead in the wonderful world of Twitter and promised him a review, I was biting my lip. Would my biased love of more classic novels make me not appreciate the work of Steve Umstead? Would I be able to finish the book? Most importantly, will I be able to give constructive criticism?

Luckily, I was presented with writing that goes beyond what I expected when it comes to self-published work. As someone who more often studies works that deal with the 1800s, I found myself easily drawn into this futuristic world that Umstead so eagerly presents. The technology, history, and political circumstances of his civilization are realistic enough to be believable; the reader can easily see how things situations could occur, especially regarding today's world. Umstead prognosticates a world in which the reader can easily find themselves.

His creation of future technology is brilliant. Everything from the infrastructure, weaponry, and transportation is presented in a way that is logical. I am impressed with Umstead's creativity, especially when he goes into the manner in which the government actually made the soldiers themselves into weapons by increasing the potential of their natural abilities.

Evan Gabriel himself is a perfect anti-hero, a modern-day Byronic hero that struggles greatly with the plaguing memories of a failed mission. Though his personality can sometimes be confusing (there are some instances of him acting out of character), the character is complicated. The only thing that worries me is that there may be too many minor characters and that they may be taking some of the spotlight away from the actual hero of the story. If the intention of the author was to emphasize the importance of a military team, then I am all for this. Unfortunately, Evan Gabriel is the title character and the reader expects more from him than what was delivered.

My review is 4 stars due to one flaw to this otherwise brilliant piece of writer: pacing. I read Victorian novels every week and I can understand slow pacing. I also know that I am a bit more patient than other readers. Sometimes, the novel can seem a bit prolix. I will tell you that Umstead manages pacing a lot better than Dickens, which is why his pacing only cost him one star.

Overall, I am impressed. As a budding critic with an extensive personal library, it is not often that I truly enjoy the work of a self-publishing author. My experience in the field of literature has taught me to look first to publishing houses and then to the indie writers. I will say that I struck gold with this novel. I am thoroughly delighted in the book and look forward to reading the next one in the series.

Cheers and love,

S.R.Sleasman
