



Lucifer's Star

C.T. Phipps , Michael Suttkus

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Cassius Mass was the greatest star pilot of the Crius Archduchy. He fought fiercely for his cause, only to watch his nation fall to the Interstellar Commonwealth. It was only after that he realized the side he'd been fighting for was the wrong one. Now a semi-functional navigator on an interstellar freight hauler, he tries to hide who he was and escape his past. Unfortunately, some things refuse to stay buried and he ends up conscripted by the very people who destroyed his homeland.

LUCIFER'S STAR is the first novel of the Lucifer's Star series, a dark science fiction space opera set in a world of aliens, war, politics, and slavery.

Lucifer's Star Details

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Author : C.T. Phipps , Michael Suttikus

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From Reader Review Lucifer's Star for online ebook

Ulf Lehmann says

I received a free copy of Lucifer's Star from the author.

Having said that, Luci's Star is a far in the future set space opera. The titular star is an award for bravery, just like Silver Star or whatnot, and only the most cunning of warriors receive it. No, it has nothing to do with devil worship, not really, but is part of an overarching mythology that forms the backbone of humanity in this future.

As a lover of epics, this feels like the preamble, the appetizer, as it sets up the players and the objective with a world of words and blood waiting to be unleashed upon the reader. And while I am no friend of first person narrators in general, Phipps makes it work to the story's advantage.

Cassius Mass, the protagonist and narrator, is a war veteran, hero to some, villain to most others. He was on the losing side of an interstellar conflict and while he can't live with his deeds, there are far more people who don't live because of them. Needless to say, we spend our time in a spaced out spacer who drinks and sleeps his way to oblivion, until something changes. Confronted by yet more sins of his past, Cassius chooses to open his eyes, mind, and heart and let his conscience be his guide, instead of a regime's propaganda he was one of the few buying into.

Is it a perfect book? Which book is? Will you enjoy it? If you like your Star Wars with a Han Solo who shoots (not first because that implies there was return fire), if you like your humanity more Babylon 5 than Star Trek, granted a rated R Babylon 5, then yes! It's written like a water slide, first you climb up, slowly, then you sit and gather speed until you splash into the end, wanting more!

Jon says

A really fun space opera that's about as twisty as it gets. Every chapter the character peels back an onion where there's different layers, different interests. The most appealing part to me of this was the concept of the bioroids, how they are thought of in society and how they get manipulated. A lot of clone sheenanigans, and very cool conceptual stuff which you don't usually see in SF novels in that regard -- most books have one type of clone and that's that, but this shows a variety of options of how a person might end up, and that's intriguing, and probably more realistic in that regard.

The main character feels very real, the characters are very distinct in general. I really would like to get to know the before-Judith better, of which there's a flashback scene but not a lot other than that, it probably would make me more sympathetic to her compared to other events in the book, but it was a fine first book in a series, with plenty of room to explore a lot with these characters and this universe.

One thing not so much to my tastes and may be similar to some of my readers is a lot of casual sexual encounter/talk that is pretty constant throughout the book. Something to note, but I'm not going to ding a book for intentional character choices. The writer clearly understood what he was doing so it is not a commentary on skill or enjoyability of the book, but something to note.

Overall: Very fun. Lots of action. Lots of unexpected turns, great perspective character.

Andy says

"The moral is everyone in power is one kind of son of a bitch or another. Don't trust 'em. Fight for people rather than fight for the people themselves. Individuals are worthwhile but people as a whole are a nebulous concept which can be used to justify anything." There are many such quotes that stood out for me, but this one sums up the complex moral themes of this book as well as any of them.

Lucifer's Star has all the elements I generally look for in space opera: complex galactic politics, actual or potential conflict with vastly superior alien cultures, and AI that may or may not have the best interests of humanity at heart, to name a few. It also has the hallmarks of "grimdark" genre fiction that appeal to me: morally gray characters that act according to the sum of their experiences rather than shallow good/evil archetypes.

Fans of epic space battles, shifting alliances, fast-paced action, betrayal and treachery will find everything they're looking for in this book along with the kind of nuanced and complex ruminations on what it means to be human that the best stories involving AI, robots, androids, and clones often provide. This story has the deep philosophical elements of something like Ancillary Justice, but is still pulpy enough to keep your adrenaline pumping and the pages turning. Every character in the story has a past, alliances are constantly shifting, and nothing is ever quite what it seems. The evolving motivations of the main character, Cassius Mass, feel organic and never driven by plot necessity. I think my favorite character is probably Isla, a "bioroid" who longs to be free of her programming so she can discover who she really is.

I reserve 5 star reviews for those books that truly stand above the rest. This one is a solid 4, but there's not much I can offer in terms of criticism other than that I generally like a story with more of a slow build rather than non-stop action. I also tend to go for a more plausible, hard sci-fi type of space opera rather than pulpy space fantasy with laser-swords, etc. The authors did a fine job of rooting the book in hard science for the most part, but yeah... it did have at least one laser-sword duel. Those are completely subjective criticisms based on my own preferences though; overall this is probably the best space opera from an independent author I've ever read. Looking forward to reading the further adventures of Cassius Mass!

Lukasz says

Actual rating: 3.5

I rarely read sci-fi books. Probably, I've read two or three space operas years ago but I barely remember them. As this year's r/fantasy Bingo challenge contains a Space Opera square I have a pretext to read more in the genre. I picked *Lucifer's Star* because I liked the synopsis and, additionally, I appreciate CT Phipps online presence as a blogger and reviewer.

It was a quick and entertaining novel that doesn't lack space battles, futuristic technology, cyborgs, clones, and sex. The story follows Colonel Cassius Mass, an ex-soldier of the Archduchy of Crius, who once had it all. Intelligent, handsome and beloved by all, he was the best pilot of the Archduchy and a role-model for many. Sadly, it turned out that he was fighting for the wrong side of the conflict.

His friends and his family died in the final bombing of his homeworld. To make matters worse, he's now one of the most hated people in the Universe. He leads a miserable life as a semi-functional navigator on an

interstellar freight hauler. He tries to hide who he was and escape his past. Unfortunately, some things refuse to stay buried and he ends up conscripted by the very people who destroyed his homeland.

While I'm not a genre *connoisseur*, I appreciate how the authors play with the tropes and put them under critical examination. Things get difficult and dirty, they don't tend to magically and conveniently work out for characters.

World-building is done in a steady way. As the story progresses we learn about the world through dialogue and internalizations. There's plenty of secrets and it seems mythical entities have fun while playing with human and alien lives. The big theme of the book is the politics. It took me a while to understand the why/what/how of what was going on and, truth be told, I'm not sure if I've got everything straight. Betrayals were easy, but when you add A.I.'s changing bodies things get a bit complicated. While I can't speak for the realism of the technology, I really enjoyed how Phipps presents the information through Cassius' POV. As the story progresses, understanding some of the trickier concepts becomes vital, although it doesn't require a reader to hold a degree in quantum physics. Just to use imagination.

The cast of characters is diverse and interesting with strong female representation. I think most characters were compelling and three-dimensional. Everyone here has a past that influences his choices. Alliances are constantly shifting, and nothing is ever quite what it seems. There is a sort of love triangle between the characters. Ilsa is a bioroid - created to sexually please and seduce others. Even though she's managed to flee her former masters, she didn't manage to reprogram herself and she's not wired for monogamy. She sleeps with Clarice O'Hara, the security chief of Shogun. Cassius sleeps with both of them. It's not a problem as the society is rather sexually open and it's not a big deal to have multiple partners, even when being in a relationship. There's no unnecessary drama, just people, cyborgs, and bioroids learning to care and fight for each other.

While I enjoyed many parts of the novel, I have to admit I wasn't able to fully connect with Cassius' voice. As a result, my engagement in the story lacked emotional component. I think Cassius is an interesting character - he used to think of himself as a hero just to understand he was a bad guy. He's not who you would call a good person and that's fine. I don't like good characters. It's just there's something in him that irks me.

The writing is rather good. We may discuss if there isn't an excess backstory told here and there and maybe a bit too much telling in places. It's possible but it didn't influence the pacing. The final confrontation was surprising and interesting but didn't manage to knock me on my knees.

Overall, *Lucifer's Star* is a well-paced book with no boring parts (at least to me). It's quick to read and easily accessed, all while dealing with ethical concerns, and philosophical questions. I think of it as a good reintroduction to the Space Opera genre. Because I couldn't really connect with Cassius, rating won't be higher. I need to emphasize that it's highly subjective; interesting plot plus great secondary characters made it a fun read for me, even despite the mentioned "issue".

Bob Milne says

As opening scenes go, sci-fi doesn't get much better than this! *Lucifer's Star* kicks off with a big, high-stakes, fast-paced battle that evokes memories of the most intense space battles from *Star Wars* or the original *Battlestar Galactica*. It's wild, frantic stuff, and it just keeps getting better as we watch one character after another come to a fiery end in pursuit of their suicidal mission.

Almost immediately, however, C.T. Phipps quickly leaps ahead from galactic space opera to something darker and grittier that reminded me more of the Deathstalker books than Star Wars, albeit with the cynicism and conspiracy of the rebooted BSG. There's actually a lot of philosophy to this, some deep thoughts and heavy ideas about the nature of good versus evil, family legacies, and right versus wrong. History is written by the victors, and one man's terrorism is another's rebellion.

While this absolutely nails the space opera spectacle, it also has plenty of world building, fantastic characters, byzantine plots, and equal parts wonder, horror, and humor. Our introduction to the crew of the Melampus will have your head spinning, with secrets and lies lurking under their skin. After that, you think you'd be prepared for the exploration of the Rhea, but toss in the issue of clones, and suddenly the secrets and lies are almost too deep to wade through.

It's those characters who make this such a fun read, though, with personalities to match their layers of deceit. Cassius is the perfect hero, damaged and flawed, and navigating his way through conflicting motivations. Ida reminded me a lot of Hetty from NCIS: LA (a scary sort of Yoda); Hiro is an intriguing, almost likable backstabbing scoundrel; and Clarice is a sexy sort of femme fatale, a good friend to have, and a terrifying enemy. I'll be honest, I didn't really care of Isla, and while I really did like Zoe, I hesitate to say too much without untying some of those treacherous knots of lies and conspiracies.

Lucifer's Star is space opera for a grimdark generation, an action-packed story that doesn't forego character building or ethical dilemmas in delivering on the fun. It's not a feel-good story, and will likely leave you needing a shower, but it is effective storytelling.

Originally reviewed at Beauty in Ruins

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy of this title from the author in exchange for review consideration. This does not in any way affect the honesty or sincerity of my review.

Allan Batchelder says

A fun read -- a real popcorn, space opera that will keep you entertained for hours. Fans of Star Wars, Star Trek and Battlestar Galactica will really enjoy this.

Kitvaria Sarene says

One of my favorite reads (listens...) this year!

I listened to this one as audio book, and have read some parts of the ebook version. First off I must say that the narration is really, really excellent! I had some little troubles with it - mostly that there are some flashbacks that are easy to spot in the "actual book version" as they are written in italics. In the audio book you simply change from one scene into a flashback and go "what now? Where are we? What happened?". That doesn't happen to often, and dead people being around gives you a fast hint, so it didn't annoy me too much. The other problem I had with the audio was the names Isla and Ida being pronounced so similarly, that at some points I had the wrong people in a scene for a while before I noticed my mistake. You can tell them

apart if you pay very close attention to the names, but I slipped a few times. But the brilliant voices, emotions, sarcasm and tone of the narrator more than made up for it, so this will be one of my favorite audios in the future.

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To the story itself:

The characters were what made this book work so well for me! Cassius is a great main character, who is witty and sarcastic and actually tries to do the right thing, while still being able to be a ruthless killer if needed. In a way that is my favorite kind of character for an action packed book such as this!

There are also plenty of other great individuals I enjoyed spending time with. Isla, the bioroid (a sort of robot IA in a flesh and blood vessel) is one of my favorites. But the female space ship captain who is over 200 years old was also a pleasure to read - and I'd have loved to join her crew, that consist mostly of mostly (ex-) criminals and all sorts of people who have things to hide. They all felt very real to me and I cared for what happened to them! I especially liked the spectrum that ranged from good to bad and everything in between - and how some of them took a double turn along the way, when their real faces showed.

The first scene was a bit rough around the edges, but from chapter two onwards I was hooked body and soul. I devoured the whole book in just 3 days and couldn't get enough of it! The plot is a bit meandering, but all the little twists and turns and the betrayals and puzzle pieces you find along the way kept me well entertained. I'll pick the sequel up as soon as it hits audible, as I really need to know what happens next!

There is a lot of action in this one - and still it has some really great lines along the way too. I liked it being fast paced without feeling like a guilty pleasure. The prose was fluent and let me sink right into this story and actually be there next to the characters, joining them on their adventure.

My only (very little) gripe was with some intentionally funny things, like a common brand of sex toys "Sexy snow queen Isla from the children's movie" which is eerily like a movie princess called Elsa or a book character who is the protagonist of a wizard's school under siege by the Dark Lord... Those things are only mentioned a few times throughout the book so while it had me roll my eyes a bit instead of amusing me, it didn't really take away from my enjoyment of the story over all.

All in all this was a really awesome read, that I can only wholeheartedly recommend!

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## The Grim Reader says

My second Charles Phipps book in as many weeks and Lucifer's Star is another fantastic read. This time, Phipps has teamed up with Michael Suttikus to bring us a thrillingly dark space opera right out of the top draw. Though very different from The Tower of Zhaal (reviewed here), Lucifer's Star is the story of Cassius Mass (great name!) - a hero of the Crius Archduchy, now hiding on-board a spaceship after Crius was crushed in battle by the Commonwealth. Mass' wife and home were destroyed and he now wishes only to remain anonymous, which is tricky when there is a large bounty on your head! Mass is found out early on in the book but is presented with an opportunity he can't refuse. And so we embark upon a journey through space where no-one is as they first appear and the word "friend" is used loosely.

Similarly with The Tower of Zhaal, the action scenes are vivid and exciting, but Lucifer's Star is a great read because of Cassius Mass. Cassius is a very grey character. Is he a terrorist or a freedom fighter? It really is up to the reader to decide. The lines are blurred and the moral ambiguity of this character makes Lucifer's Star compelling reading. I am not a huge space opera fan at all to be honest so I was glad to find such a well-

developed and intriguing lead. As I delved deeper into the book I found myself liking Mass more and more. Mass isn't the only great character in the book, each of his allies and foes are equally well-drawn and have their own personalities. You will love them one chapter and hate them in the next. It is thrilling stuff!

There are a few parallels with Star Wars I felt, but Lucifer's Star is darker, a lot darker. It's Grimdark in space! There are a multitude of twists and turns, friends become enemies, enemies become friends, you just never know who to trust. It is one of those books that even reluctant science fiction readers like myself can enjoy. The world-building is excellent. No info-dumping going on here as the book is allowed to breathe, the universe growing steadily and impressively as the plot develops.

It is testament to the quality of Lucifer's Star that a reader such as myself, one that is not always a fan of science fiction can enjoy it as much as I did. Phipps and Suttikus have created a cast of characters and a galaxy I look forward to losing myself in again soon. An excellent start to a new series.

5/5 laser blasts from the Grim Reader.

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### **Megan Mackie says**

Okay, space pirates. Come on. It's a book about space pirates. Why haven't you gone to buy it already? It's about space pirates!

Fallen noble turned pirate Cassius finds himself embroiled in the continuing war between the Commonwealth and basically everyone else who wants to be independent of their grand empire plans. Throw in triple-crossing spies, sexbots turned doctors, and the universes most evil, dysfunctional family and... no seriously... why are you still reading? Go get the book.

If you liked Firefly, Star Wars, or every cyberpunk space anime ever made... then you've bought the book already and I'm just talking to myself right now. Good job.

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### **Montzalee Wittmann says**

Lucifer's Star (Lucifer's Star #1) by C.T. Phipps and Michael Suttikus is a very exciting sci-fi novel that kept my attention and interest. There were so many twists and turns that left me not knowing who the poor hero was suppose to trust! It was that way all the way through the book. Lots of action, adventure, suspense, secrets to be explored, excellent sci-fi, and good plot. Characters well developed and dialogue spot on for their character. It was the twists and turns that really captured the story, great work there! I was given this book to read and the review was voluntary.

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### **TS Chan says**

*I received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.*

**3.75 stars**

**Lucifer's Star is a fine example of a space opera which gives me cause to explore this genre more.** A promising debut of a grimdark science fiction series by C.T Phipps and Michael Suttkus, this a narrative that blurs the boundaries of the right or wrong side.

The story is told from a first person perspective of Cassius Mass, a legendary star pilot from the Archduchy of Crius whose nation lost in a final big battle with the massive forces of the Commonwealth. Our main protagonist, desperately trying to escape or bury his past, was shoved right into the face of rising new threats and perpetual conflicts that the human race is so adept at propagating.

"Evil is evil. Big. Small. Grand. Petty. Well-justified or just because. There's no lesser or greater of it. Choosing between them does not make your soul any less blackened."

The world, or rather cosmos-building, evident in this narrative was intricate and quite remarkable. This is a far-future science fiction of humans who after destroying Earth, conquered and colonised space and eventually developed into various nations or 'races' of humanity. These comprise the larger interstellar organisation called the Commonwealth and the smaller one being the Archduchy of Crius whose nobility dabbled into cyber-genetics, cloning, and human experimentation. Then we have another 'race' altogether who have evolved and adapted to space life so completely that they can dwell in zero gravity and appear more alien than human.

No science fiction is ever complete without the mention of aliens and their far superior technology and the authors weaved this aspect of worldbuilding into the narrative without these beings ever making an appearance. But instead it told of their influence and shaping of these races and their technology, and of even more mystical beings controlling or directing the fate of humanity in space. I personally found this to be well-executed while maintaining a mysterious air to these highly intelligent alien beings.

Whether it was for a matter of survival or merely an extension of dominance, battles were a constant affair. Arising from the fall of Crius, there were new factions arising within the Commonwealth which resulted in plots within plots, conspiracies within conspiracies, and twists and turns that occurred so often that one has no inkling which side can be trusted nor which side is right or wrong.

"If you can't be with the side you want, work to fix the side you're with."

Aside from the intricate plot and worldbuilding, the cast of characters was diverse and interesting with an impressively large proportion of female representation. In fact, aside from Cassius, all the more notable characters were women. The best part of all was that they were compelling and three-dimensional characters which did not fall into the horribly cliched form of femme fatales just to satisfy the mould of 'strong and dangerous female'. Cassius himself was fascinating in his internal struggle between who he was born to be and had been, and who he will want or wish to become.

The main issue I had with this book was that there was just too much for me to absorb on the political narrative over the length of the book. As one who sometimes prefers slower or longer books to draw out the plot or character development, I actually will like more pages to better understand the background of all these conflicts and the various factions and organisations a bit better. Perhaps I'm just too dense to grab all that at the first instance. The other was more around expectation. The initial space battle scene in the first chapter was very well-written and I hoped to see a bit more of that but the tone of the book turned to more social commentary on war, slavery, cloning, transhumanism, artificial intelligence and a mothership-load of political intrigue.

Notwithstanding, *Lucifer's Star* was well-written with solid worldbuilding and character development that I will gladly partake in the future books of this series.

*This review can also be found at Booknest*

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## Bookwraiths says

Originally reviewed at Bookwraiths.

*Lucifer's Star* is damn fine space opera! That was my initial reaction after closing the book, and now, several weeks later, I still feel the same way: C.T. Phipps and Michael Suttikus having crafted a rousing, pulse-pounding adventure story that fans of *Star Wars*, *Battlestar Galactica*, or other sci-fi series should not miss out on.

The epic last battle between the Crius Archduchy and the Interstellar Commonwealth is taking place! Battleships and starfighters dancing among the heavens and between the fiery energy bolts of destruction. The fate of one section of the galaxy about to be decided once and for all. A young man struggling against the inevitable, desperately trying to find a way to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat and save not only his society but, more importantly, his family.

Too quickly, it is revealed that the battle is merely the dreams of one Cassius, a loner aboard the star frigate *Melampus*. His mind still plagued by nightmares of the war he somehow survived years before. His only desire to slip away from that past, forget what he has lost, and fade into obscurity among the other rift raft aboard Captain Ida Claire's starship.

But anonymity isn't to be, as more of Cassius' past is revealed. His true identity thrusting him into the spotlight and returning him to a role he wished to leave behind. The future shifting before his eyes as the people he has lived among are shown to have their own secrets and motives. Each event pushing Cassius deeper and deeper down the rabbit hole he wanted so desperately to escape; people from his past reappearing and new threats looming over everything!

Many science fiction adventures attempt to capture the glory of great space opera: the masterful mixing of adventure and comedy, deceit and devotion, battle and exploration, hope and failure. All of these elements gently folded into a galaxy of familiarity and wonder, where galaxy building, violence, and good versus evil is the overall theme. Yet few success in capturing the wonder of great space opera. Phipps and Suttikus do, however, for several reasons.

First, they have a good cast of characters. And it all starts with our jaded yet somewhat noble hero Cassius, whose past might appear to be glorious but is soon revealed to have more than its share of secrets, sorrows, and missteps. His present motives ambiguous at best, filled with selfish desires and serious flaws. In other words, this guy is the perfect space opera hero for the early 21st Century (which doesn't seem to believe in heroes anymore.) And surrounding him are a host of interesting people — from the calculating Captain Claire to the femme fatale Clarice to the scarred yet hopeful Isla. Each and every player adding yet another element of drama to a story which is filled with intrigue, double-crosses, and grand conspiracies.

Take special note of that last sentence, because it is my way of telling you that *Lucifer's Star* isn't a straight forward good versus bad space opera. Nope, the plot here is more complex than that. There are numerous twists and turns. Good guys revealed as bad guys (or merely at odds with our hero in the current situation.) More than a few people are backstabbed. Honorable or patriot motives evaporate once the focus settles upon them. And throughout it all, it really is difficult to tell who exactly is right, who is wrong, and who you the

reader should be pulling for, because everyone has a decent argument that they alone are right.

As for the galaxy building here, it is deftly done by the authors. Phipps and Suttkus slowly but steadily painting the picture of a huge galaxy not long ago torn by war, filled with secrets, inhabited by mysterious beings, and controlled by even more mythical entities. The fragile equilibrium of everything ready to be blown asunder by a growing rebellion and its backers. Terrorists seen as heroes by some. Peacemakers viewed as fascists. War and death a never ending affair — as it is always going on somewhere. Danger, death, and adventure lurking around every corner.

As for any criticism I have of the book, the only one worth mentioning is the pacing and length of the opening chapters. For me, the initial setup here (while well done and completely understandable from a plot point of view) felt slow and too long. Other than the battle scene, it was more a constant buildup of reveals and back story which wasn't terribly exciting. Certainly, the wealth of information introduced here sped the rest of the tale along, but I wish the first several chapters would have been a bit more exciting or a little shorter.

*Lucifer's Star* is space opera for the 21st Century. Gone are the days of good guys in white fighting bad guys in black. Life is more complex than that, and so to are its stories. With a pulse-pounding, action-packed story populated by jaded, scarred characters and played out in a well imagined galaxy filled with intrigue, mystery, conflict, and more than a few laughs, *Lucifer's Star* might not leave you with a smile on your face, but it will definitely leave you wanting to know more about Cassius and where his story will take him.

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for a fair and honest review. I'd like to thank them for allowing me to receive this review copy and inform everyone that the review you have read is my opinion alone.

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### **Paul Lavender says**

This is the first sci-fi book I've read in years, and I now need to read more. C.T Phipps has crafted a cracking tale of treachery, lies and not a little bit of love.  
Look forward to the sequel!

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### **Stephen Kozeniewski says**

What if Darth Vader had survived the Battle of Endor and went on to realize that The Empire had been the bad guys? Without being a hacky Star Wars knockoff (trust me, I've read my fair share of those) C.T. Phipps takes this basic premise and runs with it.

Cassius Mass was the greatest starfighter pilot of the Crius Archduchy - which makes him either a war criminal or a war hero, depending on your perspective. After going into hiding for years, Cassius himself gradually comes around to the former conclusion as he realizes that no matter how noble and selfless his actions were, ultimately they were in support of an evil government.

It's notoriously harder to win the peace than to win a war, as Cassius learns as he's drawn into a variety of spy networks and criminal enterprises, all while (mostly) just wanting to drink himself into a stupor. Space battles, fistfights, and political double-dealing all ensue, resulting in a rip-roaring narrative that rarely falters or slows.

C.T. Phipps has a killer instinct and a killer style. His work is simple in the most admirable sense of that word. (I suspect he actually probably toils away at his prose and stories for hours on end until it just seems simple to the reader - an even more remarkable feat, actually.) His writing is crisp, clear, concise, and yet also evocative. LUCIFER'S STAR is a genuine pleasure to read.

Let's talk negatives briefly. I slightly preferred Phipps's previous work, CTHULHU ARMAGEDDON, to this one, for a few reasons. For one, his love of Lovecraft bled through on every page. By comparison, LUCIFER'S STAR was a bit more pristine, austere even you might say. Second, there was a lot of tangled spy networks including more than a few clones and imposters and God knows what else. By the time Judith or Clarice or Zoey or somebody had died for the third or fourth time, I started wondering who the hell they had been in the first place. Either the spy-fi antics needed to be streamlined a bit or I needed to pay a bit more attention, and I won't even pretend to know which it was.

If you're looking for a fun, engaging, thought-provoking sci-fi adventure, check out LUCIFER'S STAR. You won't be disappointed.

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### **Aubrey Law says**

Lucifer's Star was an entertaining science fiction story full of space battles and some super cool future technology. Looking forward to the next book(s) in the series

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