



Lucky Thirteen

Marko Kloos

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Rookie pilot Halley's first drop ship command.

A short story in the Terms of Enlistment universe.

170 KB

Lucky Thirteen Details

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From Reader Review Lucky Thirteen for online ebook

JPT says

audiobook

Story: B+, Narration: B+

Not a review, just some thoughts for personal reference. Possible spoilers.

This is a short story set early in Kloos's Terms of Enlistment series about Halley's first command as a drop-ship pilot. Her ship is nicknamed Lucky Thirteen as a bit of irony because it's been anything but that in the past. But, things change under Halley until one final, fateful mission.

I really like this series and have both read and listened to all of the full-length books. That said, I wasn't sure if I'd like a short story, and one from Halley's POV, at that. But I was pleasantly surprised and really did enjoy it. Looking forward to Book #6 coming out in about a month.

Kingley says

Underrated short story, I think this is up there with Mountains of Mourning by Lois McMaster Bujold.

Guy Wheatley says

This is another side trip into the Frontlines series, but unlike "Measures of Absolution," this stands in its own right as an excellent read. We get insight into another important character in the series but even more importantly we get a feel for the soul of this universe and its creator. This is WWII corny at its absolute best. This short story follows pilot Lt. Halley on her first drop ship command in an old and out of date ship named Lucky 13. There is more heart in that ship and in this story than can be found anywhere else in literature.

A must read for any Frontlines fan.

Laura Larson says

This would more accurately be considered 1.1 as it occurs AFTER book 1 in the series but BEFORE book 2. It's nice to see a bit of Halley, even if it is just a short story. I love her repeated proclamations to not be superstitious... but you can feel her heart arguing with her mind even in the short 15 pages this story occupies. One tough broad... and one big softy <3

Janna says

Possibly the perfect short story - no background requested

Though i have read all of the Frontlines books, I didn't need to for this story. Having that background info feels more like the privilege of a special club than any kind of necessity. The protagonist is a favorite secondary character of mine, and the chance to read more about her experience was a treat.

Frank says

Enjoyable Short

Waiting for the next book in the series I've been reading other novels, but today I wanted the familiar territory of a known work. As I scrolled through my kindle liking at all I'd loaded I saw the two shirts by Marko Kloos. I picked Lucky Thirteen because I'm saving the other for just a little longer, until I have a stronger desire to live in Marko's universe.

This did not disappoint. The writing is as well done as the novels. The character has the same feel, and the story is excellent.

Mike (the Paladin) says

Did you read Terms of Enlistment? if you did you met Andrew and Halley who "fell in love" during basic training (hey it's the future, they were bunk mates...nothing like when I was in the army). This book takes place before the climatic events in that book but after the events of basic training. Halley is in her first posting as a Marine Drop Pilot and her ship is..."Lucky 13". The ship got its name because it twice survived to come back into service after all hands in it (crew and troops) were killed.

This is Halley's ship.

What you're going to get here is the proverbial rousing military action yarn. It's an edge of the seat short story with boosters on full blast and guns blazing. if you liked the novel, if you like action, if you like military science fiction, if you like military fiction this one's for you.

I highly recommend the novel that precedes it and this short story...and this writer. So far I've liked everything I've read by him and I have the second novel in this universe waiting.

Enjoy.

Update: Because the story says this is Halley's first drop ship I thought the story took place before the first novel. Having started the second novel i believe that the story actually takes place between novel. In the events of the first novel i guess Halley didn't actually have her own drop ship assigned.

Oops.

G33z3r says

Military SF story of shuttle pilot during internecine fighting on colony planet, happens to involve a character

from Kloos's Terms of Enlistment series. (Non-essential backstory.)

Laurence says

Nice vignette to the larger story, sure.

Roger Wu says

Humans at war have always believed their machines were more than machines

This combat sci-fi short story drops right into that genre—the loving crew chief, the bad luck streak, the human quality of the ship/plane/chopper. Like Robert Mason's biography of his time as a Huey pilot in Vietnam (Chickenhawk), or some of the memoirs of the British aces and their Spitfires...this story imagines that future relationship happening again...

Sineala says

This is pretty much as the summary states -- a short story set in the Terms of Enlistment universe, about Halley's first dropship missions. I liked the novel, and I liked Halley (probably more than I liked the actual main character), so it was nice to see something from her POV. It's what you'd expect. There are spaceships. Stuff explodes. If you liked the novel, you enjoy books with spaceships and explosions, and you have a dollar you weren't doing anything else with, you might as well read it. It's fun.

Brandon says

First I bought this by mistake I love Marko Kloos work and thought it was a side story for the Frontlines saga (which it is). The only problem is I didn't see that it was only 30 mins long, but that aside I did real enjoy Nicol Zanzarella's performance and I would have been happier with the book if it would have been around 2-1/2 hours long but for \$1.99 for 30 min I didn't feel like I got my money worth out of this short story.

Frances Law says

Poignant.

Kloos does a good job of guiding your feelings in respect of the ship Lucky 13. Named this partly because of it's manufacturer's plate which starts and ends with 13 and partly because it has lost its full crew and all on board twice without sustaining much damage to itself, it's considered anything but lucky. But then it finds itself with a young rookie pilot who disagrees with the gossip.

This is the poignant tale of their partnership.

Ramkumar Sundarakalatharan says

Will State The obvious, Marko Kloos is not Robert A. Heinlein and the Frontlines series is not Starship Soldiers/Troopers.

Actually, kind of picked Lucky 13 from the series even though I knew it was technically book 2.1. I wanted to know if I will enjoy reading it and what best way to understand than by a 36 page short story set in the same universe. A classic Military Science fiction. Out and out a fast paced read. The action sequences and scenes are vivid. Author has brought them before your eyes.

For me though, the description of Wasp class attack drop ships reminded of Raptor class ships from Battlestar Galactica. Also, in this part the author had not elaborated anything about the Sino-Russian Alliance. Its political motivations/agenda, its Military Industrial capability or its description, nothing.

James says

Another piece of the Terms of Enlistment world and more development of another character, this time one who was a major part of the first novel. As with A Measure of Absolution, this story shows more of the stories' world and puts the reader behind the eyes of a different narrator.

So far I've really enjoyed the three things I've read by Marko Kloos, and I hope he's got a long and productive career ahead. As a (now-retired) career military type myself, I've found the stories to have a plausible ring and the characters to remind me of people I knew. Again, highly recommended for fans of military SF.
