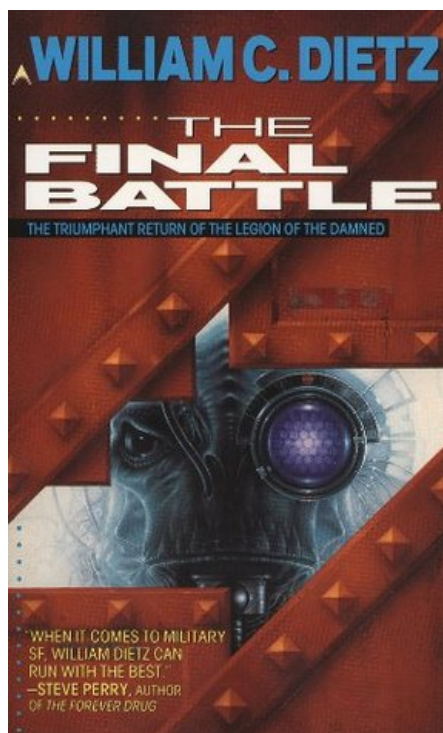




The Final Battle

William C. Dietz

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The Confederacy is threatened by an uprising of the Hudathans, an unfeeling cyborg race that has built up its forces through stolen technology, and their only opponents are the members of the Legion.

The Final Battle Details

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From Reader Review The Final Battle for online ebook

Steven Allen says

Been fairly busy lately, so reading time has suffered.

I've read this book before; it is one of my favorites in the series. Reading this book, I am always saddened by the death of General Norwood. I am also saddened that Booly Jr. and Warwick-Olson, despite their age difference, did not manage to remain together but had a passionate one night stand.

However, Booly Jr's and Olson's relationship is very much in line with what happens during war. You take love where you find it in a war, because far too many people die. Missing those chances to love (assuming there are no other, romantic entanglements) causes a lot of regret later, after that person is gone and opportunity lost.

I would like to see either Warwick-Olson or perhaps a child of hers appear in a later Legion of the Damned book. Same as I have been waiting for General Mosby's daughter to reappear in a Legion book.

This book mentions a tenuous relationship between Mosby and (then) President Marcus. In When All Seems Lost, one of the Alpha clones mentions Mosby's daughter, so I hope that the author intends bringing the character to life.

Scott Holstad says

William Dietz's The Final Battle is a sequel to The Legion of the Damned, and at first glance, it's not too bad. However, while I generally enjoyed the book, the more I think about it, the more nit picky I get. There are simply too many "issues" to ignore in the writing of this book.

First of all, the book picks up 20 years after the climax of the first book, the victory at the battle of Algeron by the humans led by the Legion (patterned after the French Foreign Legion, but staffed by dead people brought back to life as cyborg killing machines) over the alien Hudathans, who had invaded the human worlds with the intent on the destruction of the human race. We meet William Booly Jr, son of Legion deserter Booly from the first book and his Naa wife. Booly Jr is in the Legion now. We are reintroduced to Hudathan War Leader Poseen-Ka, a prisoner on Worber's World, along with his remaining army. He's about to be rescued and rearmed for another war with humanity. Overseeing Worber's World is General Natalie Norwood, a great character from the first novel. And this is where my first problem begins.

I never thought I'd say this, but there's too much gratuitous sex in this book. Yeah, you heard me. It was disappointing to discover early in the book Natalie masturbating to the scene of Hudathans on Worber's World suffering. That was just kind of sick and unnecessary. General Marianne Mosby is a certified sex fiend, and finds a way to seduce the leader of the Hegemony, a human-like race of clones living on three planets. The Hegemony takes up a lot of the first half of the book, as many of the clones want nothing to do with humanity and some are ready to take up with the Hudathans to defeat the humans. There's even an assassination attempt on the leader of the Confederacy of Sentient Beings, what the former empire is now called. Another complaint. Dietz must have gotten bored with the Hegemony, because it's dropped permanently halfway through the novel, which is confusing considering how much of a role it played in the first half. What happened? Very odd.

Since the Hudathans were beaten by the Legion's cyborgs, they decide that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, so they murder their best academy graduates and transform them into cyborg killing machines to go head to head with the Legion. After Poseen-Ka (who's a great villain) is rescued and put back in charge of the new Hudathan fleet, he starts obliterating Confederacy planets once more and the Confederacy finds out about the new cyborgs -- so they start upgrading theirs, producing Trooper III cyborgs, which have external units to accompany the primary cyborg. It's an interesting concept and one left largely unwritten about in the book, another complaint I have. In fact, much of the book is about politics and logistics, and little is about actual FIGHTING (unlike the first book), so it's hard to even call this a straight military sci fi novel. Another disappointment. I would have liked to see cyborg against cyborg more than in the final few pages of the novel, which are somewhat anticlimactic.

Many of the characters we know and meet are killed in this book, including Norwood, so it's hard to become attached to many of the characters. They die. The Hudathans are eager to avenge their loss at Algeron, so that's where their primary attack takes place. And the Legion is ready, thanks to a spy. Still, there are thousands of Hudathan ships, outnumbering the Confederacy ships, and it's not until a secret "weapon" (which is totally foreseeable) is used that the Legion takes control of the battle and wins the second war, thus ending the book.

There are some slow times in the book and times when I wondered why passages were included, including a scene when Booly plays a Legion academy prank. It just doesn't seem important to the book. Maybe that's just me though. Booly is hooked up with a female Legionnaire toward the end of the book, thus setting up the author for another book in this series (which has at least nine books in it; I have three more to read). It seems a little too convenient. A little too contrived. But then, I guess the author has to make his money selling a series, doesn't he?

Don't get me wrong. It's an above average book, and at times, fairly enjoyable. It just could have been so much more, I think, and that's why I'm disappointed. So, three stars and a cautious recommendation....

Jim says

3.5 stars rounded up since I definitely liked this book better than it's predecessor.

I remember the last book being very much ok, and this sequel improves on that and is much more along the lines of good. To me, this book had better characters/characterization and better held my attention, moving along quite satisfactorily to a sudden conclusion.

If you read the first one, you might feel better reading this one as it improves upon the quality/time spent reading ratio.

I'll even go and see if there's a next book.

Mitchell says

A bit predictable, but still a good, solid military sci-fi rumble.

John says

Legion one was good, this is better. The novel moves at quick pace and is rivetting. Time to find By Blood Alone.

Joe Burke says

Cyborgs and military sci-fi. What can I say, it does it for me.

Gavin Gates says

I had the pleasure of reviewing the first novel in this set (The legion of the damned) within the past few months, after reviewing it, I wasted no time in telling everybody that would listen about this amazing new novel I'd got. Subsequently, 'The Final Battle' had a hell of a lot to live up to. Set thirty years on from the original the Hudathans are back, but, this time, they have cyborgs of their own to level up the playing field. Now, I'm going to set this straight from the start now, The final battle is not as fast or flowing as the original, but, to make up for this it is much more in depth and gripping. Characters from the original novel are included but have changed in the years that have passed which helps to introduce the needed new focal points who come and go throughout. Deitz, once again shows his descriptive skills off to their finest points. His attention to detail is absolutely second to none and in these ways the all too often boring second novel of a series is far from a let down. If military sci fi is your thing then Deitz is your man. No doubt about it.

Kerry says

Published in 1995. As the follow up to Legion of the Damned it was adequate but not as full and rewarding as the first in the series.

Douglas Debner says

In the first book of this series background facts and circumstances were integrated into the story being told. Here, the first third of the book was spent on background and then the real story began. Still, the real story part of the book was interesting and well-written so overall an enjoyable experience.

Jason says

I enjoyed reading The Legion of the Damned, and though it had its problems, I looked forward to reading the second book in the series. I was never able to find it in local bookstores though, and my wife ordered it for my 32nd birthday.

Summary

Nearly twenty years after the alien beings known as the Hudathans were defeated at the Battle of Algeron and the human imperial government collapsed, the Hudathan prisoners, including War Leader Poseen-Ka, are kept on Worber's World. The planet's surface was destroyed during the previous war, and now kept under constant surveillance by an armored space station controlled by Poseen-Ka's previous prisoner, General Natalie Norwood.

Meanwhile, on Earth, William Booly Jr., the son of the deserter Booly from the first book and a half-breed of human and Naa parents, is graduating from the academy to take his place in the Legion, which is what the French Foreign Legion has evolved into over hundreds of years of numerous governments.

But the peace will not last long. The Hudathans have developed their own cybernetic warriors to challenge the Legion, and plans are underway to free Poseen-Ka from Worber's World and begin a final battle to extinguish all non-Hudathan life from the galaxy...

OVERALL: 2.6

Dietz follows up an above-average book with... another above average book. The Final Battle is good science fiction, but not very good military science fiction since so much of the story is about the peripheral and background issues of the war.

A good example is the arguable primary protagonist, William Booly Jr. He is graduating from the Academy at the beginning, given an assignment on a semi-hostile world that seems to last a couple of weeks at the most, and is suddenly a seasoned veteran?

I guess part of my problem is that I always expected these books to focus more on the actual Legion of the Damned, the cyborgs who make of the Legion's most elite troops. Unfortunately the first book has more about them than this one; here they are mostly window dressing.

I won't spoil anything, but I will say that the final battle of the book was unpredictable, and I was almost expecting a really different turn that would have led off to an amazing series of books... but the author doesn't follow it and takes the more predictable path instead.

Lastly, I will recommend Poseen-Ka any day of the week. He's a magnificent villain, alien and yet able to relate to. I remember enjoying his scenes in the first book, and he does not disappoint in The Final Battle.

RATINGS BY CATEGORY

Characters: 2

Except for the Hudathan antagonist, Poseen-Ka, everyone in the book felt like "paint-by-the-numbers". Motivations and histories are provided, and it just didn't take for me. The characters aren't bad, they just aren't anything special either.

All the females in the story seem to be particularly promiscuous, which feels corny and more of a "male fantasy", where a girl can't go twenty seconds without thinking about the opposite sex (or the same sex, in one character's case).

Poseen-Ka, as in the first book, remains an incredible presence whenever he appears. One scene in the second half of the book, when he taunts a Hudathan bureaucrat by jokingly demanding which of his lieutenants are secretly human spies, was the final piece that completed the perfection of this character. I would read books about him alone (make no mistake, he is a bad guy, but he is the kind of villain that is wonderful to watch, like Cobra Commander).

Pace: 3

There were only a few times when the story really slowed down, and that is usually when an uninteresting character is dwelled upon.

Story: 3

There are some things here that should be interesting but aren't; the entire storyline of the Hegemony (a human civilization based on clones) comes to mind. I think even Dietz grew bored with it, because the entire plot thread is kind of dropped before the book ends.

Cybernetic Hudathan troops seems like the obvious course to take in a sequel, but it is handled okay. They don't really get enough "screen time", given one of them is on the cover.

Where the writer really branches out and starts exploring new ground is with the new, improved Trooper III cyborgs utilized by the Legion. I didn't see that coming, and it's a brilliant way to upgrade the idea. Like the Hudathan cyborgs, the idea doesn't get enough attention.

My biggest problem with the story is that a war begins and is mostly glossed over. Most of the narrative takes place in the preparation, political maneuvering and espionage, and personal issues of the characters. That's all good, but at times it was easy to forget what was even threatening everybody...

Dialogue: 3

Most of the dialogue is good, though it tends to be contrived when it's being spoken by a female (at least in my opinion). There are also some cases when characters are overly friendly for no reason (the author apparently wants them to be friends), etc. I realize that some people just hit it off sometimes, but it can be too... convenient.

Poseen-Ka, true to his character, always delivers great dialogue.

Style/Technical: 2

The writing is clear, even during large battles in space and on ground (which is no easy feat), but Dietz likes to jump around in the viewpoint character without so much as a break in the paragraph. One moment you are with Booly Jr., commanding his troops, and the next you're in some other character. I don't mind changing viewpoints, but not in the thick of the narrative. It's like hitting a master "reset" button that drained the excitement out of me.

Also, several important characters are introduced nearly halfway through the book (or longer), including a legionnaire testing the new Trooper III systems, a spy, and a scientist who becomes a naval captain. I think if these people are important, they should have had some exposure earlier in the book.

Finally, and this is really not the author's fault... his action scenes are readable and enjoyable, but they lack the hard impact. It's not just that I didn't care much about the characters; his writing lacks the ability to really take me into the action and make me feel like I am in the middle of it. Maybe Robert E. Howard has spoiled me, and I know I can't expect that from every author, but I thought the action scenes could have been better.

Tgz says

I only have thirty pages left and I'm entirely confident in my review. It seems as if the book was written hastily.

I have three issues with this book.

1) It is entirely dependent on the first book of the Legion of the Damned series. That's fine. It is a sequel and one should never just jump into a series without reading the first book. The problem is that it gives almost no re-introduction or refresher tid-bits. These are not absolutely necessary but they do allow for the reader to become reacquainted with the story line which is crucial for this book since it depends entirely on the events of the first book.

2) My second issue plays off of the first. There is little to no description or detail given. I found it tremendously difficult to visualize anything in my head which is so frustrating since this is a military sci-fi novel with various alien races, futuristic military weaponry, planets of varying ecosystems, and large scale battle scenes that are described about just as well as this sentence. Various aliens were present but the only description was that they were either worms or had fur. Battles were essentially just descriptions of bullets flying and explosions occurring. What kind of terrain were they fighting on? What type of strategy were they employing? I had no idea what the aliens looked like nor what type of terrain the battles were taking place on. For all I knew, stick figures were fighting on blank sheets of paper.

3) The final problem is that I had no connection to any one of the characters. The character development was limited and at some points lacking. As a reader, I couldn't connect with any character. I didn't root for them or despise them as protagonist or antagonist. Their backstories were limited which gives the reader almost no idea as to what their motivation is for anything they do in the story. There were multiple love stories going on which just seemed to 'happen.' The characters meet. They have sex. They are in love. All in one page.

In addition to those three issues (careful: spoiler) there were two very large problems with the plot. 1. The alien race bent on human destruction doesn't really have a reason to destroy all human life. It just wanted humans dead. Not resources or power. Just wanted to kill. 2. Two important character arcs which were built up (an assassin and a spy) ended abruptly with no impact on the main storyline. Each of these characters had tremendous potential to affect the plot but both are terminated and that's that. Nothing more.

Andy Phillips says

Firstly, if you haven't read 'Legion of the Damned', then I recommend that you read that first. This is definitely a sequel that follows on closely from the first book, so you will expose a lot of spoilers if you read the books out of order.

This book is a very successful sequel, in my opinion. A lot of the characters from the first book play important roles in this one, and the story follows on where the previous one left off. Essentially, the book follows the escape of the POW Hudathans after their 20-year imprisonment on Worber's World, where they are forced to live among the ruins they created. Simultaneously, the Hudathans develop their own cyborgs with an aim to destroying The Legion once and for all. There are a couple of subplots thrown in for good measure, but the best parts of the books are the battle scenes and there is plenty of action to keep things interesting.

A good example of military sci-fi, but only really recommended if you have read 'Legion of the Damned'. If you haven't read the first book, then I recommend that you start there instead, but both books are worth a look.

Phil Kozel says

The next installment in the Legion series takes place a generation after the first. Once again, eclectic story lines with some good action. 3.5 stars

Fred Hughes says

In this military science fiction series, of which this is book two, we have the legendary Legionnaires as our protagonists.

Humanity had defeated the Hudathan fleet and taken prisoners. It seemed only poetic justice to place them on Worbers World which they had devastated. Now 20 years on, something is happening on Worbers World.

The Hudathans rise again and the War starts again. New technology on both sides presents challenges all around. Humanity has a secret weapon, but are unsure whether it can work.

Battles in space and on Algeron proceed at a fast pace.

Characters are fully developed, plots; and sub-plots flow as Dietz spins his tale.

Characters are well developed and the multiple minor story lines bubble along and eventually merge with the overall story.

Lots of good military battles, as well as political ones.

Dietz ranks right up there with Ian Douglas and Jack Campbell in military science fiction.

This is book two of a series which I know I am going to enjoy reading the rest.

Be sure to check this series out, you will not be disappointed

Legion series

- 1.Legion Of The Damned (1993)
- 2.The Final Battle (1995)
- 3.By Blood Alone (1999)
- 4.By Force of Arms (2000)
- 5.For More Than Glory (2004)
- 6.For Those Who Fell (2005)
- 7.When All Seems Lost (2008)
- 8.When Duty Calls (2008)
- 9.A Fighting Chance (2011)
- 10.Andromeda's Fall (2012)
- 11.Andromeda's Choice (July 4, 2014)
- 12.Andromeda's War (2015)

Mike (the Paladin) says

I had a long review of this 99% done, and accidentally closed the window without saving....sigh.

Anyway, I read the first of this series sometime in the 90s. I liked it. I always meant to get back to the series, but there are so many books already waiting to be read on my shelves (you know how demanding those books can be. Sometimes I'd wake up and they'd be looming over me where they'd crept up to the bed in the night...) Ummm-humm, as I was saying... I'd just read a military science fiction by an author I like. Unfortunately this novel was, disappointing. So, as a sort of pallet cleanser I thought I'd get a different military science fiction.

I didn't say it was logical.

I got this (the second book in the series) from Audible. It's an excellent read. I go 4 stars because I can't go 4.5 and while I think the book is excellent I can't quite rate it with the books I rate as the best...but it close.

There were in the story a few (very few) points where my interest wandered (navel academy hijinks/trouble, interaction with some of the sentient species of the Confederacy...and you know, these members or the military have far more active inter-service sex lives than I remember). Anyway...good book and recommended.

The first in this series introduces us to the universe in which the book takes place. Humankind has gone out from the Earth and "we" ("we" meaning humans of course. If you are not human please don't feel left out as I had no way of knowing anyone other than humans would be reading the review) have come in contact with many other sentient species and "we" are part of the Confederacy of Sentient Species.

Sadly all the species we meet/met weren't all that friendly. The Hudathans are a very warlike species (sort of like "us" in that way...huh). They have in their society no concept of pity, mercy or empathy and in fact see these as weaknesses. Their cultural understanding is that ANY, that's ANY other sentient species is a threat and must be wiped out.

This book picks up where the first left off. Things are still...tricky. The Hudathans still don't like us all that much, or any of the other sentient species.

Bad Hudathans, bad.

Of course the Hudathans go back war with the Confederation of Sentient Species...and you know all the species aren't very warlike. This means that a couple of species tend to do the bulk of the fighting, hummm. Oh well.

This series is titled The Legion of the Damned. This comes from (as you know if you read the first book (Legion of the Damned) the cyborgs that play a central part in the military. The military called the "legion" is/are descendants of the Foreign Legion. The cyborgs started out as condemned criminals who were given the choice. You become a cyborg by having your brain installed in a cyborg body...or you can die. Guess which way a lot of people went? Of course since there's been an ongoing war (that seemed to end with the last book, only didn't) there have been a lot on "new" "accidental" cyborgs... get the picture?

As I said this is an excellent read and I recommend it. You like military science fiction, you like space opera,

you like interspecies romance, you like robots, androids and cyborgs....try this! No, really, try it...

By the way..inside joke here. One of the characters in the book is named "Crowbuck", but every time the reader said the name I thought, "Crowbot"...how many remember Crowbot?
