



Feeling Lucky

Walter Knight

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A sweeping military space opera told in the grand satirical tradition of *Catch-22*...

One more roll – that’s all habitual gambler Joey Czerinski needs to get himself off Old Earth and away from the bad-ass loan shark hunting him down like a mongrel to be euthanized. But a sneaky ATM looking to fill its Foreign Legion new recruits quota has something else in mind for Mr. ‘Big Spender’ Czerinski. When he agrees out of desperation to take a loan from the crazy ATM, all bets are off.

War is hell, and hell comes knocking when it’s time for Czerinski to pay up. Forced into the Legion by the tricky ATM and an unscrupulous lawyer, Czerinski finds himself deeper in trouble than he’d ever imagined. But what’s one more roll for a perennial rule-bender? If Czerinski can survive what’s thrown at him amid galactic war against a spider-like enemy that could spell doom for the human race, maybe ... just maybe ... he’ll manage to come out alive in this grisly game of shoot-’em-up – if his luck holds out.

Feeling Lucky Details

Date : Published December 23rd 2009 by Penumbra Publishing

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Author : Walter Knight

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From Reader Review Feeling Lucky for online ebook

Nate Warren says

Straight up FUN EEEEE! Not even close to being PC either.

Al says

In this futuristic military science fiction story, the biggest thing that stuck out for me was that some things never change; at least as author Walter Knight sees the future, human nature, the military, and politics haven't changed. The first example was early in the book, when Joey Czerinski, the protagonist, is gambling, and falls for several fallacies that have plagued gamblers since time began. The laws of probability and statistics are the same, and gamblers still don't understand them. However, the largest thing I saw was the illogic and ridiculousness of war.

The description of "Feeling Lucky" references Joseph Heller's classic book, "Catch 22." I'm hesitant to take this comparison too far, because, for me, "Feeling Lucky" lacks the immediacy of Heller's book. The distance provided by the setting in the future blunts the terror. (I find it harder to feel the same about a killing in the distant future. They don't seem as real as it would if in contemporary times.) However, the satirical humor that springs from shining a light on the idiocy of war, politics, and the politics of war comes through, and the laughter comes much easier.

**Originally written for "Books and Pals" book blog. May have received a free review copy. **

Simon says

Very Boy's Own adventure....not a hard read perfect for a long flight ;)

Darian says

A light hearted action sci-fi I found very entertaining. The author only loses points for lack of writing craft. Much of the book comes off really amateur as far as the technical bits are concerned, but he still tells a good story. Our (very) reluctant hero(?) along with his troop of other scroungy odd balls made me laugh out loud (very loud sometimes) pretty consistently. Over all - Not great literature but you'll laugh your ass off and definitely be entertained on the Starship Troopers-like stage.

Kim Conde says

OK Folks, This is the first of 14 books in this series, I burned thru all of them before actually listing them here so I will review them here as a group. This is a set of books you just have to read to understand. They

are a blast. A quirky mix of military SciFi/sarcastic/humorous/space opera/current events/political satire,,,, the list goes on. I had fun reading them and they are very affordable from Amazon on the kindle format (\$2.99 each and some free)

Marty says

Not good enough to keep me reading the series.

Michel Clasquin-Johnson says

The first three or four books in this series are a rollicking good read, Catch-22 as narrated in the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. After that, it bogs down a bit in more and more of the same. I got to about volume 8 or 9, then I couldn't face *another* one set in the New Gobi.

Karin says

Never talk to an ATM in a casino.....

Skip Torok says

I purchased this book and then let it sit on my desk for a couple of weeks contemplating, having read several of the reviews. "Is this really something I might enjoy? Military Science Fiction... humor?? Hmmmm"

It was great, I laughed too often, read aloud several passages to the poor souls sitting around me, and could hardly wait to get back to it having been forced to put it down. I truly enjoyed this read.

Kim Conde says

This is a great read for someone who likes campy military Sci-Fi. Not too technical and almost tongue in Cheek, the main character is a lot of fun.

Nathan says

Alright, first off, this book was exactly what I wanted it to be. It was fun, easy to read, and a great little bit of entertainment. I had fun reading it and wanted to keep turning the pages.

The book was not however (nor did I expect it to be), a work of art. In fact, as I was reading it I kept thinking, "This guy writes like he's in a legal writing class." He kept the sentences short. There were few

compound sentences. He made his point. It was not always artful.

The "This guy seems like a lawyer" vibe really took off during the trial scene. The dialogue between the attorneys and the witness was amazing. I was impressed that the lawyers asked questions in the right way (generally) and that they made the types of legal arguments I would expect. Mind you this is in space fighting giant spider invaders. Anyway, it turns out that he IS a lawyer and I was getting the he's a lawyer vibe right.

I'm not sure I'm going to pick up the next in the series, but I'm not sure I won't either. The book actually was better than I expected it to be and it was worth the couple of bucks it cost me to get on my Nook. If you want a fun, quick, "Starship Troopers" type of read, you won't be disappointed by this. The world is kinda cool, the characters are unique and memorable, and the story is engaging.

Chas says

Gets 2 stars cos I did finish it but it was pretty rubbish.

David says

A quick and easy read.

Eric Johnson says

Well... I can say that I liked the "down home" feel of the book, but that's pretty much most of it. It's entertaining, but this is an example of how not to be in the military, rambunctious and throwing nukes around like toys. I can say I do like the interaction, but the whole book feels... rushed, the pace is rushed, and it's just rushed I guess. And another example of wishful thinking.

Jason says

Good fun reading. Don't expect too much realism, just good fun with mercenary armies of the future being paid to kick butt everywhere. The structure of the units is interesting, if unrealistic. But it is a page turner that will keep you wondering where the heck these guys will go next.
