



Orfanato

Robert Buettner

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Unos proyectiles disparados desde Ganímedes, una de las lunas de Júpiter, caen sobre la Tierra y pulverizan ciudades enteras. La Humanidad se juega el todo por el todo en un ataque desesperado. A bordo de una nave espacial construida con chatarra y equipada con armamento de la época de la guerra de Vietnam, unos huérfanos a los que nadie echará de menos deberán embarcarse en el primer viaje interplanetario del hombre con el objetivo de invadir Ganímedes. Solo tienen una oportunidad para atacar y una nave para hacerlo. Si fracasan, la Humanidad se verá abocada a la extinción.

Orfanato Details

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From Reader Review Orfanato for online ebook

David Dalton says

Don't let the 3 star review fool you, I liked this book and will read on into the series.

Compares very much to , but I liked that aspect of this story. Jason just always seems to have his things go his way, or IN his way. Kind of a simple but fun sci-fi thriller. Not too deep into sci-fi details of how things get done or work. The cool new cover caught my eye and I went on to read the reviews and then I was reading the book. This guy gets promoted faster than Kirk did in the Star Trek redo a few years ago (Cadet right to Captain).

My digital library has several of the Orphan books like .

Rodrigo Medina says

La novela revisita tooooodos los "lugares comunes" de la cfi militar. Eso no quiere decir que no la haya disfrutado, sino que no me ha traído nada nuevo, ni una pizza.

Entretenida, pero no la pongas a pelear con una de Scalzi, Scott Card, Pournelle, Haldeman o Heilein.

El tufillo a chovinismo yanqui es perenne.

Aaron says

I have had this book sitting on my shelf for quite a while now (lol, more than 6 years in fact), and finally decided to finish it. The overall story is OK, but nothing mind-blowing. It is very similar to the likes of "Starship Troopers" by Robert A. Heinlein. Actually, almost the whole time I was reading this book, I just kept thinking about "Starship Troopers". It is not bad by any means, but I desired a little more. The characters are substandard and typical sci-fi characters, the grunt who is stubborn, his cool best friend, and a hardcore drill sergeant we all know and love. The story is also just like Mr. Heinlein's with an alien race attempting to destroy Earth (OK not fair, it is like most sci-fi books in general). The good thing is it is rather short and you can finish it quickly. I would recommend some other sci-fi books like the one currently listed in this review, "Old Man's War", and "Dune" before this one. If you need a quick book to read on the beach or an airplane though, it will keep you busy during that time.

Mike (the Paladin) says

Okay I admit it I like a good space war book (Military science fiction). This one makes little pretense of trying for "great" depth (it's got some never fear) but in the end I just found it a good story.

I haven't gotten to the next book in the story, another condemned to indeterminate waiting as I read other books that keep getting moved ahead of it.

So, get ready for futuristic, extra-planetary, violent battle...in other words saddle up for a desperate battle

against impossible odds! Cool.

Jonathan Bergeron says

Personally I think the Marine Corps is better but I may be biased.

Orphanage is one great book. It's probably the best military sci-fi book I've ever read. My definition of military sci-fi differs from publishers that's probably why. I think of books like Orphanage as military not the ones where some vague alien officer is off doing their thing. I digress though.

I loved the boot camp part though. It really brought home the differences between Army and Marine Corps boot camps.

I've heard a lot of people say the book likens a lot to Starship Troopers, as I haven't been able to make it more than 10 pages through that book, I don't know if the correlation is spot on or not. Judging by the movie, if it's close to the original book, then Orphanage is close to Starship Troopers but only in that bugs send rocks at Earth. The rest differs. It's a very personal book, you almost get to the point where you care what happens to Jason Wander.

The book is incredibly strong military sci-fi. If you don't like books that get more militaryish than a storyline that uses a military career backstory, you won't like the book. For the rest of you, it's a wonderful read.

Jacob says

I don't think I could fairly give less than five stars considering how much I enjoyed reading this book! Excellent Military SciFi with insightful social commentary. Well developed and quite interesting characters. All around great story.

Darth says

The first chronicle of Jason Wanderer.

This story is somehow greater than the sum of its parts.

The story is not unbelievably original, you have already read it if you read Starship Troopers.

The technology quips are actually a bit off-putting... That is to say the main characters, talks about having to use something from our time - though he is in 2040 - and he whines about how it is ANCIENT ETC...

Still I do not think of this as a rip-off of Starship Troopers, but rather an homage, and the start of ST on an epic scale (based on the remaining volumes in the Jason Wanderer Chronicles).

Buettner obviously was a Heinlein fan, he even mentions him in the acknowledgements. If I had to guess I would say he liked the idea, but just thought there was more there to run with and wanted to see it extrapolated over several volumes. Good deal - I want to see that too.

We follow the WIN/FAIL adventures of Jason as he goes from orphan to war hero, and fights the bugs that

are trying to wipe out the good and peaceable folks of Earth.

The characters are likeable enough for a Sci-Fi novel, and the story moves right along very quickly, but without feeling frenetic. I never found myself thinking; get to the good part...

Peter Venetoklis says

Like some other critical reviewers, I really wanted to like this book. It's a quick and engaging read, the author's prose style is brisk and eminently readable, and the main character is affable. The first two stars are for all that.

It's everything else that falls flat. Worse, the more I think about it, the more annoyed I get. Buettner's book is utterly derivative, lifting its broad narrative, numerous plot points and ideas, and even some characters from *Starship Troopers*, with a smattering of Haldeman's *Forever War* and Scalzi's *Old Man's War*. It has been "updated" with a 21st century perspective, but even then it draws on a scrap heap of tropes and some blatant identity politics. On top of that, I had a lot of trouble with the science.

Some plot spoilers ahead.

The story is that of Jason Wander, bright but troubled, coming of age during a period where an alien race is threatening Humanity's very existence by dropping giant rocks onto major cities. If you've read *Starship Troopers*, you recognize the tale. Wander goes through boot camp (Troopers), nearly washes out by breaking rules (Troopers), gets some fancy armor (Troopers) that, cursorily, seems to violate various laws of physics and thermodynamics, comes face to face with the alien Bugs... err... Slugs (Troopers), has a three-way romantic entanglement (Troopers), goes on to fight the Slugs, where the first battle plans go horribly awry and many die (Troopers), gets quick battlefield promotions (Troopers), and so forth. Tack on top of that the counterintuitive idea that only orphans of the war are accepted into the elite training program (Old Man's War) (if the Earth was under existential threat, why oh why would the military limit itself in recruitment?), a ludicrous idea that an interplanetary space ship could hide behind planets for the early part of its journey, and a very forced mashup of old and new technologies that not only makes little sense, but reeks of *deus ex machina*.

And, since it's not good enough that our protagonist and his immediate cohorts simply survive and contribute, they all have to be the heroes, the very best at everything, and so forth.

I'm generally loath to be harsh like this, preferring instead simply to ignore and move on, but I read this book based on a lot of good reviews, and I feel obligated to counterweigh them, lest others fall into my trap. You're better off simply re-reading the nearly 60 year old *Starship Troopers*. This book is a pale shadow, one that tries to be a whole lot more and becomes a lot less instead.

Michael Elia says

A good start to a series. A bit of a stretch that this guy could have learned enough as a ner do well slacker to actually command troops, but still a good read. I will pick up the next in the series and see how it goes.

The book has an odd internal feel thru the read: Certain parts and descriptions are overly sanitized and others are right on the mark. Characters important to the protagonist should really be shown to be real, even if they later vanish from the story for whatever reason. I hope that this will become more consistent [and more mature] which will improve the readers' overall engagement with the characters as the series progresses.

J.C. says

Military Science Fiction for the Rest of Us

Brief Synopsis:

The story starts with Jason Wander, a somewhat misguided youth with two options: join the military or go to jail. Enter the devastation caused by the alien race later termed as "the slugs." The story follows Wander and his exploits in basic training and the planning behind the first counter offensive against the slugs on their base on one of Jupiter's moons.

Overall Impressions:

ORPHANAGE, by Robert Buettner, may remind many readers of STARSHIP TROOPERS, by Robert Heinlein, and rightfully so. I have seen some discussion about how it was written as a tribute or to STARSHIP TROOPERS. The basic plots are the same, but they are different enough for mutual appreciation.

As a side note, STARSHIP TROOPERS is one of my favorite books. I judge military science fiction on two things:

- * How often the phrase "bought the farm" is used; and,
- * How many moments there are that are only funny when taken outside the context of the military and wartime.

While somewhat superficial, at face value you can derive a lot from military science fiction from those two criteria (and by no means am I serious that a book like this is only good based on these two things; especially since ORPHANAGE only says "bought the farm" once). For one, even though ORPHANAGE is set in the future, the moments that are only humorous outside the context of war, only bring a real time element to the book. It is easy to relate to a story, however far into the future it may be. Believability is incredibly important, and by using elements that are prevalent in today's society, an author (in this case Buettner) makes the story believable and easy in which to relate.

More importantly than the plot, Buettner has created a cast of characters that go on a roller coaster of emotional responses. Wander has superior officers and friends that he interacts with that the reader with which the reader becomes attached. The characters are given countless moral dilemmas that add to their depth. Upon the invasion of Jupiter's moon, war becomes war, and with casualties amounting the way Wander and the characters respond is remarkable. Promotions, demotions, and stress exacerbate the chaos that is war. ORPHANAGE has everything that a military science fiction book should: believable and memorable characters, a tragic premise, and lots of action.

Closing Comments:

One problem I have with the book is the fact that it is written in first person from the perspective of Jason Wander. Unfortunately, as explained previously, there are many great characters and I would have liked to

hear more of their internal dialogue. However, I do not believe the story would be as compelling if not told from Wander's perspective. I normally do not prefer first person stories, but ORPHANAGE is a wonderful exception.

Another thing that separates ORPHANAGE from STARSHIP TROOPERS is the fact that ORPHANAGE is just the start of a series. At the conclusion of this book the reader only has more to look forward to.

Recommendations:

If you enjoyed these books, you will enjoy ORPHANAGE:

- * STARSHIP TROOPERS by Robert Heinlein; and,
- * THE FOREVER WAR by Joe Haldeman

Good reading,

J.Stoner
plantsandbooks.blogspot.com

Charles says

I almost hate to review this because I really don't like saying negative things about the works of living writers, who I'm sure that, just like myself, are trying their best to produce good writing that readers will enjoy. However, I've reviewed everything else I've read so here goes my 2 cents.

First there are plenty of positives about the book. It is well written and there are some nice turns of phrase. There seems to be some pretty good accuracy on the military elements, and this is despite the fact that hard SF is among the most difficult stuff to write. The ending is also pretty well done. These earn the book 3 stars.

Here's my problems with the book, which would probably drop it to 2 stars. First, I really, really hated the main character. Yes, he had a horribly loss early in the book when he lost his two parents, but he too often seemed flippant and largely unaware of what others were suffering around him. He commits a mistake that actually gets his friend killed early on and his main concern seems to be for himself. Now, I could forgive the mistake itself, but he should have suffered a lot more for it. At one point he rejoices that he's been given his life back and all I could think about was how his friend wasn't given his back. The second problem I had with the character was how he was just handed everything by luck and by the intervention of powerful others who seemed to have recognized "strengths" in him that the reader never sees. First a Judge takes an interest in his career, then a drill sergeant. They go to bat for him and save his career even though the reader, or at least I, couldn't see anything that would have earned their respect and intervention.

The only thing about the book itself that I thought could have been better was if we'd moved to the fighting part of the story sooner and spent less time with the training. Most of that was well written, though, and did hold my interest.

I'm sure this book could be vastly enjoyed by others who wouldn't be so put off by the character. The character certainly bothered me, though.

Kevin says

Orphanage is a straightforward SF blend, part 'Enders Game', part 'The Martian'. It has the latter's humour, and shares segments of the formers storyline, both of which are good things. It's not intellectual SF, more the shoot-em-up style Hollywood blockbuster blueprint, you know, the one with the twang-on-the-heartstrings ending. Light on character development, heavy on smart-arse one liners, in a nutshell then, a thoroughly enjoyable escapist experience. Well worth a read if any of the above don't turn you off.

Lis Carey says

Jason Wander, eighteen years old, with no particular skills, in trouble with the law, and with his only family killed in the alien attacks that are slowly destroying Earth's ecosystem and killing the human race, somewhat involuntarily enlists in the infantry. He does not suddenly discover that this is the life he was born for, but he does, eventually, decide that he doesn't want to fail at this, too, or let down the few people who believe in him. He makes some appalling mistakes on his way to that decision, and it's not smooth sailing after that, but Jason does start to make a foot soldier of himself. When an expedition is dispatched to take the war to the enemy, at their base on Ganymede, Jason and his squadmates are part of it.

This is a book that borrows heavily from all the great buddy war movies, as well as Starship Troopers and The Forever War, and freely acknowledges its debts. Orphanage doesn't break new ground in the genre, but it's a solid, enjoyable read.

Jared Millet says

There's a fine line between accurately depicting military life and fetishizing it, and while the first half of *Orphanage* felt to me like the latter, Buettner dives straight into "War Is Hell" territory in the second half. If you're a fan of military SF who can't get enough of Robert Heinlein and has watched the boot camp segment of *Full Metal Jacket* more times than you can count, you will love this book and should run out and buy it right now.

As for me, while I always stop channel surfing for R. Lee Ermey, I don't dig the Heinlein and I don't get much out of military SF, so it was harder for me to gloss over some of the book's contrivances. The main character's a total washout who just *happens* to be friends with the world's top space pilot, and whose judge in juvie court just *happens* to be a Medal of Honor recipient who can pull strings for him whenever the plot requires; he just *happens* to stumble across the most intact alien artifact found in the war, becomes pals with the army's best gunner, falls in love with the best pilot, etc. etc.

I could gripe, but the book was honestly too engaging for all that to really get in the way of enjoying it. One could make the complaint that the author doesn't bring anything new to the military SF genre, or that his overarching conflict is a little too black and white, but you know what? If this book is your kind of thing, you're going to eat it up.

Jim says

Another example of a "Starship Trooper" or "Forever War" book. Not bad. I read it through today, so it obviously kept my interest. There were parts that were fantastic, but plot holes you could drive a rocket through.

The descriptions of military life were fantastic. He could have shared my barracks in AIT (Advanced Infantry Training). He obviously spent time in the Army Infantry, likely as an enlisted man. (He probably has that in a bio somewhere, but I haven't gone looking.) His description of the old barracks latrine is just too well done, as were the issues some faced because of them.

Transportation movements didn't grab me though. The logic behind them could have been military, but I would hope not. His take on sexual equality didn't do a lot for me either. Parts were good, but others were illogical.

So I found the book uneven, but entertaining over all. I don't think it is in the same class as the first two books I mentioned, but it's up there with "Armor" & entertaining.
