

Berserker's Planet (Berserker, Bk. 3) by Fred Saberhagen



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Reviews of the Berserker's Planet (Berserker, Bk. 3) by Fred Saberhagen

Gavirus

This novel, really a novella, is not for anyone but a Saberhagen Berserker universe fan, as it is not a stand alone book. If you have read a number of Berserker series books, this one will make sense and be a good addition to your Saberhagen collection. If you pick this one up first, you will feel like you wasted your money.

I only recently started reading all the Berserker books, but that interest was started by reading a berserker short story back in the 70's, which really stuck with me. So, I started buying used copies on Amazon. This one is just the latest. As a Berserker fan, I highly recommend it.

If you are puzzled by 'Berserker' in the title, pass on by.

Mataxe

I read this book when I was a teen about 40 years ago. I remembered it better than it was. In fact it was one of the books I remember that enthralled me about the Berserker series. I liked the notion of studying recordings of battles in space many years later by listening to transmissions. The fighting scenes were quite gruesome and perhaps are more suited to a male teen audience. Nowadays I find this kind of up close violence too real world. The story was a bit long and probably would have been better as a short story.

Hallolan

The Berserkers, automated space dreadnoughts programmed by a long dead race to seek out life and destroy it, do not make an entry immediately in this novel. Set some centuries after the events in the first Berserker! anthology, Saberhagen explores a society built on the ruins of an almost destroyed planet, complete with primitive customs and beliefs grown out of centuries of isolation. And then, enter the Berserker...

I enjoyed this, although it isn't quite as engrossing as the previous stories, and unless I am mistaken the first full length novel set in the universe. But the nihilism of the universe remains, exploring human evil as well as the implacably hostile machine intelligence of the Berserker constructs...

Dalarin

I had the full series once upon a time and it got lost in a few moves. This is an excellent SciFi series that had helped me get started in the joys of reading. If you haven't given the series a chance I would recommend giving it a shot

Keth

Very good. Really like this series. Saberhagen is a must read on all his books. I look forward to the rest.

breakingthesystem

Asmanoz and Fred Saberhagen both worked on the robot series which I really enjoyed.

Djang

The worst of the Berserker books I've ever read, this novel barely has enough meat to work as a short story.

The centerpiece of the book is a tournament where vaguely Norse warriors fight to honor the god "Thorin" and his right hand "Mjolnir", in classic Saberhagen allegory. However, the story instead chooses to follow a weakling who's dragged to the planet on a hunting trip and turns out to be the only one who'll lead the fight against the Berserkers.

...and that description is actually a lot more interesting than the book, which mills around, trying to find something interesting to do for about 200 pages or more, failing the entire way through. As a matter of fact, there was only one mild surprise in the entire story, and it was foreshadowed in the beginning. Go figure.

If you're going to read a Berserker book, put this one at the bottom of your list, then burn the list before you get that far down, then burn it again, just to be sure.

I picked up this book on a whim at my local used book store, not expecting too much for my \$1.00 investment, but I definitely got my money's worth.

To begin with let me confess that I haven't read any other Berserker books, so take that for what it's worth.

The story moved fairly well. There were a couple slow parts, but overall it was well written action and a real sense of the excitement and desperation felt by the characters, whether they be the gladiators or the hunting party. The end was especially exciting and clever. I really appreciated a workable mixture of sci-fi and fantasy settings.

This book is well worth a quick read, and even a few dollars if you can find it cheap.

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