



## Helsreach

*Aaron Dembski-Bowden , Vicky Charques (Translator)*

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Los orkos atacan el mundo de Armageddon y una flota de Astartes es enviada en su ayuda. El veterano capellán Grimaldus y un grupo de Templarios Negros son los encargados de defender la colmena Helsreach contra los invasores xénos, pero a medida que los combates se recrudecen y el número de marines espaciales disminuye, Grimaldus demuestra sus dotes de líder inspirando tanto a hombres como a marines espaciales para ganar esta difícil batalla.

## Helsreach Details

Date : Published July 8th 2016 by Minotauro (first published April 2010)

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Author : Aaron Dembski-Bowden , Vicky Charques (Translator)

Format : Kindle Edition 370 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, 40k

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## From Reader Review Helsreach for online ebook

### Mark says

Helsreach, an industrial planet at the edge of the empire, is invaded by a horde of blood thirsty space orcs. What follows is a battle of immense proportions.

This is written in a very easy style making it an absolute pleasure to read.

The language is fairly plain meaning you are never confused about where you are or who just got their face smashed in.

The story is quite loose and isn't afraid to glaze over a big battle if things are getting stale.

I have a rough knowledge of the lore but I don't think it is really necessary, a quick google for Warhammer 40k will bring you back enough images of models to get the gist.

The violence is quite graphic and plentiful, the set piece battles are great!

What I really liked is that the bad guys are actually scary, too often the good guys are over powered.

A very enjoyable.

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### Tyler says

When I started to read this book, I did not think I would get real far. The book starts in the 41st millennium in space, near a planet that is to be invaded by Orks. The Black Templars are called out to help protect the planet from the invaders. Grimaldus a newly founded chaplain is in charge of the garrison left to help the planet on the ground. He later learns that they were there to raise the morale of the guardsmen and to die on the planet. I read this book because it is one of the armies that I play in one of my games. This book is for older teens and adults, because it's a longer book and has vulgar language.

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### Elyssa Larsen says

A great first foray into the Warhammer 40k universe, and a must if you're a fan of the Black Templars. It struck a nice balance between fast paced action and character development.

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### Laurence Roberts says

Currently finishing off this rather charming read . I say that as while I'm a fan of the 40K game , i've often found the books to be rather dry , dull and lacking in anything other then 1 dimensional space marines .

The only other exception I found was the Brothers of the Snake , which shares the excellent character development that makes this book so enjoyable .

Space Marines have characters and personalities that are not human , that's it , such a simple thing . They're not 1D killing machines , they're not human any more (Helsreach does a great job of secondary characters as

well , fleshing out identities in such a small space allotted to them is something Aaron Dembski- Bowden does very very well)so their personalities , fears , ideals are very different, from the average human of the 40K emporium , and thankfully so are the humans in this novel , from the average in game fluff at least.

It also deals with vast warfare (as it is set in the 3rd war for Armageddon for 40 K nerd's for the rest of you it's a global conflict with alien invaders coming back for the 3rd time ), in a sensible but entertaining manner as well as the death of characters . I'd read the reviews that people disliked the switch from 1st to 3rd person perspective of the main character , of which I'd disagree as I felt it added more depth and a reality of thought on the character's part.

If you're a fan you will love this , certainly better IMHO than the Dan Abnet series of books . IF you're a newcomer or just want to dip in , its a fun read , you don;t need to know the history to enjoy the story (the copy I have even had a mini map explaining and showing locations ) .

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### **Rowan Lock says**

Aaron Dembski-Bowden is really unmatched by other Black Libeary authors - expect perhaps Abnett. Unlike Soul Hunter or The First Heretic, this isn't a planet spanning fluff quest revealing secrets about the Traitor Legions, it's just the one siege in a fairly well-known and conventional 40k conflict and a cast of Loyalists. Even then, he manages to make a hopeless siege interesting and even though you know how it will end, you don't know. The characters really come to life - and the Black Templars unique character and gloomy temperament come out clear as day, Ultramarines they are not.

Recommended!

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### **Patrick says**

One of the better "Warhammer 40K" books that I've read - Dembski-Bowden is great at giving heroic genre archtypes like the Space Marines of the 40K universe layers and shading, so that they never become the simplistic, invulnerable comic book bad-asses that they might otherwise be depicted as.

The scale of this book is impressive, as is the sense of impending doom which permeates - there's no other way that the novel could have ended but the reader frequently finds themself hoping against hope for events to transpire in a different way.

Sacrifice is a common theme in the multiple perspectives that the story is told via and the action approaches Dan Abnett-like levels of page-turning compulsion. "40K" fans will know this author as one of the best writers publishing Black Library fiction and casual readers might want to check him out, too - I really enjoyed this book.

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### **Ebster Davis says**

This is the first Warhammer book I read that regular people (not just Asartes) actually fight. It also introduced me to the Salamanders (aka the loves of my life).

The author was able to make most of the characters likable (even the Limbless Lady in a Giant Jar...oddly enough). Even though there is a central character, the story is mostly ensemble (I'm glad because if the fate of the planet depended on a guy who really ambivalent about his life, it would have been lame).

I liked the interaction the Asartes, humans, mechano-whatevers all got to have. Seeing them work as a team was interesting, and they're actually pretty supportive of each other as individuals.

One thing that was completely lame was the adversary. Orks basically exist as something for Emperor of Mankind and Co. to kill. Makes the whole fighting sequences infinitely less interesting.

Cool parts:

- Asartes concerned about a human finding his love.
  - Human concerned with helping an asartes preserve his geneseed for future generations
  - Salamander's strategy vs MC strategy.
  - Adeptus Mech. spends the whole story fixing a robot...and it was awesome.
  - Limbless Lady in a Giant Jar FINALLY gets to fight.
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## Owen says

I was extremely skeptical about reading Helsreach since the vast majority of licensed IP tie-in novels that crop up around successful game/movie/tv franchises are terrible, but this is one of those rare cases when the author absolutely gets it right. "The Grimdark" comes to life from the perspectives of a diverse cross-section of characters that are thrown together in the defense of Hive Helsreach against an overwhelming ork invasion while struggling to understand each other and find ways to cooperate. All the inter-departmental Imperial politics and prejudices from the obscure "fluffy" sections of the various 40k rulebooks turn up as serious problems that must be overcome by the various forces, and the tensions that result feel very believable. The orks actually come off as being rather flat and boring by comparison to all the internal struggles that the characters face, but their jovial wackiness would have felt extremely out of place in this bleak and brutal story so that's probably for the best. This book should be required reading for anyone playing any of the Imperial forces in any of the 40k-related games, there's something here for everyone to draw from: Astartes, Imperial Guard, Titan Legions and even a brief appearance by the Sisters of Battle. Aaron Dembski-Bowden obviously plays the games and loves the setting, he gets all the little details right in ways that someone who hasn't spent years playing in this particular playground just never would. His reverence for 25+ years of in-game lore combined with great two-fisted action and compelling character development make this book a must-read for anyone who has ever pushed Space Marines across a felt-covered table and it's actually good enough to recommend to anyone else who enjoys a good Starship Troopers style sci-fi war story.

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## Daniel says

This one is another Space Marine Battles book. In this novel the Black Templars Chapter are covered and the setting is the abomination planet called Armageddon. The characters here are rich and as the last novel in this series I reviewed the common thread of the connection with normal humans comes through very strong here. Well written and awesome combat scenes ensue in this thrilling tale. Great Book!

Danny

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### **Alexander Draganov says**

4.5 stars, but I decided to be generous in the end. Imagine if Darth Vader leads the defense of Minas Tirith in a world, which is far darker than either "Star Wars" or "The Lord of the Rings", and you'll get an idea about what this book is about. Grimaldus, the Reclusiarch of the Black Templars must lead the defence of Hellsreach against an endless hordes of orks. As bonus, you have also clashes between giant robots, which are meaner than both transformers or gundams. All in all, a nerdheaven. Warhammer rules!

More detailed review in Bulgarian here:

<http://citadelata.com/hellsreach-spac...>

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### **Everey Bonifacio says**

ADB never fails to impress. A nail biting tale of urban street by street warfare with a tale of self discovery thrown in. The pacing of the story is quick and none of the characters seem two dimensional. Grimaldus is an intersting character. Distant one moment and the next giving a rousing speech at Hellsreach's walls. ADB weaves the tale so well that you can't help but feel for all the characters in the book since their personalities just jumps from the pages. Can't wait to read Blood and Fire next.

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### **Patremagne says**

**"We are judged in life for the evil we destroy."**

*Hellsreach* is possibly the most brutal 40k novel I've read yet. At what cost is victory worth it?

ADB is arguably the best of the Black Library authors. He excels at character depth and in humanizing the Astartes. The difference in the creeds of the Black Templars and the Salamanders was interesting to behold - how those of differing chapters may not understand one another's beliefs - it's very humanizing. Gemmell-esque, in a way. Courage in the face of insurmountable odds, both from the Astartes and the humans.

Leave it to ADB (and often the 40k universe) to create a fantastic band of brothers, each with very different personalities, and leave you feeling utter despair in the end.

Bravo. I didn't need these feels today, where they're already abound with the death of Robin Williams.

**"Hero of Hellsreach, the crowd cheers.**

**As if there is only one."**

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### **Rico says**

Write a book about andrej

## Jeff says

### Details:

Helsreach by Aaron Dembski-Bowden

Black Library Publishing

414 Pages

\*This is an advance copy review.

### Description:

When the world of Armageddon is attacked by orks, the Black Templars Space Marine Chapter are amongst those sent to liberate it. Chaplain Grimaldus and a band of Black Templars are charged with the defence of Hive Helsreach from the xenos invaders in one of the many battlezones. But as the orks numbers grow and the Space Marines dwindle, Grimaldus faces a desperate last stand in an Imperial temple. Determined to sell their lives dearly, will the Black Templars hold on long enough to be reinforced, or will their sacrifice ultimately be in vain. Black Library.com

While I am familiar on a basic level with the Black Templars I don't know all the details of the major characters, so walking in to this novel I'm almost a BT newbie.

In a lot of ways, Black Templars are the epitome of what many folks consider Space Marines – borderline psychopathic, bio-engineered supermen who kill in the name of the crusade and the Emperor. Period, full stop. Have no doubts boys and girls, these guys are bastards. The comparison scenes with the Salamanders Chapter was telling: the Salamanders are one of the most humane of chapters – protecting the citizens is kept firmly in mind. For the Black Templars, its going off to kill stuff and why are these damn civilians in the way?!? Grimaldus is pretty much the worst and the best of these. His detachment is telling; you can see how a person has been altered in such a way that they are really no longer human anymore – driven by hatred and zeal few of us can imagine to destroy the xenos invaders.

I do exaggerate a bit, but Aaron Dembski-Bowden is quickly becoming one of the Black Library's best authors of characterful fiction. Like Soul Hunter before this, the characters are all very colorful, and come from a variety of backgrounds. Each seems like a person dealing with a lifetime of war, indoctrination, mind-scrubbing...and war. Dembski-Bowden does a fine job of taking the reader and tossing him right in the middle of a firefight or burning vehicle. He even makes Chaplain Grimaldus interesting. Now THAT is a feat! You'd think that a character like that would be boring, two dimensional...flat. ADB pulls it off. He really knows how to make characters come alive on the written page.

The scale of the novel is enormous. You certainly have the feel of untold bajillions of orks bearing down on you, and that the odds of survival are grim at best. The protagonists struggle for every bit of ground they win (or lose). The odds are overwhelmingly against them yet they struggle on, battered and bruised, losing battle-brothers along the way. All hope seems lost, yet a spark of hope remains. Yeah, like that! Dembski-Bowden drags the reader all the way down in to the muck, mud and blood, takes away all hope, and slowly gives it back.

I enjoyed the Steel Legion parts as well as the Salamander bits. The Black Templars are a bit overwhelming for my tastes, but it's a damn fine story. The ending left me almost a little flat; I'm not sure what happened there. Without spoiling too much I have no way of explaining it short of saying it was not what I expected.

That's a good thing!

Aaron Dembski-Bowden has written another gritty, dirty story full of actually interesting characters. His action scenes are largely clear, the dialogue witty, the description good. I cannot say whether there are 40k canon issues as I'm not as familiar as some other reviewers. The plot was interesting and kept me going. The ending was a bit of a twist but good.

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### **Mark Balsdon says**

The Black Templars are my favourite second founding chapter. If you know anything about the Black Templars you will know they like to fight. Kind of like knights off old.

So who better to write a Space Marine Battle Novel about the Black Templar at Armageddon than Aaron Dembski-Bowden. Another book that contains a great story with lots of action.

This book leaves you wondering to the very end if they will survive the battle for Helsreah or will they die facing the overwhelming numbers of Orks.

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