



Berserker Kill

Fred Saberhagen

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Long, long ago...two alien races fought a war of extinction. All that is left of either of them are the Berserkers: vast, thinking, space-faring, killer machines whose sole purpose is to destroy all living things. For the first time in all of their history, they have met a life form that has a chance of stopping them. In the cold reaches of space, the Berserkers seize a floating laboratory full of human germ-plasm-stored for retrieval and growth in a future colonization project. But the ship contains millions of human lives. Why are the Berserkers not destroying them? And will the human pursuers manage to find the missing lab, defeat the Berserkers, and save the nascent lives? A major Berserker novel - one of Saberhagen's finest - with one hell of a surprise up its sleeve. In addition to the enormously popular Berserker series, Fred Saberhagen is the author of the bestselling Books of Swords and Lost Swords, as well as the chilling adventures (including A Question of Time) of the gentleman known as Dracula. He is one of the most popular writers in America today.

Berserker Kill Details

Date : Published February 1st 1995 by Tor Books (first published 1993)

ISBN : 9780812550597

Author : Fred Saberhagen

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Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction

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From Reader Review Berserker Kill for online ebook

Jan says

While not quite up to Saberhagen's standards, this was still a decent read. I kept feeling like I had the answer, but was still a little surprised at the end. The 300 year discontinuity between the first and second parts kind of left things lacking... almost as if it had originally been planned as two separate books, but the end of the first book was chopped off and replaced with the second. The second part also seemed to be a setup for a third book.

For berserker fans, this book adds some more information, but I wouldn't recommend it for readers unfamiliar with the berserker story line.

Jay Michaels says

Berserker Kill (1993) by Fred Saberhagen.

A captivating read for Berserker fans, with plenty of cool stuff revealed, especially at the end. [NO SPOILERS INCLUDED HERE!] However, I noticed redundancies cropping up occasionally in the narrative, which irritated me slightly. Additionally, the pace of the narrative wasn't up to Saberhagen's usually "cracking good" standards. Are Fred's writing abilities slipping only slightly with age?

This story would make an excellent adaption to TV or film, but would probably work best as a story arc in part of an ongoing series, since the tale is best appreciated in the overall context of the Berserker saga (as is Saberhagen's short story "The Sign of the Wolf").

The novel is a little draggy, and I was disappointed that Saberhagen killed off one of the supporting characters before he had a chance to really develop them, but it's certainly not as hard to wade through as its immediate sequel, *Berserker Fury* (1997). Definitely worth the effort.

(09 Sept 2005)

Robert LoCicero says

This is a later work by one of the Grandmasters of Science Fiction. Of course, the Berserker series is a memorable one for readers of hard SF and even led to a board game of the same name back in the late eighties. This novel may start slowly but quickly develops into a mesmerizing collection of characters with organic and without organic bodies. For those not in the know, Berserkers were metallic death machines dedicated to the complete destruction of all living creatures in the universe. They were originally created by the distant race called Builders who hoped they would be decisive within their internecine warfare. They ended up going solo and destroying all living things or at least attempting to do so. These galactic battles occurred over thousands of years and over millions of light years of territory. In this novel we meet an original Builder plus the familiar Solarians, our future spacefaring Earthlings and a scattering of inorganic or semi-organic people with familiar psychologies and passions if not easily recognizable bodies and minds. Jump in and read all the novels in this large group of titles. You will be transported into the far off future by this great author.

Tom says

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Eddie says

Pretty good. Keeps you guessing right up till nearly the end. There were in my opinion, a bit much in some of the details that could have been toned back to make the story move faster, fewer details in the Nickolas Hawksmoor, or maybe less to do with the Premier, but all in all a clever and good sci-fi read.

Mark Isaak says

This wasn't the page-turner I had hoped for, but it was still solidly entertaining. The character were well-developed and often surprising. Saberhagen killed off enough of the main characters to keep the level of threat to the others almost constantly high, and enough of the main characters survived to give an emotionally satisfying ending. Most impressively, the ending came as a complete surprise to me, and yet it came across as a fully integral part of the plot, with clues to it present from the beginning and with no unfair tricks by the author to obscure things.

Lawrence says

FALSE

Reynard says

Per ora do un voto conservativo a questo libro perché l'ho letto troppi anni fa per sbilanciarmi con un voto più alto. Conto però di rileggerlo a breve perché, anche a distanza di vent'anni, la lettura mi ha lasciato belle sensazioni; a quel punto scriverò una recensione più ragionata.

John Sorensen says

A Berserker attacks a human planet and leaves. 300 years afterward, Berserkers attack the same planet and pursue the original Berserker attacker in mid-attack. The reason for the unusual behavior? The original Berserker is piloted by one of the Builders of the Berserkers.
