



Caught In The Crossfire

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Mercenary leader Alois Hammer has created an armored regiment that wins battles--Hammer's Slammers. Booklist says Drake's popular Hammer's Slammers series about futuristic mercenary tank troops . . . has produced some of the best in military science fiction. This book contains two novels, Counting the Cost and The Warrior, two short stories, and a completely new novelette, arranged in the order the author finds most satisfactory.

Caught In The Crossfire Details

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Author : David Drake

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From Reader Review Caught In The Crossfire for online ebook

Cheryl says

If you like Realistic Sci-Fi Military books David Drake is the leader, and Hammer's Slammers have always been the best.

Contains:

The Warrior

Caught in the Crossfire

The Immovable Object

Counting the Cost

The Interrogation Team

A. Bowdoin Van Riper says

War stories are about fighting, of course, but the more thoughtful ones – like David Drake’s tales of Hammer’s Slammers, an mercenary regiment that fights other people’s wars on distant planets, unspecified centuries in the future – aren’t *just* (or even primarily) about that. They’re about the people who do the fighting, and what the experience of being in combat does to them. So it is with the stories in *Caught in the Crossfire*, the second in a series of omnibus volumes collecting the stories of the Slammers in (according to the publisher’s blurb) the order that Drake prefers.

Containing two novels originally published separately (*The Warrior* and *Counting the Cost*), along with two previously published short stories (“Caught in the Crossfire” and “Interrogation Team,”) and a novella written specifically for the book (“The Immovable Object”), *Caught in the Crossfire* certainly delivers good value for the money. It also delivers considerable variety. “The Warrior” is a dual character study that uses combat as a backdrop, and “Counting the Cost” is a meditation on the use of violence as a tool in domestic politics. “The Immovable Object” and “Caught in the Crossfire” look at the Slammers through the eyes of the locals whose wars they fight, and “Interrogation Team” lets one of the Slammers see the war he’s fighting literally through the eyes of a local, with unexpected results.

Every story in the book shows off Drake’s smooth professionalism as a writer, and if none of them quite approaches the brilliance of “Rolling Hot” – the best story in the earlier Slammers omnibus, *The Tank Lords* -- the collection is, as a whole, perhaps even better. It is, certainly, darker and grittier, with most stories ending on a note of grim resignation: “I’m alive, and the ones who shot at me are dead, and that makes it a good day.”

Michael Barnette says

This book actually deserves a 4.5 star rating, but Goodreads doesn't let us give half stars.

Two great Hammer's Slammers novels between one cover, Counting the Cost and The Warrior, two of my favorite Hammer's Slammers books filled with intense battles and lots of great characters. This is a powerful read you won't soon forget.

Michael Rutkowski says

As a military scifi geek I wish there were more books or series in the present like the old "Hammer's Slammers" or the "Bolo" series about tanks of the future ! Since there are not I have to be content read these old books when I can find them at the used book stores ! This book is a collection of 5 short stories of which i liked 4 with 1 not quite on par with the others ! Overall an entertaining read !

Jay says

Drake uses his experience with the 11th Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam to write incredibly realistic, gritty and cinematic military science fiction, with the fictional mercenary tank unit "Hammer's Slammers" filling in for the 11th Cav. They fight for hire on various worlds, and have a reputation as the best fighters in all the worlds humanity has settled.

This collection of Hammer stories contains three short stories and two novellas:

"The Warrior" focuses on a tank commander who would rather fight than pretty much anything else. You'd think that attitude would be welcome in the Slammers, but not when it leads to multiple breaches of discipline. This novella has some of the most gripping battle scenes I've ever read.

"Caught in the Crossfire" (short story) tells the tale of civilian whose village is the scene of an ambush between a force of Slammers and a competing mercenary outfit.

"The Immovable Object" (short story) was written specifically for this book, and is another story in which Hammer's Slammers are viewed from someone outside the unit.

"Counting the Cost" is a tense novella in which a company of Slammers is caught in the capital city of a world undergoing a brutal religious civil war, and have to choose between keeping their client, the president, alive and in power, and the risk of getting overwhelmed by a massive uprising in the city. One of the best things about this story is the world, the culture, and the economy that Drake has invented to be the backdrop.

The book closes with "The Interrogation Team" (short story), not a combat tale but a moving psychological story about the innovative method the Slammers use to question a captured guerrilla. The offhand way in which Drake ends the story is chilling.

Fredrick Danysh says

This work is a collection of two novels and two short stories about futuristic mercenaries. The novels are part of the Hammer's Slammers series. All the stories center around the human character.
