



Overdraft: The Orion Offensive

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In the twenty-second century, humanity has journeyed to the stars, and found them open for business. And when it comes to protecting that business, Chief Bridget Yang and Surge Team Sigma—her squad of heavily armed space marines—are up to the task. Unfortunately, Jamie Sturm is one problem they can't just vaporize.

When Jamie's financial schemes bankrupt their expedition, Bridget and her crew refuse to let the rogue stock trader walk away. To save their jobs, the soldiers drag him out from behind his desk—and onto a seemingly hopeless mission to the frontier, seeking to open the most dangerous parts of the Orion Arm to trade. But in turning over every alien rock looking for profit, the hapless trader and his reluctant protectors uncover something that endangers humanity itself....

Overdraft: The Orion Offensive Details

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Author : John Jackson Miller

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Steven C Hawkins says

I love this stuff. I read award winning books, best sellers, classics, and other literature in an attempt to enlighten myself and become a more cultured human being. However, I always go back to my comic book, sci fi, noir, dime store westerns and good ole basic pulp fiction. Just good fun reading. If you like stories about mercenaries and trade merchants galavanting around the universe trying make the next big deal and not get killed by strange aliens, then you should read this. If you need sophistication and culture, try something else.

J. ʘ(?)_/_ says

This was a fun listen. Soft sci-fi at it's best, with some clever ideas and twists along the way. Luke Daniels did a great job with the narration.

This is one of those books over which I'm torn. I HATE starting new series before every book in the series is released, but I could use a few more of these.

Update: Relistened. Still fun. Feels very much like a Scott Meyer book. If I recall correctly this is the author that writes mostly in the star trek or star wars universe, I wish he would step out of it more often.

A. Roy King says

John Jackson Miller is known for his Star Wars novels, but I was intrigued by "Overdraft: The Orion Offensive" because it was originally published as a serial. I'm considering this model for my Edhai series, which I'm working on now, so I'm seeking out some serial novels to get a feel for the format. Just a note that "Overdraft" does have a good overall story arc and works fine as a whole piece.

The novel is well-written, fun to read, and humorous. Miller does a great job at world-building, and I especially enjoyed his development of a future galactic, inter-species trading economy, portraying some imaginative and enjoyable scenarios for making money (engaging for the business writer in me). I also appreciate it when an author is able to write a great story without explicit sex scenes, sadistic violence, and constant profanity.

I understand that Miller is occupied with his Lucasfilm work -- no doubt his bread-and-butter -- but I hope to see further novels in the "Overdraft" universe, or similar works.

ARK

Casey Hampton says

You should read this book. You should read this book if you like adventuring soft SF. You should read this book if you like funny adventuring soft SF. You should read this book if you like funny adventuring soft SF that doesn't take itself too serious. So, should you read this? Only you know. Choose, but choose wisely.

The premise is rather underwhelming. A greedy twenty-second century stockbroker is caught before his insider trading pays dividends. In a strange twist, the stockbroker is forced into trying to earn one hundred billion dollars in one hundred days by selling wares to aliens. In the twenty-second century, Earth has joined a galactic syndicate based on the buying and selling of goods. Imagine a door-to-door salesman in space. Throw in power-armor wearing bodyguards who dislike the stockbroker, and you get a plot that seems like it should just fizzle and blow away. But it doesn't!

Of course, anytime you try and slap funny onto SF, you know what happens. Inevitably, it always draws comparisons to that author with the alphabetical-friendly last name. We all know the writer I'm talking about. If you don't, *don't panic!* All I'm saying is that it's not fair to forever compare humorous SF to the work of Douglas Adams. Adams is in his own galaxy. So can we please, please, oh please stop trying to measure all prospectively humorous SF to Douglas Adams?

John Jackson Miller delivers a fun space adventure that follows a fairly tight point-to-point storytelling. It never tries to be bigger/more than it is, and I am grateful. I thought the beginning drug a little. I also didn't feel the double agent was necessary to the plot, if anything it detracted from the story by injecting unneeded complication, but perhaps this is merely character maneuvering for future works in this series.

Luke Daniels narrates the audiobook. It was my first time hearing Daniels read and I admit to feeling some early trepidation. I soon stopped doubting Daniels. He brings each character to life with such subtle grace that his voice becomes the story's voice. When this happens, when a reader just "becomes" what they are reading, it's special.

Final thoughts:

If you can watch the original *Get Smart* television program without griping that it's not James Bond, I think you'll like this book.

Nancy says

That was fun! Excellent space opera action adventure with several great characters. The story starts off a bit weak; I didn't really understand all the insider trading blah blah that lands Jaime in hot water with Bridget's team. But once I got past that the momentum really picked up and I was in it to the finish. There are several nifty set pieces, aliens, and tech, and the whole thing with the dancing was HILARIOUS.

I'm glad that it doesn't try to be more than it is. There is a large threat to Earth (eventually), but overall the galaxy is at peace and the conflict is limited to these people in this situation. Some threads are clearly left dangling for a sequel, but the protagonists' story is wrapped up neatly.

I feel it's similar in style to Scalzi's writing, but with less snarky, self-aware dialogue and less gore. Some days that's exactly what a girl wants.

Originally published as a Kindle Serial. The individual episodes are probably designed to stand on their own,

but I can't speak to that because I just powered right through them.

Rick says

Basic plot involves a day trader type character who is basically shifting goods around for huge profit but gets caught and now must help try and recoup the money for the company. He now must trade with civilizations and stay alive from all the mistakes he is making and annoying the group that is there to protect him. I found it very funny and loved the characters. Definitely looking forward to reading the short prequel and follow ups when written.

Heather Pagano says

A serviceable space opera that performed competently when released in serial format. I never really connected with the story or the characters, never found myself thinking about the book when I wasn't reading it. I think that the characters' attitudes and the alien locales were just a little too cliché for the book to spark the sense that it had a life of its own.

Andrei Ryumin says

This is the first novel by John Jackson Miller created in his own universe (author's previous works were in Star Wars or Mass effect franchises). It is a soft science fiction adventure story, where the author introduces interesting and plausible technologies for interstellar travels in a distant future, and depicts interesting galaxy with mostly far non-human like being in it. I was going to rate it 3 at first, but there is a great plot twist about one of the races in the galaxy, which positively surprised me and improved my opinion about the book in general. It is also a fast easy read, and good entertainment, so I would recommend this book to anybody who likes space adventures novels.

Just one remark: I "read" this novel in audio book format, which was mostly fine, but the voice of the main character, Jamie Sturm, which sounded very wrong to me, and this sense of wrongness didn't go away till the end of the book.

Joel Feldhake says

Overdraft: The Orion Offensive is a solid effort for JJM. I'll admit I wasn't a huge fan of the first two episodes; however, the serial has gotten better as it's gone on (primarily due to the characters being fleshed out more - they become a lot more likeable as the serial goes on). I'm not a huge fan of the serial format, but JJM makes it work (mostly), due to his experience writing comics and connected short stories (LTotS). This is definitely more of a humorous take on sci-fi although it has enough weight to it to keep it enjoyable. Overall I'll give it 4/5 for now (through episode 5) and may bump this up to 5/5 if the serial continues its upwards trajectory. I'd definitely recommend this to anyone who likes light-hearted, Saturday matinee type sci-fi or anyone who is a fan of JJM's other work.

Danielle says

I won this book in a Goodreads Giveaway

Bridget Yang is the outcast leader of all those with nothing left to lose, running a group of interstellar soldiers Surge Team Sigma, in the space boonies. Jamie Sturm is a greedy futuristic stock broker with his hand in more cookie jars than anyone could ever have imagined. Their two worlds collide when Jamie's get rich quick scheme lands them both in hot water, forcing them to work together to get back the ridiculous amount of money Jamie lost. Jamie becomes a Trader, a space door to door sales man, who is often more trouble than he is worth, but Bridget and her team are forced to act as body guards, protecting the Trader at all costs, especially from the mysterious bipedal aliens that seem to lurk around every corner.

Though it was slow going in the beginning and often had parts that seemed to last too long, when it was interesting it was well worth the wait. I really enjoyed all the different aliens and planets, but episode 7-8 were all the fun really began. I loved the twists at the end and mostly the unveiling of Kolvax's race, in the end it was a wonderfully constructed interstellar journey. I wouldn't mind reading more about Surge Team Sigma, though I like the idea of Bridget and Mike O'Herlihy way more than her and Santos, but that just me.

Sheri says

I really enjoyed this book. I didn't see it when it was in serial form. I got it as a single book after it was finished and read it in 2 days. I like the fact that it is light, not too serious. There are a lot of funny situations. There is some action but plenty of story as well. The characters have realistic human flaws. There's no altruistic awesome hero trying to save the universe, just people trying to deal with the mess they made of their lives as best they can. I ended up liking even the main character who is pretty much an oblivious, selfish jerk most of the time. It was a good story and I'm looking forward to the next one.

Patrick says

This book wasn't as humorous as the description sounded. It certainly isn't up there with Hitchhiker's Guide or Firefly in terms of witty sci-fi. The middle sags a bit as every encounter seems pretty much the same. They meet weird aliens, things go badly, they have to fight and run until they can smooth things over. Lather rinse repeat. Anyway, it didn't make me want to read any future sequels.

That is all.

Stephen Lee says

A great science fiction novel with a unique angle. The trading aspect of the book and wealth of alien species keeps the story moving along at a good pace.

Jason says

Just builds a great story, as always. Very multifaceted, lots of twists and turns, and outstanding storytelling. But it took me a while to get into it. I started and stopped several times. This has been a trend for a couple of his novels now. But once the momentum builds and the story gets rolling, I found myself thorough sucker in.

Starting a new Jim boom tomorrow. The first Star Wars novel in a long time. And the first of a new Era In Star Wars storytelling. Pretty excited about it.

Andrew Rose says

Stock traders in space

In order to fend off a interstellar margin call Jamie must earn a billion credits in a hurry. But it's not just the police after him, it's also an alien race with secrets to hide. Fans of the stainless steel Rat and Phule will have a lot of laughs at the highjinks
