



Enforcer: The Shira Calpurnia Omnibus

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Female enforcer, Shira Calpurnia maintains law and order in the grim world of the 41st millenium. It contains the books *Crossfire*, *Legacy*, *Blind* and two short stories.

Enforcer: The Shira Calpurnia Omnibus Details

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Larry Kenney says

This Omnibus took me quite a while to get through. I normally devour WH40k books. They are my literary guilty pleasure. This one was a lot tougher to get through. What I enjoyed the most was seeing how the Arbites are in action, and getting a much better look at the operation of the empire from a non-war standpoint. You get to see a lot of interaction with different aspects of the Imperium, from Astropaths, to Arbites, to Rouge Traders.

Nick says

This is a omnibus covering a police officer named Shira Calpurnia; the setting is a nice change of pace, giving a interesting, ground-level view of the setting with nary a Space Marine in sight. This omnibus collects three books - Crossfire, Legacy, and Blind, and I'm going to run them down one by one.

Crossfire: The omnibus kicks off with our heroine arriving in the Hydraphur system and almost immediately being targeted for assassination. It's pretty good; there are some slow-moving parts where we see more about the characters and setting that I assumed would be put to good use in future novels, and the author introduces too many characters and doesn't give them much to do. That said, the book mostly held my attention, and I was genuinely interested to see the outcome. I'm not sure the eventual bad guy really makes a lot of sense, but this is a solid entry.

Legacy: This, unfortunately, is where the series goes rogit off the rails. Legacy is about a succession dispute, with two groups fighting over who's going to inherit an ancient and very valuable rouge trader writ. This is fine, but it reduces Shira from hero and protagonist to the role of, at best, guest star in her own book. She has nothing to do until the climax, and even then the focus is on all the other groups fighting each other. Most of the book is a slog; like the previous book the author introduces too many characters and doesn't give them enough to do. It perks up slightly at the finish with an exciting climax, but the ending that follows kind of makes the entire book pointless in my view. Skip this one.

Blind: This is better than Legacy, but only just; at least it has our heroine in it, even if she ends up not really doing much. This time the action takes place on a space station full of psychics, and the mystery is how a man in a locked room was killed. Sadly, it's not very good; once again, a ton of characters are introduced and most of them are giving nothing to do, and the eventual resolution is enough of a letdown that if I still cared about this book I probably would have been annoyed.

Overall, I'm gonna have to say pass on this collection; It's tedious, and two bad books that are a chore to read adds up to a omnibus that is mostly bad and usually chore to read. I'm tempted to recommend picking up the first novel, Crossfire, but even then, a lot of it is taken up in world and character building that never pays off - the second book has nothing to do with the setting, and the third book takes place on a space station far away from anywhere else. This is kind of a mess, and I really can't recommend it to anyone, unless you need a heavy book to hold something down.

David Drent says

be glad this police force doesn't exist. They define military state. The main protagonist takes no guff, using her shock maul to remind the criminal who's in charge. Like Eisenhorn, it's a journey from strict adherent of an unforgiving government institution to near rebel against the corruption within the very structure the protagonist is sworn to protect.

William says

Read this awhile ago, just got around to reviewing it. Enforcer was a decent read, it hit's upon a rather minor aspect of the greater 40k universe, Adeptus Arbites (Space Police). This is one of the few books to deal with the subject matter. Just enough cop drama blended with the Grim Darkness of the 40k verse.

Nobbynob Littlun says

Not too good, not too bad. Better luck next time, Mr. Farrer.

Frank says

A quick note to say: the extra content in the omnibus is really very cool. Aside from the quality of the novels themselves, the style and care taken in adding something 'a little different' is very successful. Though I love Farrer's shorts, seeing inventive, themed pieces in the style of case-notes and such is something special indeed amongst Black Library's omnibus extras.

Mick says

The three books contained in Enforcer take a fresh look at the Warhammer 40,000 universe, though the perspective of Shira Calpurnia. Not a soldier, as we've seen in so many 40K books, but a police officer and detective. It's a unique take and I found the exploration of the civilian side of the 41st Millennium fascinating. These books tread a difficult line, having to work as space opera and as crime, and for the most part do this well.

Christian says

Good series of books about Imperium law enforcement in the grim darkness of the far future. The first book is clearly setting up Shira Calpurnia's world and is kinda boring. As a whodunit? it is ver weak as the reader will know who the mastermind is within 50 pages. The second book is much, much better. The parts that deal with the secondary characters, that is. This is another recurring problem in Black Library books when the background characters clearly overshadow the protagonists. The third book was, again, very weak as a whodunit and I have the impression that we have not seen the last of this character. Overall, good bus ride

reading.

Henry says

It wasn't the best WH40K fiction I'd ever read, but it certainly wasn't the worst, not by a longshot.

Christine says

I was recommended this book due to the fact that my character for the Dark Heresy RPG (Fantasy Flight Games) is an arbiter.

So far I am enjoying this book quite a bit. It is far better writing than I was expecting for fiction belonging to a game world. The main character is a bit "fish out of water" as she settles into a new position on a new world, and this makes the explanations given by her "guide" fitting and not jarring in the least.

Ok, this book is kind of on hold because it's paper.

Gareth says

What do you get when you mix a mystery novel with warhammer 40k? Crap. Seriously, this was a long slow slog.

As a mystery novel I never felt like I had any clues until near the end when there was a dead giveaway. Even then I guessed the bad guy but not the motive. Mostly because the badguys motive was stupid.

As a 40k book it was interesting and it was fun to get a deeper view of the 40k universe. The problem was there wasn't much variety. I was hoping to see some space marines or tyranids or something but it was just a mix of imperials.

As a story with characters it was meh. I didn't like the main character but she was reasonably fleshed out. What was lacking was something to challenge her. The author continually has her being perfectly correct in ever situation. It was tiring to have this annoying character bombarded with compliments for the length of the story.

Note I only read the first story of this book. I won't be reading anymore.

Eileen says

I wish so much I could've given this five stars because the world-building is incredible and unlike anything else Black Library has published. But damn, Farrer is *such* a dry writer who gets too bogged down in details

to do much else. Shira Calpurnia herself is practically a non-entity in the second book and the third one was just plain confusing.

Mhoram says

It's a pretty decent read. A pleasure to see beyond the military aspects of the Imperium, and into the life of the citizenry. Took a HELL of a long time to get through the first book though - very well-written, but exhausting to read.

Fiannawolf says

I hope to see more books covering different sects of Warhammer.

Richard Tran says

I'm a huge fan of these Warhammer 40k omnibus as the size of the omnibus tend to allow for a lot of character development and interesting situations.

This omnibus deals with the Adeptus Arbites which is pretty much the law enforcement branch of the galactic empire. Now I would normally find this to be a really interesting subject as the Arbites are barely touched on in other novels but Enforcer fell a little short of the mark as far as its potential.

The omnibus follows the Adeptus General Shira Calpurnia and focuses on her career in a heavily government focused world. The three stories in the omnibus basically involves some case that Calpurnia is involved in. While the character of Calpurnia is interesting, she isn't featured that heavily in most of the stories. Also the mystery of the case somehow manages to be miraculously solved by the end by some random fluke that they turned a potential sci-fi/mystery hybrid story into something that just feels inadequate.

I probably would not recommend this book.
