



## Brother Assassin

*Fred Saberhagen*

Download now

Read Online ➔

# Brother Assassin

*Fred Saberhagen*

## **Brother Assassin** Fred Saberhagen

On the planet Sirgol the death machines have a unique and subtle mode of attack. Now, the time and place of the next attack has been pinpointed--the berserkers will try to eliminate Vincent Vincento, an early genius whose loss will cost mankind a hundred years of progress in the physical sciences. Derron Odegard, one of the elite corps of Time Operatives, has the toughest assignment in Sirgol's history--protect Vincento at any cost.

## **Brother Assassin Details**

Date : Published January 15th 1997 by Tor Science Fiction (first published 1969)

ISBN : 9780812536423

Author : Fred Saberhagen

Format : Paperback 224 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Time Travel

 [Download Brother Assassin ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Brother Assassin ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Brother Assassin Fred Saberhagen**

---

# **From Reader Review Brother Assassin for online ebook**

## **Monty says**

This story is a well-conceived and plotted piece of SF involving Berserker "Killing Machines" and time travel. Saberhagen keeps the suspense going while playing out the story in various interesting locales times. Heroic and special individuals targeted by the Berserkers are stymied by the resourcefulness of Derron Odegard, of the elite corps of Time Operatives.

---

## **Marianne says**

This book is badly named, really only describing one section of the book in the last third of the story. I like the interplay of machines bent on destruction, a society taking refuge beneath the earth, and saving the present through time travel into the past. However, the plight of the lead characters don't grab me, so by the end of the story, I enjoyed the ride but I'm happy to get off.

---

## **Steve says**

Quick read, pretty fun. Essentially three short stories involving time travel and berserkers messing with the time streams. Asymmetrical warfare on steroids. The stories are loosely based on actual historical stories, with an overarching story arc to hold the book together.

---

## **Bayard West says**

Saberhagen set this story on the world Sirgol, stripped bare by Berserkers -- a race of intelligent machines with a singular purpose: destroy all life everywhere. The machines outlived their creators and now prosecute the war against life all across the galaxy. The planet Sirgol has unique qualities that are conducive to time travel. Lieutenant Derron Odegard knows this. The scientists on his world know this. Now so do the Berserkers. Derron fights to defend what is left of his world in the present and past.

Saberhagen wrote a lot of his Berserker novels as short stories. This book, too, is a collection of stories, but Darren plays a role in each and it is all carefully woven together in a pleasing way. One of Saberhaben's greatest strengths was his ability to build up to a big twist devised to deliver big emotional impact. Perhaps, with Brother Assassin, he devoted some of energies instead into the careful construction of a large book and I feel it falls short compared to Berserker.

---

## Pat Cooney says

Berserkers. In Time!

Although not built out of short stories, the second entry in the Berserker saga (!) is still essentially constructed as such: three distinct sections of linear chronology - beginning with Neolithic, followed by Medieval, and ending with Renaissance - that could very well each constitute their own short story. Recurring characters (such as Derron our protagonist, a "Time Operative") appear throughout all three sections although Saberhagen's attempt at an emotional arc with the "love-interest" character Lisa is laughable at best (sexist at worst?).

Like the first book, Saberhagen's nerdy influences are very easy to spot (Beowulf, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, Galileo, St. Francis and the Wolf, etc) but aren't as explicit (those slightly awkward moments when characters in the first book would quote Shakespeare and Chaucer right before laser guns came out and killing machines began ripping people in twain [heh] were certainly fun but still disjointed) and most of the cheesiness in this Berserker entry originates from these Earth-references (forgot to tell you, the setting isn't Earth, it's another planet, Sirgol, which might confuse readers when Earth-unique concepts like dragons, friars, and Viking imagery show up - is it charming or not that Saberhagen doesn't even really attempt to explain this?).

That being said, a ton of sci-fi ideas people probably assume as contemporary seem to originate here. The Terminator? Yeah, definitely grabbed a bunch from this book. The ending of the Battlestar Galactica reboot? Essentially outlined in the beginning of the first section. And The Matrix, etc., yadda-yadda....

Saberhagen also plays with the conventions he's established; now we have a role-reversal scenario in which a berserker is attempting to save human lives that other humans desperately want to end as well as an "Inception" scenario about implanting ideas into a human's head that will sow the seeds of human extinction centuries later. Very cool shit.

Not as good as the first entry, especially since it's missing some of that terrifying, cold brutality that I enjoy so much, but still very entertaining as well as greatly enlarging of the possibilities of the Berserkerverse.

"The thing is [...] I don't really much care what happens to the world. Only about a person here and there."

---

## Ivan Stoikov - Allan Bard says

Actually, a book about totalitarianism, about good when it could be found even in the most unusual places and creatures, even machines... If you lived in an ex-communist country, you'll see it's about the horror of such systems...

---

## Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nhw.livejournal.com/187709.html>[return][return]You have these killer alien robots, right, called berserkers, and they're attacking this human-colonised planet, right, which is, like, unique because it's the only place in the universe where time travel is possible. Apparently. Oh yeah, and because of a bizarre

accident with the first spaceship that ever landed there, the locals have recapitulated the whole of the history of European civilisation with uncanny accuracy.[return][return]Having set up this slightly pulpish - OK, totally pulpish - background, it turns into rather a good book - actually a collection of three short stories originally published in 1967, the first set in the Stone Age, the second in an equivalent of the Viking era, and the third retelling the story of Galileo. I think I picked it up second-hand for less than a pound, and I've certainly paid more for books I enjoyed less.

---

### Scott says

Mildly diverting, with honest pulpy pleasure, but very weakly concluded. Also very much of its time, an era of science fiction when real men wore jumpsuits and lived behind computer consoles, and women were furniture. Note to aspiring authors-- when you set out to write a book about a time-travel battle of wits with unstoppable murder machines, you can end it by having the human heroes do something suitably clever, or you can end it with a sad deus ex machina. Don't choose the sad deus ex machina.

---

### Matthew Carlson says

I am quite fond of time travel novels and thoroughly enjoyed this one. The author obviously adapts actual historical events to tell the tale of a very "Terminator"-like tale in which Berserker's are sent back in time in order to prevent asignificant events from occuring which lead to the development of civilization on this plan to the point where it can resist a Berserker onslaught. A very good book.

---

### Cathie Stumpenhaus says

Dated but I like the way it ends.

---

### Tom says

*Fred Saberhagen* wrote or co-wrote a series of seventeen books, some of them anthologies of short stories, about the **Berserkers**. These robotic killings machines arrive on the doorstep of human occupied space with the sole mission of destroying all intelligent life. **Brother Assassin** is the second of the novels and encompasses three linked novellas originally published 1967

Thanks to the unique properties of the planet **Sirgol** the Berserkers have mastered time travel and send back assassins to kill an important figure in early Sirgol history in the hopes this will delay their technological advancements long enough that present day Berserkers will be able to successfully prosecute their pogrom against humanity.

The protagonist of the novellas, **Derron Odegard** is a member of the Time Operatives and is charged with saving **Vincent Vincento**. The plotting of this book left something to be desired and time travel is always particularly difficult to deal with in a realistic fashion. I enjoyed the book as a teen and it is moderately

entertaining as an adult. It's parallel to the **Terminator** movies is interesting in itself and I'd recommend this book to any fan of robotic death machine science fiction.

Saberhagen wrote several other series including the well-known *Books of Swords* and *Books of Lost Swords*. He died in 2007.

---

### **Eddie says**

One of the better books in the Berserker series that I've read to date. It had the feel of Terminator, machines traveling back in time to disrupt the flow of history and kill humans. Well written and interesting, a worthy Sci-Fi read.

---

### **Bill Potter says**

Boo! Hiss! I can't believe I wasted all that time on this. It was great for 2/3 and then it just fell apart. It was terrible.

---

### **Phil Kozel says**

I read this book decades ago, and it is still a good read. Hard to write a review without spoilers, but it involves time travel to save various time-line important figures from the berserkers. 3.5 stars.

---

### **Daniel says**

I enjoyed Saberhagen's take on time travel and how it could be used in warfare. He deserves real credit for positing some interesting consequences to time travel well before films--such as Terminator--stepped into the zeitgeist and established their rules for the genre.

The book is broken up into three parts, a structure that is actually dictated by the conflict of the story, which involves triangulating berserker activity throughout history. The middle part was slow for many stretches, and my interest waned; fortunately, subsequent events built on this material, making the part, as a whole, worthwhile. The resolution involved surprising notes of hope and compassion. Altogether, this was a fun read.

---