



Firstborn

Christie Golden

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Vintage paperback

Firstborn Details

Date : Published May 22nd 2007 by Pocket Star (first published 2007)

ISBN : 9780743471251

Author : Christie Golden

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Games, Video Games

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From Reader Review Firstborn for online ebook

Mattias Ridderstedt says

The world of Starcraft is an interesting one, and that's why many of these novels hold up and may be entertaining to read.

Unfortunately they are haunted by mediocrity.

The authors seem to rush it through as if working by a production line and it results in sloppy pieces of work that lack consistency.

Filip says

It works both as stand-alone book as well as first part of trilogy. Golden's style is present at any time, although I believe the describing was a bit over-the-top. It was over-the-top so much I couldn't follow her at times, but overall it was an 'Ok' book that gave us more insight into Starcraft universe.

Ryan Joseph says

very exciting would recommend it to others

Federico says

Must read for any Starcraft fans out there...

B.buiscut says

This book is one of the best books I have ever read. Some may not understand if you don't know what in the world is Starcraft (its a video game, a strategy one I think), then maybe you don't want to read it. I personally am a gamer (so I know Blizzard's awesome games [like WoW, Warcraft and there is a big difference, and Diablo III] who likes to pick up a book every once and a while to read. All in all, this book is an awesome book for gaming readers.

Robert says

For what it is, a cheesy tie-in to a video game, this book is actually quite riveting. Skimping on the action that usually defines these sorts of works, Ms. Golden crafted a story that really delved into Starcraft lore in an enriching way. I really liked her writing style, which showcased a surprising amount of scholarship and played around with some great vocabulary at times. My only real complaint was that there really wasn't

much of a story, with most of the latter third of the book being occupied by the main character's "visions" into Protoss history.

Zachary Wagoner says

This was a random buy for me, though I am not disappointed by the purchase. Brought back some fond memories of playing starcraft back when I was a bit younger. For the most part I enjoyed the read. The characters and story were engaging. The only thing I felt that was a bit off is that it took a while for the story to take off. Some build up leading to all the discovery and action. But all in all a good read and will be looking into obtaining the rest of the series.

Stan says

Well, I read the book. I got a free copy of it at a convention, so I figured, "Eh, why not." Unfortunately, that's about all I can say about it for liking it.

Christie Golden definitely has writing talent, I will grant. Plausibility, dialogue, richness of details--all were what I would expect from a seasoned author. The thing was, "Firstborn" just didn't engage me, notwithstanding that I've played Starcraft, and that I like the backstory of that universe.

What I think it boiled down to was that despite the good plausibility, the book still felt... fake. Even for a work of fiction. Add to that the fact that I never really did relate to any of the characters, and I don't have any plans on seeking out the rest of the trilogy (book three came out just a few weeks ago, at time of this review). Jake, the main character, is brilliant (supposedly) but naive, and even though he had struggles in the book, I only barely came to like him. "R.M." Dahl--the oh-so-beautiful assassin, well... I cringe to think that I've used such a cliche in one of my own works, having seen it at work in "Firstborn." Though Golden didn't talk about Dahl's beauty *quite* as much as Stephanie Meyer talks about Edward's god-like attractiveness, it seemed she came close. I eventually stopped counting how many times Dahl's "raven eyebrow" was mentioned, for instance. Or her silky hair. Or porcelain skin. Or pouty lips. Need I say more?

Though there were some plot twists, and at least a couple of attempts at using "shock value" scenes, it still felt like something from the same old fiction mill. I don't *need* suspense and plot twist--in fact, it's good when things go a logical course--but there really *wasn't* any sense of rising tension for me. "Oh, look. They were betrayed. Hey, look! They were betrayed again, only this time by criminals. Moving on."

So... Golden is good, but Firstborn wasn't what I'd call "golden."

Melissa Bennett says

This is not the typical kind of book I read. It is the typical book for my son. He always reads books based off of video games. I made a bet with him trying to broaden his horizons. I told him that I would read one of his books if he read one of mine. So he gave me this one. I was VERY reluctant to start it but once I did, I found it was not so bad. I actually was able to read the whole book and enjoy it while doing so. I personally would

of gave it 3 stars since I liked it but did not love it. My son on the other hand said he would give it 5 stars because he did love it. So I compromised and gave it 4. If you are into science fiction or books based off of video games, I am sure you'll probably like this one.

Abhinav says

You can read the full review over at my blog:

<http://sonsofcorax.wordpress.com/2014...>

The first time I ever ran into StarCraft was in one of the two gaming magazines I got as a kid, many, many years ago now. I recall reading a review of the game in the magazine and thinking, “I’d like to play that”. But that didn’t happen until I got into college. And you know what, I loved the game. It was sort of similar to WarCraft (strategy games were all similar to me back then) but more nuanced I suppose. Then the obsession went further in junior year of college when my friends and I played the StarCraft board game on weekends and had a ton of fun playing it. It wasn’t until just three years ago though that I read my first StarCraft novels, Graham McNeill’s *I, Mengsk* and Keith R. A. DeCandido’s *Nova* that I truly fell in love with the setting.

And that brings me to *Firstborn*, the first novel in Christie Golden’s *Dark Templar Saga*, which I finished reading a couple days ago. It is my first StarCraft fiction in three years, and it was as great an experience as *I, Mengsk* was. It isn’t as rooted in the original lore or even the games as that novel, but it does some amazing work to expand on the setting and the lore. I haven’t kept up with the game unfortunately, so I don’t know how the bits of lore in this novel came about and whether Christie has shepherded it all, but I don’t care either way, because *Firstborn* was ultimately a fantastic novel that much to increase my fascination with the Protoss and the mysterious Xel’Naga.

Firstborn focuses on a (I believe) new character, that of archaeologist Jake Ramsey and chronicles his adventure on the dirt-planetoid Nemaka where he and his team investigate a recently unearthed Xel’Naga temple and where everything goes wrong for him. During his investigation and exploration, he irretrievably becomes psychically bonded with a Protoss female, and from there starts his journey in uncovering a rather large mystical secret, something the likes of which Valerian Mengsk, the son of Arcturus Mengsk, is willing to kill to acquire.

Personally, I loved almost everything about this novel. For me, it was an interesting continuation of *I, Mengsk* in that Valerian makes for some great scenes, interacting with a wide variety of characters. He has grown in personality and attitude since those days of his early youth and is now very much the kind of man that his father, the Emperor of the Terran Dominion, wants to have as his Heir.

The novel starts off innocently enough, but soon as we hit the planetoid of Nemaka, it becomes clear that nothing is as it seems and that there’s a big deception in place on part of some of the characters. That ultimately provides the lightning rod that throws a rather quiet and unassuming novel into high gear as a full-on action-adventure in the world of StarCraft. Christie Golden has written numerous novels for Blizzard, whether we talk StarCraft or WarCraft, and in this novel, it very much feels as if she is right at home. The ease of her prose in her WarCraft novels is present here as well because *Firstborn* made for a great read that I plowed through in short order. It also helped that I was a bit familiar with the setting and that references here and there to some events weren’t entirely lost on me as might otherwise have been the case.

Dino says

First of all, i'd question my objectivity on any book that's related to StarCraft, simply because i consider myself to be a HUGE fan of the series and the story. Bearing that in mind, this is my opinion on the book.

Now, despite it being written in 3 separate books, it's basically 1 story, and as such i will be giving my experience and impression of it as a whole, not book by book, simply because it'll make a lot more sense this way.

The story takes place in the year 2503, after Brood Wars (2500) and slightly before Wings of Liberty (2504), and it follows a human called Jacob "Jake" Ramsey and a protoss conscience within him, Zamara, and a lot of other characters who've had the (miss)fortune of living this epic adventure with them.

I will try to word this as best as i can, but i have to say right away that i was BLOWN AWAY at the sheer awesomeness that is the Dark Templar Saga and the way Christie Golden presented it. This is, hands down, the BEST and most enjoyable chunk of lore that i've learned. I shit you not, i've read all 3 books within 3 and half days, taking some downtime to charge my notepad and read more.

The story is so captivating, heartfelt, action packed, there are multiple stories and plot lines being told (phenomenally, i might add) simultaneously, plot twists (some predictable, but you would have wished for them to happen so you won't care!), solid pacing (never a dull moment), character depth (i bet you'll care and understand about the protoss a whole lot after reading these. And don't even get me started on R.M Dhal <3). Reading these books have been the most enjoyable thing that i've done in recent memory, constantly wanting more, and finding myself quite sad after finishing them, simply because there's no more :(

I've read 9 novels/books so far from the StarCraft universe (all within the past...2 months i'd say), and i haven't disliked any of them so far, just different degrees of like. The Dark Templar Saga blew all of that away and has easily become my favorite, which i didn't think would happen because it's a Protoss based story, and i only really like humans (Terrans). I must admit, after reading these i have developed a HUGE amount of sympathy, respect, grief, liking and admiration for the Protoss. And just in time for the Protoss based expansion, Legacy of the Void (a coincidence, in truth). Now, you might find this a bit ridiculous because it's a fantasy setting, but i've grown quite fond of and attached to this franchise and i look at it from a different perspective, i feel for it.

This might seem more like me expressing my fanboy-ism, rather than a review, but i think that if i express how i felt while reading it, and being able to share that to future potential readers (who i assume are fans of the franchise) might enforce your will to purchase/rent this book and "live" it the way i have.

Stan Crowe says

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what I would expect from a seasoned author. The thing was, "Firstborn" just didn't engage me, notwithstanding that I've played Starcraft, and that I like the backstory of that universe.

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Andries van Wyk says

What an unexpectedly pleasant read. I know Christie Golden from her War Craft book, which were very good. Hence I knew this book to be in good hands. The book starts off slow and mediocre, but then it takes a very interesting turn. Thereafter the story just becomes more and more interesting, and one wonders where it will end.

The book is filled with interesting characters with depth and history.

I can't wait to get started on the next book to see where it goes ...

Michal says

Na za?iatok tohto roku som si pre Vás pripravil recenziu na ?alšiu knihu z herného sveta! Teraz to bude príbeh zo sveta populárnej scifi stratégie Starcraft. Táto kniha je prvá z existujúcej trilógie zvanej, ako ste si už mohli domyslie?, Sága Temných Templárov. Ke?že som s autorkou Christie Golden mal skúsenosti už z kníh zo sveta Warcraftu, tak som jej dal šancu aj teraz, ke?že som jedného ?asu na hre Starcraft 2 poriadne "závisla?il".

... viac na: <http://overdeadbooks.blogspot.sk/2015...>

Chad says

A fun book for fans of Starcraft lore. A well done story, though the writing is (as should be expected) somewhat sub-par. Only a few cringe-worthy lines however, and on the whole an enjoyable if quick read.

