



# The Widowmaker

*Mike Resnick*

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## **The Widowmaker** Mike Resnick

One of the major voices in science fiction, Mike Resnick presents the first volume in a bold new trilogy. Jefferson Nighthawk--known and feared by many as the Widowmaker, the consummate bounty hunter--has been frozen for a century in order to defeat a deadly disease. Only now the cost of his care has risen, so the Widowmaker is called out of retirement for one special commission, and a very large chunk of cash. A notorious assassin has been wrecking havoc on the Frontier; who better but the Widowmaker to defeat him?

## **The Widowmaker Details**

Date : Published August 1996 by Bantam Spectra

ISBN : 9780553571608

Author : Mike Resnick

Format : Paperback 293 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Space, Space Opera

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# From Reader Review The Widowmaker for online ebook

## Sam says

at first I was surprised because of the writing style. It was very very dialog heavy, and that was different for me. however, the style kept the story extremely fast paced and quickly I found myself hooked and unable to put it down. Where this book shines is in its creative story setting, and its blending of the sci-fi and western genres. A legendary bounty hunter is frozen until his deadly disease can be cured, but his life savings begins to run out as a cure is neared. So the obviously solution is to clone him and have the clone take on missions that no one else could.

Very easy, quick read. Love it.

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## Jack says

This book was the shit. Anyway.... The dialogue was fantastic! I liked it how I read pretty much every word, actually paying attention to pretty much everything in the conversations, the fight scenes, and the characters. Usually at certain parts of a book you kinda lose interest in certain parts, but I was pretty happy with everything. The ending was unexpected, the storytelling smooth and the story, wow the story! The Story was amazing how it went and was different from some other types of science fiction, where they get caught up trying to write futurist weird things. Instead it was grounded and realistically fictional. If that makes any sense. Hmm.... This book, once again, was fantastic!

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## Roger says

Normally Mike Resnick is one of those authors I can count on to write a solid story. I don't feel I got that with The Widowmaker. I realize this is the first part of a multi part series, but I expected a much higher degree of badassery from the galaxy's greatest bounty hunter-or his clone. It was neat to read a book about someone who has the same name as me (Nighthawk has been my "internet name" for around two decades) but that was not enough to offset the disappointed feeling I had when I finished this book. I felt a lot of the action was filler to pad The Widowmaker out to novel length. Not sure if I will pick up another of these.

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## Ty Myrick says

This book is a fantastic old-fashioned space adventure. For days afterwards, I kept remembering the tone and style of the book and how it harkened back to the golden age of science fiction. It is exactly the type of book I normally enjoy. But I just could not like this book because the protagonist is such an annoying character. I do want to read more books in this series, because the protagonist will not return in later books. It is sad that such an unlikable character can ruin the experience of reading an otherwise excellent book.

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## **Craig says**

Resnick's four volumes that feature Jefferson Nighthawk, the Widowmaker, are entertaining books set in his excellent future history series. They don't have quite the exciting quality of the first Santiago novel, but are fun page-turners. His ability to tell stories of larger-than-life future myth is unparalleled, and the way the plots progress and the characters develop is fascinating. They're very enjoyable science fiction.

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## **Melissa Hollingsworth says**

The first Widowmaker book is not the best, IMO. But the Widowmaker books are best viewed as an ongoing saga, again IMO, so enjoy this one for what it is--which is plenty; Resnick always delivers a good story--and wait for the considerable payoff as the series develops.

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## **Dantegideon says**

This reads like a moody, not particularly bright, teenage boy's idea of space opera. Hero who's the wickedest in the whole universe with guns! But he never asked to be born! God! No one understands him! He shoots stuff a lot! And there's a nudey alien bird... With blue tits! And he gets to see her tits! Then he shoots some more people! People who don't understand him! He never asked to be born!

Seriously, this is shit.

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## **Rachel says**

A fun romp, but alarmingly, distractingly misogynist. There is a single woman in the book, and she's the trope of the Double-Crossing Minx - beautiful and deadly, no interests of her own. Wonder why the author has so little faith in women. Pretty bad book, all told.

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## **Michael says**

I am usually a big fan of Mike Resnick but I was somewhat disappointed in this book. The main character is a clone of the original Widowmaker and even given his inexperience he is not very smart. He becomes fixated on a woman who pretty much despises him and pursues her to the exclusion of all else including using good sense in his pursuit. He is touted as the ultimate killer but he only seems to demonstrate this ability when forced to. All in all this was a disappointing read for me. If you are a big fan of Mike Resnick like I usually am you might want to give it a read and decide for yourself. If you are looking to read Mike Resnick for the first time I would start with his book "Santiago".

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## **Linda says**

Second time for reading this series, enjoyed it as much as the first time. Great plot and character development. Highly recommend the whole series.

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## **Jim says**

After all the good reviews, I was disappointed. It was candy, but not particularly good candy. The writing wasn't all that good & the story line was full of holes. The hero was too good - almost magical. The suspension of belief asked from me was too great. The universe revolved around our hero. The ending, was the best part, but not enough to make up for the rest. I doubt I'll bother reading another by this author, certainly not in this trilogy.

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## **Jeff Yoak says**

My first reaction reading The Widowmaker was that it felt like an Orson Scott Card novel from the Enderverse. Even upon realizing that it was the narrator, Stefan Rudnicki, that was making me feel that way, I still couldn't shake the feeling. It is amazing how much a good narrator can impact a story.

Much like my memory of the Wilson Cole novels, the characters are compelling, the pace is good and in general it is a decent sci-fi read.

2017: Reading this with the kids made me appreciate it much more.

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## **Dan Schwent says**

I read this while waiting for the last three Dark Tower books to come out. Jefferson Nighthawk proved to be a good Gunslinger surrogate.

Jefferson Nighthawk is arguably the deadliest gunfighter in the galaxy. One day, he finds out he has an incurable disease and has himself cryogenically frozen until a cure is found, paying for it with all the money he earned bounty hunting. Unfortunately, inflation hits and Nighthawk's money starts running low. The facility he's housed in makes him a deal and creates a young Jefferson Nighthawk clone to earn money to keep him frozen. Unfortunately, the clone isn't exactly the most stable person, mostly due to the fact that while he retains Nighthawk's skills, mentally, he's very immature.

This was the first of the original Widowmaker trilogy and pretty good, although the next two are better. Even though the clone is a jerk, you feel for him. The action is really good and by the end, you're hoping there's another jolt of inflation so they'll clone Nighthawk again, which they do...

Resnick's writing is never anything to shout about but is like a good bass player. He doesn't exactly notice he's there but the end result is enjoyable.

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## **Brian Allen says**

I did not like the ending. That said, I am still planning on reading the sequel and the third *The Widowmaker Unleashed*. Mike Resnick is a great science fiction author, this book just fizzled out in the end.

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## **Nicolas says**

Comme d'habitude, on se balade ici sur les mondes de la frontière, une espèce de far-west de pacotille aux franges de l'expansion humaine dans la galaxie, où on envoie le clone du plus grand tueur à gages abattre une espèce de patron mafieux. Il y a de l'action, des meurtres, de la passion et pas mal de carnage. En bref, on est en terrain connu, puisque presque tous les romans de Resnick se situent sur cette frontière qui, comme je l'ai dit, n'est rien d'autre qu'un far-west transposé. On a donc droit à tous les mythes de la conquête américaine : la loi n'existe pas vraiment, chacun est libre de se faire son destin à la main, et les noms ne sont que l'image que les gens veulent bien donner d'eux. Si le style de Resnick m'emballe toujours autant, le moins qu'on puisse dire, c'est que cette histoire manque cruellement d'âme. Le héros est un tueur (certes jeune et émotif) mais qui ne s'interroge pas du tout sur le prix de la vie, ni sur le sens de son travail. Et les différents personnages de ce roman pas trop long n'ont strictement aucune saveur. Que ce soit le Marquis de Queensbury, le père Noël, ou le lézard, on dirait des affiches : aucune vie propre, une personnalité d'emprunt. On est plus dans le western spaghetti qu'autre chose. Et c'est là qu'on peut le mieux plonger dans la frontière pour en comprendre le sens et la réalité : c'est un monde du XXX<sup>ème</sup> siècle, où l'informatique est bien cachée, les IA quasi absentes, et l'humanité dominante à travers la galaxie (ça faisait longtemps qu'on n'avait plus vue d'hégémonie humaine). Ce qui nous ramène une fois de plus à de vieux schémas, puisque du coup, les gens se parlent (en vrai ou par radio plus rapide que la lumière), la structure sociale est toujours la même qu'en notre bon XXI<sup>ème</sup> siècle, et les motivations des personnages sont compréhensibles à un point rare. Ce qui prouve finalement, que Resnick est un écrivain habité, et que lorsqu'il tente de sortir de son idée géniale (l'Afrique dans l'espace), ses romans sont au mieux normaux, au pire oubliable, et là, on est dans le pire de Resnick (du moins, c'est le pire roman que j'ai lu de lui). Il reste distrayant, mais franchement pas indispensable.

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