



# Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians

*James J. Caterino*

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## **Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians** James J. Caterino

An old-school action pulp adventure with a modernistic edge, "Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians" is an epic, spectacular, stand-alone sequel to the riveting "Caitlin Star and the Guardian of Forever" and is book number three in the iconic character's series.

Caitlin is a warrior trained by Gunner Star in the ways of the Bull Mongoni, a mythic species of hominids that lived long ago. The Bull Mongoni philosophy is to strengthen the mind and the flesh, to protect the earth and its creatures, and to fight for those who have no voice.

"Rise of the Barbarians" opens up five years after a devastating WW III apocalypse. Caitlin now lives a life of peace and tranquility deep in the rain forests of the Congo among her ape friends, free from the evil and destructive species known as Homo sapiens. All is well until one day a massive cruise ship shows up on the shore carrying hostile invaders commanded by an old arch enemy of Caitlin's who will stop at nothing to destroy her and the last remaining paradise on earth.

Filled with mythic heroes, sinister villains, political intrigue, relentless action, humor, heart, and even time travel; "Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians" is an addictive, jam-packed, page-turning thrill ride with an unforgettable ending.

## **Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians Details**

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Author : James J. Caterino

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# **From Reader Review Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians for online ebook**

## **Sam H Arnold says**

I am a huge fan of this author as well as the Caitlin Star character. Having avidly followed the adventures of our brave female character through two books I was eager to see where this would lead. I was not disappointed at all.

The story follows not just Caitlin but a range of our favourite characters through their adventures. It also introduces some new equally as well defined characters. I especially like the addition of a Priest by Caitlin's side.

The story is well wrote and the historical element shows that the background has been well researched. The genre is not historical however by any stretch instead it is a fast paced action thriller with an environmental theme.

The action I felt in this book was well written, better than the first two. It appeared easier to follow and more fluid. I also like the fact that in this book the Bull Mongoni mantra did not end every chapter and was used when the story dictated it. All together this is the best written of the three and most engaging. Not that I wouldn't encourage you to pick all in the series up.

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## **John says**

From the opening chapter Caterino engages the reader with his rich, visual style, colorful descriptions, and bold, visceral action sequences. This author is such a confident storyteller with tremendous imagination and a gift for tight as a drum pacing. This is a book where you will keep turning the pages.

“Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians” takes place after an apocalyptic event where most of the Earth’s temperate have become uninhabitable and the remaining human population is estimated to be about 100 million. Exactly how that apocalyptic event came to be is one of the story lines of the first two “Caitlin Star” books, especially book two, “Caitlin Star” and the Guardian of Forever”. Reading those books certainly is not necessary to enjoy “Caitlin Star and the rise of the Barbarians”. It really does function as a stand-alone adventure as the author skillfully peppers in all the backstory that you need. But that being said, the three “Caitlin Star” books do form a loose trilogy of sorts, and the first two books are very good, so I highly recommend reading those as well.

What I loved most about this book the journey of the “Caitlin Star” character as she evolves (or devolves depending on your viewpoint) into the “Queen of the Forest” and the protector of a sort of Garden of Eden, the last remaining pristine patch of nature left on earth. Soon, enemies attack and how Caitlin and her over-matched friends of the forest deal with this makes for a riveting, action-packed science fiction action adventure.

Filled with pop culture homages, “Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians” will be enjoyed by anyone who grew up on Robert. E. Howard “Conan” stories, movie buffs, and fans of the “Hunger Games” and “Divergent” series.

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## Lea says

Intense, epic, exhilarating, emotional, even magical. Just finished this and just loved it...the action, the story, the characters (especially Caitlin). Can't wait to read it again and really hope this author writes more Caitlin Star books.

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## Reading Corner says

### 3.5 stars

I won this a paperback copy of this action-packed novel which turned out to be a real gem. Caitlin is a physically and mentally strong character who has her own initiative and gets things done without bitching and whining. She is a pleasure to witness as she is dependant on her own very skilled abilities and mental prowess and does not back down from a fight as she is a Bull Mongoni warrior, trained by the phenomenal Gunner Star. Also, she is nothing like the usual female YA leads as she embraces her role and enjoys proving her calibre.

Chapters switch between several characters mainly Caitlin and Gunner as they are in two very different periods of time. Gunner is in the B.C era due to a time machine as they are in hunt of an enemy who is changing the outcome of history. Most of the supporting characters aren't human but are in fact chimpanzees and gorillas who are surprisingly, beautifully developed and are fond of Caitlin despite her being human.

The plot is intriguing and the post-apocalyptic element is a nice bonus along with the time travel. There was definitely a lot of action which was written perfectly as the descriptions brought life to the scene. The fact there was no cringe infested romances was a great change with just tiny hints of it and the vulgarity in the book was slightly refreshing as nothing was censored and revealed the true ugliness of things. Also, the superhero references was a welcome aspect as *The Birds Of Prey* were mentioned and *Lex Luthor*.

The only problem with the plot was the lack of surprise as there was no real sense of danger like I knew no one important was going to die and I always knew things were going to turn out for the better in the end minus a tiny detail which still really was positive.

Also, there was quite a lot of spelling mistakes which were hard to ignore, in total I counted 11, like:

**"When they first came her five years ago.."**

**"She everything she possibly could from the inside.."**

Overall, I definitely enjoyed the book especially because it didn't follow any stereotypes and I'm definitely going to invest in the other books.

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## **Derek says**

Vivid, visceral, exciting, intense, addictive and highly imaginative dystopian/post-apocalyptic young adult styled science fiction adventure. Skillfully told with memorable characters and a very emotionally satisfying ending. Very cinematic. Would make a fantastic movie.

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## **Jennifer Sweet says**

Impressive, fast-paced, visceral, contemporary post-apocalyptic science fiction action adventure with a great title character and strong visual writing.

Many things set this book (and its prequels, "Caitlin Star" and "Caitlin Star and the Guardian of Forever") apart from the monstrous avalanche of young adult/new adult dystopian fiction out there. Unlike most of the YA dystopian female leads, Caitlin is not a reluctant action hero. Protecting others, seeking justice, and taking on the villains (well-fleshed out, worthy adversaries in all three books), is something she seems born too. As a matter of fact, at times she relishes it. There is a primal, savage beauty seeing Caitlin in action. She is fearsome, a character whose charisma just oozes off the page amid the author's streaming pulpy prose.

There is also a unique multi-layered approach in the the book's thematic subtext that works on a cultural, political, sociological, and even religious level. The addition of a priest to Caitlin's supporting cast here is a stroke of genius. The non-human characters, especially Toby (a chimpanzee) and Krell (a neanderthal-like hominid) are very well developed. Returning from the previous books is Caitlin's hacker friend Lori as well as few special surprises best not spoiled here.

The science in this book is also well done, and I say this as an undergraduate student of Anthropology and Archaeology. The imagined pre-history is entirely possible. Only the time-travel device comes across as science fiction-y (for lack of a better word). But even that is within the outer realm of possible quantum mechanics.

But make no mistake, "Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians" is not an academic study. It is an exhilarating, page-turning, ultra-intense action adventure with unforgettable scenes, magical moments, and an an iconic lead character named "Caitlin Star".

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## **Alana says**

This epic, page-turning, thrill-a-minute novel manages to do the impossible; act as a self-contained (and riveting!) stand-alone adventure, while also bringing the "Caitlin Star" trilogy to an emotionally satisfying conclusion.

What makes this book so special is the introduction of new characters (mostly non-human), and the relationship Caitlin has with them. The book also manages to seamlessly work separate plot lines and bring them all together for a moving finale that made me quite emotional.

There is so much great stuff in "Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians"! I cannot say enough about how much I loved this book!

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### **Sharon says**

One of the most imaginative, action packed novels I have ever read. Filled with epic set-pieces, irresistible scenarios, and memorable characters, this book was so addictive I read it nearly nonstop, finished it two days, and can't wait to read it again.

The writing is very visual and this (along with the first two books) would make an outstanding movie, especially with the right person playing Caitlin Star. She is about as fierce a heroine as I have ever come across and when she goes into action, things become very intense. The supporting cast in this book (many of them non-human) are beautifully developed. In addition to his knack for exciting action, the author has a gift for creating instantly memorable characters and great breezy dialogue.

You really can read this a stand-alone adventure. But the first two books are equally as entertaining and imaginative and the author wraps up several carry-over story-lines in a super satisfying manner as "Caitlin Star and the Rise of Barbarians" moves at rapid pace toward its moving conclusion.

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### **Julie Diaz says**

Action-packed, moving conclusion to James J. Caterino's epic "Caitlin Star" trilogy satisfies on every level.

While "Caitlin Star" books play upon the genre conventions of science fiction/dystopian/post-apocalyptic literature and popular movie franchises, these is a distinct individual vision to these books and the exciting world Caterino has created.

I really enjoyed these books, and plan to reread them soon, as well as check out some other works by this interesting author.

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### **Leeza says**

The cover art caught grabbed my attention, the back cover blurb sucked me in, and so I took a flyer on this book. I have to say, it blew me away. It has been a long time since I read something with such an original voice, unique vision, and tremendous imagination.

"Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians" is jam packed with exhilarating action sequences and edge of your seat Indiana Jones/Tomb Raider cliffhanger excitement. So in that sense the comic-book style cover is spot on. But there is so much more going on here. I learned a lot about pre-history and anthropology and archaeology and really appreciated Caitlin's spiritual journey. This is a fascinating group of characters I became very attached to and the story (especially the ending) is quite emotional for an action oriented book.

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## **James Caterino says**

Very excited about this book. I know every author thinks their latest work is their best, but for me as a reader, this is truly my most satisfying and thrilling creation. So come, join me, and experience the danger and excitement and wonder of "Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians".

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## **Christine says**

Immensely entertaining, fast-paced, intense dystopian adventure packed full of all sorts of great stuff (including time travel!) that kept me turning the pages. I loved Caitlin, and could see her carrying a movie franchise. All of the characters were interesting and fascinating, and the villains were great as well as being a formidable adversary for Caitlin and her friends.

I just loved this book- it is unlike anything I ever read before and the writing really took me straight into the story and action. I did not read the first two books in this series but it did not affect my enjoyment of this book at all. The author did a great job and filling in what the reader needed to know without slowing down the story. Very well done and I can't wait to get started on "Caitlin" books one and two now!

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## **Maida says**

So many things going on in this novel, one might think after reading the blurb. And all that on 200 pages only? Well, yes. All that and more. I was surprised to see how well all of it was integrated and even though I usually enjoy some slower and more detailed works more, such cute action-packed jungle post-apocalyptic adventure was hard not to enjoy. I would recommend it to all Tarzan enthusiasts out there, since Caitlin might just be his reincarnation, other than being his fan as well.

This being my first Caitlin Star novel and having missed a lot of her character's development so far, I felt she was more or less one-dimensional for the most part in the first half of the story, except for her interactions with Toby and his friends. Later on, as she met Krell and her best friend, Lori, she finally got some strong development and I realised I really liked her. Even before those events, she was a likeable character, but after showing a different side of her, her average-girl-hanging-out-with-her-friend side, I began feeling her more and she really grew on me bit by bit throughout the novel.

I like how the common prejudicial image that would accompany her outward appearance--I guess just based on the cover art, which is by the way great and made by the author himself--is in a contrast to who she actually is. Although her name is very simple and the least cool name compared to the names of all the other characters and her aesthetics not really uncommon--she was glorious, unique, extravagant and brutal; the star in her name and her heart shed the brightest of lights. I would love to know more about this Star.

The only other character that stood out to me was Toby, the chimpanzee. I found his and the roles of the other chimpanzees very sweet and the way they all communicated with Caitlin impressive and cute. I wish there were more animals as important characters in novels. It makes for a whole new experience.

All in all, I'd say this is mostly a story-driven and not really a character-focused novel, but I talked about the characters here because that is what I care about the most, I guess.

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## **Rochelle Smith says**

"Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians" is a contemporary/near future post-apocalyptic science fiction adventure featuring a terrific lead character, the fierce Caitlin Star.

Caitlin's origin story was covered in the original book and the events leading up to the WW III apocalypse and how Caitlin came to the African rain forest is the subject of book 2, "Caitlin Star and the Guardian of Forever". The author does an expert and efficient job of giving the relevant backstory necessary for this book. So this really is as advertised, a stand-alone story. This book is my favorite of the three, although I also highly recommend books one and two in this outstanding series.

What I love most about Caitlin is that there is no whining or hesitation in her acceptance of her role as a "Bull Mongoni Warrior". As a matter of fact, she relishes it, and will do whatever takes to protect her friends, human, Bull Mongoni, and animal alike, from a diabolical villain from her past who is out to conquer, exploit, and impose his rule on what is left of the earth.

There an interesting historical analogy drawn here both in in Caitlin's story in the "now" time of the book, and the events taking place with her Mentor Gunner Star who trapped in the past 8000 years ago. Caterino does a fantastic job of bringing these two story-lines to fruition in an action-packed finale.

Packed full of colorful action and memorable characters, "Caitlin Star and the Rise of the Barbarians" is a great read.

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