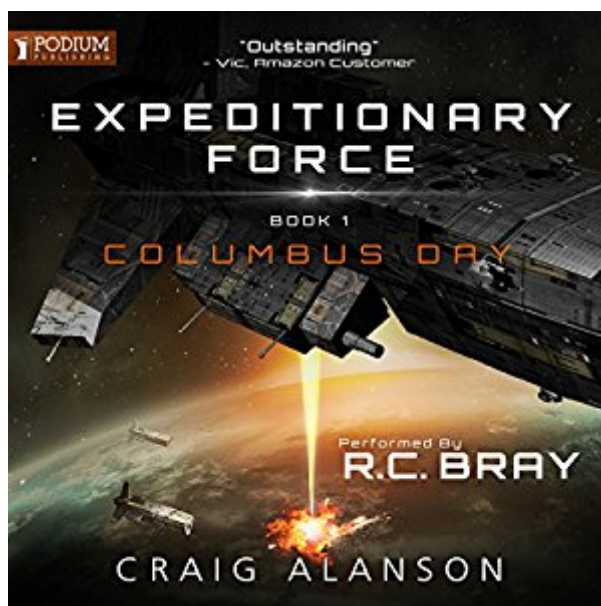


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Columbus Day: Expeditionary Force, Book 1



Synopsis

We were fighting on the wrong side of a war we couldn't win. And that was the good news. The Ruhar hit us on Columbus Day. There we were, innocently drifting along the cosmos on our little blue marble, like the Native Americans in 1492. Over the horizon came ships of a technologically advanced, aggressive culture, and BAM! There went the good old days, when humans got killed only by each other. So, Columbus Day. It fits. When the morning sky twinkled again, this time with Kristang starships jumping in to hammer the Ruhar, we thought we were saved. The UN Expeditionary Force hitched a ride on Kristang ships to fight the Ruhar wherever our new allies thought we could be useful. So, I went from fighting with the US Army in Nigeria to fighting in space. It was lies, all of it. We shouldn't even be fighting the Ruhar; they aren't our enemy. Our allies are. I'd better start at the beginning.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I checked this book out using my KU account and from the title did not expect much. Oh how wrong I was. This book is an absolute gem. It has all the cliché story lines; a soldier on leave gets caught up in an alien invasion, the soldier fights back, the Earth is saved by another alien race, the soldier signs up to go fight the invaders for their new alien friends. Ho-hum. yawn, been there read that, but wait...suddenly totally new, never before scenes start to pop-up. You get an inkling when Barney (yes the horrible purple dinosaur from childrens TV) makes an appearance. From there you are taken along on an hilarious ride of non-stop action, jokes, impossible situations, prison breaks,

stealing a spaceship; etc; etc. All fun, fast paced and well written. Then there is Skippy....'nuf said! Be cautious though, if you have a problem with the F word, skip this book. Same thing for anyone who cannot deal with coarse language, some gutter humor and are looking for hard science. But, for anyone that has been 21, and/or been in the military and been in situations you didn't understand, but just went with the flow, this book is for you. Thanks for a great book Craig and for putting it on Kindle Unlimited, I probably wouldn't have read COLUMBUS DAY otherwise...

No spoilers here! I have only read the first of the Expeditionary Force books. I almost discarded the book after reading the beginning because it seemed to be promising to be dull. Boy, am I glad I didn't!!!! It's fun, packed with action, and full of hilarious situations! I even managed to make a complete fool out of myself in front of a full load of passengers on the airplane, laughing my head off all by myself with my little reader. I thought maybe the humour was only for nerds like me, but by reading other reviews I can see that this is not the case. And by the way, a note to other reviewers: if you're going to write something about the story (i.e. spoilers...) please warn people BEFORE and show basic respect for future readers.

I like this book because of universe it was set in and the relationship of the main character and the "alien" (don't want to spoil it for you). As for the plot it was pretty basic but it was interesting enough for me to continue reading it in 3 hour blocks for 3 days to complete it. Also, I read the reviews and they were talking about swearing, etc. and I just didn't see anything like that. Compared to a normal war movie this was really nothing, so yes, 10 years can read it without "corrupting" their minds. I am going to buy the next book right after I finish this review.

Columbus Day (Expeditionary Force #1) by Craig Alanson, R.C. Bray (Narrator), is an absolutely outstanding sci-fi novel!!! Outstanding in everything such as plot, world building, characters, dialogue, science, action, and just everything!!! My gosh...I was so engrossed in this book! I had the audio narration and loved the narration, it was perfect! Outstanding is the perfect word for all of this book, even the narration. A sci-fi must read! Going in my favorite read file and will definitely read rest of series!!!

It is rare to find a story that hits the nail on the head of the mind set of the "normal" Army soldier. Many stories are about the Marine or Super Soldier who Rambos through many heroic scenes. Many join the service for their own reasons but few would see themselves the next Audie Murphy.

Many count the next Wake up and day off their calendar. I did love the comments how hard the Hooah bars are. It's true they are so hard you can knock a person out if used as a make shift Billy club. Skippy is also a great refresher character who, in odd ways, helps Joe. Help may be a kind word if someone wants a friend who almost gets themselves killed or Court Marshalled. Keep up the story. Climb to Glory. To the Top, 10th Mountain Division.

This book started what I would call average. I plodded through and found it somewhat interesting. Then about halfway through "Skippy" came into the story and I have not been able to stop since! The book has decent technical/science in the story but it is mainly a good space/science fiction story. Highly recommend if you like great story with timely humor, good action and interesting space science. I am listening to the audible version and it is outstanding.

I really liked this book. There were times I thought the author might go too sci-fi cliché or paint himself into a corner, but I was surprised at how he changed the story arc by simply adding Skippy and making him flawed was a brilliant choice. And not making Skippy flawed like Marvin the Depressed Robot flawed either. I also liked his writing style. He writes like a grunt. An educated grunt, but a ground pounder nonetheless. I don't know if the author was an enlisted man or an NCO, but his depiction of food being unsat was spot on. I will be buying more of his work, not just book 2.

Engaging and enjoyable! Craig Alanson nicely balances the 'science' and the 'fiction' in Sci-Fi. Columbus Day takes an original perspective on the alien invasion theme and presents the story in a manner which mixes in just enough Niven/Pournelle technical and hefty dose of Douglas Adams to cook up an easy to read, fast paced enjoyable novel. I found myself often quoting extended passages to my patient and tolerant wife (not a sci-fi fan) for her enjoyment as well. I've already purchased the 2nd book. You should try this one as well.

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