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# Guard At The Gates Of Hell (Gladius Book 1)



## Synopsis

Human civilization is crumbling. The Empire, the structure that held civilization together for a thousand years, is collapsing. Trying to hold things together is the Corps of Imperial Gladius, one of the pillars originally created to support and protect the Empire throughout its long life. A Gladius is a genetically bred ultimate soldier, the best soldier that ever existed. Despite that, the Emperor, a deeply paranoid sociopath, fears the Corps and is trying to destroy them, regardless of what that will do to the Empire's security. A surviving portion of a devastated Gladius legion arrives on the isolated and decadent world of Cauldwell to be confronted with the fact they must once again take up their ancestral trade, war. The appearance of the legion is probably the most newsworthy event on Cauldwell for the last century and star reporter Shana Ettranty decides to do a series of stories about them for her network. That decision radically changes her life when she decides to undergo Gladius recruit training to get a better perspective on the Corps. As she continues, Shana learns deeply buried secrets about Cauldwell... and about herself. Those secrets will change the course of human history. In the end, they destroy the Empire. This is a military science fiction book written by a retired Army officer whose viewpoint has ranged from being in the ranks to general staff, not just an action book. The story asks some very tough questions about survival and sacrifice made to let humanity survive. In it, the Corps and Shana are forced to make some hard decisions. Are their answers right or wrong? In the end, only the reader can decide.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The author could have stretched out this story to cover three or four books, but I'm glad he didn't. However I do think keeping the story somewhat open ended allows for additional novels or novellas to cover some of the story lines that were just quickly presented. In any event this was a great story, IMHO, and I couldn't put it down until I got to the end. I do hope there is a story about when Shana becomes a Legion Commander and how she got there.

I loved this book. Good size book for the price and rich story as well. It does a great job of telling a full story in a still readable size and as a result it might not have the level of detail of some other space operas. I think it has a great balance of detail, length and completeness. I look forward to buying further books in the series / universe.

This book is simply very well written military science fiction. It's not a space opera, but there are some elements of that present. Being a 20 year Navy Vet, on the enlisted side, the book made sense. Once I started it I couldn't put it down. One of the best I've read in awhile, and I read a couple of books a week. Give it a read.

This is one of the best military science fiction stories I have read. Somewhat idealized, but moving portrayal of the way a military should be. Olney's Corps of Gladius should join the pantheon of memorable science fiction creations such as Drake's Hammer's Slammers, Dickson's Dorsai, and Smith's Lensmen. Highly recommended.

It's been a long time since I have read a book like this. To look from the outside in until the main character becomes a part of the inside. Good plot pacing and an interesting story line. The only reason I gave it 4 stars instead of 5 is I didn't like how it jumped two years ahead at one point. I would have been interested in reading about those two years.

Romance. Conflict. Mankind at a crossroads. Strong female warrior. Strong male warriors. Love. Honor. Respect. Strong military traditions, millennia old. A new start for all mankind. What is not to like? Need to see if there is a 'Gladius Book 2' now. Thank you GO.

The book is the start of a Scifi/military series based around a very futuristic marine corp. I found the way that a genetically bred multi generational military force was done to be very engaging. Along with the societal twist of woman's role in that Corp. to be interesting. The primary issue I had with this book was the plot was too spread out, it suffered from a lack of focus. It felt like there were 5 different plot arcs going at the same time. I hope that if the author comes out with second book that he will narrow the plot and work to increase his character development.

No spoilers other than 'the ghosts' would be more suited to a fantasy novel. The hereditary military thing is a little too patronizing in the sense that not everyone in the legion seems to concur. I would think that any differences would be squashed and nobody 'in the legion' would argue or doubt the tradition.

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