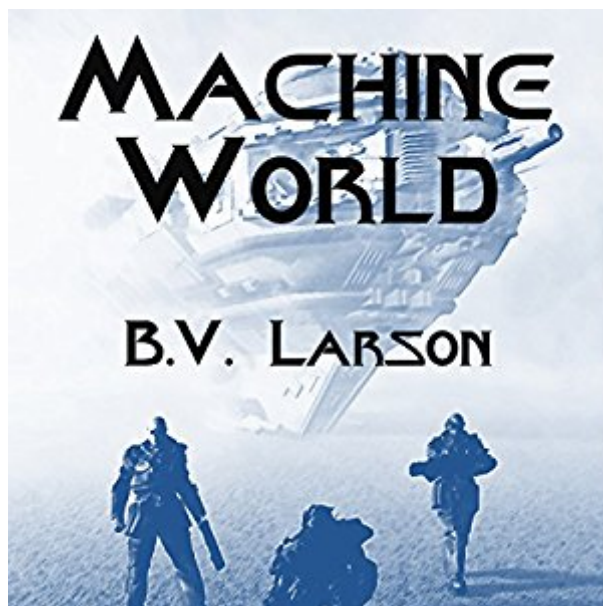


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Machine World: Undying Mercenaries, Book 4



Synopsis

The Galactics arrived with their battle fleet in 2052. Rather than being exterminated under a barrage of hell burners, Earth joined a vast empire that spanned the Milky Way. Our only worthwhile trade goods are our infamous mercenary legions, elite troops we sell to the highest alien bidder. In the fourth book of the series, James McGill is up for promotion. Not everyone is happy about that, and McGill must prove he's worth his stripes. Deployed to a strange, alien planet outside the boundaries of the Galactic Empire, he's caught up in warfare and political intrigue. Earth expands, the Cephalopod Kingdom launches ships to stop us, and a grand conspiracy emerges among the upper ranks of the Hegemony military. In *Machine World* McGill faces an entirely new kind of alien life, Galactic prosecution, and thousands of relentless squid troopers. He lives and dies in the falling ashes of the empire, a man of unique honor at the dawn of humanity's resurgence. *Machine World* is a military science fiction novel by best-selling author B. V. Larson. (To find the first book in the series, search for *Steel World* by B. V. Larson.)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

B.V Larson has grown on me, this was the series I started with and have enjoyed it. One reviewer stated that McGill was becoming a schemer in the series, and with out giving away the story, I disagree. I believe he's handling situations as they come, and when other characters assume something of him if it helps the whole lot, he just smiles and nods. Kinda like taking the path of least resistance, but also holding firm to a set of principles. All that aside, still a great read in my opinion,

especially since some sci-fi books focus too much on one element, fighting, technology, character development... Etc. It is a bit heavy in some areas, but honestly that contrasts nicely with the fighting. Because once that comes, this book can't be set down. Hope to see this series continue, many threads left to explore by the author and McGill himself.

2/16/155 Stars out of 5 I really like these books although I'm not so sure I could accept the idea of dying and the being regenerated in a new body! If you haven't read any of these books, you really need to go back to the beginning and start from there. Our main character, James McGill, is a Legionnaire with the Legion Varus. How he stays in this legion is the real mystery. See, James McGill isn't one to follow orders or the rules. He does what James McGill thinks is right and then sorts out the consequences later. As I mentioned, dying is part of the job for Legionnaires, especially for Legion Varus. But, dying doesn't necessarily mean dead. The Legion has an alien machine which takes organic matter and converts it into a new human with the downloading of that person's most recent memories! Out of this machine pops a fresh human. This copy has all the memories of its previous body up until they were killed! That to me is really gruesome. I mean dying is bad enough, especially if it was a violent death, but remembering how you just died who put a lot of people in the insane asylum! It's just not something you'd want to remember. James McGill has been in the Legion awhile. This will be his fourth world that he and the Legion Varus have been assigned a mission to do something. In every past mission, James McGill has been killed several times. He hopes that won't happen this time and he tries his hardest to make that happen. Except things always go wrong for McGill. Because he has been an impressive Legionnaire when he's fighting, he's up for promotion to Veteran. This is like an NCO position and has to be vetted through the other Legion Vets, none of which like James McGill. They all think he thinks too much and they wind up paying for it. So, James has to pass a "trial by fire" ritual set up by the other Vets. But, he quickly finds out that it's rigged against him. Ok, you need to read the book to find out what happens to Veteran James McGill. He's also wanted by the Nairbs which is like the Galactic judges. They can also execute McGill permanently and if not him, all of Humanity. But, James McGill is a resourceful guy if nothing else. He thinks on his feet and usually figures out how to not permanently die. That's a good thing.

Great story. I have read all the books in this series and enjoyed them. Very good editing. Lead character is better defined and as you read, author very clearly describes his thoughts - even when

he seems to let his baser instincts rule. Interesting concept of soldiers being able to be reborn after dying. Clear description of rank system. Plenty of fighting from a ground fighters perspective. Interesting tale of deceit, manipulation, and power plays even when fighting for your life . Good book. Will buy next one when it comes out

I really enjoy this series, more so than his other sci-fi series, StarForce. I don't feel that this book should get five stars, as I reserve that for a real classic or thought provoking story, but it deserves more than four stars. Heck, normally I don't even write reviews, but since everyone seems to be skipping the review process and this book is definitely worth buying, well, here I am. I really like the main character, James, and I hope to be reading more about him in the near future!

I'm a huge fan of hard military science fiction. As a veteran, I tend to have high standards for the sorts of work I'll read. If the treatment of military thinking, tactics, or leadership is too hokey, I'll set the book down and not look back. But this series of books is unique somehow. Like David Weber, BV Larson looks to history to define warfare of the future. In Weber's case, it was the Age of Sail. In Larson's, ancient Rome. In simplifying military structure, BV Larson allows you to focus on the characters, who are excellent, and their adventures, which are fascinating and occasionally hilarious. The mechanic that enables them to die and return over and over makes for occasionally humorous reading, and the ignominy of some of the deaths they suffer and revive from makes you want to keep reading to see how they deal with their experiences. In every book, James McGill finds himself in some sort of bind, either with his commanders or with the galactics. Occasionally both at the same time. Watching him fast-talk his way out of these situations is always enjoyable. I can't wait for the next book.

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