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The Rookie (The Galactic Football League)



Synopsis

Set in a lethal pro football league 700 years in the future, *The Rookie* is a story that combines the intense gridiron action of *Any Given Sunday* with the space opera style of *Star Wars* and the criminal underworld of *The Godfather*. Aliens and humans alike play positions based on physiology, creating receivers that jump 25 feet into the air, linemen that bench-press 1,200 pounds, and linebackers that literally want to eat you. Organized crime runs every franchise, games are fixed, and rival players are assassinated. Follow the story of Quentin Barnes, a nineteen-year-old quarterback prodigy that has been raised all his life to hate, and kill, those aliens. Quentin must deal with his racism and learn to lead, or he'll wind up just another stat in the column marked "killed on the field."

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (199 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #437,395 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Football #241 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Football #1056 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Sports

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

I proudly admit to being a raging fanboi over this work from Scott Sigler; but instead of reading a review on how cuckoo for Cocoa Puffs I am over *THE ROOKIE*, I thought you all would rather enjoy seeing it. Thanks for watching. -- Tee Morris, author and podcaster

Scott Sigler brings it all to the table in this limited edition release of his fan favorite "*THE ROOKIE*".

Quentin Barnes is a young football prodigy. His speed, strength and intelligence drive an unyielding rise to the top of the PNFL. However, this exceptional human has a higher calling. He is destined for the ranks of the GFL. The Galactic Football League is made up of multiple species; species with a history of war and unique skills and cultures. Many legs and many arms will grapple to bring Quentin to his knees. Does this rookie quarterback have what it takes to lead a team made up of beings that he has been taught to hate? Adults and teens alike will find the story exciting and compelling. Scott Sigler captures the thrill and danger of a level of football that the Galaxy has not yet seen, while developing a tale of a young man coming to his own in so many ways.

I've been looking forward to reading this book for months now. My husband and I listened to the podcast, but I still prefer the written word. We ordered the book back in April on the first day it was available. I actually "stole" it out of our mailbox before my husband could get there and took it with me to high school band practice to show it off. Some of the students wanted to borrow it, and that was a big NO. I started reading it yesterday and finished this afternoon. Excellent football action, good balance of crimelord and coming-of-age stories. I was particularly impressed by the extensive appendices, especially the galactic timeline - LOTS of time devoted to this. If you like football stories, read this. If you like organized crime and action novels, read this. If you like Isaac Azimov or Anne McCaffrey, READ THIS. Then sleep lightly, and try not to imagine a Ki or a Quayth Warrior coming to get you in the night...

At first glance, "The Rookie" is an unlikely mad-scientist mashup: Football ... science fiction ... organized crime ... interstellar travel ... and a hero so flawed and bigoted, you'd probably cross the street if you heard him talking. This novel simply can't work, right? The genres and themes are too far-flung. It should be a mess. It's not. It's a masterpiece of action, drama, and resonant human emotion. Author Scott Sigler deftly introduces us to a far future in which humans reached for the stars -- and found a horde of aliens waiting for them beyond the solar system. Many of these races do not get along ... but one sport brings them together in a cohesive cultural experience: Football. Backwater bigot (but extremely talented) hot-shot quarterback Quentin Barnes is a newcomer to this Galactic Football League. As we ride shotgun during Barnes' rookie season, we meet this menagerie of alien species, see their home worlds, and watch Barnes wrestle with his own flawed perceptions of these creatures. Will Barnes rise to become the great player his team needs? Can he unlearn the hatred he's harbored for non-humans since birth? Can he become a leader? Sigler masterfully weaves these themes into a plot that's packed with action,

adrenaline-fueled sports sequences, and high-stakes emotional drama. Quarterback Barnes and other characters (both human and non-) are brilliantly realized, as is the backdrop of this future universe. The tension seen in the novel's crowning moments -- the season's football games -- are executed with expertise; thrill-rides, each one. The Rookie defies conventional description -- and that is a great thing, for it defies the odds, as well. This is certainly one of Sigler's finest novels, and it will resonate with sports fans, science fiction fans, and nearly anyone in between. An excellent book.

I ended up loving it. I discovered Scott Sigler through an notice about new thrillers back when Infected first came out on dead trees. I read that book in about four days! Then I discovered that Scott had released all of the books he had written to that point as podcasts. The Rookie was one of the last of Scott's books that I listened to. The concept seemed a little cheesy. Seven hundred years in the future? Aliens playing football? Let me read about disastrous mining expeditions and underground human-eating genetic monsters instead. Well, it didn't take long for me to get hooked on The Rookie. I was reading to see how Scott would flesh out seven hundred years of history and how all the various sentient life-forms figure into that history. What I didn't expect was how football-intensive this book was despite the hard-core science fiction. I expected the story-driven Sigler violence and gore, but I also got a primer in the development of an effective quarterback. In fact I was listening to the description of the football games on the edge of my seat, waiting to see if that long pass would be complete or if they would score on fourth and goal. What else can I say? Just that if you read or listen to this book in March, it will be a very long wait until football season starts again. But you will have thoroughly enjoyed your read or listening of one of the most football-intensive stories I have ever experienced. I also read the kid-safe iTouch version of this book. The game-day statistics and league standings add a real element to the story. I can just imagine what the game-day program and depth charts in the new print version must look like. Now if Scott would only get The Starter written . . .

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