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Hard Luck Hank: Screw The Galaxy



Synopsis

Hank is a thug. He knows he's a thug. He has no problem with that realization. In his view the galaxy has given him a gift: a mutation that allows him to withstand great deals of physical trauma. He puts his abilities to the best use possible and that isn't by being a scientist. Besides, the space station Belvaille doesn't need scientists. It is not, generally, a thinking person's locale. It is the remotest habitation in the entire Colmarian Confederation. There is literally no reason to be there. Unless you are a criminal. Because of its location, Belvaille is populated with nothing but crooks. Every day is a series of power struggles between the crime bosses. Hank is an intrinsic part of this community as a premier gang negotiator. Not because he is eloquent or brilliant or an expert combatant, but because if you shoot him in the face he keeps on talking. Hank believes he has it pretty good until a beautiful and mysterious blue woman enters his life with a compelling job offer. Hank and Belvaille, so long out of public scrutiny, suddenly find themselves at the epicenter of the galaxy with a lot of very unwelcome attention.

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Customer Reviews

This book, *HARD LUCK HANK: SCREW THE GALAXY*, is only the beginning of what this reviewer hopes will be a collection of tales starring Hank, the amazingly diplomatic thug of a hero who narrates this fantastic outer space action adventure comedy. It is almost impossible to review this book without giving something important away, as the author has managed to pack this story with ten times the twists and turns and ten times the action and tons more humor than most of the books I have come across lately. In short, it is a blast to read! If you want to know what is most likable to this reviewer about this book, it is definitely Hank. The story always revolves around Hank, but that doesn't mean you will be able to guess what is going to happen next. That is because you, the reader, are living what is going on at the same time Hank is. Hank's character is one of the funniest and most gallant anti-heroes imaginable. Hank consistently seems to get into the worst situations around, through sheer dumb non-luck. However there is way more to *HARD LUCK HANK* than just Hank. And the "more to it than that" is what makes this fast paced tale fascinating and impossible to put down. The plot, as it develops, just gets better, funnier and more exciting. The reader may think he or she has the story figured out. Then something barrels along out of the blue and wham! All of a sudden you are pulled even further and more compellingly into this exciting tale of a mutant outlaw (kind of), an outsider type galaxy burg full of losers (sort of), some mysterious types (definitely), and a bunch of very scary villains. Oh yeah, and a bunch of even MORE scary villains. Will Hank be able to save the day?

Let's get something straight: *Hard Luck Hank* is not a thug! Yeah, I know, the boiler plate says he is, and Hank calls himself a thug on at least one occasion. But that's just author Steven Campbell's way of showing us that Hank can be, in various ways, self-deprecating. Hank's no arrogant bully, though he has the physical resources to play that role if he wanted to. I agree there's no denying that Hank is sometimes pretty violent, but when he is, to paraphrase Hank, it's because the jerk had it coming or Hank is being paid. True, that last part sounds ominous, and it seems to undercut my no-thug judgment. But we've got to make allowance for the kind of folks who make up Hank's social world: crime bosses, drug pushers, real-life thugs of the sort who trip-up little old ladies just for the perversely sadistic fun of it, not to mention thoroughly corrupt public officials, and various and sundry others who fit into this collection of bad guys, and, yes, bad girls. Violence against actors of this sort seems more or less self-explanatory and not all that out of line. Besides, Hank much prefers to fix things without violence and functioning as a negotiator. OK, he's not a labor relations grad of the Wharton School, but Hank has qualities much better suited to the context in which he works: really good intuition. Much as other folks in Belaville, the Colmarian city in which he lives, Hank is a

mutant, level-four in his case. Being a mutant of whatever level is a mixed blessing. After all, my great grandmother could out run hulking Hank, but then Hank is five or six times older.

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