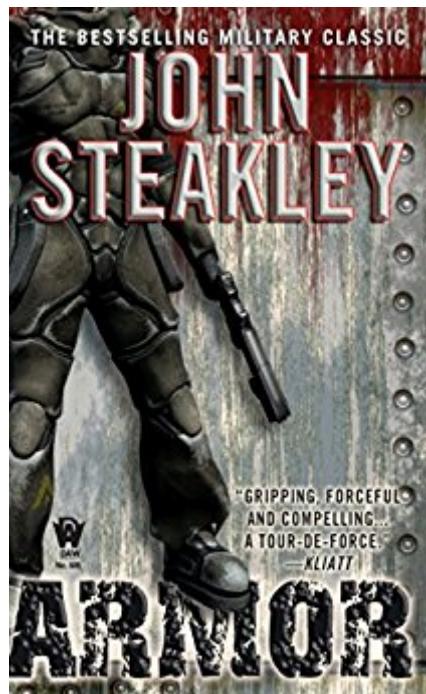


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# Armor



## Synopsis

The military sci-fi classic of courage on a dangerous alien planetThe planet is called Banshee. The air is unbreathable, the water is poisonous. It is home to the most implacable enemies that humanity, in all its interstellar expansion, has ever encountered. Body armor has been devised for the commando forces that are to be dropped on Banshee—the culmination of ten thousand years of the armorers' craft. A trooper in this armor is a one-man, atomic powered battle fortress. But he will have to fight a nearly endless horde of berserk, hard-shelled monsters—the fighting arm of a species which uses biological technology to design perfect, mindless war minions. Felix is a scout in A-team Two. Highly competent, he is the sole survivor of mission after mission. Yet he is a man consumed by fear and hatred. And he is protected, not only by his custom-fitted body armor, but by an odd being which seems to live within him, a cold killing machine he calls "The Engine." This is Felix's story—a story of the horror, the courage, and the aftermath of combat, and the story, too, of how strength of spirit can be the greatest armor of all.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm on the verge of five stars here, but there were a few slow parts...I was recommend this by bots from checking out one of my old favorites, Starship Troopers, so if you like that kind of book, you'll dig this one. I'd say the style is "older" if that makes any sense....I think the invention of the word processor and the death of the typewriter has made these kinds of books better. Plus all the new movies and television have pushed the boundaries and added to the tropes. So, yes, I recommend it, it was a good read.

I started this book at 3 in the after noon, and after a party finished it at 254 in the morning. It started as an awesome kill aliens book with an interesting character and mysterious past. It then morphed into a kind of mystery that lead to soul searching and still more dead aliens, ending was a bit sad but still awesome, wish Eyes was there. I am failing this book in a review but it is easily in the top 20 of my favorite books, and I read an unhealthy amount. One of the best book purchases i have ever made. Will remember this book for a long time.

I found this book intriguing. Thats a hard thing to see in an over saturated market such as science fiction. Gave the feeling of Heinlein's Starship troopers and not just because it deals with powered armor. It has that gritty humanity feel to it. The story telling type was refreshing. I will say it does give it's self away before the end but I took that as the author doing a good job not a bad thing.

Was pleased when I saw that this novel was finally on Kindle since I had lost my original copy. The story line has similarities with Heinlein's vision of a total militaristic machine fighting a never ending war but is told from a unique standpoint. Love each of the characters especially Jack Crow who in my opinion is the ultimate flawed hero like Han Solo... was worth the money to pick up the Kindle version and re-read.

Armor is, superficially, the story of Felix, scout, who is a member of a military unit that wears powered armor while fighting a war against the Ants, which are giant insect-like aliens. Superficially, this resembles the story of Rico in Starship Troopers. The comparisons, however, end there. Whereas Starship Troopers can be seen as a political treatise masquerading as a sci-fi novel, Armor is really an investigation in the lengths individuals will go to in order to isolate themselves from tragedy, masquerading as a sci-fi novel. In truth, the science fiction aspects aren't even that central to the story. There are just enough details to keep it firmly in the "soft" category of science

fiction. The rest of the subject matter does get fairly violent, and there are some disturbing acts that are described in just enough detail that may offend some readers. The real stars are the characters and their interactions, from Felix and Jack Crow to Holly and Lewis. Steakley does an excellent job of creating believable characters and somehow getting you to find yourself rooting for people who may not be the nicest person, or someone you would wish to associate with in real life. As an aside, Steakley re-uses the character names "Jack Crow" and "Felix" in his novel "Vampires", but these are different characters who happen to share a name. If you have read one book, do not assume you know anything about the character with the same name in the other. It is difficult to say much more without running into spoiler territory, and I would urge would-be readers to avoid looking any further- just read the thing already! Armor ranks very highly in my list of best science fiction novels.

After finishing both Starship Troopers (highly recommended) and The Forever War (also quite good), I decided to read yet another military sci-fi book, this one recommended by a friend. And so I found myself reading Armor. In short, I will say it was the weakest of the three books (which share a number of similarities). The beginning felt a little melodramatic, but the tone evened out after a few chapters. Certain descriptions of the main character's thoughts or emotions were incredulous, coming across more like angsty teen poetry than something an adult human being would think. Still, once the shooting starts, Steakley proves his comfort with the genre, creating descriptive and adrenaline-pumping scenes of violence and desperate survival. And the two parallel narratives actually do work together quite well. But the characters prove uneven and unrealistic, particularly in the Jim Crow narrative. I didn't care for any of the vapid scientists or space pirates. They came across as hardly human with their strange bursts of melodramatic emotions bridged by chapters of emotionless dialogue. But the worst part was the unsatisfying (and hilarious) ending of the Felix narrative. I won't spoil it, but don't be surprised if you want to hurl the book out of a window when you reach the completely unsatisfying and random revelation. But the action is good, and you really do feel like the campaign on Banshee progresses in a realistic fashion. I would recommend it to power-armor enthusiasts, but if unrealistic characters and uneven dialogue bother you, then you might pass this one up. I would not consider it a classic like Starship Troopers, nor would I consider it an emotional epic like The Forever War. But it is a fairly quick read and is a decent, if unspectacular, entry in the military sci-fi genre.

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