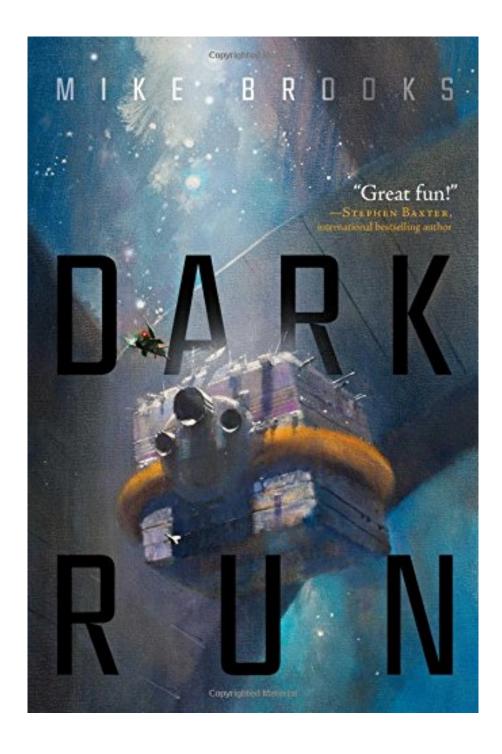


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Review

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About the Author

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In this debut space epic, a crew of thieves and con artists take on a job that could pay off a lot of debts in a corrupt galaxy where life is cheap and criminals are the best people in it.

The Keiko is a ship of smugglers, soldiers of fortune, and adventurers travelling Earth's colony planets searching for the next job. And they never talk about their past—until now.

Captain Ichabod Drift is being blackmailed. He has to deliver a special cargo to Earth, and no one can know they're there. It's what they call a dark run...And it may be their last.

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Most helpful customer reviews

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Amazong, you should read it, seriously. Go back up to the top and buy it. Go. Stop reading. Go.

By MR Brown

It's fairly rare when I bother to do written reviews of books. I like them or don't like them to varying degrees and don't feel like it's important to tell people why I like them. That and I don't much like having to analyze a book I read for enjoyment because it wrecks it for me sometimes.

This book, I wanted to do at least a little something for. I don't think it's had enough praise personally.

There are a lot of people that compare this to Firefly*. It does have some of the things I valued most about Firefly such as the interplay of characters. You'll find a similar layout. A Captain that's got a past and a mostly stable moral compass...maybe it wobbles a little, sometimes. A strong female first mate or whatever you'd deem her, an amazing pilot, a talented engineer, and a mercenary. There are also characters that aren't exactly dups of the crew. Such as the tech wizard (I know sort of River, but not) and the gentle giant (sort of like Shepherd Book, but not). We have the tropes in other words.

Having said that, let me pause for a moment in this review (if you don't want to read my rant skip one paragraph). Some reviewers I have seen seem to think it's a sin or in some way degrading to note tropes in authors writing. Why? Tropes are an easy way for us puny humans to understand the world around us. They help writers build stable stories. The problem with tropes is when they are over used or too predictable. When EVERY \$#%& @\$*% *\$#@ &%\$# time you turn on the TV or open a book you find yourself SO UNGODLY BORED with the entire %\$&#ing universe because you already know how the book or show ends within 5 minutes of watching or 10 pages of reading. Some people prefer this and that's fine, for them,

for me, I need to be kept guessing. It's one thing to have a framework so you know, to move into the construction world for a moment, this building is going to be a rectangle and have 3 floors. However, If I open a book and already know, for the sake of the example, that there are going to be 3 bathrooms, 2 hot tubs, 65 windows, 35 doors, 6 different carpets coming in blue, green, turquoise, violet, puce and yellow (swatches with paint samples for each room available to the left). The siding will be an off blue and the shingles will be gray and slightly concave...then I don't really need to take your tour do I?

Anyway, review back on. I loved the interplay Mr. Brooks built into the characters. The silent histories he was able to fold in and expand upon as needed. For to my understanding a virtually new author to build such a beautiful interplay is amazing. I'm sure editing, alpha and beta readers will have had something to do with it, but you can do all the editing and rereading you want, but if the writer doesn't have what's needed in him or her to pull that information in and push it out better, then there really is no point and no help for it.

This is NOT a Firefly dup or knock off as I have seen sometimes, but I'd say it has a neighboring soul. I don't do the best reviews because I don't do them often, as noted at the beginning of this whole huge thing. The best I can say is if you haven't tried this book, you should. If you're good at reviews, do it. It's worth it, in my opinion.

* For those who aren't quite as much of a geek as me, Firefly was an American Space Western Drama series that ran from 2002-2003 on Fox written and directed by Joss Whedon. You may have a better idea of the world if you saw the 2005 film adaptation Serenity.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Fun read. Characters have a lot going on

By Amazon Customer

Fun read. Characters have a lot going on, and are the real center of the story. No deep ethical issues examined in any non-simple way, but the characters are plausible and interesting, and the story moves along. Good enough to want to read book 2.

18 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

I thought I would like Dark Run more

By F. Shifreen

I thought I would like Dark Run more, because I read an interview in Gizmodo with him. He envisages a universe powered by Alcubierre drives

and no FTL communications, aged tech and space opera. I am always looking for good science fiction. I am old enough to have been young in the golden age. What is coming out now is generally so bad to be unreadable. I like some Vernor Vinge, some Peter Hamilton, a few others. Brooks writes snappy dialog and action, but his vision of tech becomes steampunk, whirring lenses on eyes, metal hands that owe more to a Victorian past then a possible future. That bothers me. I think digital is here to stay. Miniature tech that is disposable and available. Replacement eyes and hands in the future, including firearms would be smaller and smarter. It would not the be wild west moved into space, with big guns in holsters. So I could not buy into his vision because it depends too much on the past, not the future. I wish he had thought out the rest of his vision. To me the world view of a science fiction books colors everything. If the rationale is missing, the book does not work. Dark Run only so so

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