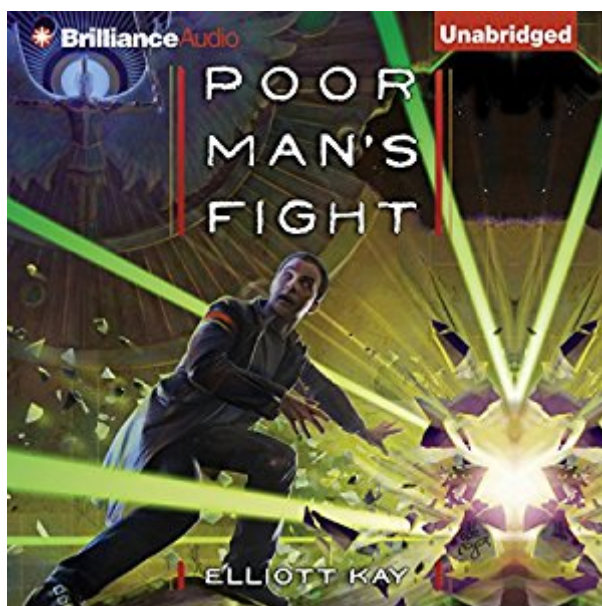


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Poor Man's Fight: Poor Man's Fight, Book 1



Synopsis

High school senior Tanner Malone has bombed the Test, a high-stakes exam that establishes how much he owes for his corporate-funded education. Burdened by a crushing debt that rules out college, Tanner enlists in the navy of Archangel, a star system with four terraformed worlds. But he hasn't factored in the space pirates. Just as Tanner begins basic training, the government ramps up its forces to confront a band of rowdy raiders who are wreaking havoc in the void. Led by complex and charismatic Captain Casey, the outlaws love a little murder and mayhem, but they are also democratic, egalitarian, and devoted to freeing each new recruit from debt and corporate oppression. Assigned to the front lines, Tanner soon finds himself caught in the crossfire between ruthless foes, cruel comrades, and unforgiving space. Can he do his duty when good and evil look so much alike?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is the reason I support indie authors who self publish on . Yes, granted, I have paid for a lot of poorly written, half baked ideas with little to no editing...I do this because partly because I want the author to know that maybe I liked his concept for a story, or I actually do like his half baked idea. Mostly I do it for same reason that the same crazy looking people always come to my house every time I have a garage sale. That one time...that one Elvis commemorative plate that they paid 50¢ for that turned out to be worth \$100, that one great find that nobody was aware of. This is one of those books for me. This author has written a sci-fi story that contains several things

that make it great. First, a believable, likeable protagonist. Second, a great cast of fleshed out, supporting characters that you feel like contribute to the story. Third, the author manages to write the plot of a story that progresses in a believable, awesome fashion despite its futuristic setting. Easier said than done. Lastly, this author writes combat, and hand to hand violence in a really gripping fashion in a way that not a lot of authors are capable of doing. It's intense, real and most importantly, authentic. Worth it.... Trust me.... a random guy on the Internet... trust me anyway...

What starts out as a standard and slightly tedious military sci-fi novel about young Tanner Malone joining the military as an alternative to amassing crippling student debt does not come into its own until he hits active duty. As pirates attack his ship we start to see flashes of what makes this such a refreshing read. The dialogue loosens up foreshadowing a strength Elliot Kay shows off in subsequent books in this (to date) four part series as Tanner morphs into a mild, unassuming hero that few could resist. Fast action, serious bad guys, and just rewards as the hero wins thru make this a standout in indie fiction. Recommended.

Really good mil-SF novel with nice socio-economic depth. Fair characterization, lots of excellent action, mostly troop combat at individual or squad level. Fast pace, very well told story, this first book in the series moves from basic training to down and dirty fighting with pirates. The gore level is fairly high, and I felt that Tanner Malone was just a little too much of a one-man army towards the end. The language and military slang is 20th/21st century American, which was a little odd for a colony allegedly founded by the (future) Roman Catholic church. Bottom line - a rip-roaring military SF slugfest, which is great if you like that kind of thing, and I do. 4.5 stars rounded up.

Elliott Kay is a very witty man. Having read him before, I already knew this, of course. But it was quickly reinforced in the first three dozen pages - Elliott Kay is a very witty man. *Poor Man's Fight* is a fairly quick read and the story is fairly fast-paced. The major players are revealed quickly and gracefully, and the major conflicts are neatly foreshadowed in the first few chapters. By the finish, you'll realize that you've just elegantly wrapped up a dozen plot threads you hadn't quite realized were there. A very well-crafted, highly entertaining story. It took a day of my life, and I was happy to give it. Dialogue is probably Kay's strongest point. Characters banter and chatter, and it feels natural. They commiserate. They argue. They fight. And by the end, you know them. Especially Malone, who - while not always *likable* - is immensely human. Even when he's knee-deep in blood. If you like military sci-fi and are a person with \$2.99 (plus tax, if applicable), you should

purchase this book immediately.

Poor Man's Fight was not just some action junky's dream. Although that it was. The title alone made a very serious statement. The poor man's fight wasn't really the action scenes. Tanner Malone's "fight" was the same fight that everyone on Archangel was engaged in. Archangel is the name of our hero's home interstellar governmental system, and the fight they were engaged in was debt. Debt... ridiculous, relentless, greed motivated, undemocratic corporate, governmental, institutionalized DEBT. If the pirates hadn't been so sadistically involved in murderous class warfare, their desire to be "free" could have engendered some sympathy. But they were not. It was really easy to hate these guys, and gals. So they ended up being the fated antagonists that brought out the martial "fight" in Tanner Malone, our young, nerdish, reluctant super troop who was really swallowed up and spit out by the same status quo that swallowed and upchucked the pirates. Same fight. Different ways of dealing with the crunch. The irony was well written into a plot that was totally character driven, with action scenes were down right cinematic. Think Die Hard in space. I'm gonna read the next one... when I have time. I couldn't put this one down. And like everyone else struggling in our corporate controlled societal sphere... you can't put in too many hours kicking back with a good book, if you want to stay free of debt. Dig it.

I have a soft spot for well-written military science fiction, and this book is exactly what I love to read. My only complaint is that the sequel does not appear to be out yet. The characterization is outstanding. Every character is well-written, well-developed, and comes across as a person instead of a two-dimensional cut-out. The action scenes are actually exciting, the training montage is great, and the interaction between the characters comes across as realistic. The editing is also superb. I didn't catch any misspellings or grammar errors. The author's voice is mature and appropriate to the character. This book reads like it was professionally published. Highly recommended.

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