



The Third Force: A Novel of Gadget

By Marc Laidlaw

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The Third Force is a compelling, superb work of science fiction by a writer of extraordinary gifts who takes us on a journey through a dark and disturbing vision of reality. For those already familiar with the CD-ROM, as well as for those just getting introduced to the world of Gadget, this entirely new and original work will add new characters and a new story line to the Gadget universe. 12 line drawings.

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The Third Force: A Novel of Gadget By Marc Laidlaw Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3422551 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Scribner
- Published on: 1996-10-16
- Released on: 1996-10-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .60" w x 5.25" l, .58 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The newest novel by Laidlaw (Daddy's Nuke) is also the most recent contribution to the burgeoning subgenre of literary adventures based on CD-ROM games. Aside from the author's obvious craftsmanship, that is the novel's only other distinctive feature. Based in the Gadget game universe, the tale unfolds in a United States ruled by the totalitarian Republic. Laidlaw's consummate descriptions evoke a New York City that's a cross between Fritz Lang's Metropolis and contemporary Moscow, all retro in vivid shades of gray, suffused in smothering paranoia. While the evil dictator, Count Orlovsky, forces scientists to develop mind-controlling technology to subjugate any opposition, Elena Hausmann and other members of the underground resistance, known as the Third Force, try to gain control of the government's evil new technology. The plot twists and turns with the same workmanlike precision of the Republic's empty streets but salvation is decidedly *deus ex machina*?a comet smashes into the Earth, although not before Elena and her cohorts are whisked away by a spaceship piloted by comrades from the future. Fans of the game will no doubt be interested to see what installment arises from these ashes; wiser readers will recognize that all along there was less here than met the eye.

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From Library Journal

Elena Hausmann, chief librarian at the Imperial Library, is a member of the Third Force, a revolutionary group opposed to Lord Paulo Orlovsky, whose megalomaniacal Empire wrested political control from the Republic. Desiring to return to her aborted science career, Elena discovers the true nature of the mysterious green meteorite ore used as an energy source and potential weapon. Laidlaw's (The 37th Mandala, St. Martin's, 1996) fascinating tale of absolute power corrupting absolutely draws upon, but does not require, the interactive CD-ROM game "Gadget." Recommended for sf and dystopian collections.

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From Kirkus Reviews

Doomsday tale suggested by a CD-ROM game called Gadget, by the author of Kalifornia (1993) and The 37th Mandala, published earlier this year. The reader is set down in the eighth year of the Empire, ruled by a ruthless Emperor who, besides old age, has one weakness: his lust for the heroine, young Elena Hausmann. Elena was befriended by the Emperor in early life, as was her brother, Louis, who has become a soldier and henchman for the Emperor. Elena, however, has become part of the resistance. Gradually, we learn that the Third Force referred to in the title is the intelligence behind the approach of a great comet, hurtling on a collision course toward Elena's planet; its harbingers include the inexplicable actions of certain characters presumably loyal to the Emperor, and the sudden appearance of a malevolent machine that dissolves personalities into something called xenium. Yet there is a benevolent aspect to the Third Force, too, as a path is prepared for Elena, her brother, and certain valued others to escape. Beautifully composed and full of high-level concepts (such as a virtual library and binoculars that allow one to look upon the future), but weighed down, in the end, by a plot that is strictly Buck Rogers. -- Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Evelyn Nielson:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day every day to reading a reserve. The book *The Third Force: A Novel of Gadget* it is rather good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book offers high quality.

Mark Gibson:

Is it anyone who having spare time after that spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This *The Third Force: A Novel of Gadget* can be the answer, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

Lena Stubbs:

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got students? We believe that that query was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. And you know that little person including reading or as reading through become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update with regards to something by book. Amount types of books that can you go onto be your object. One of them is this *The Third Force: A Novel of Gadget*.

Amanda Garcia:

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