



# Liege-Killer

*Christopher Hinz*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Liege-Killer

*Christopher Hinz*

## **Liege-Killer** Christopher Hinz

Two hundred years after Earth is devastated by nuclear war and genetically engineered Paratwa assassins, the humans of orbiting Earth colonies are at peace, until a series of murders reveal the reemergence of the Paratwa. Reprint. K. PW.

## **Liege-Killer Details**

Date : Published October 15th 1995 by Tor Books (first published 1987)

ISBN : 9780812530759

Author : Christopher Hinz

Format : Paperback 480 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction

 [Download Liege-Killer ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Liege-Killer ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Liege-Killer Christopher Hinz**

---

## From Reader Review Liege-Killer for online ebook

### Rob Trans says

This is an engaging book that does for me what good SF should - it speculates about a reasonable future from today. Keeping in mind this book was written in 1987, the trends projected seem reasonable to me. Human greed has driven humanity to destroy the earth through war and environmental degradation. Genetic manipulation became very sophisticated and resulted in the creation of advanced human weapons which operated in pairs controlled by one consciousness - the Paratwa. Five of these pairs were super Paratwas capable of controlling the others and humanity itself.

After the devastation, humanity choose two paths. One built space colonies in large cylinders near the earth while the other built large space ships to attempt to colonize other worlds. This story focuses on the colonies, the reappearance of one of the Paratwa, and how the colonies investigate and deal with the threat.

Although the characters are relatively two-dimensional, they are still fleshed out to have some complexity and not be too predictable. There are a few twists. The scene descriptions are vivid enough to understand the situation the characters find themselves in. The plot moves along at a good clip. i never found myself bored or wanted to put down this book. It is a relatively quick read.

I'm looking forward to the next two novels and the prequel.

---

### Emily says

I can't remember where I heard about this book, but I think it's one of those unknown hidden gems. Liege Killer is an action packed thriller about a pair of assassins called "Paratwa" (which are lab bred teams who share one common consciousness, or they can split apart into two individuals) who are unleashed into a future where humans are peacefully living in colonies orbiting a destroyed Earth. My explanation might not be that great, but the story was a page turner. It's one of those books where you get thrown into the action and not a lot of explanation up front, but stick with it, everything does get explained. There are several twists and turns, some of which I saw coming and a few that I didn't catch onto until nearly the end. I was up several hours past my bedtime finishing this one last night!

If you're into political and science based sci-fi books, you'd probably like this one.

midget

---

### Mark says

I loved this book. Read it more than once. It's just good sci-fi fun. Fast paced action, and interesting characters -- lots of twists and turns. I highly recommend it.

---

## **Cory says**

This series has an extremely cheesy name and extra cheese on the book covers.. but it contains some great concepts and is action packed. I highly recommend it if you are into sci-fi and can ignore the cover art of the second and third books.

---

## **Cassie says**

This book took me a pretty long time to read, but it was a great story. There was action, suspense, mystery, a great plot, and a well constructed world. In the beginning, I had trouble getting completely immersed because there did not seem to be a protagonist. But once Gillian emerged, the story became much easier to follow because there was someone to cheer for. I think one of the best parts of this book was the author's ability to flip the notions I relied on in the beginning of the story into a reveal that I never saw coming, yet probably should have because the references were never hidden and in fact were seamless with the story. The end of this book was a real nail-biter.

---

## **Canyonexplorer says**

I read this a long time ago after picking it up on a trip to Bristol. This is one of the few sci-fi books that's actually blew me away when I read it. It is also one of my most borrowed books and every one who's read it has had the same reaction. Unfortunately, the promise of this book is never realised in the sequels, which although good never come up to the standards of this book.

---

## **Kris says**

This is the first book of a trilogy and like the movie trilogy "The Matrix" the first part is the one that captivates you the most. Liege-Killer is set 200 years into the future when the earth has been rendered uninhabitable because of technology run rampant in the 21st century from a genocidal war. The survivors live in huge space habitats surrounding earth. The wars that devastated earth also created a new weapon but this one is a new type of being called the Paratwa. This is one consciousness in two bodies and they are conditioned from birth to kill humans. The story takes place as the now peaceful Colonies are plunged into the start of similar issues that created the wars that devastated the earth with the appearance of a long thought dead Paratwa. The book is full of great speculative science as well as being a good action story with some great fight scenes and political intrigue. The weapons are unique as are several of the political scenarios. If you like your sci-fi with good speculative science that is believable wrapped in a world that has to fight for its existence from an old evil thought dead you will enjoy this book. You can read it as a stand alone if you want and not need to track down the other two books though they are worth the effort in my opinion even if they don't quite hit the level as the first book.

---

## **spikeINflorida says**

In a good way this story reminded me of Blade Runner. A slightly demented, tortured soul but kinda cool,

toting wicked weapons here that's hunting psychotic genetically engineered assassins throughout a post nuclear apocalypse world. Great characters and world building. BUT In a bad way I experienced the Asimov effect...lots of talk ramping up to not much walk. How much who-done-it political intrigue gibber-jabber can a simpleton like me take? Three and one half stars.

---

## **Paul Darcy says**

Published in 1987 by Christopher Hinz.

This book is one I read almost as soon as it came out.

And, after finishing my last read I spotted this one on my "previously read" bookshelves and decided to give it another go to see if I would still like it now as much as I remember liking it then.

The immediate verdict? Hell yes! This is one fine book for many reasons, reasons you can find in Orson Scott Card's "How to Write Science Fiction and Fantasy."

The prologue (yes it has one though no epilogue) actually works to prepare you for what will happen later in the book - even though Orson says "don't do it" when it comes to prologues, I think Christopher made it work.

So why is this such a good science fiction novel? Well . . .

. . . you see, Christopher Hinz is a clear and concise writer wasting little time lathering you up with flowery prose. He weaves a great (and I mean great) plot throughout the story with plenty of twists and revelations. And I'm a plot man through and through. I also appreciate a clearly written work no matter what genre. Hinz delivers both with apparent ease.

Liege-Killer is a post-apocalyptic tale (Earth is deadly now) which finds the remains of humanity trying to survive in two different ways. One is in the huge colonies orbiting Earth, and the other are starships sent out to colonize new worlds.

Sound familiar? It should. Hinz makes good use of conventionally science fiction ideas, but throws in a bunch of his own creations, one of which is the Paratwa.

Ah, yes, the Paratwa. They are one of my all time favorite science fiction creations from any writer.

The Paratwa is actually two separate physical creatures (not human, but looking like them) which share a common mind. They are the perfect soldiers, assassins which no mere human can contest. They wield the deadly cohe wand which spits out black energy death. The Paratwa wield them with great precision to lethal effect.

Hinz tells us a story of grand conspiracy as the remains of humanity, building up once again after many decades, are confronted with these Paratwa horrors of the past and how they deal with it.

Very gripping page-turner. And you just know that to answer this threat, the humans will need to fight fire with fire. Oh, this is one entertaining read.

This is the first of a trilogy by Hinz, and I will be sure to read the last two.

I'm giving this on a 5 out of 5.

Yeah, it's that good.

---

### **Josh says**

I don't think anyone bothers to read in-depth book reviews anymore, so I'll be brief. There are 2 reasons why I didn't like this book:

1) The world and characters Hinz created are OK, but there's nothing amazing about any of it. All the characters are one dimensional and the world just doesn't have enough flavor to it. The book wasn't horrid, but don't go into it expecting something along the lines of Asimov, Heinlein, Haldeman, etc. This book is more like something John Grisham or Dan Brown would write if they ever decided to write a science fiction novel.

I'd highly recommend reading The Expanse Trilogy by James S.A. Corey instead of this book. It does things this book wants to do, but better.

2) I realize Hinz wrote this book in the late 80's when social conventions were a little different, but it made me really uncomfortable the way he constantly referred to one character as a midget. Debating the semantics of that term aside, it's the sheer number of times he brings it up that made me cringe. I read this book on my Kindle and did a search for that word: 74 times. He uses that word 74 times to refer to the character, a character who wasn't introduced until a bit later in the book and is secondary in nature. He also made reference to the character's body a bit too often, referencing things like "his tiny hands" gripping a chair and such. I really can't emphasize how much it bothered me, and honestly I've never come across that in a book before.

---

### **Jim says**

I remember this book fondly, although it's obviously been over 10 years since I last read it since I didn't have a read date for it here on GR until now. I also had trouble finding the second book of the trilogy & believe I read it after the other 2 the last time. Well, hopefully I'll still like it & can read all 3 in order this time.

I did! It was really good, a wonderful pick. Plenty of action, some really fun characters, & an interesting world. It's Earth, after we've ruined it, & are living in colonies orbiting about it. We're still people & dealing with some nasty pieces of history. There are some unlikely heroes & villains. It's kind of a murder mystery wrapped up in an enigma & the reveals at the end are great.

I'm really looking forward to the next one, although it was the weakest of the trilogy, IIRC. Still, the first chapter was included as a teaser in this book & it has me ready to go. Unfortunately, I need to read a different book for a group first.

---

### **Noah says**

Perhaps my most formative sci-fi world. Words, names, phrases, etc...that spring from this book when it was

first released largely dictated my personality.

Returning after so many years was a great treat.

---

### **Greg O'byrne says**

OK.

I just re-read this book and I have to say that it is just fantastic. If anyone is currently reading the Expanse series, *Liege-Killer* compares very favorably with that series. The setup, the villains, the action - everything is just great.

One of those books that made me read it every minute I could.

---

### **Roy says**

A great underrated scifi. Characters are fun, especially Nick and Gillian. Plot is well constructed and world is something different and new. I've been told to avoid the 2nd and 3rd books as I will feel a little let down. At this stage I want to read more in this world but am a little apprehensive due to the less than flattering reviews on the next in the series.

---

### **LG (A Library Girl's Familiar Diversions) says**

[This is an old review I'm just now adding to Goodreads.]

I checked this book out because it was in Freading's "space opera" section, I liked the cover, and the description was coherent and made it sound like I'd be in for a lot of action. I'm happy to say that my decision was a good one, and I fully intend to download the second book in the trilogy once I've finished writing this review. Although this was originally published in 1987, it has aged pretty well.

At the beginning of *Liege-Killer*, someone has gone to the ruins of Earth and secretly revived two people from stasis. Those people turn out to be Reemul, a deadly Paratwa. Each Paratwa is a single mind that happens to have two bodies, called tways. One tway can maneuver a target while the other one swoops in for the kill.

A few hundred years ago, a few thousand Paratwa were responsible for the deaths of millions of humans. They were halted only by the Apocalypse (Earth, ruined to the point of being unlivable) and E-Tech, a group that believed science had run amok and should be tightly locked down and controlled. In the book's present, E-Tech is still in power, but only just. Then the Paratwa Reemul reappears and goes on periodic killing sprees, and E-Tech gradually regains the public's support.

I don't know if there's another, better subgenre term for it, but the bulk of this book was basically a science fiction thriller. Readers got various pieces of the overall puzzle via a variety of perspectives: Rome, the head

of E-Tech; Paula, a single mother who witnessed a Paratwa attack; Bishop Vokir of the Church of the Trust; and Gillian, an experienced Paratwa killer from the past who was revived in the book's present. The various revelations and twists had me at the edge of my seat, although there was a big one that I guessed several hundred pages in advance. I couldn't wait to see what the Paratwa were planning, why they were doing it all, and whether Rome, Gillian, and the rest of E-Tech would manage to learn key pieces of information in time.

*Liege-Killer* is fairly violent, although it wasn't anything I couldn't handle. Not all killings and massacres were on-page – of the more stomach-churning stuff, I can recall one massacre, a flashback in which a Paratwa essentially forced a group of humans to eat one of their friends for dessert, and Gillian and his team's discovery of Reemul's “plaything” (warning: no on-page rape scene, but Reemul is a pedophile and has particularly monstrous tastes). The action scenes were pretty good. Mostly, it was either Gillian or Reemul against opponents who were very outclassed. I kind of wish Gillian and Reemul had had more chances to face off against each other.

As much as I enjoyed this book, it wasn't perfect. I had to grit my teeth every time Jerem, Paula's 12-year-old son, appeared on-page. There are many things I could call that kid, but I will refrain so that this paragraph doesn't turn into a giant block of swearing. I tried to tell myself that he was only 12 and that I shouldn't hate him so much, but it was hard. I did a search, and it looks like some variation of “Jerem whined” occurred only a dozen or so times. It felt like more. Every time Paula tried to get him to shut up and obey so maybe they wouldn't be killed, he had to get just one more complaint in. At one point, he learned that his mother had lied to him about his father. He had been an abusive addict, and, after he died, Paula had wanted to protect Jerem from the truth. So, what did Jerem do after Paula told him all this? He sulked, accused Paula of abandoning his father, and said, “My father's dead. And it's because you're just a stupid bitch.” (178).

I don't think Jerem deserved the stuff that happened to him after that, but I wanted him to apologize for what he'd said and, you know, grow up. He never did either of those things and, in fact, continued to whine and sulk when he was finally reunited with his mom. The only moments with Jerem that I enjoyed were when Gillian was stuck in a hotel room with him and refused to take any of his crap and when Paula was getting the both of them packed up for their new life with the Costeous and flat out ignored Jerem's whining.

Besides Jerem, there was one other thing I didn't like about this book, and that was its female characters. Hinz did badly by them. Not just one, but two women died so that Gillian could become the man he needed to be in order to battle the Paratwa. As far as I can remember, Rome's wife, Angela, was often in his thoughts but never had any on-page actions or dialogue. I suppose Nu-Lin was okay, but she didn't really do all that much.

Paula had the potential to be awesome. She was street-smart enough to know that the visitors to her antique gallery were bad news and needed to be guarded against, and capable enough to evade E-Tech's people and deal with Costeous (pirates) without falling apart. I figured she'd meet Gillian and turn into a love-struck idiot. I was only slightly wrong. The guy she fell for turned out to be Aaron, the pirate with the scarlet penis tattooed on his face.

Hinz skipped all the scenes that might have made their relationship believable. Since there was no emotional build-up to indicate anything else was going on, I initially figured Paula had slept with Aaron so that he'd be more willing to help her find her son. Imagine my surprise when it turned out they were really in love. Paula went from hating Costeous in one chapter to being in love with one the next time she appeared on-page, and, from the point on, she ceased doing anything other than being Jerem's mother and Aaron's lover. It was disappointing.

Overall, I enjoyed this book and was drawn in by the mysteries and suspense surrounding Reemul, the Paratwa plan, and the two Paratwa hunters from the past, Gillian and Nick. The world was fascinating, and I'm looking forward to reading *Ash Ock*. I just could have done without Jerem and wish Paula had finished at

least as strong as she'd started.

### **Additional Comments:**

For the most part, this book was error-free. I only counted three instances of what I think might have been OCR errors.

### **Rating Note:**

I gave this 4.5 stars on sites that allow half stars. It's quite likely I might have rounded up to 5 star on Goodreads if I'd added it to the site back when I first read it. However, knowing what I now do about where this series goes, I'm opted to round down to 4 stars.

**(Original review, with read-alikes, posted on A Library Girl's Familiar Diversions.)**

---

### **Pete Aldin says**

Quite possibly my favourite scifi novel of all time. Hinz created such an original and yet credible world and concept that I'm surprised it hasn't been picked up by Hollywood yet (or even copied in other novels, to my knowledge).

The saddest thing to me was that he barely had anything else published but for this series.

The action is taut and well written, the hero complex, the villain(s??) very very creepy. The future well-imagined. Just reread it a year or two ago after a 15 year gap and loved it as much the second time.

---

### **Palmyrah says**

A fast-paced, suspenseful sci-fi thriller that reveals its author's past as a writer of comic books; even the setup, which involves repeated scenes of civic authorities trying to contain a spreading threat to their community is straight out of *Batman*. Read as a comic without pictures, *Liege-Killer* works just fine. Just don't expect any real science, gorgeous word-painting, character development or lambent prose: this is strictly meat-and-potatoes commercial sci-fi for the adolescent market.

---

### **Christina Westcott says**

I read this book when it first came out in the eighties and remembered loving it--it's one of those books with such novel and vivid ideas that it has stuck with me all these years and undoubtedly influenced my own writing. I decided to revisit it and see if it held up to my memories. It did--for the most part. The story was just as riveting, with all its twists and turns and surprises, many of which I had forgotten, so in some ways it was almost like a new book. The only problems I had were not with the story, but structural. There was a lot of unexpected change of viewpoint--"head hopping". And at times it got a little slow; there is a great deal of political machination, but don't be tempted to scan over these parts because sometimes that's where the author puts those little zinger clues that are so important. Neither of these would have been a problem thirty years ago, but literary styles have changed. "Head hopping" is a lot less common (thank goodness) and we've come

to expect our entertainment (books, movies, TV) to move a lot faster. All in all, this was a very good read and I would recommend it for any hard-core SF fan, particularly those who are young enough to have missed out on it the first time around.

---

## Stephen says

### **BE WARNED...THIS BOOK IS**

5.0 stars. This is one of those hidden “gems” that makes Goodreads so worthwhile as I would probably never have otherwise come across this book. It is always great to rave about the books you really love and hopefully encourage your friends to check it out. Unless, of course, they end up hating it, but I don't think that will be a problem here.

First let me say that this is **SCIENCE FICTION** so for those of you that are not SF fans, this may not be your cup of tea. However, for my fellow science fiction lovers out there, I was seriously floored by how much I enjoyed this story and can not recommend it highly enough.

To begin with, I would describe this as a science fiction thriller with some significant doses of political intrigue and some significant and detailed world-building. Oh and action, action and more action. The author has constructed a very believably future that is both troubling and yet mesmerizing at the same time. The story is superbly well-paced and I do not think there was a boring moment in the entire 400+ pages of this terrific novel and there are moments of ultra violence that are layered in at well-timed intervals so that you are never able to relax and all of the horror of the violence is felt in full. Above all else....this is quite simply...**AMAZING STORY-TELLING** and I can't believe this was a debut novel.

### BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF BACKSTORY

The present of the story takes place in the 24th century above a radioactive Earth that resulted from a nuclear apocalypse. Back in the 21st century, technology had run amok, including biotechnology. The most fearsome product of this time were the “Paratwa.” The Paratwa are a genetically engineered race that were used as assassins and were virtually unstoppable. Each Paratwa is actually two individual bodies called “tways” that can function independently but can also function as one. What I found really cool about this concept is that each “tway” when acting independently has their own personality and when they are joined, a “third” personality different from the other two emerges. The description of the Paratwa was absolutely chock-full of awesomeness.

Anyway, the Paratwa were smarter, more cunning, more vicious and more ambitious than their human creators and eventually revolted against mankind. The Paratwa formed their own ruling council called the “Ash Ock” which was made up of a group of supremely powerful Paratwas. The Ash Ock coordinated the war against mankind with brutal efficiency and it eventually led to the world-wide apocalypse which was humanity's last ditch effort to destroy the Paratwa.

### BRIEF PLOT OVERVIEW

The story begins 200 years after the holocaust that destroyed the Earth and the Paratwas are assumed to be extinct (but of course we know better). The survivors of the holocaust live above Earth on just under 100 orbiting man-made colony satellites that are governed by the Irryan Council. Due to fear of another holocaust or creating another menace like the Paratwa, all technology is strictly regulated by a powerful organization called E-tech.

Well after a series of brutal and horrific murders occur that appear to be the work of a Paratwa, despite their supposed extinction, the governing body is thrown into a panic regarding how to stop further murders from occurring. Eventually it is decided to revise from stasis two individuals who back in the 21st century were responsible for stopping Paratwas. Oh, this is where the fun really begins because these two awakened super cops from the 21st century are absolutely amazing characters. Nick is a brilliant, but wise-cracking dwarf who reminded me a lot of Tyrion Lannister (from George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire) and Gillian is just your basic definition of a bad-ass super killer.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

To sum it up, I thought the plotting was excellent, the characters (especially Nick, Gillian and the main bad guy, who shall remain nameless to avoid spoilers) were well-drawn and the world-building was absolutely top-notch. Best of all, this is only the first book of a trilogy so if you love it as much as I did you still have two more fun filled installments to read after you finish this one. **HIGHEST POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION!!**

---

### **Roy says**

I read this book in 1987 (?) when it first came out and then read it's two sequels. I found this book to be an extremely well written and thought out world. My impression is that it never got the reader base I thought it deserved.

The plot has a slight resemblance to the 1993 movie Demolition Man in that a special being called a Paratwa which is a genetically engineered assassin with two bodies and one mind is defrosted about 250 years in the future. The future has mankind living in space colonies after destroying the earth's ecology in a more violent period late in our current century. Another pair who are not a paratwa are defrosted to counter the threat, being the only force in that more normal time that would know how to counter the assassin. The story involves a well envisioned world with interesting culture and people. I'm not interested in going into detail, read it.

I decided to re-read this book because after some thirty years, Hinz wrote a book "Binary Storm" which is a prequel and recounts what happened in the late 21st century. That is also a 5 star book but would strongly recommend reading "Liege-Killer" first or you will spoil the fun of discovery in this book.

---