



## Torn From On High (Free City Book 2)

*S.F. Chapman*

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### **Torn From On High (Free City Book 2) S.F. Chapman**

Finally back in Free City after solving an exhausting kidnapping case in the Outer Solar System, Inspector Ryo Trop of the Free City Inquisitor's Office is called out of early retirement to put an end to a puzzling crime wave: Someone is murdering Space Debris Salvage workers.

In the moldering ruins following the Second Amero-Asian War, unrest is rampant just outside of Free City in the huge feudal fiefdom of EurAfrica.

Meanwhile, Ryo's longtime friend, Spy Master Lieutenant Zmuda, has discovered a clandestine plot for human domination in the Sahara Desert.

As the cop and the spy labor with their difficult cases, both wonder who would want to murder junkmen?

### **Torn From On High (Free City Book 2) Details**

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## From Reader Review Torn From On High (Free City Book 2) for online ebook

### John says

If I could describe this book simply, it would be as a western space odyssey thriller, combined with some strong social commentary and a flair for eccentric characters and unpredictable plot twists. As a science fiction junkie, I was reminded of the television show Firefly at times; it wasn't the gleaming polished world of Star Wars or Asimov, it was a "down-to-earth" account of mystery and mayhem on a galactic scale. The first chapter's action-packed introduction to the plot had me hooked after only a few pages, and it only got better from there. The microcosmic detail of the characters was juxtaposed brilliantly with the global crisis of the warlords and the strange dystopic setting around the planet. There were spies, rebels, new planets to explore, murder, witty banter, and genuine characters that made you pick a side as a reader. I felt instantly attached to Ryo, and my affection continued to grow throughout the book. The interplay between Ryo and Zmuda made the book feel like a buddy cop adventure at times...but in space. All in all, I think Chapman did a terrific job of creating a believable setting (although at face value it sounds absolutely wild), that a reader eventually accepted as the status quo of the planet. It drew me into that world, including the politics and the underlying intrigue. I honestly had no idea where the plot was going most of the time, and I love being surprised in any book. If you dig sleuthing, space travel, "David vs. Goliath" stories, or simply want some good, old-fashioned in your next read, check out Torn From On High - you won't be disappointed.

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### Teresa says

SF Chapman really interested me. I really enjoyed his life story before I began reading Torn From on High: Free City Book 2 (The Free City Series). Chapman has done a variety of jobs from truck driving to construction to second grade teacher. This sci-fi thriller was just the read I needed to send me over the edge as a fan of sci-fi. I am not much of a sci-fi fan, but Torn From on High is really good. This is the second book in the series and I was a bit confused about the characters, but I caught on after the first few chapters. It all made more sense as it progressed on, but overall this book was really good. I recommend it!

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### Veronica says

Torn From On High: Free City is Book 2 in the series. S F Chapman does not disappoint, and he left me wanting more by the end of this read. I'm not usually a sci-fi fan, but this one changed my mind about the genre.

It is set far in the future; 2446. Inspector Ryo is the main character, who just got back from outer space after solving a kidnapping case. He went into early retirement, but is soon called out in order to help solve another mystery; someone is killing Space Debris Salvage workers and no one can figure out who. His friend, Spy Master Lieutenant Zmuda, just discovered a plot for human domination in the Sahara desert. Both of these men must come together to figure out who is doing the killing of the junkmen. It's not an easy task by any means, but they are determined to get it solved.

Character development in this book is great, along with great imagery. You get sucked into this world far away into the future, feeling like you are truly there along with the characters. Even if you haven't read book

I, you could still follow along with this one with ease. I would not hesitate to recommend it.

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### **L.A. says**

Torn From On High: Free City Book 2 (The Free City Series) by SF Chapman is a 315 page science fiction story. It is written in third person, has thirty-eight chapters and an appendix, with an informative list of characters (in order of their appearance), at the end of the book.

This is a good mix of science fiction meets police procedural. The huge cast of characters is very well-developed. Even in such futuristic conditions, their relationships and banter felt genuine. Chapman suggests that if you have not read The Ripple in Space-Time book 1, that doing so will greatly increase your understanding of the series. I agree with that. I also read book 1 and enjoyed the originality of the story.

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### **Marc Stern says**

Picture this: it's about four centuries from now and the world has undergone some cataclysms, leaving it with four warlords as rulers and one Free City, based in old Ireland. It's also a time of the rebirth of the old serf/slave system, you were rich or a serf or slave, except in the Free City.

Actually, the Warlords needed an independent area such as the Free City with its honest police, real spy network and a trial or Inquisitorial network that also handled investigations as well. They were asked many times by the Warlords to go into one of the four major nation-states (Eur/Africa, for example, whose leader was killed in a blast some years earlier, but who had been reborn by cloning and they were just biding their time until his supporters were to reinstall him.

There were those who disagree with the Warlord custom and who were trying to overthrow it. The blast that killed the Eur/Africa leader Daniel Kufuzu and everyone close to him was the work of one of the freedom crusades that had the tacit support of The Free City did its police and Inquisitorial investigators.

The best of the investigators was Det. Second Class Ryo Trop, 57, who had just taken on a foster child that he was likely to adopt. She was part of a ring that Trop had broken up and the ring's leaders weren't happy about it. Indeed, they planned to get him.

The investigator had given most of his life to the police and he wanted out, but his boss Chief Detective Inspector Helga Smith worked some magic and had a job created for Ryo, Special Investigator Inspector First Class, answerable only the director.

Strange things were happening all of Eur/Africa. If you want to see what they were you can find "Torn From On High (Free City Book2) at Amazon and download to your pad quickly and then you can read it to see exactly what I'm talking about.

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### **Veritas Vincit says**

A friend suggested that I check out Chapman's writing, as I have long been a fan of science fiction/fantasy and grew up reading Asimov, Zelazny, Pratchett, and Vonnegut. I am always wary about starting a series

from anywhere but the start, but I was assured that it wouldn't matter, and that I could pick up the characters as I went along. After reading Torn From on High, I will definitely now be going back to read the first in the Free City Series, as I was very impressed at almost every element of the book. The sheer creativity of creating this futuristic world and maintaining continuity of "the future" shows a very broad perspective and a great deal of planning before the author sat down to right it. I was hard-pressed to find any gaps in the narrative or flaws in the world that he had formed. I loved the slight homages to Orwell throughout, and it is clear that Chapman has read plenty of great authors in the past.

His dialogue is crisp and truly sparkles at times, while his rough and tumble descriptions of everything from salvage workers to apocalyptic landscape of the world draws the reader in and paints a picture of something that few of us could ever imagine. The plot became a bit too predictable at certain times, particularly with the injection of news clippings and slightly blatant allusions to where the story was headed. With that being my only real objection, I can happily suggest this adventurous romp through space and time to any of my friends who love a good mystery, quirky/eccentric characters, and an old-school affection for science fiction written spectacularly well.

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### **Angela Fristoe says**

Torn From On High is the second book in the Free City series by S. F. Chapman. I had a hard time finishing this book. There was just something about Chapman's writing that didn't click with me. It was set far into the future, although that didn't seem to really add anything to the plot. At times I forgot that it was a futuristic story. Sometimes the dialogue just felt old-fashioned and not in a "old-west futuristic" way such as Firefly.

The biggest issue I had was the characters. They felt very flat and there was a lot of info dumping about them. There were a few really weird descriptions and actions. Examples are Ryo sharing a bed with his new adopted preteen daughter. I'm assuming this is platonic, however it just seemed creepy. Then there are the complete contradictory descriptions such as "Sabra MacFarland is naive, unkempt, and a bit trumpy, but she has strong ideals and an intriguing underlying sense of street-smarts." Naive yet trumpy and street-smart? Trumpy with strong ideals (after attempting to prostitute herself)? Maybe she is naive with strong ideals, but there is nothing in her actions that speak to that up to that point of the story.

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### **Michellej says**

Torn From On High is the second book of a serial written by S. F Chapman. The setting is very futuristic where a serial crime is being investigated that has serious world political impact. The lead character –Inspector Ryo – is highly skilled in his investigative role but now has his fatherly instincts being awakened.

The story is woven together with some chapters being used as newspaper headlines so that you can better understand the story. The human interest story is very well told in what I think is a very imaginative setting.

Good story-telling that generates a lot of interest.

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### **Alia says**

The adventure continues with the second book in the Free City series and it was as entertaining as the first. Just when one case ends for Ryo Trop, another begins and this one is a bit of a mystery. Who would be targeting salvage workers?

As entertaining as this novel is you do have to pay close attention, the author creates a whole new world and you might get lost. I had to reread some pages just to make sure I had it right, but overall I love the deep space world of free city! I can't wait to read book three.

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### **Ian Miller says**

This is set in a somewhat anarchic future where there seem to be only isolated segments of law and order, and the book, which is the second in a series, follows the adventures of Inspector Ryo Trop and Lieutenant Zmuda, and many others. It is set in a variety of places, the most exotic of which is Grytviken, in South Georgia. The basic story starts with the murders of some orbital scrap metal collectors, the murders being committed by the use of a strange particle beam weapon, which raises an interesting observation: this future has a very mixed technology. A really strange weapon is deployed, yet there seems to be no technology that shows the arrival of the perpetrators. You can't easily sneak up on someone in space.

The book is easy to read, it flows well, but the background is a little difficult to follow at first, and that is probably because it uses the "show – not tell" technique, and the author may be assuming that the reader has read volume 1. My preference would be for a little explaining of the background, however, while I had not read the first volume, I was not disappointed, so it can stand alone. The writing also involves a lot of one-sentence paragraphs. While it follows a criminal investigation, there is not a lot of police work, other than taking DNA evidence and the likes. A pleasant read that does not involve much reader's effort.

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