



Faith and Fire

James Swallow

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Faith and Fire

James Swallow

Faith and Fire James Swallow

The start of a new series by the author of the much-acclaimed Blood Angels novels. When a dangerous psychic terrorist escapes from their custody, the Sisters of Battle not only have to hunt down and recapture the criminal, but also need to restore their honour in the eyes of their superiors. Armed with determination, faith and some very big guns, the Sisters will let nothing and nobody stand in their way.

Faith and Fire Details

Date : Published March 28th 2006 by Games Workshop

ISBN : 9781844162895

Author : James Swallow

Format : Mass Market Paperback 416 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, 40k, Fiction

 [Download Faith and Fire ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Faith and Fire ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Faith and Fire James Swallow

From Reader Review Faith and Fire for online ebook

Christian says

I'm looking forward to collecting an Adepta Sororitas army in 2019 so I wanted to read some stories with them. Sister Superior Miriya and her squad are caught in the machinations of a powerful rogue psyker and the Church of the God Emperor. The novel is well paced, exciting and shows the limitations and strengths of the Ministorum. The ending is a bit of a bummer and I would definitely like to know more about Miriya and possible future adventures.

David Dalton says

This could go easily to 4 1/2 stars, if not 5. But whatever the rating I enjoyed this book a lot. I read it in paperback form, which is a big deal to me, as I have been a Kindle junkie for over 5 years now. But I picked up this book for less than \$5 and it was worth it to me to read it in PB.

Lots of good ole sci-fi action with these Battle Sisters. A great plot and a pretty darn good evil cold-hearted villain (with a mysterious backstory that fits into the plot). These Sisters are devout, determined, and Tough-As-Nails. Great characters.

I will for sure read the 2nd Battle Sisters book written by this author: . I will also be on the hunt for anymore Black Library books featuring the Warrior Nuns.

Travis says

The world was entertaining to dive into, the side characters had interesting developments. The main tension was pretty good, not astounding, but enough to keep me reading. I enjoyed the intrigue, secrecy, and build of the story. Each supporting character had their place in the story, and the villain drove the plot. This book would have been stronger if the story was from the villains perspective. He drove the story, built the tension, and added emotion. The main success of the story was showcasing the sororitas. The downfall was that our main character was one dimensional, unemotional, and impossible to empathize with. Events that you could empathize with happened, but the crucial depth that the main character brings was missing.

Ted Henkle says

One of the more popular factions among Warhammer 40K players, but sporadically supported by Games Workshop, are the Adepta Sororitas (a.k.a. Sisters of Battle), the actual military arm of the Ecclesiarchy.

I stumbled across a copy of Faith and Fire at Half Price Books.

Fire certainly comes into play throughout the novel. The Sisters of Battle believe that the only good witch/mutant/heretic/traitor is one who's not only dead, but burnt to a crisp. Meanwhile, their psyker enemies

often retaliate with "witch fire." So in just about every combat scene there's flames, screaming, smoke and burnt-flesh odors.

The story itself revolves around Miriya, a Celestian, and Hospitaller Verity, in their attempt to recapture renegade psyker Torris Vaun. During their investigation, and the battles they're swept-up in, they uncover a plot by deluded Deacon Viktor LaHayn to restart an Artifact Of Death hoping to revive the comatose God-Emperor of Mankind.

Their Odd Couple partnership resembles the Cop And Scientist team-ups from Holmes & Watson to Scully & Mulder.

I found Faith & Fire to be a predictable, but entertaining story and give it a 3-star rating. The finale has an element of Deus Ex Machina to it. However, this can be justified, since the story revolves around the characters' religious zealotry for the God-Emperor.

Readers generally liked Faith & Fire, which has a 3.5-star rating on both Amazon.com and Goodreads. Warhammer 40K fans either loved it, or hated it. The fans who disliked the book thought the characters were wooden, flat, unremarkable and even unlikable, along with sounding more like men, than women.

I didn't pay attention to these valid observations, because the characters are members of Imperium's Church Militant. Their lives revolve around prayers, singing hymns, and incinerating the enemies of the God-Emperor. This doesn't leave much room for deep character development, or more feminine pursuits, beyond religious fervor.

Faith & Fire does follow the standard story lines of the Warhammer 40K 'verse--

- The heroes demonstrate insight and initiative.
- Which in turn, causes them to run-afoul of their dogmatic superiors.
- The agency the heroes are members of have a hidden agenda.
- Which in turn, runs afoul of one or more other agencies operating on their own agendas.
- There's a conspiracy afoot to take over a planet/star system/quadrant/the entire Imperium.

Despite these standard tropes, I still liked Faith & Fire enough to start reading the sequel, Hammer & Anvil, right off the bat.

Buzz Ryan says

I am the first to admit that I am a fanboy.

I loved this work. As with anything well done in the WH40K universe it is richly textured and I found myself strangely drawn to the passion of these warrior nuns, the Sororitas Adeptus. Strangely as is "this is so hot, and I shouldn't be thinking this...." Fanboy. Sorry.

It is very well written and the plot is quite good, and the wide variety of characters are distinctive therefore easy to follow and remember.

If all you want is high brow space opera and know nothing of the world of WH40K you can still read this. If you have read everything Warhammer this work doesn't bog you down with prior knowledge. Of all the books in this series this is by far my favorite.

AmbroseKalifornia says

This is a rare non-omnibus 40k book for me, but I'm a big fan of the Sisters of Battle, and this is the only book out there. I've read James Swallow's Blood Angels omnibus, and wasn't terribly impressed, so I went in to this one with lowered expectations, and was pleasantly surprised. The Sisters are depicted as more human than the Adeptus Astartes, but still powerful in their own right, and the author manages to cram in a good deal of witch-purging. Good combat, if you're familiar with all of the 40k terminology. If you don't know a Canoness from an Exorcist, you're pretty much screwed.

I give it a 3, but it's only recommended if you're already a fan of the Adeptus Sororitas. If so, Ave Imperator.

Gabrielle says

This book got better as it went along. Unfortunately there were still some really cringe worthy bits. The (female) protagonists were objectified and sexualised by random bit characters fantasising them, in a way I've never seen with male protagonists in 40K.

El-jorro says

Bookworm Speaks!

Faith and Fire (Sisters of Battle)

By James Swallow.

The Story: The Adeptas Sororitas are the Sisters of Battle. The combat arm of the Ecclesiarchy, the ruling religious body of the Imperium of Man, they are warrior women who purge the darkness from the Emperor's Light. When a rouge psyker named Torris Vaun escapes on a Imperial planet, the Sisters of Battle race to capture him and in turn uncover a plot that could threaten the very future of the Imperium.

The Good: The good is what the book is about. Warhammer 40k is dominated by the Space Marines and possibly the Imperial Guard close behind. The Adeptas Sororitas are a fascinating section of the Imperial War Machine and of the Imperial Faith.

While the baby of Warhammer 40k are the Adeptus Astartes or the Space Marines, it is nice to see some of myriad other aspects and organizations of Imperium. What makes the Space Marines so cool is how they are engineered for war using genetic technology. But the Sororitas are not, they are ordinary humans, faith is their enhancement.

The pacing of the story is great. There is a real sense of crisis in every chapter in that a huge disaster is brewing beyond the scope of the sororita's original mission, and they will have to dig down deep in order to triumph. The character's are very compelling if not so memorable. Their zeal and devotion to duty is extremely dramatic and helps drive the plot and the reader cannot help but become swept away in the sheer

emotion of it all.

The Flaws: Bookworm could make some kind of statement about how women are not given a fair deal by Games Workshop and how the Sororitas are examples of the male chauvinism that still permeates gaming in general but to be perfectly honest that is not the purpose of this writing. Bookworm focuses on books, not politics. That is a writing for another time.

An any case, while the Sororitas are a very interesting part of Warhammer 40k lore, this is one of the weaker books of the Black Library. This took a long time for Bookworm to finish. Many of the older Warhammer books tend to fall into a blood and guts action novel. This is not entirely a bad thing but it does reinforce the grim darkness of the far future. The main characters of the book, mainly Seraphim Miriya are extremely violent and quite frankly cruel. This is nothing new but the wanton destruction exercised in this tome is not only boring, its very disheartening. One of the things that makes the Warhammer 40k so good is that even in the Grim Darkness of the Far Future at times there are still aspects of humanity that can be found. There is barely any of that sentiment in this text.

Final Verdict: Ultimately, in spite of its flaws, Faith and Fire is what Bookworm would call essential reading for any fan of Warhammer 40,000. It explores a very important element of the Imperium of Man. Although it is not the greatest tome in the Black Library. Perhaps there are other books that are better.

Three out of Five Stars.

Myke Edwards says

This was not as convoluted and dense as your typical 40K books. I read this because it sounded interesting and hadn't been into 40K or Games Workshop for several years, and it was easy to pick up and get involved in. However, I will say that a lot of these female characters (most of the characters are women, but a few men were tossed in for all you worrisome neckbeards out there) spoke like men, maybe because the author was, of course, a man, but as someone who associates with and is aware of all sorts of people--including women--I found it hard stomach a lot of the conversations in this. Great action, and great way to advertise all the toys miniatures for 40K.

Filipa says

There and back again.

After a relaxing pause re-reading David Gemmel books, I've returned to Warhammer 40K universe with a most excepted perspective: Sister of Battle.

I was a bit disappointed in the end. But that is another story.

Faith and Fire Lexicanum quote:

"The book features the Sisters of Battle who stand between humanity and damnation. From the elite Seraphim warriors to the berserk Sisters Repentia, they are the strong arm of the Ecclesiarchy. As the dangerous psychic heretic Torris Vaun escapes from her custody, Celestian Miriya is disgraced in the eyes of her fellow sisters and superiors. Following Vaun's trail to the planet Neva, Miriya takes her sisters in pursuit

and, along with Hospitalier Sister Verity, starts her investigations."

Indeed the book features Sisters of Battle and their inside structure. From the Sister Militant, to the big Repentias, you run all over the story of Miriya, a Celestian, an elite warrior, that falls into disgrace for letting a psyker get on the run. To the party, comes Sister Verity that just lost her sister and seeks to understand why. The book have a nice pace at the beginning and but it becomes more boring as it progresses. The suspense James Swallow wants to create missed me almost completely and the driving force to read the book became "it's a Sister of Battle novel". There aren't much around!

It comes to a point I found it was confusing and the characters a bit plain for a warhammer 40K universe, with some twists in the plot predictable. Yet the grand finale was a grand finale, although the twist in the end got me a bit annoyed.

So I was a bit dissapointed. Nothing serious. It isn't easy to write about a huge universe like 40K. Nothing serious to the point I went diving in Hammer and Anvil to keep reading Sisters of Battle.

Peter says

It's the one thing I really don't like about the 40k Universe the quasi/medieval religious rhetoric used by the Ecclesiastical, and for that reason I started this book with serious reservations.

That being said, the principal character, grew on me, a kind of religious Maverick .

Theo Karner says

A quick, easy to read, action based novel that has a squad of Sisters of Battle hunt down a criminal heretic as he attempts to enact his devious plan. If you are looking for a novel that has psykers, action, and a heroine that rubs against authority but at her heart is on the side of good guys then this is the book for you.

If you are into the Warhammer 40k universe, highly likely if you are reading this book, then the book follows a Sister Superior (A Sergeant or squad leader in the Sisters of Battle for those uninitiated) as she hunts down a rogue psyker. There are references to Black Ships and pyrokenes (A new word for me, a type of psyker that can control fire) within the Warhammer 40k universe.

John says

This is an AWESOME book to introduce the Sisters of the 40K universe. We learn of unwavering faith and the costs that the sisters are willing to pay in service to both each other and the god emperor. If you are a Novice to the 40K universe of books this is great place to get started.

Brett says

I really enjoyed this the balance between battle and story was good though I felt the plot a little predictable in places I guess that is normal for Warhammer 40K.

Michael says

Great throughout, amazing finish!

I would like to say something off the bat. I love the Sororitas. They are by far my favorite faction in 40K. That being said, I will still try to give the most unbiased review I can.

The characters are quite interesting, not exceptional but nonetheless still very enjoyable to read. You can't do more to them anyways. Giving them a love-life or a more unique feel would go against what the Sororitas are and by the end of the book, you experience what being a Sister of Battle really means.

The story throughout is very amusing to read. I personally am not prone to reading much and for me to be thoroughly entertained takes quite a bit. Of course I am reading about Sororitas so take the last statement with a grain of salt. What was amazing was the ending. The final moments are just so action filled and truly convey what the Sororitas stand for. I will refrain from details as it is spoiler filled.

The story is predictable at times but where it shines is how those sections are told. It is more of a "how it happens" than "what is going to happen" book. The action of this book is what makes that happen, ranging from interrogation of a fool who stumbled too close to the Sisters or to all out war.

What I also really liked about this book is that it portrays the Sisters of Battle as they are, not as mindless fanatics that run into battle without any plan besides slash and burn. It is conveyed that they are calculative fighters with tactics and all. The only exception to this is the Repentias, as if they were to have tactical prowess that would go against what they stand for.

The writing isn't perfect but it is still very enjoyable. You will quickly learn the author's favorite words: "orange" and "fingered".

All in all a very great read, I highly recommend it. I would give it a 4.5/5 but the rating system doesn't let me do it so I just set it to 5, because Sororitas.

Northrop Frye says

The pagan idolatry surrounding the God Emperor of Mankind from the Adeptus Ministorum makes Lorgar and his Word Bearers seem like agnostics.

Kimberly says

This setting is heavy on specialist lingo, so to help me out I found a really detailed site <http://warhammer40k.wikia.com/wiki/> - this setting must have a huge following, the site is pretty big. So anyway, I looked up Sisters of Battle and found they wore Power Armor. I looked up Power Armor and found it's like being in a mini version of an armored car. "...combat armour composed of shaped Adamantium and Plasteel plates, encased in a Ceramite ablative layer. Each suit possesses a full suite of life-support functions for operation in hostile environments.. The suit would be heavy and cumbersome to wear

but for the electrically motivated fibre bundles within the armour that replicates the wearer's movement and enhances his strength.. Sisters of Battle... also use powered armour of one sort or another. Typically, however, these armours may not contain the same strength-enhancing properties or life-support functions" (wikia) Ok, so the Sisters don't have the top end armor, but it is metal clothing and they have enough muscle help to run around easily, which means they must be pretty strong to anyone not in it, even if not superhuman. They probably have fists and feet right? Oh and did I mention chainsaws?

Then I tried to imagine how thugs with sticks could beat up someone in an armored car. They're not wearing a helmet I thought. A lucky blow. (They're on guard, why aren't they wearing helmets?) Then I read a bit further in the book "...threw back their heads and the helmets snapped open." Fascinating, was this book going to go on to win an award for inconsistency. Yes, I think you must be a psyker, it is that bad.

This is my second visitation of the Black Library and after Gaunt I was looking forward to something of similar quality. I was more disappointed than a mythical prisoner who requests a good meal as their last and gets the remains of last week's porridge.

"Let me explain what is going to happen to you. There will be no court of law, no appeals, no due process." "You have aided and abetted in the murder of a Sororitas, colluded in the escape of a terrorist witch. You belong to the Sisters of Battle for us to persecute as we see fit. You have no rights, no voice, and no recourse. All that remains to be decided is how you will perish." - Sounds like crime and sentence and that you have jurisdiction Sisters! Sisters aren't very clever are they?

"He thinks our prisoner was his daughter? What idiocy is this?" "Why in Terra's name would he think we had his non-existent child as our prisoner?" - duh, you are dealing with a heretic psyker, you dummies!

I can go on, but this is just 16% of the drivel and it gets worse, but after struggling through Kalladin's flashbacks I thought I'd be chronological.

From the wikia I was deceived into thinking the Sisters were women, not boy possessed puppets, this book corrected my misunderstanding. Also, I detest books where the characters are incredibly stupid and the writer presumes the reader to be as well - 50 Shades of Dire anyone!

Gaunt was recommended to me, I was curious and I enjoyed it. Randomly dipping into this one was a waste of time and money. Do fans really buy and read books this bad just because it has Warhammer on the cover? I'll never be a cultist.

Jerry says

I liked this book. If you are a fan of 40K, particularly of the Sisters of Battle, then you should find it an enjoyable read. If you didn't understand that last sentence, then stay away from this book. You're going to be confused. I'm a sucker for the Sisters of Battle "fluff", and so I am the target audience for the book.

A lot of people have criticized this book. It had its problems, but nothing detracted from the entertainment value. Sure, the plot is predictable and the characters a little bit lacking in depth. The story lulled in spots. But overall it was just great fun and met all my expectations.

Victoria says

I guess I'm the only one who couldn't stomach this book? I have to admit I did a little squee dance when I found out they finally wrote about the Sororitas. However, when I sat down and read it, I almost tore the book in half. Luckily I restrained myself and promptly returned it back to the library.

My issue is that it read like a gothic romance novel where the female characters (basically all of them) were wooden dolls voiced by men. I do understand the background of the Sororitas and understand the religious zealotry by which their squad lives. I just wish it was better portrayed in the characters. Maybe to see some humanity would work as well. Despite their zealotry, they are also human, with human flaws and human strengths.

The plot itself was good and the action was the only saving grace of this novel. Maybe I'm spoiled by Dan Abnett and the other well written writers of the Black Library but this book was not up to par with the current standards of the Library and the standards of epically good science fiction.

Overall this story served it's purpose of pleasing the fandom. It just needed an overhaul on the characters and bringing something we didn't know about the Sororitas to the surface. In a nutshell, read the codex and make up your own stories about the Sororitas. They are bound to better.

Michael T Bradley says

Hey, finally, a James Swallow book I really enjoyed! it has a fairly weak third act, sadly, but the first two acts are pretty solid.

We follow some Adeptus Sororitas on the hunt for a psyker whose back story is basically just Jack from Mass Effect. I REALLY enjoyed the psyker more than any other character in this story, and wish we'd had more insight into his goals and gotten a bit more out of him than we did, but still, overall, I was pleased with the outcome.

I think the highlight of this book for me is when our main two Sisters of Battle, Miiritya (sp?) and Verity, a fighter & healer respectively, get thrown into this like ... pit where children are reenacting battle scenes from the planet's history. And it's basically like them yelling TAKE COVER!! Then shooting children. One of the most sublimely ridiculous moments ever, really only possible in the 40K universe.
