

PART

01

saltare cüm diablo

jacc in the box

nicholas ralph baum



jacc in the box

PART 01

saltare cüm diablo

This is a work of fiction. The characters and events are the work of the imagination and are not to be construed as real. Any resemblance to actual events or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

The situations, issues, social norms and human behaviors depicted in this work are not of the opinion of the author, nor advocated by the author in any way.

jacc in the box
PART 01
saltare cūm diabolo

Copyright © 2008 Nicholas Ralph Baum
All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without the expressed written permission by the author. The only exception is the use of brief excerpts for critical articles and reviews.

ISBN: 1-0000-0000-0
EAN13: 000-1-0000-0000-0

Literary novel REGISTERED 2007 WGAw No: 1240181
Screenplay first REGISTERED 1997 WGAw No: 669890

Cover art designed by the author, Nicholas Ralph Baum

Cover art, as well as all other designs relating to the development of the book and screenplay are available on the web at: <http://jaccinthebox.com>

DEDICATED TO:

Jacob Clayton Baum
(the next standard-bearer)

and

Nedka "Niki" Petrovova
(my love eternal)

21 - CHAPTERS

1	boost the juice	1
2	all bitched up	7
3	caught up in the moment	27
4	short arm inspection	33
5	velemas solo que mal acompaño	53
6	the lesson for today	67
7	to keep my soul	77
8	big six	83
9	end of the line	95
10	a definite strain on the scrotum	105
11	tell god i said hi	123
12	ha satan es mericone	131
13	naykid in a tin box	141
14	bigger balls than standard issue	145
15	for the greater good	163
16	a momentary lapse in personality	177
17	juliet bravo	185
18	over the top	213
19	a hard-on for hope	225
20	saltare cūm diablo	247
21	propeller heads	259

glossary and designs ----- <http://jaccinthebox.com>

FORWARD

Near the end of the 21st Century, with the discovery of hyper photo spatial-displacement drive, humankind explodes onto the stars.

After only a century of expansion, violent disputes over a string of planets and asteroids in the Hyades cluster, called the Steel Chain, necessitate the formation of a powerful voting block in the United Nations General Assembly, known as the Steel Chain Cooperative (SCC). From this new order the Military Alliance Deputation (MAD) was established to enforce their resolutions.

After less than thirty years of operations the MAD was disbanded. Twelve divisions of volunteers were stationed in the Pleiades Cluster, in a newly developing area called the Steel Annex (SA), to police the rapidly expanding frontier. With the traditional lines of communication and supply stretched beyond the breaking point, the SA was soon commissioned to operate with autonomy.

Out of sight—they were quickly forgotten.

Seventy years later, unresolved disputes between the members of the SCC and the frontier states escalate. The hostilities compel the forces of the SA to intervene on behalf of the frontier. In response, the Cooperative reactivates the MAD outside the control of the UN.

What followed was a war that few people knew about and fewer cared to understand.

After 14 years it ends in stalemate.

None of the concessions made to the forces of the Annex were to be honored.

Don't fuck around boy—and if you want to hang
around people who do, don't be surprised when
the bill comes due

Hunter S. Thompson

Acknowledgements...

The author would like to thank the following people for their love, friendship, and contributions to this work:

Nedka Petrovova for your undying love, support, editing, and heroic efforts to keep me on track. Mua! =)

Bette Griffen for all your incredible insights, research, and editorial prowess. You got me over the top!

/b/anonymous for all the [REDACTED]

Carole Oligario (USC) for lighting my way.

Larry Palmer for catching some glaring errors.

Misty Vincent for being the sounding board I needed.

Shelley Gillette-Carney for your “tense” observations.

Mark Baum for your input and feedback—oh so long ago.

J.Jae and **Chuck Russell** for your observations and support.

Jacob Baum for your innovation and crazy ideas—they work!

Arleta Okerson for your intelligence and momentous sense of humor. Without your 27 years of indirect contribution this would have been a very boring story indeed.

Glossary and Design Plates...

The glossary, drawings and designs that were developed for the screenplay are available at: <http://jaccinthebox.com>

About the Author...



Nicholas Ralph Baum is an Information Management Analyst with a utility in Phoenix, Arizona. He has one son who he bonds with by blowing up the world on Team Fortress 2 (hdgehog6), and punching holes in paper targets for real.

He was married in February of '08 to Nedka Petrovova.

the pool is closed



PART
01 saltare cüm diablo

Jacob Graves, a smart underachiever, quite by accident finds his niche with the Steel Annex—a military organization in the Pleiades Cluster—and no matter how much he looks at this job as just a job, through the years he has earned a reputation that has instilled unimaginable fear in the heart of their adversaries. Now, being a straight male (an oddity these days) has its share of drawbacks, but Jacob's life is more complicated than most. Torn between his ex-wife, Maria, and his on and off again lover, Nicole (front cover), as well as all his children, Jacob soon finds out that even he can be redeemed from the indiscretions and collateral damage of his past.

In worlds without hunger, disease and poverty—where wealth is abundant and want is for naught—it is in the exclusive A-List of politics, industry and society where ambition, avarice and debauchery are redefined. In this instance children cloned for the sex and military trade have been discovered, and it is up to Field Marshal Graves and his people to rescue them...only to learn that it is a young girl, playing a very dangerous game of manipulation, who is pulling the strings and guiding mankind to the abyss of interstellar war.

ISBN 978-1-4196-8893-5



9 781419 688935