

# 01 saltare cüm diablo

# jacc in the box

nicholas ralph baum



jacc in the box

PART 01

saltare cüm diablo

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jacc in the box  
PART 01  
saltare cūm diabolo

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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)

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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

contents - part 1



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### **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



## 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.

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