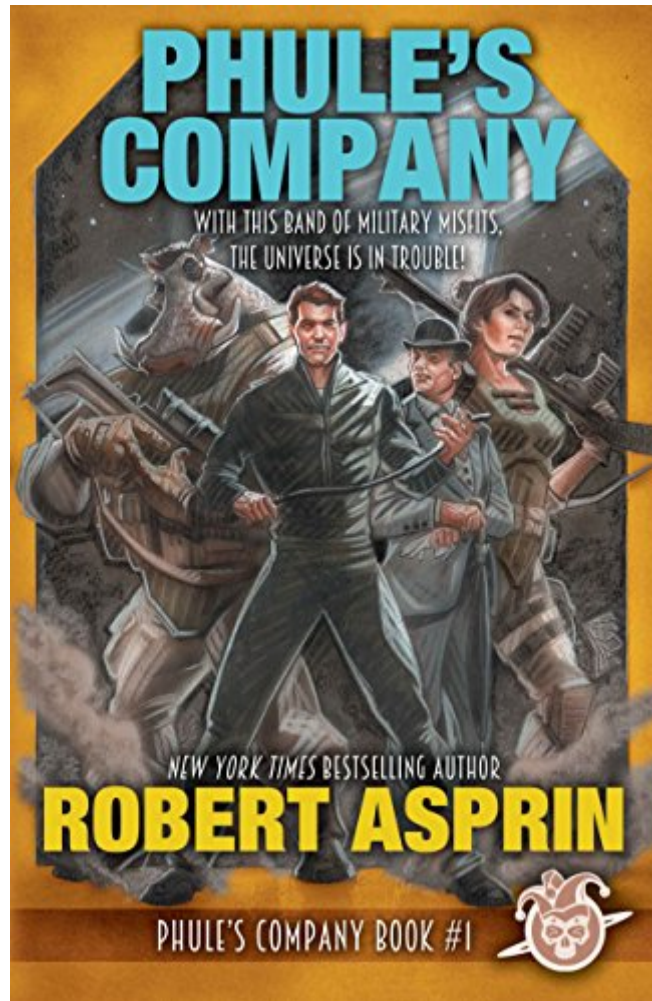




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Phule's Company



Synopsis

After being court-martialed by the Space Legion for ordering the strafing of a treaty-signing ceremony, multimillionaire Willard Phule receives his punishment: He must command the misfit Omega Company on Haskin's Planet, a mining settlement on the edge of settled space. At his duty station, he leverages his personal money and a knack for managing people to get the company to come together as a unit. Phule convinces the governor to leave the contract for an honorary duty up for competition between the Space Legionnaires and the Regular Army. The Army sends some of their most elite troops to take part in the competition, but Phule's company operates with their own unique tactics.

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Customer Reviews

This is the third time I bought this book, my friends keep "forgetting" to return it (I don't mind, I do the same to their books, but that should tell you something about this fun little novel). There is a super-diverse cast, including a quiet, Filipino chef named Escrima (Does your science fiction book

have Filipinos in it? I didn't think so. And this guy's a badass) The top guy is like Bugs Bunny -- he is resourceful and knows how to get out of any kind of trouble without being invincible or overly smug about it. And he manages to be very likable . The storytelling is light and fun and addictive, the literary equivalent of eating popcorn. If you like science fiction and humor that's easy to read, you might as well buy the other books in the series, you'll want more.

I don't really write reviews, but this is one of my favorite books of all time. I have been a Robert Asprin fan for a long time, but something about this really clicked with me, particularly the first scene where Phule goes to the hotel. I have gone through 2 physical copies of this book because I re-read it so many times and they just wore out. I was very happy to find these books converted to digital so now I can keep it forever.

While not as laugh-out-loud funny as *Event Horizon* (The Black Hole Travel Agency Book 1), this book follows a script for the old TV series 'McHale's Navy'. A leader must mold the people he has in order to accomplish assignments. Each one starts as a caricature: giant alien, or short angry female, or larcenous supply sergeant- then Capt. Phule converts them to functional Legionnaires. Willard Phule intelligently looks for ways to motivate the men and women in Omega while assigned to a swampy frontier planet. Written from perspective of droll butler, you will eagerly anticipate the climax of this preparation. But first, the unit proves how much esprit it possesses in a satisfying spectacle. Late in the book, Phule himself confounds everyone when presented with a life and death crisis. -which does not surprise his butler at all.

I love this series, just wish it was all available on Kindle. It makes deployed living somewhat bearable.... PLEASE!! Release the rest of this series digitally as soon as possible so that I can read it while I'm away from home and family. The story is just too good and helps me deal with not being with my family...Thanks!!

The opening salvo of this mil-SF novel (which is military in the same sense that *M*A*S*H* was a Korean war epic) introduces Lieutenant "Scaramouche" of the Space Legion, a far-flung force of SNAFU-artists who serve under pseudonyms. The lieutenant has chosen his moniker to reflect his real identity: he is Willard Phule, only heir of the vast Phule-Proof Munitions fortune. He attempts to seize victory by convincing a pilot to make a strafing run on a suddenly quiet part of the enemy lines. Unfortunately, the reason for the enemy's quiet was a secret peace conference, and he has

just bombed it. The top brass punishes Phule by promoting him to Captain, changing his pseudonym to "Jester," and shipping him off to a distant swamp planet to command Space Legion's Omega Company, supreme "misfits and losers" culled from a Legion already legendary for such. In this lowly place, from such "dregs," Phule sets out to remake the company's *image* and the Space Legion's *image*. All it will take is confidence (and Phule is an artist at it!), and money. He has plenty of both. His company is sure their new captain is just the latest in a long line of officers with purchased commissions, feather-bedding the way to higher rank while passing the real work on to subordinates or worse, gathering glory at the cost of their troops' lives. They have never encountered anything like their new commander, who will spend any amount, and go to any length, to succeed at his plan. What makes this novel so delightful is the wonderful crew of troops in Phule's Company. The sergeants, Brandy and Chocolate Harry (a cynical and a devious biker-turned-supply-sergeant) ride herd on the slobbish crowd of underlings: Sushi, who may or may not be Yukaza; Do-Wop, a light-fingered petty thief; the non-humans Tusk-anini, a pacifist giant wart-hogoid, and the Synthians, two small ground-creepers who can't stand each other; the pathetically-shy Rose, aka "Shrinking Violet," who makes even the confident Phule feel uncomfortable; and the pugnacious Super-Gnat, whose fierce (if ineffectual) defense of her short stature lands her in the middle of one brawl after another. Solving one problem after another in the cleverest way possible (with the help from his butler and amanuensis Beeker), while shedding puns and literary allusions in every direction, Phule finds a triumphant path to victory, and brings his company and Asprin's readers along for the wild ride!

A fun read with a management tips included. I will be using the other books in this series.

Read this book again after many years, Liked it as much as I did the first time.

If you're a fan of any one of his other series then you'll enjoy this. My only regrets are that it has taken so long for the book to reach the kindle, and that as of this moment the rest of the series is still only available on paper.

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