



Cordelia's Honor

By Lois McMaster Bujold

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When enemies become more than friends they win. In her first trial by fire, Cordelia Naismith captained a throwaway ship of the Betan Expeditionary Force on a mission to destroy an enemy armada. Discovering deception within deception, treachery within treachery, she was forced into a separate peace with her chief opponent, Lord Aral Vorkosigan he who was called 'The Butcher of Komarr' and would consequently become an outcast on her own planet and the Lady Vorkosigan on his. Sick of combat and betrayal, she was ready to settle down to a quiet life, interrupted only by the occasion ceremonial appearances required of the Lady Vorkosigan. But when the Emperor died, Aral became guardian of the infant heir to the imperial throne of Bararray and the target of high-tech assassins in a dynastic civil war that was reminiscent of Earth's Middle Ages, but fought with up-to-the minute biowar technology. Neither Aral nor Cordelia guessed the part that their cell-damaged unborn would play in Bararray's bloody legacy. Publisher's Note: Cordelia's Honor is comprised of two parts: Shards of Honor and Bararray. Together they form a continuous story following the life of Cordelia Vorkosigan nee Naismith from the day she met her then-enemy Lord Aral Vorkosigan through the boyhood of her son Miles. Bararray won the Hugo Award for best science fiction novel of the year.

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Cordelia's Honor By Lois McMaster Bujold Bibliography

- Rank: #317719 in Books
- Published on: 1999-09-01
- Released on: 1999-09-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.75" h x 1.20" w x 4.19" l,
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 596 pages

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Editorial Review

From the Author

Author's Note:

The Vorkosigan Saga Reading Order Debate: The Chef Recommends

Many pixels have been expended debating the 'best' order in which to read what have come to be known as the Vorkosigan Books, the Vorkosiverse, the Miles books, and other names, since I neglected to supply the series with a label myself. The debate now wrestles with some fourteen or so volumes and counting, and mainly revolves around publication order versus internal-chronological order. I favor internal chronological, with a few caveats.

I have always resisted numbering my volumes; partly because, in the early days, I thought the books were distinct enough; latterly because if I ever decided to drop in a prequel somewhere (which in fact I did most lately with *Captain Vorpatril's Alliance*) it would uphew the numbering system. Nevertheless, the books and stories do have a chronological order, if not a strict one.

It was always my intention to write each book as a stand-alone so that the reader could theoretically jump in anywhere, yes, with that book that's in your hand *right now*, don't put it back on the shelf! While still somewhat true, as the series developed it acquired a number of sub-arcs, closely related tales that were richer for each other. I will list the sub-arcs, and then the books, and then the caveats.

Shards of Honor and *Bararrayar*. The first two books in the series proper, they detail the adventures of Cordelia Naismith of Beta Colony and Aral Vorkosigan of Bararrayar. *Shards* was my very first novel ever; *Bararrayar* was actually my eighth, but continues the tale the next day after the end of *Shards*. For readers who want to be sure of beginning at the beginning, or who are very spoiler-sensitive, start with these two.

The Warrior's Apprentice and *The Vor Game* (with, perhaps, the novella "The Mountains of Mourning" tucked in between.) *The Warrior's Apprentice* introduces the character who became the series' linchpin, Miles Vorkosigan; the first book tells how he created a space mercenary fleet by accident; the second how he fixed his mistakes from the first round. Space opera and military-esque adventure (and a number of other things one can best discover for oneself), *The Warrior's Apprentice* makes another good place to jump into the series for readers who prefer a young male protagonist.

After that: *Brothers in Arms* should be read before *Mirror Dance*, and both, ideally, before *Memory*.

Komarr makes another good alternate entry point for the series, picking up Miles's second career at its start. It should be read before *A Civil Campaign*.

Borders of Infinity, a collection of three of the five currently extant novellas, makes a good Miles Vorkosigan early-adventure sampler platter, I always thought, for readers who don't want to commit themselves to length. (But it may make more sense if read after *The Warrior's Apprentice*.) Take care not to confuse the collection-as-a-whole with its title story, "The Borders of Infinity".

Falling Free takes place 200 years earlier in the timeline and does not share settings or characters with the

main body of the series. Most readers recommend picking up this story later. It should likely be read before *Diplomatic Immunity*, however, which revisits the "quaddies", a bioengineered race of free fall dwellers, in Miles's time.

The novels in the internal-chronological list below appear in italics; the novellas (officially defined as a story between 17,500 words and 40,000 words, though mine usually run 20k - 30k words) in quote marks.

Falling Free
Shards of Honor
Barayar
The Warrior's Apprentice
"The Mountains of Mourning"
"Weatherman"
The Vor Game
Cetaganda
Ethan of Athos
Borders of Infinity
"Labyrinth"
"The Borders of Infinity"
Brothers in Arms
Mirror Dance
Memory
Komarr
A Civil Campaign
"Winterfair Gifts"
Diplomatic Immunity
Captain Vorpatril's Alliance (upcoming in late 2012)
CryoBurn

Caveats:

The novella "Weatherman" is an out-take from the beginning of the novel *The Vor Game*. If you already have *The Vor Game*, you likely don't need this.

The original 'novel' *Borders of Infinity* was a fix-up collection containing the three novellas "The Mountains of Mourning", "Labyrinth", and "The Borders of Infinity", together with a frame story to tie the pieces together. Again, beware duplication. The frame story does not stand alone, and generally is of interest only to completists.

The Fantasy Novels

My fantasy novels are a bit easier to order. Easiest of all is *The Spirit Ring*, which is a stand-alone, or aquel, as some wag once dubbed books that for some obscure reason failed to spawn a subsequent series. Next easiest are the four volumes of *The Sharing Knife*--in order, *Beguilement*, *Legacy*, *Passage*, and *Horizon*--which I broke down and actually numbered, as this was one continuous tale divided into non-wrist-breaking chunks.

What have come to be called the Chalion books, after the setting of its first two volumes, were also written, like the Vorkosigan books, to be stand-alones as part of a larger whole, and can in theory be read in any order. (The third book actually takes place a few hundred years prior to the more closely connected first two.) Some readers think the world-building is easier to assimilate when the books are read in publication order, and the second volume certainly contains spoilers for the first (but not the third.) In any case, the publication order is:

The Curse of Chalion
Paladin of Souls
The Hallowed Hunt

Happy reading!

-- Lois McMaster Bujold.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lindsey Gant:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information today can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even a concern. What people must be consider if those information which is within the former life are difficult to be find than now's taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Cordelia's Honor as the daily resource information.

Lisa Hegland:

This book untitled Cordelia's Honor to be one of several books this best seller in this year, this is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this book in the book retail outlet or you can order it via online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason for you to past this book from your list.

Rose Knowlton:

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Willie Grajeda:

Within this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you should do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of several books in the top listing in your reading list is definitely Cordelia's Honor. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking right up and review this book you can get many advantages.

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