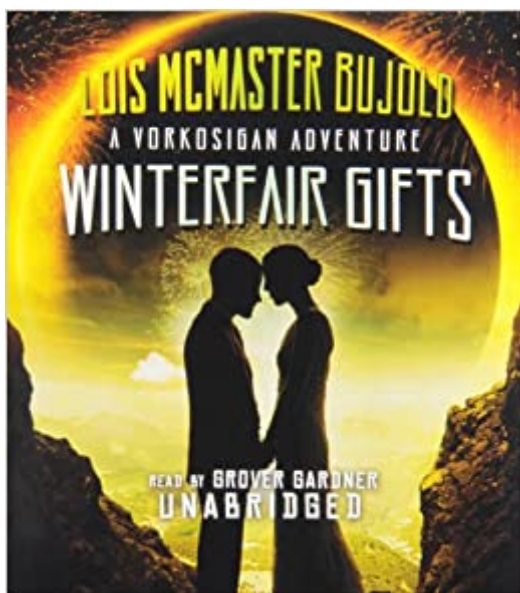


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# Winterfair Gifts (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures)



## Synopsis

This Hugo-nominated novella adds a delightful extra chapter to Bujold's Vorkosigan series, describing the wedding of Miles and Ekaterin and events leading up to it. In the festive season of Winterfair on the planet Barrayar, Lord Miles Vorkosigan is making elaborate preparations for his wedding. The long-awaited event stirs up romance and intrigue among his eccentric family and friends, particularly for bioengineered space mercenary Sergeant Taura and shy, diffident Armsman Roic. But Miles also has an enemy who is plotting to turn the romantic ceremony into a festival of death. *Winterfair Gifts* offers another of Bujold's witty, character-centered science fiction plots with a twist of romance.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Author's Note: A Bujold Reading-Order Guide The Fantasy Novels My fantasy novels are not hard 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 is one continuous tale. What were called the *Chalion* books after the setting of its first two volumes, but which now that the geographic scope has widened I'm dubbing the *World of the Five Gods*, were written to be stand-alones as part of a larger whole. However, the second volume certainly contains spoilers for the first, so

Curse-Paladin is the recommended reading order. The third is in effect an independent prequel, not sharing characters or setting with the other two, so readers of the prior volumes need to adjust their expectations going in. In any case, the publication order is: The Curse of Chalion, Paladin of Souls, The Hallowed Hunt. In terms of internal world chronology, The Hallowed Hunt would fall first, the Penric novellas perhaps a hundred and fifty years later, and The Curse of Chalion and Paladin of Souls would follow a century or so after that. Current internal chronology of the Penric & Desdemona tales is: "Penric's Demon" "Penric and the Shaman" "Penric's Fox" "Penric's Mission" "Mira's Last Dance" Other Original E-books

The short story collection ProtoZoa contains five very early tales--three (1980s) contemporary fantasy, two science fiction--all previously published but not in this handy format. The novelette "Dreamweaver's Dilemma" may be of interest to Vorkosigan completists, as it is the first story in which that proto-universe began, mentioning Beta Colony but before Barrayar was even thought of.

Sidelines: Talks and Essays is just what it says on the tin--a collection of three decades of my nonfiction writings, including convention speeches, essays, travelogues, introductions, and some less formal pieces. I hope it will prove an interesting companion piece to my fiction.

The Vorkosigan Stories

Many pixels have been expended debating the 'best' order in which to read what have come to be known as the Vorkosigan Books (or Saga), the Vorkosiverse, the Miles books, and other names. The debate mainly revolves around publication order versus internal-chronological order. I favor internal chronological, with a few adjustments.

Shards of Honor and Barrayar. The first two books in the series proper, they detail the adventures of Cordelia Naismith of Beta Colony and Aral Vorkosigan of Barrayar. Shards was my very first novel ever; Barrayar 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 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) in quote marks. *Falling Free* Shards of Honor *Barrayar* *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* *CryoBurn* *Gentleman Jole and the Red Queen* *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 to tie the pieces together. Again, beware duplication. The frame story does not stand alone. Happy reading! -- Lois McMaster Bujold -- This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

Lois McMaster Bujold is one of the most honored writers in the fields of science fiction and fantasy, having won five Hugo Awards and three Nebula Awards. Her second novel, *The Warrior's Apprentice*, introduced young Miles Vorkosigan, one of the most popular characters in science fiction. In 2011, she was awarded the Skylark Award for her significant contribution to science fiction. The mother of two, she lives in Minneapolis.

Before becoming a Kindle owner, I discovered authors and books by wandering the stacks in bookstores and my nearest public library branch. I had been working my way alphabetically through the mystery section at my public library, assisted by *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* and the *Mystery Guild*, when I realized I needed to purchase an e-reader. There were no more walls in my home for additional bookcases to hold books plus we could not afford a larger home with more walls. Maybe it was all the money I spent on books. Unlike another reviewer, I would never find myself in an airport without a book to read. I travel with books, which makes my luggage a tad

heavy on the scales. Another reason for an e-reader. Back to this novella: this was one of my early Sci Fi and Fantasy genre discoveries after getting my Kindle. This is not a genre which fills many inches on my wooden and metal bookshelves. But it was not one I had completely neglected either (there are no Westerns on my bookshelves). I was thrilled when I read this novella from the Vor series by Bujold. It has everything I want from a good novel, novella, or short story. Good characters, good plot, some intelligent humor, and a bit of life philosophy. And it was from a prolific author. I decided based on this novella that this author was going on my "buy" list. I love the offbeat character Miles. A bold stroke to make him physically imperfect. I love the cantankerous Vorkosigan universe. It was obvious that I needed to explore the Sci Fi and Fantasy genre more, because by not doing so, I had missed out on this author for nearly three decades. I am officially old and my retinas are genetically fragile and one is not working so hot. That I, who have only one good working eye (making me a Cyclops) and a couple of decades left at most (since THIS universe could decide MY time is up at any moment), recommend this author and this series as a must read, should be taken under serious consideration by anyone reading my review. Download a sample. Try this author. IMHO, she is that good. Not-to-be-missed. Thank you for reading my review.

A friend turned me on to Lois McMaster Bujold's writings years ago. Since then I've read most of her books. I would have read ALL of them a long time ago but each is a gem. I decided to stretch out the pleasure of her Vorkosigan series. *Winterfair Gifts* is a fine novella all by itself. The characters are adequately introduced. Backstory references abound--a delight if you're already invested in the series, and a delightful tease if this is your introduction to Barryar, Miles Vorkosigan, and company. That's just the right balance for a novella that connects with a series. Over the years the author has created a constellation of unique characters that reinforce each other when in a group. Yet, each character is strong enough for independence. For example, *The Warrior's Apprentice* has a large cast of mostly new characters while *Winterfair Gifts* introduces just one significant new character, Armsman Roic. And as with all the Vorkosigan characters, there's something about Roic that suits him for service in the unique world of Miles despite his abundant humility and self-doubt. I was delighted to see Sergeant Taura pop up in a major role, and watch Elli Quinn haunt the story while never being personally present. This is a romance, an adventure, and the next thing to a murder mystery. I loved this story, the pace, the action, and the change-up humor that made me laugh. I'm happy to recommend it! My Kindle version was priced at about \$4. That's a fair price for an ebook of this length. As a long-time fan I felt it was something of a bargain. To start at the beginning of the series, read *Falling Free* (Vorkosigan Saga Book 1). For a Vorkosigan book that works as a

stand-alone and is a full novel, read Ethan of Athos (Vorkosigan Saga Book 7). I'm posting this review because I loved this book, as I have loved many others by this same author. I hope you find this review helpful.

I'm going to post the same review for the entire Vorkosigan saga. MANY years ago (shudder to think - we only had books made of paper) I was stuck at an airport with nothing to read. The only book I could find in the store was named Cordelia's Honor. It was about a woman and written by a woman. From what I could discern from the cover, it was a combination of books from some sort of "Vor" series. With no intent to offend anyone, for me back in those days the book had 2.9 strikes against it before I read the first word: it was about a woman, science fiction written by a woman, and this stupid sounding "Vor" word. I very reluctantly bought it. I sat down in that miserable airport (aren't they all?) and started reading. On that day, the fickle finger of fate was FINALLY pointing favorably for me. The book had rich and deep characters, complex plot, thought provoking ideas and statements, a different way of "seeing" things, it forced you to think instead of numbly process words - it was everything I love about my life long relentless pursuit of reading. I've read the series several times. They still make me think, they still make tears, and I keep finding little tidbits that I missed. I could write much more but I'm going to try to imitate a wonderful author named Lois McMaster Bujold and use just the right amount of words - no more, no less. Please read these in order. I promise you won't regret it. I'm ashamed of myself for not writing a review years ago. I feel that I did a great author a disservice by not giving her a few timely words after the thousands of wonderful words she's given me.

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(Miles Vorkosigan Adventures) Cetaganda (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures) Diplomatic Immunity (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures) Brothers in Arms (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures) Komarr (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures, 1998) Cetaganda (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures, 1995) Memory (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures) Falling Free (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures) Ethan of Athos (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures)

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