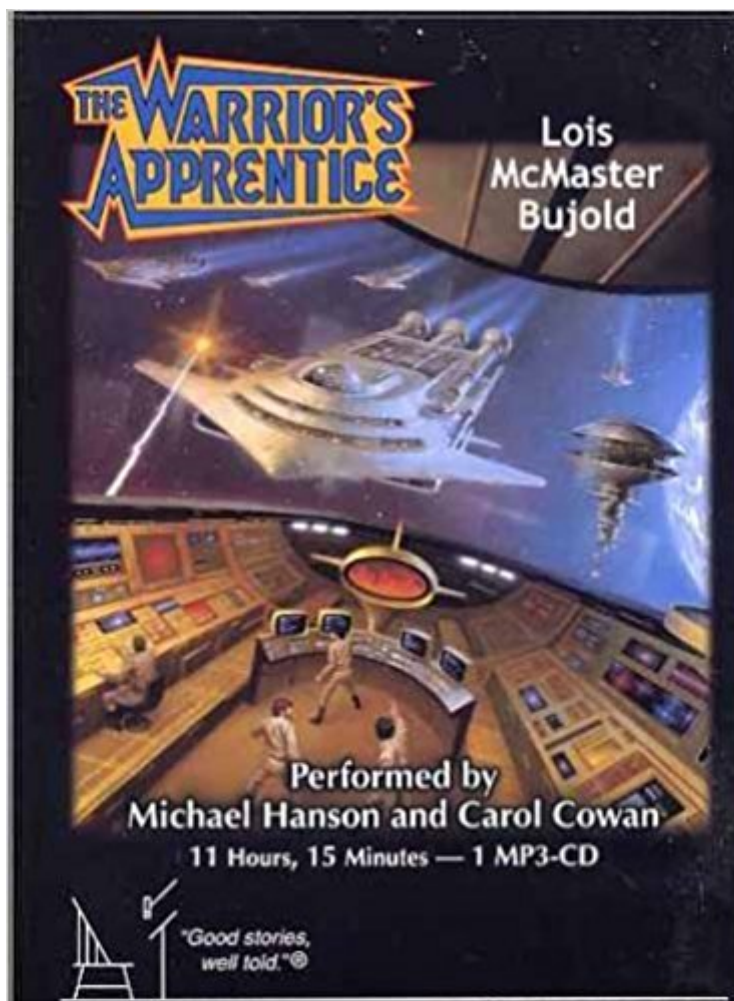


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The Warrior's Apprentice (Vorkosigan Saga, #2)



Synopsis

Between the seemingly impossible tasks of living up to his warrior-fathers legend and surmounting this own physical limitations, Miles Vorkosigan faces some truly daunting challenges. Shortly after his arrival on Beta Colony, Miles unexpectedly finds himself the owner of an obsolete freighter and in more debt than he ever thought possible. Propelled by his manic "forward momentum," the ever-inventive Miles creates a new identity for himself as the commander of his own mercenary fleet to obtain a lucrative cargo: a shipment of weapons destined for a dangerous war zone. MP3-CD: requires an MP3 player, like the Apple iPod to play this audiobook.

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Customer Reviews

Between the seemingly impossible tasks of living up to his warrior-fathers legend and surmounting this own physical limitations, Miles Vorkosigan faces some truly daunting challenges. Shortly after his arrival on Beta Colony, Miles unexpectedly finds himself the owner of an obsolete freighter and in more debt than he ever thought possible. Propelled by his manic "forward momentum," the ever-inventive Miles creates a new identity for himself as the commander of his own mercenary fleet to obtain a lucrative cargo: a shipment of weapons destined for a dangerous war zone. MP3-CD: requires an MP3 player, like the Apple iPod to play this audiobook.

I first bought Warrior's Apprentice in a Stars and Stripes Book Store in Cooke Barracks, Germany (Goeppingen, near Stuttgart). I became an immediate and lifelong Bujold fan. Unfortunately, my copy of the book was lost in storage during my terminal PCS tour. I'll always regret that loss more than all the rest of the books that went missing during that move (only one book box vanished. 4,000 pounds of books remained). The reason I gave it 5 stars? They don't give an option of six. It's

time for me to start the Vorkosigan saga again.

I'm coming late to the series because when I tried to catch up before the Kindle was invented, I couldn't FIND her books. Anywhere. Secondhand stores never had them, because her readers don't like to give them up. That should say everything. Such a pleasure to find a love interest who has her own best interests in mind; Elena Bothari has her own story to follow, and while I might disagree with how she played it out, she nevertheless made the choices she made to take care of herself. She has one great line in there I won't spoil here, but I wish I'd had the courage to say it myself at one point in my life. Miles is almost too wonderful. Sometimes I hear his dialogue spoken in my head by Peter Dinklage, sometimes James McAvoy. (I think the latter would have been perfect in a film version about fifteen years ago; he's too old for 17 year old Miles now. Isn't it nice, though, to have him in one's imagination while reading?) He's so brilliant that he has to be fragile in other ways, otherwise, we'd hate him. Or maybe not. His poignant relationship with his father, an apparently recurring theme in Bujold's books, really helps to humanize his MacGyverish brilliance. Plus his inability to take himself too seriously. Lots and lots of fun.

This book is such a great story. It grabs you early and keeps you wondering how Miles is going to get out of his latest scrape. I originally read this story in paperback MANY years ago and still have it somewhere on my bookshelves in the basement. I saw this on special on Kindle and thought it would be a good thing to re-acquaint myself with the series, I had forgotten just what a good story line the Miles Vorkosigan saga is. I couldn't put it down. If you like classic science fiction, you won't be disappointed in this book. It is a good starting point to the rest of the series. the author's notes at the end give you the chronological sequence of the books, which is somewhat important as they originally were not published in chronological order. Having said that, you can read the novels separately and out of sequence, they are all stand alone stories. What you might miss is how Miles got to that particular point in time. I highly recommend this book.

this is really the first Miles story where you meet Miles Vorkosigan, son of the great Aral but a child of poor bones. In a culture that reveres health and war and success Miles is an anomaly. He fails the entrance into the Academy, the first step in this land of healthy warriors, and in his angst buys a ship and stops a war. How he does it, and what its consequences are make for a great story. couple this with The Vor Game and you fall in love with Miles.

This is the introduction to the main thread ("Just Another Manic Miles' Day") to the Vorkosigan Saga, in which young Miles Vorkosigan messes up his life in numerous ways before pulling it out of the fire at the end. Back stories abound and enrich the texture: ultra-conservative Barrayar (think pre-war Poland) versus ultra-liberal Beta (no modern analog - think hippie commune with technology); stunted Miles versus his statuesque cousin Ivan; and the development of Bujold's strong female protagonists. Interestingly, the highlighted passages (from other Kindle readers) tend to focus on introspection and relationships rather than military buzz-phrases. This volume (and the whole series) reads as well or better the third time through.

I'm new to the Vorkosigan saga, having read Shards of Honor and Barrayar. Miles is now the central character, not his parents. And boy, does Bujold fill the page with his personality. He is sly, clever and devious in a disabled body. The plot line is near perfect with twist, turns and triumphs I just did not see coming. This book is also very funny although military enough to include significant casualties. Highly recommended, you'll be hooked for the series!

Yes, I liked Cordelia's arc a little more, but Miles is a riot. Just as fun to read as his mother, really. He's a genius. I saw another review complaining of a lot of deus ex machina, but as a writer I know you're building a series of events and of course they're going to form to where the story needs to go. Maybe I can just suspend my disbelief more easily or I was thrilled enough by the lucky turns and didn't notice. Anyway, yes Miles always lands on his feet somehow, but not without a lot of flailing around on the way, and that makes him human enough to appeal to me. The kid has some charisma, but I guess it's from having to rely on smarts and charm instead of physical ability and good looks (I think Cordelia said in the epilogue of Barrayar that he honed his charm during the time he spent before being able to actually walk). Elena's growth was also great to see. In any case, I'll keep on with the series until it gets annoying or stops being good or whatever, but I'm curious to read the further adventures of Miles.

I enjoyed reading this book. Bujold is a captivating storyteller. There is a fast-paced plot, real character characters, close calls, a super-intelligent kid, all kinds of trouble, space, tradition, etc... It was fun. It made me want to read more of the Miles Vorkosigan series. I believe this is the first of Miles's adventures - and there are a ton more.

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