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The Vor Game



Synopsis

Miles Vorkosigan graduates from the Barrayaran Military Academy with high expectations of ship command but is disappointed with an assignment as meteorologist to an arctic training camp. His tenure is cut short when Miles narrowly averts a massacre between the trigger-happy base commander and mutinous recruits.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lois McMaster Bujold obviously has a great deal of respect and admiration in the science fiction community. She has won an unprecedented number of major awards (Hugos and Nebulas) for best novel, this book being one of the recipients of a Hugo. That this book is part of a series makes it all the sweeter for the publishers and readers alike. Other reviews have summarised the series order - certainly they are correct that if you haven't read "Warrior's Apprentice," you will find you are missing a significant chunk of the backstory. However, I have not read the previous novel and had no trouble following the storyline - one of the triumphs of Bujold is to make this story accessible to first-timers as well as satisfying (according to the other reviews) to series regulars. The story focusses on Lord Miles of the ruling house of a small empire. As is historically the case for such family members, he seeks a commission in the military as a career. Unfortunately, as he is unused to following orders, he runs afoul of his first commanding officer. This starts a long and exciting adventure that takes Miles through three systems, suffering imprisonment, near execution, and other sundry dangers. Along the way, he uncovers a plot to.... well, that would be giving away too

much. Suffice it to say that it is of galactic importance and no one but Miles (along with his trusty sidekick, who happens to be the Emperor Himself) can save the day. The book has humour, great action, and a suitably galactic scale. If some of the villains are 2-dimensional scenery-chewers, most of the main characters are well-developed and interesting. Bujold effortlessly conveys the historical, military, and social details of her universe organically, without needing recourse to dry exposition.

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