



Blood and Ivory: A Tapestry

P.C. Hodgell

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Who was Kindrie's father? What triggered the massacre of the Knorth women? What happened the night Jame was driven out by Ganth? Jamethiel Priest's-Bane first entered our lives when she walked out of the Haunted Lands on the opening page of God Stalk in 1982 with the haunts on her trail, searching for her ten-year older twin brother Tori to give him their father's sword and ring. But what was she doing in the Haunted Lands in the first place? What happened that caused her to leave her home? For the past 20 years, this has been one of the biggest mysteries of Jame's background. The answers to those questions-and others-are found in the pages of this collection. The original edition of Blood and Ivory first appeared in 1994, and included four short stories featuring Hodgell's signature character, Jame. This new edition, Blood and Ivory: A Tapestry is far more than just a reprint. Our edition includes not only the four original stories, but four new ones as well, written specifically for this collection: Three featuring Jame and the fourth one an original Sherlock Holmes tale. Pat has also written brand new introductions for each story, so the reader gets a fuller picture of Jame'

Blood and Ivory: A Tapestry Details

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From Reader Review Blood and Ivory: A Tapestry for online ebook

Kaylynn says

After reading the novels, some of these stories felt redundant, but those that covered new material were quite enjoyable.

Vickie says

This book fills most of the gaps in Jame's past, which is quite a gift for fans of the series. It's not often that an author tells the backstory to a mysterious main character in such forthright detail. A must-have for any Kencyrath fan.

Eleanor With Cats says

All the short stories set in Jame's world, plus a sort of alternate Jame story where she shows up on a college campus in the Vietnam era, and a very scary Sherlock Holmes story. Plus lots of interior art by the author.

Thomas Turley says

This is a review of Ms. Hodgell's story "A Ballad of the White Plague," which appears in this collection.

My daughter's favorite fantasy writer is P.C. Hodgell, best known for her Kencyr series (*God Stalk*, *Dark of the Moon*, and *Seeker's Mask*), published in the 1980's-'90's. I haven't read Ms. Hodgell's fantasy (although Catherine says it's great); but I can verify that she has written an unusual and atmospheric Sherlock Holmes pastiche, which first appeared in Marvin Kaye's 1998 anthology *The Confidential Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*. Were it not already published, "A Ballad of the White Plague" would be perfect for the forthcoming MX anthology *Eliminate the Impossible*, for it just skirts the edges of the supernatural. Holmes and Watson, returning late from a buggy ride in Surrey, stop at a quintessential "dark old house" that once belonged to our detective's less savory relatives on his Vernet side. What follows is a horrific story from Holmes' childhood, which—as it should—illuminates his character as an adult. If, of course, the tale is true; and Watson (in an afterward) leaves that decision to the reader. Despite Ms. Hodgell's obvious debts to Poe and Stoker, her story takes no liberties with Conan Doyle. It is told in proper "Watson voice"; and Holmes, even as a child, remains the man we know. His ultimate conclusion is the one we would expect: "No ghosts need apply." Fortunately for us, Ms. Hodgell's ghosts (if they *were* ghosts) at least received a thorough and fascinating interview!

Barbara Gordon says

I enjoyed this, because I like Hodgell's books, and I'm happy to read more of Jamethiel Priest's-Bane

regardless. The stories are fairly slight, giving more depth to backstory already established in the series. It's for fans, and I'm a fan, so that works out nicely. It probably wouldn't appeal to someone who hadn't read the series, or to someone who wasn't also interested in how a writer develops a character. Jame has been with Hodgell since her teens or childhood, by the looks of it, and has gone through many settings and incarnations. I had a little thrill of confirmation to see that Tai-tastigon was intentionally a Fritz Leiber setting, because that's what I thought it was back when I first began reading.

As always, I'm vastly impressed that Jame escapes Mary Sue status. I don't quite know how, because I'm sure she'd score very high on the test. Perhaps because Hodgell is playing with the tropes, winding them until they snap?

Matthew Brown says

Don't even think of buying this unless you're a big fan of Hodgell's Kencyrath series and have read all the books. It's a delicious bonus for a fan, but has spoilers especially for book 4, To Ride a Rathorn, and besides it won't make much sense to you unless you know the books.

It begins with three segments that will fill in parts of the backstory in a bit more detail than the main series has done.

Following that, there's a short story set further in the future of the plot than the main series has gotten to. This is still officially canonical, but I would not necessarily expect this to actually come to pass in the main series, since a lot of time has passed and ideas have changed..

There's also a rather delightful short story giving an additional Tai-tastigon episode.

Following that is the original short story around which God Stalk was based.

Next up is the first story Pat ever wrote about Jame; it takes place in a sci-fi dystopian future Earth, and isn't canonical (Pat referred to it as 'perhaps too baroque to keep').

The book ends with a story Pat wrote for a Sherlock Holmes anthology, which is rather nice but unrelated to anything else she's published.

If you're a fan, get it. If you're not a fan, don't waste your money -- buy God Stalk instead, if you want to find out if you'll like her works.

Assaph Mehr says

I've recently decided to re-read this excellent epic fantasy cycle, and review as I go.

What to Expect

This is an anthology of mixed short stories by PC Hodgell. There's quite a variety:

Three short stories (one practically a flash piece) written specifically for the anthology, set right after

Seeker's Mask. These provide alternative view points that help humanise some of the "villains" in the main narrative by explaining bits of background.

One story of an alternative Jame, set in a post-apocalyptic setting

A short story that was the original idea for God Stalk (reads like some bits towards the end of a novel)

A short that reads like a missing chapter from God Stalk

A short that is set some years after Seeker's Mask (and To Ride A Rathorn too)

A short about Sherlock Holmes and Watson (which does a credible job of imitating the style of Conan Doyle, though it's more Gothic than Detective in theme)

What I liked

I liked the "main continuity" shorts, as they present some extra information about the series and the characters.

What to be aware of

Some of the writing is very early, and rough around the edges.

The stories are in no way essential to understanding the main plot progressions in the novels.

Summary

If you're a true Hodgell / Jame fan, the kind that watches DVDs' extras, this anthology provides bonus material about the wonderful world of the Kencyrath.

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Assaph Mehr, author of **Murder In Absentia: A story of Togas, Daggers, and Magic** - for lovers of Ancient Rome, Murder Mysteries, and Urban Fantasy.

Cate says

Re-read

Joel Tone says

Some interesting backstory for the series along with what felt like some very rough drafts.

Cindywho says

These are short story remnants, mostly centered on Jame, from Hodgell's Godstalk series. One is very odd, setting her in a dystopic Earth future. There is also a strange little Sherlock Holmes story and a collection of maps and drawings, letting you know how much time the author has spent living with her character.

D. says

It's a shame this collection is so hard to find, because it contains several short stories unavailable anywhere else. The bulk of the stories concern Jame or answer questions from the first three novels in the Kencyrarh series -- and if you haven't read those yet, I think you'll be quite confused. Also included are a few proto-Jame stories that hint at Hodgell's growth as a writer and thought process. There are also several pages of maps and drawings by the author and new introductions.

The big surprise here is an excellent Sherlock Holmes story that shows Hodgell can write more than just high fantasy.

Well worth reading for fans of the series, if you can find a copy.

Cynthia A Harries says**Interesting**

Finished all the books. Glad to add to my collection. Looking forward to the next story. Glad to see you are on ebooks.
