



Lost Dorsai

Gordon R. Dickson

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There are many legends on the planet of the Dorsai, the breeding ground for heroes. Here are two of them.

Lost Dorsai: The New Dorsai Companion contains the Hugo Award winning novella, *Lost Dorsai*, and Dickson's classic short story "Warrior."

Plus, the New Dorsai Companion contains, for the first time ever, an all new Concordance of the Childe Cycle--a roadmap of Dickson's massive and brilliant creation. The Concordance will let you know not only in which books or stories a person or place is mentioned, but will give you a brief history or biography that explains their significance in the Cycle. It's a Who's Who of the future--and no science fiction reader should be without it.

Lost Dorsai Details

Date : Published June 15th 1993 by Tor Books (first published 1980)

ISBN : 9780812504040

Author : Gordon R. Dickson

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From Reader Review Lost Dorsai for online ebook

Andrew says

Okay I have been meaning to read more Gordon Dickson's books for some time, I cannot remember the reason but I remember reading Wolf and Iron only to find that there was a massive 20 pages missing (the number was actually a reprint of a previous chapter) and it took me years to find another copy and finish reading it.

However since then I had come across a science fiction reference book which had a number of epic storylines listed in it - from Foundation to Dune and the Dorsai series was one of them.

I will admit that I am intrigued by the idea that evolution and intentional selection will result in the human race evolving in to different groups not necessarily due to purely environmental influences. In this case you have different worlds developing different personalities and characteristics dependent on their role in society but I digress.

This book is a slim chapter in the saga however I didnt realise there was in fact a number of stories in there. If you are looking for epic space battles look else where you have an exploration of the mentality of the Dorsai mercenary and how other perceive them. This is hardly a surprise considering Gordon Dickson's past however that is a story in itself and worthy of book all of itself. Sadly I didnt realise this book was so far placed within the series - I guess I need to check what the running or is and go digging through my collection.

John Loyd says

Lost Dorsai (1980) 211 pages by Gordon R. Dickson

Actually about 130 pages because of all the illustrations. I think Lost Dorsai was included in the Dorsai companion. It felt very familiar--I'm pretty sure this is a re-read. It is part of the Childe Cycle. Humanity has expanded from Earth and founded some splinter cultures among the 13 inhabited worlds. The Exotics, the Friendlys and the Dorsai. The latter being a military culture.

The title character of this story is Michael Sandoval, a Dorsai who refused to fight/kill. He ended up on the planet Ceta, in the military, but as the regiment's band leader. He was the lost Dorsai. The man who knew only the military, but didn't want to fight. The story takes place on the the world of Ceta, where the Dorsai Ian and Kensie Graeme have taken a contract. Dickson uses the culture of Ceta and the particular niche of Michael to weave an interesting story.

I think the Childe Cycle is my favorite series of all time, maybe the Miles Vorkosigan books overtook it. These I would recommend reading in close to publication order.

prcardi says

Storyline: 3/5

Characters: 3/5

Writing Style: 3/5

World: 3/5

(rating Lost Dorsai and Warrior)

Like *The Spirit of Dorsai* - the series' publication before this - *Lost Dorsai* is a collection. Unlike that fifth in the series, this sixth in the series is not entirely Dorsai works or entirely complete. "*Lost Dorsai*" takes up the vast majority of the pages and surely qualifies as a novella. "*Warrior*" was a short story. I was disappointed with these two because they were so much like the last. They don't move the series forward or reach out to anything new. Both new additions in this collection are enlargements on past minor events from earlier in the series. Not exactly a parallel tale but a zooming in on a detail or mention that readers encountered earlier. As for ideas, Dickson continues with the romanticized notion of human (generally military) potential. Dickson does this well, and I like it. He also did it well (and I liked it) the last five times he has done it in the series. I'm ready to move on to more on the interstellar economics, other splinter races, and evolutionary implications. He's intimated that all these are important features of his world, and they interest me, but he keeps replaying the *man of war* theme without building on any of the others. 3/5 stars for these two.

Even more bothersome were the last two components of this collection. The first was an odd mini-biography by Sandra Miesel and the second was an excerpt from the then-forthcoming *Final Encyclopedia*. I wasn't the least bit interested in either of these. The biography was too short to do any justice to Dickson and too long to wander as it did. Fans must have liked receiving a preview of the *Final Encyclopedia* in 1980, but I'd rather just wait until I get around to reading it now in 2018. Miesel's mini-biography veered between adoring fan, name-dropper, and unfocused book critic. Her portrayal of Dickson did make me think that it would have been great to have been going to science fiction conventions during his heyday, but her "insights" into him and her "critiques" of his overall bibliography revealed very little. The worst of it was the adulation of Dickson's research habits, inquisitive demeanor, and ambitions to greatness. None of those qualities were evident in "*Lost Dorsai*" and "*Warrior*." They easily could have been leftovers from the original books. The mini-biography mostly seemed like filler - as if someone told her they needed x number of pages to thicken this publication, and she padded the installment appropriately. 1/5 stars on these last two.

Matt says

I was a bit surprised by the outcome. I suppose you know something is going to happen, it is the way all of the Childe Cycle has been. This book really doesn't let on to what might happen though. Also *The Warrior* was pretty good to, maybe better in that it was so short. It seems to touch on this identity of Dorsai duty.

Erik Wennermark says

4.5 - I really enjoyed this one. Really tight political, strategy, anthropology sci-fi novella. I was coming into this not having read any of the other stories in the cycle as well and enjoyed being dumped into the world.

Norman Felchle says

I'll admit I bought this for the incredible Fernando Fernandez illustrations, but, one day I was looking for

some S.F. to read and this did win the Hugo award...so...

It was heavy on politics and tactical stuff and short on SF so it was a bit of a chore to slog through some of that...and there was a strange decision made early on that bugged me for most of the story. It finished strong though and after it was all said and done, I was happy I'd read it.

(I heard it was a shorter story originally and I'm not so sure stretching it out was the best idea....but, maybe it was that one darned odd decision early on that had me being kind of tough on the rest of it.)

Gabriel Clarke says

"More scrapings"

Andy says

EX-LIB.'THE NEBULA AWARD WINNING STORY OF A PLANET IN TURMOIL'. OTHERS IN THE SERIES INCLUDE: SOLDIER, ASK NOT; TACTICS OF MISTAKE; DORSAI!; THE SPIRIT OF DORSAI.

Olethros says

-Instantes dentro de la serie.-

Género. Ciencia-Ficción.

Lo que nos cuenta. Una novela corta y dos relatos ambientados en el futuro propuesto por el autor y centrados en un grupo de humanos originarios del mismo planeta, los Dorsai, cuya vida está dirigida por el combate y la guerra, por lo que son excelentes soldados profesionales y mercenarios. Sexto libro del Ciclo Dorsai.

¿Quiere saber más de este libro, sin spoilers? Visite:

<http://librosdeolethros.blogspot.com/...>

Jim says

This also contains two stories, although the title story is almost a full novel in itself. It was good. More insight into the Dorsai culture & that of Ceta. This takes place in the same time period as the first book, "Dorsai!" & some of the same characters; the twins, Amanda II & El Mann. The story is told from the last's POV.

The second story is about Ian. While short, it's great. We see how normal Terrans view the Dorsai. Lots of action.

On to the next book, The Final Encyclopedia.

Kathi says

5/10

A novella, a short story, and a companion/expanded glossary of the worlds, cultures, and people of the Childe Cycle to this point. Not sure it was all that necessary. Both the novella and the short story feature Ian and Kensie Graeme and are set earlier in time than the novels that precede this book.

Charles says

Contains a relatively short novel, "Lost Dorsai," a short story, "Warrior," and an essay on Dickson's work by Sandra Miesel. I thought "Lost Dorsai" was by far the weakest book I've ever read by Dickson, whose writing I normally like. Virtually nothing happened until page 140 and even then there was almost no action whatsoever. The ending was not bad but this really should have been an 8,000 word short story and not a novel. "Lost Dorsai" gains a solid 1 star from me.

However, the story "Warrior," was quite good and redeems the work a bit. There are also some very neat illustrations, and the article on Dickson is informative even if it doesn't particularly show him in a good light from my perspective.

Overall, I was quite disappointed. If this was the first Dickson work I'd read I wouldn't have read any more.

Mitchell says

Definitely not a favorite. And mostly because I'm tired of Ian. And Ian and Kensie. The short story about Ian confronting the not-mobster on Earth actually wasn't all bad. As much as I'm tired of Ian, I still liked the tone of the story, I just thought the outcome didn't make sense. As for the novella of the first story, it just dragged on and I didn't care all that much. Again I liked pieces of the story and there were interesting possibilities. As for the essay on Dickson, it was nice to see a reminder of what he had apparently intended to do with the Childe cycle. But I didn't like the style of the essay, it was too pat and easy. It mostly seemed surface. And yet generally I still liked the book. Just not as much as I wanted to.

Ismael Julio says

Muy bueno, un libro que habla del compromiso, el valor y el sacrificio por una causa o unas ideas, además del compromiso inquebrantable de unos hombres, los dorsais, honorables como caballeros medievales

Steve Smy says

A strong piece in the Dorsai mythos, though short. It contains much that describes the character of a true Dorsai. Important to it is the lack of prejudice. A pacifist is not excluded from being Dorsai, any who chooses some trade other than mercenary is still Dorsai. Written with Dickinson's usual display of talent.
