



Miles Errant

Lois McMaster Bujold

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Contains:

"The Borders of Infinity"

Brothers in Arms

Mirror Dance

Miles Naismith--in the person of his two alter-egos Admiral Naismith and Lieutenant Lord Vorkosigan--embarks on a perilous series of adventures, from the liberation of Barayaran allies from a Cetagandan POW camp to the rescue of clone children scheduled

Miles Errant Details

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Author : Lois McMaster Bujold

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From Reader Review Miles Errant for online ebook

Krom says

This marks the first time on my journey through the Vorkosigan saga that I found myself disappointed. The compendium begins with a brilliant short story. The two full-length novels are themed around the story of Miles' clone.

In a Sci-Fi universe that includes uterine replicators and life-extension via brain transplants, clones seem darn right straight forward. And while Bujold's world supports the existence of this technology, even her writing was unable to avoid the tired tropes and pitfalls of clone stories. The introduction of the clone was actually accomplished somewhat deftly, with a double-feint that initially had me wondering if the whole concept of a clone story was itself just a ploy to throw the reader off balance. But no, the clone really does exist, and by the end *Brothers in Arms* they have gone their separate ways, though Miles thinks of his clone as a brother.

Mirror Dance represents the integration of the clone/brother into the family, and the stilted, unnatural dance that Bujold forces her characters to perform to arrive at that outcome make for difficult reading. I'm hoping *Mirror Dance* was an aberration, not a sign of things to come.

Jon says

Follow this link for my review of the short story 'The Borders of Infinity' contained within this omnibus edition of the Vorkosigan space opera series.

Follow this link for my review of *Brothers in Arms*.

Follow this link for my review of *Mirror Dance*.

This omnibus edition didn't include any author's note or forward. It did include a time line for Miles as an addendum.

Overall, the series took a more serious and dramatic turn in these two novels and short story. Oddly, I look forward to reading each new novel because the concept is so different from what I'm used to in a fantasy series. Miles isn't on a quest, he's not the 'Chosen One', he's not cursed, he's not magically endowed beyond reason nor does he have a wizardly mentor leading him around by the nose. He uses his talents, his intelligence, his wit and his heart to great effect. He inspires others to exceed their perceived limitations, even some enemies.

I am looking forward to reading the next novel *Memory* next month.

Katy says

So far this is the best of the series IMO.

Christopher Nicol says

This book so far is my favorite of her omnibus books (Cordelia's Honour a close second). The pace is fast and it doesn't let up at all, I could barely put the book down. While it is an Omnibus the three stories read as if they are one. The book is a treat

Leslie says

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Virgo Siil says

Jeerum, see viimane neljandik krutiti ikka nii ülevõlli seebiooperiks, et paha hakkas. Eelnev oli kena, aga too lõpuots vajas pidevat edasilappamist.

Ryan says

I was a little hesitant going into this one. I'd read some things, both here and on wikipedia, that made me worry about the direction the series was headed. Two-wheeled motor vehicles over apex sea predator sort of directions.

I should have known, to borrow a phrase from Nathan Lowell, to Trust Lois.

In the first novel in this collection, Brothers in Arms, Miles attempts to cement the cover story of his Bunburying, Admiral Naismith, by claiming to be a clone of himself. Little does he realize that he has an actual clone, Mark, who wants to take over the Vorkosigan identity that Miles so readily abandons. In the second novel, Mirror Dance, Mark changes tactics, becoming Naismith with Miles isn't looking in an attempt to play the hero.

In both cases, hilarity briefly ensues from Mark's attempts at being Miles. Then, in each case, with a simple turn Bujold manages to twist the entire story around, taking the story into some very Dark, Serious places. Those turns are gut-wrenchingly effective, moreso because of the frivolity of the comedy of errors that preceded them, and show how skilled Bujold is at creating characters that the reader connects to.

Deeper than that, though - this collection makes me worry about our young Vorish prince. The Naismith/Vorkosigan division always seemed like a fun little game - Bunburying, as I said earlier. Here we get our first real glimpses that there's something more going on, that the traumas and stresses of Miles' life have started to induce a case of Dissociative Identity Disorder on him. The same thing happens to Mark at the end of Mirror Dance in a much more obvious way, although he seems to be able to rein in his other

selves by the end of the book. I eagerly await seeing where this story goes next.

apple says

5 stars for Borders of Infinity, by far my most favoritest Miles escapade! Dude can plot a scheme to overthrow god..and will have hell to pay talking his way out of it as usual

Jon says

"Borders of Infinity" was masterful: again, showing Miles not just cleverly fooling people, but genuinely leading them. I dug up the frame story and it's not all that much (although it does get referenced in later stories.) *Brothers in Arms* finally gave me what I wanted: Miles' position with the Dendarii clashes with his responsibilities as Vorkosigan, and he can't really keep ahead of it. It also raises some serious questions of his self-identity. *Mirror Dance* had its very messed up scenes, but it gave another chance to meet Miles through someone else's eyes. An artifact from Camp Permafrost makes a brief appearance. This made me a lot happier with the fallout from *Vor Game*: he didn't just walk away and forget about it.

Julie says

Definitely my second favorite omnibus behind Young Miles. I think I tend to like the Admiral Naismith based books better than the Miles Vorkosigan ones. Definitely some um, adult, material in these ones though (more so than the others) that requires a strong stomach.

Ron says

Better than average for Bujold. More complexity of plot and characterization. (Toward the end, one character counts how many persons are represented by the two bodies sitting together and comes up with seven.)

Heidi says

"This is probably my favorite series of all time. I've read it many times, and just finished reading it again. The characters and the world Bujold creates are outstanding, but what is perhaps the most fascinating is the way she uses those characters and setting to tell so many kinds of stories: classic space opera, murder mysteries, psychological thrillers, and even straight-up comedy of manners, a la Jane Austen. Her themes are universal and tend to at least touch on the theme of the search for identity in all her books. Miles Errant is an omnibus of Borders of Infinity, Brothers in Arms, and Mirror Dance. All are outstanding. The writing is elegant, the humor subtle and yet LOL-funny, and the plot satisfactorily original. Her creation of Miles Vorkosigan is a true literary masterpiece, and also I'd like to marry him. Truly, these books are not-to-be-missed. This series of books introduces a complicated familial twist into Miles's life. The first time I read

these, I didn't like these books, and now I think they are some of the best in the series. Mark will grow on you. Trust me."

Lisa (Harmonybites) says

Two things. First, the rating. I acknowledge this isn't an undying classic. If you're looking for science fiction with literary prose, go read Ursula Le Guin or Ray Bradbury or William Gibson. Or for the "Big Ideas" go to Robert Heinlein or Isaac Asimov or Arthur C. Clarke. What Bujold offers is different--characters you care about and want to spend time with, and in that regard, I'd say this installment offers some of the strongest stories in the series I've read yet--and given its Miles Vorkosigan is one of my favorite literary characters, I'd say that merits the five stars.

Second, even if this is one of the strongest volumes in this space opera series, this is not the place to start. In some series, such as Marion Zimmer Bradley's Darkover, order does not matter--the books, though sharing a universe, are designed to be read independently. Except in a few instances, that's not the case with the Vorkosigan saga. You'll be confused, you'll encounter spoilers for earlier books, and the book's impact will be blunted. So, if you haven't already, go look up the omnibus editions of *Cordelia's Honor* or *Young Miles*.

This volume offers up three tightly related stories. First, "Borders of Infinity" is a short story that demonstrates why Miles is one of my favorite fictional characters, as he's stripped of everything but his most lethal weapon--his wits. The second novel, *Brother in Arms*, Miles discovers he has a clone, Mark--one meant to replace him by his enemies--and that he has to try to make a brother. The next novel, *Mirror Dance* heavily features Mark, sharing the point of view with him. It's the darkest work in the series yet, but also one of the strongest. One where not only Miles, but Mark and their indomitable mother Cordelia gets to shine.

Tricia says

I absolutely love this series. Miles Vorkosigan is fast becoming my favourite book character. He is smart, cheeky but somehow very human. The cast of characters are interesting and the author has created a believable universe.

I did feel that this book was a bit darker than the previous couple of books. The author has gone into some of the more unsavoury aspects of the Vorkosigan universe. I did see that some people started with this book - not a good idea. They are designed to be read as a complete set and is one that I highly recommend.

Ashleigh Mattern says

Miles Errant includes three stories in the Vorkosigan saga: the novella Borders of Infinity, and the novels Brothers in Arms and Mirror Dance. This the first time I've given any books in the series five stars, and this collection gets that honour through the amazing Mirror Dance. I could not put that book down. It starts from Miles's clone-brother's perspective, and at first, I was annoyed. "I hope this entire book isn't going to be from the bad guy's perspective!" I whined to my uninterested husband. It isn't, but not only because it switches between character perspectives, but because by the end, Lois McMaster Bujold has you cheering for "the bad guy." It blows my mind what Lois McMaster Bujold can do with words and ideas.

