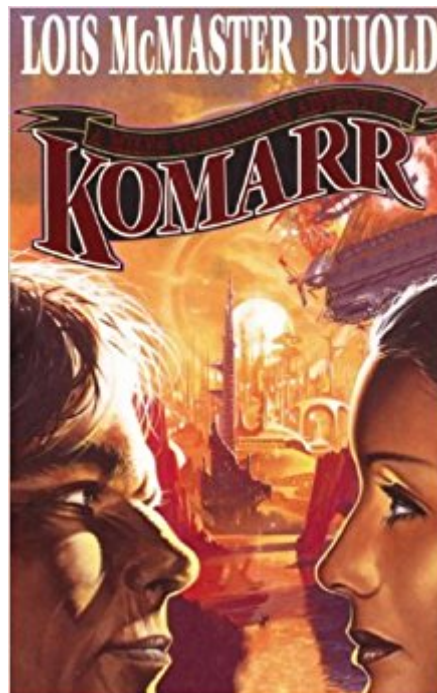




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Komarr: A Miles Vorkosigan Adventure (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures)



Synopsis

Komarr could be a garden with a thousand more years' work, or an uninhabitable wasteland if the terraforming fails. Now, the solar mirror vital to the terraforming of the conquered planet has been shattered by a ship hurtling off course. The Emperor of Barrayar sends his newest imperial auditor, Lord Miles Vorkosigan, to find out why. The choice is not a popular one on Komarr, where a betrayal a generation before drenched the name of Vorkosigan in blood. Thus, the Komarrans surrounding Miles could be loyal subjects, potential hostages, innocent victims, or rebels ready for revenge. Lies within lies, treachery within treachery, Miles is caught in a race against time to stop a plot that could exile him from Barrayar forever. His burning hope lies in an unexpected ally, one with wounds as deep and honor as beleaguered as his own.

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Customer Reviews

Lois McMaster Bujold comes through again with another sharp Miles Vorkosigan novel. Komarr can be read as a standalone, though it is part of a whole series. (Komarr brings the total to 16 books!) Miles is a hugely popular character with fans--and they won't be disappointed with his latest adventure. The planet Komarr is undergoing centuries-long terraforming when one of the orbiting mirrors crucial to the effort is smashed by an off-course ship. Miles Vorkosigan is sent to Komarr to investigate the incident; once there, he becomes embroiled in political and scientific battles. To make matters worse, the name Vorkosigan is anathema on Komarr. But our intrepid hero can't be

put down easily. While trying to save Komarr, he manages... maybe... to find true love at last! Bujold's original and intelligent blend of politics, science, and cliffhanging-good space opera makes this book a satisfying adventure and a charming romance. --Therese Littleton --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Rendered unfit for military service by incurable seizures resulting from his having died, been cryofrozen and then revived, Miles Vorkosigan has managed to land on his feet once again, this time as an Imperial Auditor handling top-secret investigations of the most difficult and vital sort. When a gigantic solar-powered satellite necessary to the terraforming of the planet Komarr is damaged in a collision with an ore freighter, Miles and another Auditor are sent to determine whether the collision was an accident or sabotage. Conquered within living memory by the Barraryaran Empire, which Miles represents, Komarr has a history of rebellion. Worse, Miles's father, Lord Vorkosigan, who put down the last revolt, is hated by many Komarran patriots. Miles eventually uncovers what is apparently a straightforward scheme involving bribery in high places, but a darker and more dangerous plot is brewing below the surface, one that could destroy the Empire. In addition, he falls in love with the unhappily married wife of the government official who is his host. As usual, Bujold (Memory) tells a fast-moving story that combines just the right amount of action and wit as Miles continues to mature in a manner unusually complex for a series protagonist. Breaking new ground, Bujold tells much of her story from the viewpoint of Ekaterin Vorsoisson, the woman Miles falls in love with, and the portrait that emerges of a good woman stuck in a loveless marriage is both believable and intensely painful. Bujold continues to grow as a writer, and her work remains among the most enjoyable and rewarding in contemporary SF. (June) of the year and was a finalist for both the Hugo and the Nebula Awards. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm going to post the same review for the entire Vorkosigan saga. MANY years ago (shudder to think - we only had books made of paper) I was stuck at an airport with nothing to read. The only book I could find in the store was named Cordelia's Honor. It was about a woman and written by a woman. From what I could discern from the cover, it was a combination of books from some sort of "Vor" series. With no intent to offend anyone, for me back in those days the book had 2.9 strikes against it before I read the first word: it was about a woman, science fiction written by a woman, and this stupid sounding "Vor" word. I very reluctantly bought it. I sat down in that miserable airport (aren't they all?) and started reading. On that day, the fickle finger of fate was FINALLY pointing

favorably for me. The book had rich and deep characters, complex plot, thought provoking ideas and statements, a different way of "seeing" things, it forced you to think instead of numbly process words - it was everything I love about my life long relentless pursuit of reading. I've read the series several times. They still make me think, they still make tears, and I keep finding little tidbits that I missed. I could write much more but I'm going to try to imitate a wonderful author named Lois McMaster Bujold and use just the right amount of words - no more, no less. Please read these in order. I promise you won't regret it. I'm ashamed of myself for not writing a review years ago. I feel that I did a great author a disservice by not giving her a few timely words after the thousands of wonderful words she's given me.

Of all the books in the series, this one was a slow burn. In fact, it needs to be finished before one can appreciate how masterfully the themes were handled and resolved. The last book showed Miles's growth. This book took a new character and helped them evolve into who they were meant to be. Unfortunately, the sheer amount of time, with not much else happening, that it took to introduce us to that character, deeply explore their current situation, life, and crossroads, before we could see that character become who they were always meant to be was so front-loaded as to be bogged down. The formula worked with Miles in the last book, *Memory*, because we already knew him deeply. We could move right into a time of change. To try that deep evolving treatment with a newly introduced character necessarily slowed the beginning, almost to a standstill. A part of me wants to retract a star for this, but then I think about the overall development of the themes, and the payoff at the conclusion, AND the payoff in the denouement, and I believe it deserves the five stars despite the ever so slow start. There's no doubt that Bujold is setting up for the next book, and it's going to be a doozy!

The writing of Lois McMaster Bujold is unique in her ability to blend comedy, deep thinking and adventure. Some of her early novels starring her protagonist Miles are space opera. They are very funny while containing accute observation of the follies of war and the failures of politics. Within the series we are introduced to Miles before his birth and and are privy to glimpses of his hyperactive childhood. Miles goes from adolescent to maturity encountering different milestones along the way. In this novel the former military strategist and sometimes space admiral has begun a new career as an imperial auditor. He and his fellow auditor have arrived on the planet Komarr to investigate the damage to solar mirrors that are part of the planetary terraforming reshaping Komarrs ecology. Miles is in a process of ajustment to the very broad powers of his new position. The auditors are to be

guests of Ekatrine and her family. Ekatrines husband administers a part of the terriforming project and is stressed by the arrival of auditors who intend to examine the workings of his department, even though one of them is his wife's delightful uncle. The unfolding story is seen partially through the eyes of Ekatrine, and partially from the viewpoint of Miles. The auditors are tasked to discover and resolve the puzzle of the solar array. Who damaged it and why? Is it sabotage or accident? Is it meant to destabilize positive relations between Barrayar and Komarr? While the underlying elements of plot are deadly serious, elements of character are immediately funny. By chapter two Miles knows he is uncomfortably attracted to his lovely and very married hostess. Through Ekatrines narration we already know that her marriage is challenging, and her husband difficult. To Miles the family originally appears the archetype of what he now seeks for himself, delightful domesticity with a refined and intelligent woman. Existing in the same space as mystery is an examination of the difficulties of marriage. Circumstances insure that these finely drawn characters are both shaken and stirred by the end of the tale. The conclusion of this adventure includes perhaps my favorite description of the adult Miles. When asked about Miles Ekatrine replies " he's not so short, he's just concentrated."

Lois McMaster Bujold's "Komarr" is a fascinating follow-up to her book "Memory". Miles Vorkosigan, forced to give up the job he loves as a galactic agent for the Barryaran Empire's Imperial Security agency, takes on his first case as a permanent Imperial Auditor. On the conquered planet Komarr, he investigates a mysterious accident and not only discovers a plot against the Empire, he discovers true love. "Komarr" is the first book in the series with multiple viewpoints--which multiplies the fun. Bujold is a wonderful writer whose characters are real people who you come to deeply care about. Highly recommended!

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