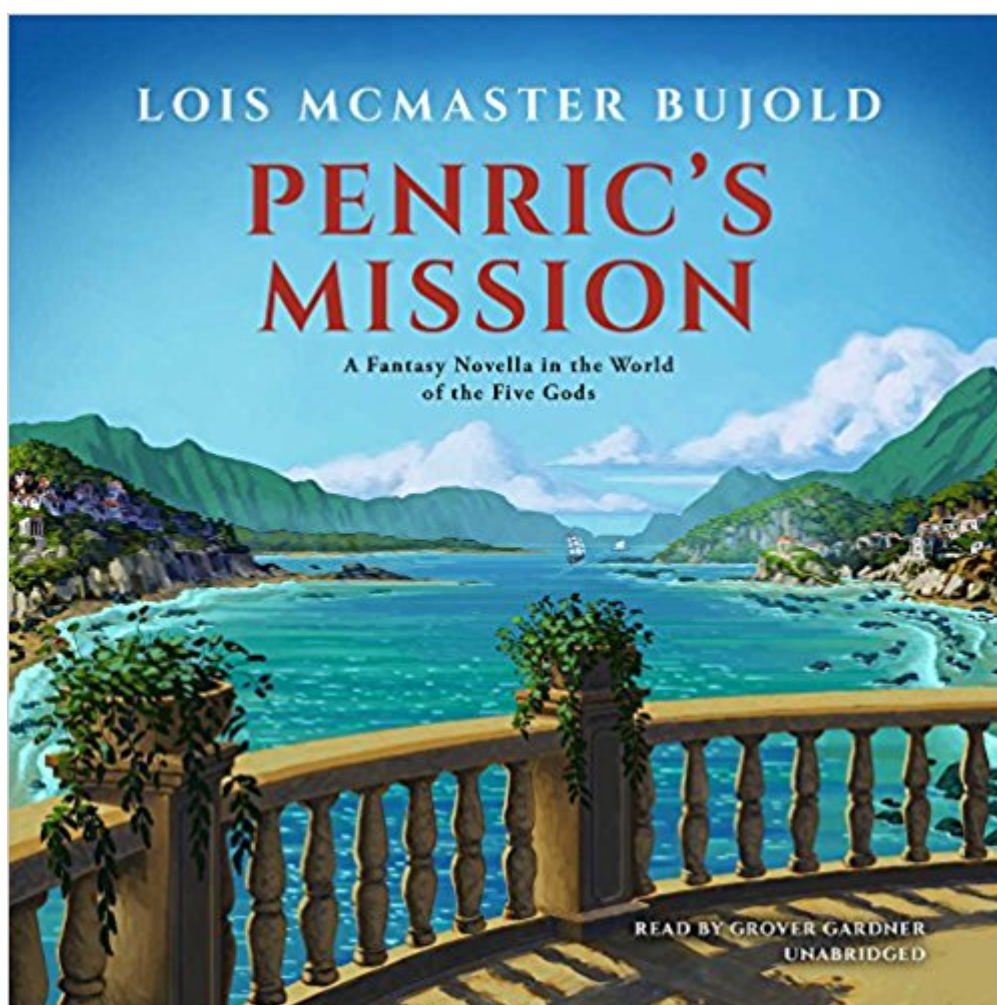


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Penric's Mission: A Novella In The World Of The Five Gods (Penric & Desdemona Series, Book 3)



Synopsis

[Read by Grover Gardner] In his thirtieth year, Penric fell in love with light ... Learned Penric, a sorcerer and divine of the Bastard's Order, travels across the sea to sunlit Cedonia on his first covert diplomatic mission, to attempt to secure the services of a disaffected Cedonian general for the Duke of Adria. However, nothing is as it seems: Penric is betrayed and thrown into a dungeon, and worse follows for the general and his kin. Penric's narrow escapes and adventures -- including his interest in a young widow -- are told with Bujold's remarkable energy, wit, and humor. Once again, Bujold has created unforgettable characters and a wondrous, often dangerous world of intrigue and sorcery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Author's Note: A Bujold Reading-Order Guide A A The Fantasy Novels A My fantasy novels are not hard to order. Easiest of all is The Spirit Ring, which is a stand-alone, or a sequel, as some wag once dubbed books that for some obscure reason failed to spawn a subsequent series. Next easiest are the four volumes of The Sharing Knife--in order, Beguilement, Legacy, Passage, and Horizon--which I broke down and actually numbered, as this is one continuous tale. A What were called the Chalion books after the setting of its first two volumes, but which now that the geographic scope has widened I'm dubbing the World of the Five Gods, were written to be stand-alones as part of a larger whole. A However, the second volume certainly contains

spoilers for the first, so Curse-Paladin is the recommended reading order. The third is in effect an independent prequel, not sharing characters or setting with the other two, so readers of the prior volumes need to adjust their expectations going in. In any case, the publication order is: The Curse of Chalion, Paladin of Souls, The Hallowed Hunt. In terms of internal world chronology, The Hallowed Hunt would fall first, the Penric novellas perhaps a hundred and fifty years later, and The Curse of Chalion and Paladin of Souls would follow a century or so after that. Current internal chronology of the Penric & Desdemona tales is: "Penric's Demon" "Penric and the Shaman" "Penric's Fox" "Penric's Mission" "Mira's Last Dance" Other Original E-books

The short story collection ProtoZoa contains five very early tales--three (1980s) contemporary fantasy, two science fiction--all previously published but not in this handy format. The novelette "Dreamweaver's Dilemma" may be of interest to Vorkosigan completists, as it is the first story in which that proto-universe began, mentioning Beta Colony but before Barrayar was even thought of.

Sidelines: Talks and Essays is just what it says on the tin--a collection of three decades of my nonfiction writings, including convention speeches, essays, travelogues, introductions, and some less formal pieces. I hope it will prove an interesting companion piece to my fiction.

The Vorkosigan Stories

Many pixels have been expended debating the 'best' order in which to read what have come to be known as the Vorkosigan Books (or Saga), the Vorkosiverse, the Miles books, and other names. The debate mainly revolves around publication order versus internal-chronological order. I favor internal chronological, with a few adjustments.

Shards of Honor and Barrayar. The first two books in the series proper, they detail the adventures of Cordelia Naismith of Beta Colony and Aral Vorkosigan of Barrayar. Shards was my very first novel ever; Barrayar was actually my eighth, but continues the tale the next day after the end of Shards. For readers who want to be sure of beginning at the beginning, or who are very spoiler-sensitive, start with these two.

The Warrior's Apprentice and The Vor Game (with, perhaps, the novella "The Mountains of Mourning" tucked in between.) The Warrior's Apprentice introduces the character who became the series' linchpin, Miles Vorkosigan; the first book tells how he created a space mercenary fleet by accident; the second how he fixed his mistakes from the first round. Space opera and military-esque adventure (and a number of other things one can best discover for oneself), The Warrior's Apprentice makes another good place to jump into the series for readers who prefer a young male protagonist.

After that: Brothers in Arms should be read before Mirror Dance, and both, ideally, before Memory.

Komarr makes another alternate entry point for the series, picking up Miles's second career at its start. It should be read before A Civil Campaign.

Borders of Infinity, a collection of three of the five

currently extant novellas, makes a good Miles Vorkosigan early-adventure sampler platter, I always thought, for readers who don't want to commit themselves to length. (But it may make more sense if read after *The Warrior's Apprentice*.) Take care not to confuse the collection-as-a-whole with its title story, "The Borders of Infinity".

• *Falling Free* takes place 200 years earlier in the timeline and does not share settings or characters with the main body of the series. Most readers recommend picking up this story later. It should likely be read before *Diplomatic Immunity*, however, which revisits the "quaddies", a bioengineered race of free-fall dwellers, in Miles's time.

• The novels in the internal-chronological list below appear in italics; the novellas (officially defined as a story between 17,500 words and 40,000 words) in quote marks.

• *Falling Free* *Shards of Honor* *Barrayar* *The Warrior's Apprentice* *The Mountains of Mourning* *"Weatherman"* *The Vor Game* *Cetaganda* *Ethan of Athos* *Borders of Infinity* *"Labyrinth"* *"The Borders of Infinity"* *Brothers in Arms* *Mirror Dance* *Memory* *Komarr* *A Civil Campaign* *"Winterfair Gifts"* *Diplomatic Immunity* *Captain Vorpatril's Alliance* *CryoBurn* *Gentleman Jole and the Red Queen*

• Caveats:

• The novella "Weatherman" is an out-take from the beginning of the novel *The Vor Game*. If you already have *The Vor Game*, you likely don't need this.

• The original 'novel' *Borders of Infinity* was a fix-up collection containing the three novellas "The Mountains of Mourning", "Labyrinth", and "The Borders of Infinity", together with a frame to tie the pieces together. Again, beware duplication. The frame story does not stand alone.

Happy reading!

-- Lois McMaster Bujold -- This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Learned Penric sails on a journey to Cedonia not as a sorcerer in the white robes of the Bastard's Order, but disguised as a young lawyer on business. His real mission is one of clandestine diplomacy on behalf of the Duke of Adria. His usual traveling companion, the slyly clever chaos demon Desdemona who inhabits his body, is the only one in on the secret]] Or so it's supposed to be. Instead, upon arrival in Cedonia, Penric finds himself gravely injured and imprisoned in the darkest of dungeons. Escape will not be easy, as Penric meets an intriguing young widow and has more than one brush with disaster in his immediate future.

With *Penric's Mission*, multiple-award-winner and bestselling author Lois McMaster Bujold returns to her World of the Five Gods, the setting of her acclaimed novels "The Curse of Chalion," "Paladin of Souls," and "The Hallowed Hunt." Continuing the tale begun in the Hugo finalists for Best Novella "Penric's Demon" and "Penric and the Shaman," Bujold's newest installment of Penric and Desdemona's tale is another must-read novella for her legion of fans.

-- This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Delightful new volume in the Penric series, enjoyed immensely, wants more now, please. Penric is in trouble, but what else is new? He's running from a situation that looked likely to kill him, albeit slowly, only to run into a new situation that looks likely to kill him quickly. He must rescue himself, rescue a blinded general and his sister, and even rescue another sorcerer from Being Stupid With a Demon. All the while running for his life, of course. There is a momentary pause...And then it stops! Yes, I knew it was short when I bought it, but I can still long for more.Sigh. But I'll be happy with what I have. For now.

As soon as I saw the announcement of this novella's release from LMB's fan-run Facebook Goodreads-echo page, I went and grabbed it up, then it was how I spent my Saturday morning.Penric is gaining maturity through experience both beneficial and painful. I quite like the new character Nikys, and how she comes to know Desdemona, too, while still being a bit bemused.My only complaint is about the ending, which came sooner and more abruptly/unresolvedly than I expected. As another reviewer said, perhaps that means a "chronologically immediate" sequel is coming -- fingers crossed!

I always, well almost always, love Bujold's books. But at 93 years I've become a wimp when it comes to reading about torture and suffering,. and there is some, not a lot, in this book. The character of the Penric, the protagonist becomes ever more complex.The pace is variable. I wish gave that as an alternative for pace. Because most really good books do vary in pace,PS. , i sure am fed up the new Paperwhite Kindle trying to trap me in your store instead of going to an old book for a reread.

The third Penric novella is a delight. Penric has been accompanied by Desdemona, his demon, for 11 years now, and he has been sent off on a mildly sensitive mission. Which, of course (there's a story, right?), goes south fast. Penric does what he can and Desdemona does what she can and the villains vill away. The ending suggests an interesting sequel . . . The story stands alone very well, but if you are curious about how a young man hooked up with a very capable, experienced demon, read Penric's Demon. Desdemona is something else . . .

Its a bit of a rip off to sell a 100 page book at this price. Clearly the author has cut up a regular novel into bite sized chunks and is selling them individually. Normally I could get one of the regular sized books for \$10.00. I will end up paying \$20 to buy it in pieces. Still, it is pleasant to read. I do a lot of

travelling and use the Kindle in airports.

Wherein Penric has an adventure that is both scary and funny. Released from his comfortable scholars life, Penric first studies healing, then is sent as a messenger. Unfortunately, this seemingly straightforward task is caught up in other people's plots, threatening Penric's life. While rescuing himself he pauses to perform healing on the primary victim of the scheme, thus becoming further involved with the man and his sister. In Bujold's tales of the five gods she often starts with someone who has been ruined, betrayed or crippled in some way. Kindly clearheaded Penric has never been ruined he has been diverted from his original path by acquiring the demon that makes him a sorcerer. Here he also acquires companions as the result of another act of kindness. It seems clear that Penric and his new allies are destined for further experiences together. This is by far the funniest Penric novella to date. And how wonderful that there is clearly more story to tell.

Hear Hear for Semi-Retired Authors! What does an author do when she already has 4 Hugo Awards, 2 Nebula Awards, a long-running acclaimed series (such as the Vorkosigan Saga), etc.? Why, she writes novellas "for herself". That is, no contracts, no deadlines, AND she writes them when she feels like it. Since the author in question is Lois McMaster Bujold and the fantasy novella series is Penric (set in the World Of The Five Gods), all I can say is "Hooray and Thank You!" There are three thus far in this series: Penric's Demon, Penric and the Shaman, and Penric's Mission. This is a kind of tale that I really enjoy. Penric has not had a moment of peace since at age 19 he accidentally acquired his chaos demon. Anything that happens, his demon has an opinion on it and, since his demon is 200 years old, sometimes it is very good advice indeed! I enjoy telepathy between characters (whether in their own bodies or sharing a body). Penric's demon Desdemona sometimes speaks internally but often uses Penric's own mouth (so it looks like he spends a lot of time talking to himself). Penric has also been a sorcerer since age 19 (in this world, sorcerers are defined as persons with chaos demons). So I enjoy the similarities & differences with the champion Bahzell (David Weber's War God's Own fantasy series). Both Penric and Bahzell have a relationship with their respective gods. There is no guarantee that Ms. Bujold will write another Penric novella nor when (if she does) but it is certainly something to be fervently wished for!!

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