



The White Rose

Glen Cook

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She is the last hope of good in the war against the evil sorceress known as the Lady. From a secret base on the Plains of Fear, where even the Lady hesitates to go, the Black Company, once in service to the Lady, now fights to bring victory to the White Rose. But now an even greater evil threatens the world. All the great battles that have gone before will seem a skirmishes when the Dominator rises from the grave.

The White Rose Details

Date : Published April 15th 1990 by Tor Books (first published April 1985)

ISBN :

Author : Glen Cook

Format : Kindle Edition 318 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Dark Fantasy, Epic Fantasy



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From Reader Review The White Rose for online ebook

Eon ?Windrunner? says

4.5 Stars

An excellent ending to this trilogy.

The Lady is finalizing her end game. The Black Company & the White Rose are waiting it out on the Plain of Fear, planning their own strike. Unfortunately, there is that saying about the best laid plans...

The Dominator is stirring.

Where book two was a different type of story, book three returns to familiar grounds and reads much like the first book. As stated The Black Company and the White Rose have made their headquarters in the Plain of Fear and have been hiding out there for some time, occasionally striking at The Lady and her dark forces. They seem to be holding out, but are of course vastly outnumbered. And the timing of prophesied events are still many years away.

But then Croaker starts receiving packages from an unknown sender, containing an incredible story that might just hold the key to turning the tide of the war. That is, until the last message does not arrive.

And so Croaker is sent on a quest to the Barrowlands, to discover what he can about the message and its writer.

In the shadow of the Dominator's tomb.

With the Lady always lurking.

Highly recommended.

Gavin says

This was the conclusion to the first Black Company trilogy and concluded the battle for power between The White Rose, The Lady, and The Dominator. I was very pleased by how it all played out. The story was exciting and packed full of twists and turns. I was surprised but very happy with the ending.

Croaker is as likable a character here as he was in the previous two books. It was great to catch up with the rest of The Black Company guys. They are as morally ambiguous and funny as ever. Boamaz and Corby, the other two new POV characters, were interesting in different ways.

Rating: 4 stars. It would have been 4.5 stars, but for some reason the book had a strangely slow start.

Audio Note: I like Marc Victor. He seems to understand the tone of the series.

Choko says

*** 4.45 ***

Read with the buddies from BBB and loving every second of it!

This third installment wrapped up the story arc of the North, The Lady and the White Rose. And what a wrap-up it was!!! Loose ends get tidied up, 3 timelines converge in a battle for a balance between good and evil, and old friends undergo changes which will determine not only their own, but the lives of most of the creatures in the world...

The book started up a bit slow, but it was good, since it let us soak-up the mood of the company 6 years after the devastating losses which occurred in the previous book. They are a pretty pathetic bunch, but they have taken on the cause of the White Rose and reside in a valley full of really cool magical talking and walking trees, rocks and flying creatures... Their enemy and target - The Lady and her Taken. Since their main weapon, sorcery, is useless in the vicinity of the Rose, they have been going back and forth, finding themselves in somewhat of a stalemate.

Time is not their friend and when Croacker begins receiving packages from an anonymous sender of a story connected with his search for the true name of the Lady, things get jostled and zoom into fast-forward... The story messes a bit with the perception of time, but it gets clearer as we go. The Lady gets involved and... yea, you will have to read it to get the rest, but it is so absolutely worth it!!! I personally have a bit of a thing for The Lady, but that is me being insane:):):)

As a whole, this series is addictive and very satisfying and I would recommend it to all who like military and evil sorcery mixed in with their fantasy! Have fun reading!!!

Alex Farrand says

RTC once I get the internet set up in my new house. Lol

Maria Dimitrova says

Buddy read with the seasoned mercenaries and a few new recruits of BB&B.

If I could rate this higher than 5 stars I would. 5 measly stars just can't do TWR (or the Black Company as a whole) justice. A great many things have been said by people more eloquent than me about this series so I'll

just add that every fan of the fantasy genre should read it.

I'll start with my only complaint about *The White Rose* and it has to do with the audio. The narrator has awful diction with no regard to punctuation which led to some of my confusion in the beginning of the book. I had to switch to the physical book a few times and reread some passages to grasp what's happening.

The White Rose nicely wraps up the overall story arc and opens up the possibilities for exploring the world further. I enjoyed Croaker's storytelling, got torn on whether I want Darling or the Lady to win the struggle and laughed my head off at some of the antics of Goblin and One-Eye. I was also glad that I do not live in their world ;) And now I can't wait to see how the BC will continue on.

Abdollah zarei says

4.5

[illegible]

Markus says

The best book in the series. A fine tale of the Black Company reduced to guerilla warfare in desolate places. Also, the narrative of this book, with three stories from three different periods of time, was amazingly well done. It did not end as I had hoped, or even as I had expected, but it still was a satisfying conclusion to a great fantasy trilogy.

Series review from the beginning

Series review from the ending

Evgeny says

The remaining part of the Black Company is stuck in a very weird place. Sufficient to say the local talking stones keep bugging Croaker with mysterious messages

walking trees

and flying whales

look practically normal compared to other things and phenomenon of the appropriately called Plain of Fear.

The Company gathers strength to fight evil guys.

Sounds straightforward? Fear not, nobody ever accused Glen Cook of writing straightforward plots. Everything is not what it seems and a lot of betrayals are about to happen. Former mortal enemies are forced to work together and loyal allies are ready to back-stab each other at any time. The main goal of the

Company consisting of simple ordinary grunts? Survival.

This is the first book of the series which fully deserves 5 stars, no questions asked. It wraps up the northern part of the Company's adventures quite nicely with an unexpected but very good conclusion. The tale consists of three different plot-lines which eventually converge.

One is taking place in present with Croaker doing its job as the Company's annalist. Everything that was good about the Company itself in the first book is back, including Goblin and One-Eye with their rivalry. By this time Croaker really grows on his readers with his minimalist descriptions, humor, and sense of honor.

Another plot-line takes place in distant past, about one hundred and fifty years ago to be precise. Bomanz is the guy who let the Lady and her sidekicks out of their confinement. In the first book it sounded like an evil guy in search for even more power unleashed something bigger than he could handle. This time we get to see the events up close and personal. Bomanz turned out to be a fairly decent and nice guy.

The last plot-lines deals with a mysterious guy called Corby living in a dark place called Barrowlands whose motivations remains a mystery for a major part of the book. The time of this one is recent past.

One would think three plot-lines would make for a hectic jumps in the overall tale, but this is not the case. In fact the story flows very smoothly and it becomes more and more interesting as readers get more hints about what is really going on.

One of the best anti-heroes in fantasy - the Lady - used to look like a stereotypical power-hungry megalomaniac, but she finally gets treatment her character deserves (in terms of development). The Lady shows her human side and becomes much more fleshed out.

So this is an excellent conclusion of the first part of the adventures of The Black Company. If you manage to finish the first two books, the reward in this one is well worth it.

Layla ✱ Praise the sun ✱ says

RTC once I'm back home.

Mayim de Vries says

“It is only slightly less difficult for us to extinguish the light within us than it is for us to conquer the darkness.”

The black, the white and all shades of grey. The White Rose takes us first of all to the Plain of Fear, where the Black Company is hiding from the Lady's minions. We will also learn the tale of Bomanz, the infamous sorcerer who released the Lady. The **action buildup takes a long time**, but when things get into the flow, so to speak, the current is overwhelming. There is a lot of **surprising threads, and twists, and turns**. From book to book, the Author retains his ability to surprise me, particularly in the way he manages to **tie the events to things you'd believe mentioned and forgotten. Those themes and motifs emerge and resurface in the least expected way.**

“There were dreams once upon a time, dreams now all but forgotten. On sad days I dust them off and fondle them nostalgically, with a patronizing wonder at the naivete of the youth who dreamed them.”

The plot is **divided into three threads that interweave** in a very interesting way. The first, of course, is Croaker, writing the Company’s Annals as if it was his own diary. The second is the “omniscient” narrator retelling the story of Bomanz, and the third POV is a mysterious person who sends letters to Croaker. These **three separate stories in time begin to overlap (and make sense), and thanks to different narratives, we have the opportunity to look at the main story from a different perspective and see different protagonists in an entirely new light.**

“Appearances deceive, of course. And the Lady’s essence is illusion.”

The action focuses in two main locations: **the Plain of Fear and the Barrowland**; both are fascinating. On the Plain, weird is the order of the day with forty intelligent species inhabiting the wilderness, including stones speaking high sarcasm, flying whales and moving trees. The Barrowland is magical ground zero, a lodestone for destinies. But aside the new world building snippets, the most impressive thing about the White Rose is an **amazing character development**. It’s as if protagonists you thought you knew and loved (or hated) are created anew with such mastery that you can do nothing but follow shaking your head in amazement. This book, without a doubt, is a study in contrasts.

I was, however, disappointed by **a conspicuous absence of Darling. I mean, she does feature in the story, but the title suggests her being central to the tale, this is far from being true.** In a sense, she remains just like the comet, visible and symbolic but far removed what is happening on the ground. You could perhaps say that it is difficult to do more with a deaf and mute protagonist, but I don’t think such constraints pose any hindrance for a writer as fine as Mr Cook. And he shows his mastery in this volume **pushing his character through difficult hoops, facing them with impossible choices**, and forcing them to consider them issues far more complex than the next prank in the never-ending war between One-Eye and Goblin.

Of course, the Author made sure that the reader, even slightly tired of the plot intricacies, is compelled to find out what is going to happen to the Company next. **After such ending, you simply cannot NOT read the next book.**

Last but not least: Croaker, you had it coming.

The other Chronicles:

1. The Black Company ★★★★★
 2. Shadows Linger ★★★ (and a half, Goodreads!)
 4. Shadow Games RTC
 5. Dreams of Steel RTC
 6. Black Seasons RTC
 7. She is the Darkness RTC
 8. Water Sleeps RTC
 9. Soldiers Live RTC
 10. A Pitiless Rain RTC
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Ahmad Sharabiani says

The White Rose (The Chronicle of the Black Company, #3), Glen Cook

The Black Company is a series of dark fantasy books written by American author Glen Cook. The series combines elements of epic fantasy and dark fantasy as it follows an elite mercenary unit, The Black Company, through roughly forty years of its approximately four-hundred-year history.

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Robin (Bridge Four) says

The ending to this trilogy was AMAZING!!!

I the beginning I really wasn't sure what to think of this series. It started being told in a way that was pretty different. However now that I've finished the first trilogy in the series I'm amazed at how much I've enjoyed it and how surprised I was at the end of this book specifically.

One of the best things about this series is that it has two very strong and very different heroines competing against each other. The Lady is a completely scary megalomaniac and at the same time I really like her and totally want to hang out with her more and see what makes her tick. Then there is the White Rose who is cruel in her own way even if she is on team good. When you run an army of men there is no room to be soft.

I love how this series progresses. In the first book there was only really one PoV, that of the annalist Croaker. In the second book there were two, Croaker again and then the innkeeper in the town Raven and Darling were in. Now in this third installment there are 3 different storylines going. That of Croaker and the White Rose's Army on the plain of fear set in the present. Then there is Corby a soldier in the Barrowlands that is a few months prior and finally Bozman the wizard who accidentally released The Lady so many years ago.

As all the story lines catch up to one another and converged things I thought I knew totally flipped and characters I was sure I loved in the first two books came into a different light while others I was sure I hated became more humanized and **I desperately wanted to find a way for everyone to win.** But it is a war and we all know in that there really are no winners.

The Plain of Fear was spectacular. The Lady might have carpets and fallen to fight for her. But The White Rose has wind whales, talking rocks, walking trees and some other crazy creatures in her court.

The aerial battles were more intense with wind whales against flying carpets. Croaker as always seems to be caught in the middle. I'm just going to say that I might have a huge crush on Croaker, *even if he doesn't know how to capitalize on a romantic moment to save his life.* I also now have a huge soft spot for Silent and really hope he gets the girl he pines for in the end. But this is Glen Cook so it is more likely that he will die a

horrific death in an attempt to save her.

There were some HUGE surprises in this. A few were about Raven, some about Darling but most were about The Lady herself. Like I said above I didn't expect that end battle and all the happened. It does make things so interesting going forward though.

This ends in a great place where you can walk away from the rest of the books in the series, *pfft*, or continue on and delve into this strange magical world even more. I'm totally continuing on because every book has been better for me so far how could the end books be anything other than phenomenal?

OhWell says

The first half was quite slow, but after the three separate storylines converged, the twists just kept coming and coming. The lesser evil triumphs, but there is no HEA anywhere in sight.

Most amazing place: the Plain of Fear

Biggest surprise(s): the alliance. And the end of it...

Favourite character: I cannot pick just one, as all of them were memorable! In no particular order:

- Tracker and Toadkiller Dog: although I figured out what was going on a few chapters before the official reveal, I was still amazed.
 - Bomanz: hats off to him, all said and done. And I just have to mention Besand, even if he had a minor role.
 - Raven: surprising what lurked beneath the surface. (view spoiler) And Case, poor guy, just taken advantage of.
 - The Lady: hard as I tried, I could not see her as evil. Or, to put it another way, she was no better or worse than Darling. Both of them vulnerable, too.
 - Croaker: as much as I liked him, he would have deserved a smacking for being so clueless! (view spoiler)
 - Goblin and One-Eye: they took a break in Shadows Linger, but they went back to their antics here
 - Silent: so sad for him
 - Elmo: oh no...
-

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

? **Buddy reread** with the ~~clueless~~ new mercenary recruits Elena and Maria over at BB&B. Under the wicked supervision of our Ever-Stalking Black Company Overlord (ESBCO™), of course ?

Previous rating: 5 stars.

New rating: 12 stars. Obviously.

► **And the moral of this reread is** : I might perhaps have maybe previously mentioned wanting to be the **Bloody Shrimping Lady of Scrumpalaciously Delirious Awesomeness** (BSLoSDA™) when I grew up. Well either that or her **girlfriend**. Or both (yes, that could possibly prove a little complicated, but she and I are such cunning geniuses, I'm sure we'd manage to work something out and stuff). Anyway, now I've decided I want her to be **my evil mommy**, too. Then again, I could live with being her **ruthless daughter**, as well (I think my most delightful nefariousness would be somewhat pleasing to her). Or her **devious**

granddaughter, come to think of it. But hey, being her **homicidal great-great-great granddaughter** would work, too. Or maybe her **malevolent fourth cousin five times removed**. Bloody stinking fish, I'm so desperate I'd even accept to be her **feral pet crustacean on a leash** or something.

Yes, I am even willing to get my pincers all tied up and stuff. See how ~~kinky~~ desperate I am?

"**Anything else**," you ask? Why yes, of course, my Little Barnacles. **My Grumpy Grumbly Sarcastic Croaky** (MGGSC™) is still and forever will be one of my **Top Three Mostest Delicioucest Boyfriends Ever** (TTMDBE™) and stuff.

Also, I want to have a **talking pet menhir** when I grow up. The more aggravating, the better.

Also, also, the ending of this book nearly **killed me deadly dead**. Again. **I kinda sorta lurves it and stuff**.

[Original review]

This book in a nutshell:

#BRB DEAD is me. Bye now.

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HAHAHAHAHA, you are so naïve sometimes. Did you honestly think you were going to get out of this one so easily? You don't know me at all, do you? Do you think the fact that I seem to be unable to write non-crappy reviews for this series is going to stop me? **HAHAHAHAHA**. Time to wake up and smell the bacon, people. I keep reading crappy books lately, so it would only be fair that I put you through crappy reviews of awesome books when I miraculously come across them. What? You don't see the logic behind that? Oh come on, use those two little grey cells for once. No? Still don't get it? **Oh well**.

? **Welcome to The White Rose Crappy Crash Course!** ?

① **Characterization heaven:**

Glen Cook should teach **Complex Characters 101** classes. So many authors could benefit from them

*waves at [named removed], [named removed], [named removed], [named removed], [named removed],

[named removed], [named removed]...[BEEEEEEEEEEEEEP]* ← *I know, not naming these Pathetic Authors is very unlike me and desperately politically correct. The thing is, the List of Shame is frightfully long, and I'm afraid the Pathetic Authors in question will unleash their Evil Army of Wicked Trolls (EAWT™) on me the minute I post this review. So, in a desperate attempt to save my ~~pretty~~ ass, I shall refrain from naming names.* Anyway, where were we? Oh yes, characterization heaven. Let's do a **crash course within the crash course**, shall we?

♥ **The Lady:** I want to be you when I grow up. I originally wanted to marry you, but I don't want your wannabe boyfriend (aka Markus) to **go all homicidal maniac on me**, so I'll settle for being your awesome-amazing-wicked-ass-kicking-awe-inspiring self. Wait. Let me think about this for a minute. Would being you make me Markus' girlfriend? Bloody hell. Hadn't thought about that. **I am SO doomed.**

♥ **Croaker:** no, you're not getting any younger. Yes, you're pretty much at the end of your rope. Yes, you're the **resident grumpy cat**. Yes, you're desperately slow in the please-romance-the-hell-out-of-my-knickers department. But YES, you rock. YES, you're awesome. **And YES, I'M IN LOVE.**

? **Corby:** well, I'll be damned. You know what? I no longer want to go all [BEEP] on [BEEP] and [BEEP] you in my [BEEP]. I might be a huge [BEEP] fan, but even I have my limits. Bye bye, you [BEEEEEEEEEEEEEP].

♥ **One-Eye and Goblin** (aka Maggot and Guano): you're the resident freaky clowns. You're pretty awesome when you do your magic thing. You're pretty funny in a delightfully **batshit crazy** kind of way. And you can be trusted to act like stupid airheads at the most inappropriate times. **Can I adopt you?**

♥ **Darling:** well, well, well. Aren't we full of surprises?

♥ **Silent:** well, well, well. Aren't we full of surprises?

② **How do I get Plain of Fear citizenship?**

What is the Plain of Fear, you ask? It's the **too-awesome-for-words place** where the Black Company & friends hide from the I-want-to-be-you-when-I-grow-up Lady. Why do I want citizenship? *You do ask silly questions sometimes. I hope you're aware of it.* But anyway. **Here's why:**

- Talking stones. No. Make that aggravating talking stones.
- Flying windwhales and their manta friends.
- Walking trees.
- Change storms that distort reality.
- Old Father Tree. Wanna know about him? Read the book and learn, young Padawan.
- Coral that has a life of its own.
- Wild human tribes.

→ If that isn't beyond awesome, I don't know what it. **So get me a Plain of Fear passport. NOW.**

③ **The greatest battle that ever was:**

Team Lady vs. Team Plain of Fear = Tolkien has nothing on Cook. Seriously. Because an army of **Flying Carpets 2.0** (new and improved! Now with real seats! And ballistas! And Spears! And Pedals! And

lots of other awesome stuff!) + an **army of windwhales** + the Plain of Fear menagerie + **flower pots** (yes, you read that right) + things that leap and hop and glide and flop and fly = "**So gruesome and wondrous a sight**". Bloody hell yes. **This. Is. Perfection.**

④ **Those last few chapters. That. Ending:**

Yeah, even Caesar is #BRB dead. That should tell you something right there.

?? **And the moral of this Crappy Crash Course is:** I am omniscient, all-knowing and pretty much perfect ? sarcasm alert ? but I have to admit I, for once, was wrong. I realize how disappointed you must be. I mean, you all pretty much worship me, and **you must be quite depressed now** that you know I'm not as perfect as you thought I was ? sarcasm alert ? I hope you get over it, and I promise it's the very last time I let you down. But I digress. Where was I? Oh yes, **I was wrong. In fact, I was very wrong.** Because I thought I would never, ever, find a series as bloody awesome/mind-blowing/amazing/fantastic/insert all that apply as Kate Daniels. **Please forgive me, IA Gods, for I have sinned.** There is indeed a series that I love almost as much as I LOVE KD. Almost. Because The Chronicles of the Bad Company desperately lacks hot tubs. **And that's quite a hindrance, if you ask me.**

- **Book 0.5** (short story): Smelling Danger - *to be read.*
 - **Book 1:** The Black Company ★★★★★
 - **Book 1.2** (short story): Tides Elba ★★★★★
 - **Book 1.3** (short story): Bone Candy ★★★★★
 - **Book 1.5:** Port of Shadows - *to be released September 11, 2018.*
 - **Book 2:** Shadows Linger ★★★★★
 - **Book 2.2** (short story): Shaggy Dog Bridge - *to be read.*
 - **Book 2.3** (short story): Bone Eaters ★★★★★
 - **Book 3.5:** The Silver Spike ★★ ← *pretending this one never happened.*
 - **Book 4:** Shadow Games ★★★★★
 - **Book 5:** Dreams of Steel ★★★★★
 - **Book 6:** Bleak Seasons ★★★★★
 - **Book 7:** She Is The Darkness ★★★★★
 - **Book 8:** Water Sleeps ★★★★★
 - **Book 9:** Soldiers Live ★★★★★
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Eilonwy says

I loved this third installment in the Black Company series. It's ironic how I often find myself speechless when trying to write glowing reviews! But here go a few thoughts:

This book brings together a few threads from both previous stories, and makes sparks when it smashes them together. I loved learning more about the sorcerer Bomanz and his part in returning the Lady to power. And speaking of the Lady, I especially enjoyed learning more about her. I also really appreciated getting to see Darling as an adult woman, strong and serious.

The setting was the best yet. The Plain of Fear was truly fantastic, with its dry-land under-water ecology. And Old Father Tree ... wow, that story is going to stick with me.

And the ending of this ... was perfect, but brrrr, also deeply disturbing and creepy.

I highly recommend this series for any fantasy lovers who have not yet gotten to it. Yes, it's grim and dark, but in the best way possible.

An expanded review may follow. But for the moment, this is all my stunned and admiring brain can manage, even after giving myself a day to digest everything.
