



The White Serpent

Tanith Lee

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A recognized master fantasist, Tanith Lee has won multiple awards for her craft, including the British Fantasy Award, the World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement, and the Bram Stoker Award for Lifetime Achievement in Horror.

The White Serpent returns to the world of Vis nearly a century after the reign of Raldnor, the legendary Storm Lord who brought peace to Dorthar. Despite his efforts, the people are once again divided by conflict, and the goddess Anackire must choose new champions if the realm is to have any hope of preservation....

As a child, Rehger was sold into slavery, torn from his home and family. As a young man, he has proved his martial prowess as a lauded gladiator, fighting in the grand city of Saardsimney. But in the midst of his rise to fame, he meets Aztira, an intriguing woman who wields devastating power. With her magic and knowledge, she could be the person who transforms his life of subservience and leads him to his destiny.

But before he can fully uncover the truth of their connection, a powerful earthquake strikes, devastating the city and forcing Rehger to flee. Haunted by visions of Aztira long after their first encounter, Rehger embarks on a quest to seek out her people, the legendary Amanackire, in a city shrouded in mystery and myth....

The White Serpent Details

Date : Published April 5th 1988 by DAW (first published 1988)

ISBN : 9780886772673

Author : Tanith Lee

Format : Mass Market Paperback 396 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy

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From Reader Review The White Serpent for online ebook

Derek says

Like the previous, it comes into its power late, after lengthy buildup, but doesn't have the same arc or scope. Anackire--goddess, manifest spirit, or collective psyche--has careful plans for the world that this time requires subtle manipulation and influence, toward an unknowable goal.

That is, unless the destruction of the city--brilliantly staged and viewed from several points of view--is the action of Anackire. But I doubt it. The repeated theme is subtlety of action, of influence, especially by women. All the women act by slow manipulation to serve their own ends: Tibo and Panduv carve lives for themselves in a society where women are chattel, and Aztira ensures Rehger's survival and travel to the hidden city.

The world of the Vis is very heavyweight by this point. Not only is the world extremely textured with cultures and nation-states, but this book builds on the world-shattering events of the previous in the series. It is a soup of nationalities and ethnicities, of historical and mythological figures, of religions and cultures and geopolitics.

Kalli says

It had a different picture on the front of the book I received which was very beautiful. It had a great story with hints of exciting adventures but fell short of a really memorable book. A good read just shy of a great read.

Karl says

This book is DAW collectors No. 740.

The cover is by Sanjulian.

Lizy says

Although the book has some typos and the writing could use some polish, I love how thought provoking this book is. It's something special when a novel can grasp my thoughts weeks or months after I finish it, and this book is among those few. I've read it twice so far and I'll probably keep reading it again and again until it falls apart.
