



The Sorceress of Karres

Eric Flint , Dave Freer

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A New Sequel to *The Witches of Karres*. Two Top Writers Continue the Bewitching Adventures Begun in One of Science Fiction's Most Beloved Novels.

As Captain Pausert had often had occasion to observe, life just wasn't fair! Hadn't he (with the help of the notorious witches of Karres, of course) outmaneuvered the deadliest of space pirates and eliminated the threat of the Worm World (as told in *The Witches of Karres*), after which, at the least, he deserved some time off. No such luck, though, as the Empress herself sent him on a secret mission to stop the nanite plague, but an enemy had somehow convinced the Imperial Fleet that he was actually a wanted criminal, so after a battle leaving his ship in urgent need of repairs all three of them joined an interstellar traveling circus (don't ask!) in order to save the galaxy once again (as told in *The Wizard of Karres*).

Time for a vacation? Don't be ridiculous—there's a *new* urgent mission that has Captain Pausert's name on it! This new novel finds the long-suffering Captain and the two young Karres witches—Goth, who vows she will marry him when she grows up, and her younger sister The Leewit—being sent off to investigate mysterious and ominous events in the notorious Chaladoor region of space. Goth soon becomes aware that unknown but surely inimical forces are tracking them, and in order to foil them she takes a desperate route to travel back in time and meet Pausert as a young boy. Meanwhile, the Captain and the Leewit find themselves in the middle of their own desperate situation in the Chaladoor.

Whoever it was who said that a change was as good as a vacation never met any of the Witches of Karres—nor experienced their amazing talent for getting Captain Pausert into trouble.

The Sorceress of Karres Details

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From Reader Review The Sorceress of Karres for online ebook

Ben says

There are so many things wrong with this book, that I could not really in all honesty give it a two star rating, but it not utterly dreadful or eye-bleeding bad, so is probably a bit ahead of lot of other horrible one star books.

Ignoring the seriously crappy artwork on the cover of this Baen publication (and why does this publishing house not hire some decent artists for a change - not ALL of their books are utter dross, contrary to the image they seem to be going for), the first thing wrong with this book IS on the jacket. That is to say, the quoted review on both the front cover and the back actually refers to the PREQUEL, *A Wizard of Karres* (which did not exactly bowl me over either), and the rest of the blurb actually seems to be more of a recap of what happened in the original author, James H. Schmitz's *The Witches of Karres*. That really would have been a warning to me in a conventional bookshop, but buying over the internet, I failed to notice this until it was already in my hands. Still, as another visitation to Schmitz's universe, I probably would have picked it up anyway, as a fun, light-hearted space opera has its place, too - and *Witches* was exactly that.

Of course, *Witches* was written by a different author. Apparently a more accomplished one as well. Eric Flint is far from my favourite writer, and when I first saw his name on *Wizard*, I was deeply suspicious, especially next to that of Mercedes Lackey (of whom I have long been suspicious of, despite never actually having read of her stuff) and the unknown-to-me Dave Freer. I have read some really bad books by Flint, such as from the Belesarius series (another collaboration), and some quite reasonable ones, such as his Wages of Sin series (yet another collaboration, but this time with David Weber). However, *Wizard* was perfectly fun, and when it seemed fair enough to give two from the same team another go with expectations of a fun read. Apparently this time around, the mix of authors did not work. I don't know who contributed what, or whose work this mainly was, or whether the lack of Lackey (ho ho), meant there was a missing element to gel things together. Perhaps it was just that book was more rushed and got less attention. Whatever it was... it just did not work.

The writing is poor, right from the beginning. It jumps around and the effect is confusing and rushed. If it is attempting to convey a fast-paced feeling of action, it fails. It just feels like random sections of the book have been edited out, or just failed to have been written as the authors fail to sew their prose together. There are constant referrals back to the previous two books in desperate attempts to connect us with the history of the characters, but without much in the way of the minimum explanation the casual reader will need to even refresh their memory of the events of the previous books if it has been a few years since they read them. Too much re-hashing is a bad thing, but some well handled reminders are a good one - and that does not mean simple mentioning Hulik do Whatsername or grik-dogs once a chapter, almost randomly.

The characters were also really not especially faithfully represented in comparison with the original *Witches*. This is actually quite reasonably and well dealt with in a couple of cases - notably, that the book is mostly told from the perspective of Goth, who has done some growing up and is the main focus of this story. Sections with the Leewit are rather weaker, as despite the reasonable claim that she too is growing up and maturing it does not work quite so well there (perhaps because she is supposed to be seven?). Sadly, the handling of the original main character of Captain Pausert is particularly poor. On the plus side, the handling of his and Goth's developing relationship and the changes which occur within the book are quite neatly done and the plot supports it well.

Sadly, I have now exhausted my faint praise. The rest of the book is just bad. Poorly explained and

developed story line. Slap-dash descriptions. A really crappy bad guy enemy, who seems to get stupider and stupider as the story goes on. An abrupt ending with things being wrapped up with the general air that even the authors had lost interest in being involved with this stinker for any longer and wanted to just finish this so they could hurry off and collaberate with some other other people on some other lame books.

Fans of *Witches* will be seriously disappointed. For people who thought that *Wizard* was a better book, they may be lacking enough in good taste to find this enjoyable.

Herman Ceulemans says

As good as the original !

Kenneth Flusche says

The best of the three books, still recomend reading them all in order so you can understand the references. I like Dave Freer as an author and you can tell his touches in this continuing story.

Margaret says

A fun read.

Howard says

Mac-ebooks

Gail Morris says

I did not read the other books in the series first but this book is good enough to stand alone.

Alex Knipping says

Ach, het is toch prettig om te weten hoe het verder gaat met de heksen van Karres. Dit derde deel haalt nergens het niveau van het eerste deel en er blijven te veel 'losse draadjes' over. Het doet vermoeden dat er plannen zijn (of zijn geweest) om ooit nog een vierde deel te schrijven, maar ik denk dat het mooi geweest is.

Jim says

Product Description

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About the Author

Eric Flint is the author/creator of the *New York Times* best-selling Ring of Fire series. With David Drake he has written six popular novels in the Belisarius series, including the new novel *The Dance of Time*, and with David Weber collaborated on *1633*, and *1634: The Baltic War*, two novels in the Ring of Fire series, and on *Crown of Slaves*, a best of the year pick by *Publishers Weekly*. Flint received his masters degree in history from UCLA and was for many years a labor union activist. He lives in East Chicago, IL, with his wife and is working on more books in the best-selling Ring of Fire series.

Dave Freer is an ichthyologist turned author living in a remote part of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, with his wife and chief proof-reader, Barbara, four dogs and four cats, and two sons Paddy and James. His first book—*The Forlorn* (Baen)—came out in 1999. Since then he has co-authored with Eric Flint (*Rats, Bats and Vats*, *The Rats, the Bats and the Ugly*, *Pyramid Scheme*, and *Pyramid Power*) and, with Mercedes Lackey and Eric Flint (*The Shadow of the Lion*, *This Rough Magic*, *The Wizard of Karres*) as well as writing another solo novel, *A Mankind Witch*, and various shorter works. Besides working as a fisheries scientist for the Western Cape shark fishery he has worked as a commercial diver, and as a relief chef at several luxury game lodges. His other interests are rock climbing (he's still good at it), diving, flyfishing (he's still bad at it), fly-tying, wine-tasting and the preparation of food, especially by traditional means—smoking and salting, all the good unhealthy things.

Tim Grogan says

Great Series

Hated to read the last book. Here's hoping another book is in the making!!! The book is fun and light and sticks to the original story line..

Sbuchler says

Genre: Science Fiction

Again, I continued reading this series because I adore James Schmidt's *The Witches of Karres* and wanted to spend more time in that universe. This is really just fan-fic written by professional authors.

I was pleased that Mercedes Lackey wasn't involved in writing this novel – the relationships that bothered me in *The Wizard of Karres* bothered me far less, and Goth and the Captain's developing relationship (a tricky thing to handle at best – but really the most important piece of hanging fruit left over from *The Witches of Karres*) was handled well.

Unfortunately, I thought the basic plot of this story was not very engaging. As with *The Wizard of Karres* and *The Witches of Karres* there is an alien invasion that the Captain, Goth and Lewitt struggle to defeat. Unfortunately, I didn't feel that there was any twist or discovery that made it a different struggle from the one in the previous book.

Tommy Verhaegen says

fantastic. Great follow-up of the 2 previous stories. A bit complex intrigue though.

Cheri says

Have thoroughly enjoyed this series. The different authors have managed to keep the feel of the original book.

Just a rollicking good time where all is chaos, but the good guys have a ton of tricks up their collective sleeves.

Steve Smoot says

worthy successor(s) to the original. Not *as good* but quite worth reading.

Tony says

An easy read, fun continuation of the Schmitz's original classic SciFi story (*The Witches of Karres*). Like the

original, the style is humourous and the story moves at pace.

Nuranar says

Also very good. These are great books.
