



Chicks and Balances

Esther M. Friesner (Editor) , John Helfers (Editor) , Jody Lynn Nye , Jim C. Hines , Elizabeth A. Vaughan , Harry Turtledove , Kerrie L. Hughes , Steven Harper Piziks , more... Wen Spencer , Julia S. Mandala , Jean Rabe , Alex Shvartsman , Sarah A. Hoyt , Robin Wayne Bailey , Laura Resnick , Lee Martindale , Patricia C. Hodgell , Dean Wesley Smith , Linda L. Donahue , Laura Frankos , Louisa Swann , Elizabeth Ann Scarborough , Kristine Kathryn Rusch ...less

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ORIGINAL ANTHOLOGY featuring rollicking, tongue-in-cheek tales of women warrior fighting against the stodgy and in the name of freedom of expression, Chicks in Chainmail style!

Continuing a great tradition, *Chicks and Balances* is not what you might think (or it is what you think, depending on which way your mind runs). What we have here is a bunch of perfectly healthy women who happen to be of the brass-bra-wearing and chain-link bikinis sort. Each is fighting in her own way for the freedom to express herself--often by thrusting sword through a censor's black heart! Be glad, the chicks in chainmail are back, and they will not be oppressed, repressed, or depressed!

All new adventures of fearless women warriors by Eric Flint, creator of the Ring of Fire alternate history series; Nebula-winning author Harry Turtledove; Jody Lynn Nye, co-author of the national best seller The Ship Who Won; Campbell Award-winner Wen Spencer, and many more, including the inimitable Esther Friesner herself, as fantasy adventure takes a turn for the lighter side.

Chicks and Balances Details

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From Reader Review Chicks and Balances for online ebook

Bill says

Fun is the best descriptor of this edition of the *Chicks in Chainmail* anthologies. My favorites were *Calling the Mom Squad* (Hoyt), *A Girl's Home is Her Rent-Controlled Castle* (Resnick), *One Touch of Hippolyta* (Frankos), *Unearthing the Undying Armor* (Scarborough), and *Fashion and the Snarkmeisters* (Rusch).

CatBookMom says

As usual with an anthology, some stories are much more to my liking than others, so the 3 stars is a compromise; there's not quite enough ones I liked a lot to make this a 4-star. Either I am more jaded in my tastes, or this just isn't as funny as the first books in this anthology series. I still remember bits of a couple of those stories.

There's a very nice dedication to Terry Pratchett, who died not long before the book was published. I'm quite sure he enjoyed Chicks in Chainmail stories.

Travis says

As always, an excellent read. If you haven't read any of the previous chicks in chainmail series, then you can't possibly know how enjoyable they all are. In fact, you should go get them now, and read them, yes, all of them. Great stuff there, and this latest volume in the series just keeps adding to the fun, howls of laughter, witty commentary, and of course, dragons (Did I mention dragons?) Each chicks in chainmail books seem to have at least one dragon story, and unlike the first one I read ("Shut up crystal") being the funniest line in it, this one ends with the best line of all. "Next time, I want to be the dragon." Can't beat that. So, if you are looking for a great time, fun for the whole family (well, mostly), I do recommend you keep out of reach of little children, more because they're likely to chew on the paper rather than read the stories, and that would ruin the book for you, but if you have some time, by all means, sit down, pick up a copy, and dive right in, You'll be glad you did.

David says

This is an awesome collection of short stories that take the stereotypical "chicks in chainmail" idea that so many fantasy book covers have and turns it on its head. Stories full of three-dimensional women warriors of all shapes and sizes, some of whom do end up in chainmail bikinis, yet they do so by choice.

All of the stories are humorous in tone, and I greatly enjoyed all but one, which I couldn't get into and subsequently skipped.

Standouts include Harry Turtledove's "The Mammyth," which is full of hilarious puns that make you groan

(the "Lamb Bow Leap" comes to mind).

This is an awesome anthology that I'm really happy I read.

Claudette says

This entire series is awesome.

Karen Williams says

I've read all the previous "Chicks" books and enjoyed them for their fun romps and humor around women warriors in chain mail. This newest volume lived up to its predecessors. I think the weakest story was the first one in the volume, and it put me off for a bit, but I'm happy I returned. One of the strengths is that the stories stretch from modern tales in a big city ("A Girl's Home is Her Rent-Controlled Castle", "Second Hand Hero") to science fiction on alien planets ("Saving Private Slime") to fantasy with scheming wizards ("Burying Treasure"), all while maintaining the theme. Editors Esther Friesner and John Helfer did an excellent job, so if you like humor around strong women warriors, this book is for you.

Margaret says

Not the best of the Chicks anthologies by a long shot.

It seemed to me that too many of the authors were trying to be funny at the expense of a decent plot.

Stand out story was by Sarah A. Hoyt. Will be looking for anything she has written to further my acquaintance with her work.

Pat Patterson says

I think I read my first 'Chick' tract in April of 2002. I was hooked from that point on.

I must confess that at first I thought they were stretching the pun-title idea past the breaking point. 'Chicks and Chained Males?' Got it. 'The Chicks in the Mail?' Got it. Even 'Chicks Ahoy!', although that might have been a stretch.

But: Chicks and Balances? I didn't get it.

Then I realized that Sarah Hoyt's contribution, entitled 'Calling the Mom Squad,' featured an every day mom, who had been drafted earlier into the super-hero group. And, just as in the case of the other moms, she had to **BALANCE** the demands of family with those of membership in the group. Furthermore, in the course of her exploit, she has to **BALANCE** on top of a robot horse, while holding her son, and attempting to kill a dragon with a laser-lance. So: **BALANCE**.

Do the other stories nicely fit the model? Well, maybe. Harry Turtledove's doesn't, though; it's just one continuous string of puns. Nothing balanced about it. Kristine Kathryn Rusch's story, 'Fashion and the Snarkmeisters,' has as the beginning, and denouement, the toppling over of a giant statue - loses its' balance,

get it?

The other stories? Well, they are all at LEAST very good, and some are excellent, but I didn't find 'balance,' of any kind, to be a recognizable theme. HOWEVER< THAT MAY BE BECAUSE I DIDN'T GET THE JOKE! For example, Jean Rabe's character in 'Second Hand Hero' doesn't have much money. (not much balance in the bank account?) But, if they do, or if they don't contain any reference to the concept of 'balance,' it's still worth your time and money to get the book.

Rob says

better than great

WOW not a story I didn't like a lot!!! There is past,future,now, and not quite here or there stories! And all are award worthy! A can't miss volume of the Chicks series!

Ron says

I got this as part of a Baen Monthly bundle deal and immediately started reading it. As with any anthology of stories there are stories you like and some you tolerate. But with returning heroines, new authors and new heroines by authors who have appeared in previous *Chick* anthologies, I wallowed in the fun. My favorites included "Smackdown at Walmart", "Knot and the Dragon", "Dark Pixii", and "One Touch of Hippolyta". I will say that I enjoyed the whole collection. Now I will have to get out my collection and reread them.

Jill says

There are some real treasures in here...as well as the comedy, puns, and contemporary allusions we've come to expect from these anthologies.

Timothy Boyd says

Collection of short stories about women warriors. Most are of a humorous bend. Recommended

Joel Tone says

A number of funny stories in this one.

Anita says

I wanted to read this edition of an annual anthology because there is a story by Wen Spencer in it. That story

wasn't awesome, but there were enough chuckle-worthy stories that I finished the book. The humor is low-brow, but it was still entertaining.

John Smythe says

An uneven collection (as are most anthologies) ranging from really, really good to Meh. Dean Wesley Smith's Poker Boy story is fun, Alex Shvartsman's fairy tale is clever, and the closing Krystyn Kathryn Rusch story is brilliant and the most important story in the book. There are any number of other good stories too. I was particularly impressed at how literally most authors were able to take the over-top-theme of the anthology, and yet produce such original and varied work.
