



Penric's Demon

By Lois McMaster Bujold

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On his way to his betrothal, young Lord Penric comes upon a riding accident with an elderly lady on the ground, her maidservant and guardsmen distraught. As he approaches to help, he discovers that the lady is a Temple divine, servant to the five gods of this world. Her avowed god is The Bastard, "master of all disasters out of season", and with her dying breath she bequeaths her mysterious powers to Penric. From that moment on, Penric's life is irreversibly changed, and his life is in danger from those who envy or fear him.

Set in the fantasy world of the author's acclaimed novels *THE CURSE OF CHALION*, *PALADIN OF SOULS* and *THE HALLOWED HUNT*, this novella has the depth of characterization and emotional complexity that distinguishes all Bujold's work.

Bujold's "work remains among the most enjoyable and rewarding in contemporary SF."

- Publishers Weekly

"A superb craftsman and stylist, Ms. Bujold is well on her way to becoming one of the great voices of speculative fiction."

- Rave Reviews

"Bujold is not just a master of plot, she is a master of emotion."

- SF Site

Lois McMaster Bujold was born in 1949, the daughter of an engineering professor at Ohio State University, from whom she picked up her early interest in science fiction. She now lives in Minneapolis, and has two grown children. She began writing with the aim of professional publication in 1982. She wrote three novels in three years; in October of 1985, all three sold to Baen Books, launching her career. Bujold went on to write many other books for Baen, mostly featuring her popular character Miles Naismith Vorkosigan, his family, friends, and enemies. Her books have been translated into over twenty languages. Her fantasy from Eos includes the award-winning *Chalion* series and the *Sharing Knife* series.

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Penric's Demon By Lois McMaster Bujold Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From the Author

Author's Note:

A Bujold Reading Order Guide

The Fantasy Novels

My fantasy novels are not hard to order. Easiest of all is *The Spirit Ring*, which is a stand-alone, or aquel, 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 was one continuous tale divided into non-wrist-breaking chunks.

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, and can in theory be read in any order. Some readers think the world-building is easier to assimilate when the books are read in publication order, and the second volume certainly contains spoilers for the first (but not the third.) In any case, the publication order is:

The Curse of Chalion

Paladin of Souls

The Hallowed Hunt

"Penric's Demon"

In terms of internal world chronology, *The Hallowed Hunt* would fall first, the Penric novella perhaps a hundred and fifty years later, and *The Curse of Chalion* and *Paladin of Souls* would follow a century or so after that.

Other Original E-books

The short story collection *Proto Zoa* 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 caveats.

It was always my intention to write each book as a stand-alone so that the reader could theoretically jump in anywhere, yes, with that book that's in your hand right now, don't put it back on the shelf! While still somewhat true, as the series developed it acquired a number of sub-arcs, closely related tales that were richer for each other. I will list the sub-arcs, and then the books, and then the caveats.

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 a 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 (published 2016)

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.

From the Inside Flap

On his way to his betrothal, young Lord Penric comes upon a riding accident with an elderly lady on the ground, her maidservant and guardsmen distraught. As he approaches to help, he discovers that the lady is a Temple divine, servant to the five gods of this world. Her avowed god is The Bastard, "master of all disasters out of season," and with her dying breath she bequeaths her mysterious powers to Penric. From that moment on, Penric's life is irreversibly changed, and his life is in danger from those who envy or fear him. Set in the fantasy world of the author's acclaimed novels *The Curse of Chalion*, *Paladin of Souls*, and *The Hallowed Hunt*, this novella has the depth of characterization and emotional complexity that distinguishes all Bujold's work.

About the Author

Lois McMaster Bujold is one of the most honored writers in the fields of science fiction and fantasy, having won five Hugo Awards and three Nebula Awards. Her second novel, *The Warrior's Apprentice*, introduced young Miles Vorkosigan, one of the most popular characters in science fiction. In 2011, she was awarded the Skylark Award for her significant contribution to science fiction. The mother of two, she lives in Minneapolis.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kevin Santiago:

The book *Penric's Demon* give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make

your capable much more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make looking at a book Penric's Demon for being your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You can know everything if you like available and read a guide Penric's Demon. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this guide?

Ray Ortiz:

This book untitled Penric's Demon to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that's because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book store or you can order it by using online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this reserve from your list.

Jennifer Barton:

Penric's Demon can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Penric's Demon nevertheless doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information could drawn you into completely new stage of crucial considering.

Angel Sullivan:

Within this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability in doing something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you are related is just spending your time little but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of several books in the top collection in your reading list is Penric's Demon. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Hillsides can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking upwards and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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