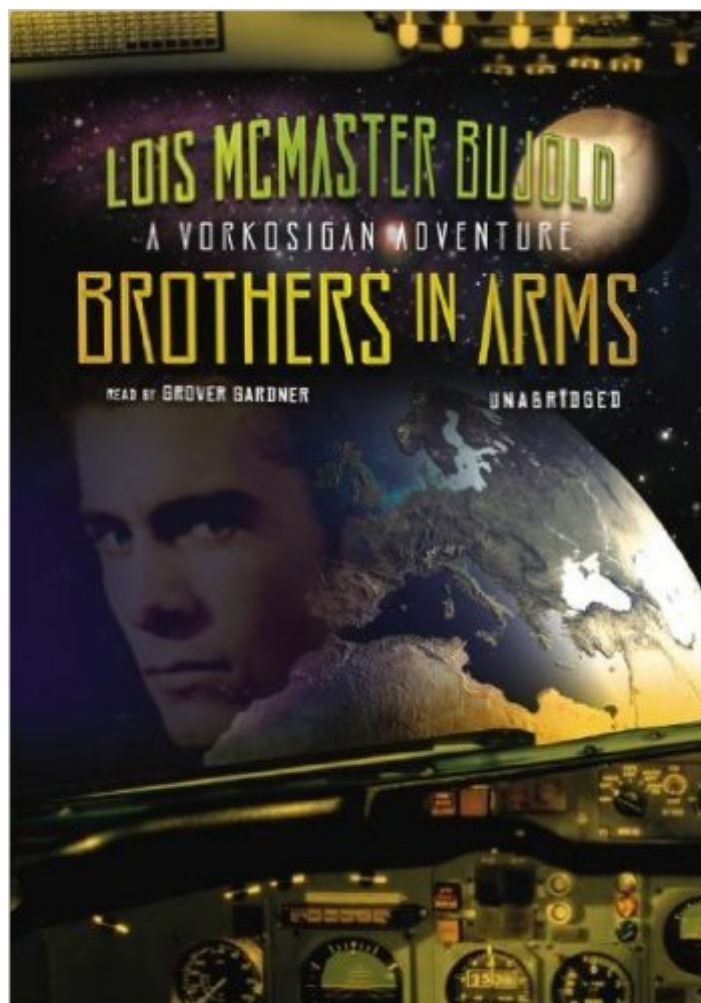


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Brothers In Arms (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures)



Synopsis

The daring interspace rescue of an entire Cetagandan POW camp by the Dendarii Mercenaries made for some deadly enemies. Having finally outrun the infuriated Cetagandans, Admiral Naismith (a.k.a. Lord Miles Vorkosigan) and the Dendarii arrive on Earth for battle, shuttle repair, and a well deserved rest.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (79 customer reviews)

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Unabridged

Customer Reviews

This is part of a continuing series in the life of Miles Vorkosigan. If you are first starting to read this series, this is not the book to start with, as it assumes you know who the characters are and what makes them tick. You need the previous books for a background of the characters and storyline or you'll get confused and this book won't make a lot of sense - the main character, Miles, won't make a lot of sense. Imagine turning on the TV and catching the 2nd part of a 3 part mini-series - you have no idea who the characters are or what's going on... But if you start at the beginning of the series, before you know it the characters sort of draw you into their very odd, quirky little world of the future, where humans have spread out into the galaxies and evolved into some very strange people...'Brothers In Arms' most important contribution to the Vorkosigan adventures, besides the continuation of Miles upsidedown life, is the introduction of his clone brother, Mark. You really should read it before reading 'Mirror Dance' or 'A Civil Campaign', so you'll better understand who Mark is and why he was created. The reviewer below described Miles as a terrier on Ritalin - I found

him to be only human - full of faults, failings, and weaknesses - in a very humorous way. But, if you're like the reviewer from Tau Ceti, heavily into science fiction, and don't like humor, intrigue, mysteries, romance, or just plain life to interfere with your science, then you won't like this series, let alone this book...

One of the best things about Bujold's work is that the characters are as realistic as the plots are insane. *BROTHERS IN ARMS* is case in point. This book is really about the characters: Miles Vorkosigan, the hero of the series; his alter ego, Admiral Naismith; and Mark, a character introduced in this book. Miles is faced for the first time with some hard questions of identity, questions that don't really get resolved until *MEMORY*, the most recent book in the series. This book is also about family; Miles and Ivan, Miles and Mark, and Duv Galeni and Ser Galen all have to come to terms with what it means to be related to each other, what it means to be a family. All these characters resonate with emotional truth and are, at times, almost painfully realistic. These characters have souls. The characters also have problems, and it is their problems which drive the plot. Well, in the beginning, anyway. The plot soon takes on a life of its own. The plot of this book, like its main character, gets by on forward momentum. It rushes, breathless and headlong, from the start to the finish, developing the most incredible twists in its path along the way. The pace is frenetic; the story never stops to rest. It carries you along, helpless, in its wake, and it is one wild ride. I read this novel cover to cover for the fun of finding out what could possibly happen next and for the enjoyment of Bujold's subtle (and not-so-subtle!) humor. *BROTHERS IN ARMS* works on several levels. It is both a fun piece of escapism and a work of deep insight, as is all of Bujold's writing. I highly recommend it.

I am another person who normally doesn't write reviews, but I also have to disagree with the negative review citing "paper-thin characters" below. In fact, I think characterization is what LMB excels at, and this book is a good addition to the series featuring Miles Vorkosigan, one of the most interesting characters in science fiction. It is also a classic "transition" book in the series, so it definitely shouldn't be the first one you read. I would recommend either "*Borders of Infinity*" (EXCELLENT short stories that span Miles' career) or "*Warrior's Apprentice*" (the first novel featuring a more-or-less adult Miles) for an introduction to Miles Vorkosigan. But it definitely adds a delightful twist to Miles' story, and I would highly recommend it to anyone who has read and enjoyed the series.

In a hurry to escape the price the Cetadangan's have set on Admiral Naismith's head, and an ever increasing bill for repairs to ship damages and payment to personnel, Miles decides to head to Earth for a little down time. After all, what harm could there possibly be in hiding out on this old, forgotten planet? Well, for one, Earth has a Barrayaran embassy. And, lo and behold, Miles' handsome cousin Ivan just happens to be there. Miles reports into the chief of staff, Captain Galeni, who just happens to be from Komarr and whose family was butchered during the Komarr revolution. Walking on eggshells is something Miles was born to do, and he has ample opportunity to do just that. Soon, there are complications. The promised payment from the Imperial headquarters does not arrive. Is it Galeni's fault or is something else going on. On top of it all, Miles has fallen head over heels for Elli Quinn. She's one of the few who know the truth behind Naismith and Miles Vorkosigan. But Miles feels his grasp of his dual character is slipping, and even starts to see and feel like a double. A bit of an unexpected twist in this story makes it feel like McMaster Bujold is reaching somewhat. Of course we'd all have liked a bit more of her view of what Earth has become, but there's precious little of that. Still, her writing is as skillful as ever, and the characterisation and dialogue, as always, are superb. A move forward in Miles' private life is long awaited and a welcome read.

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