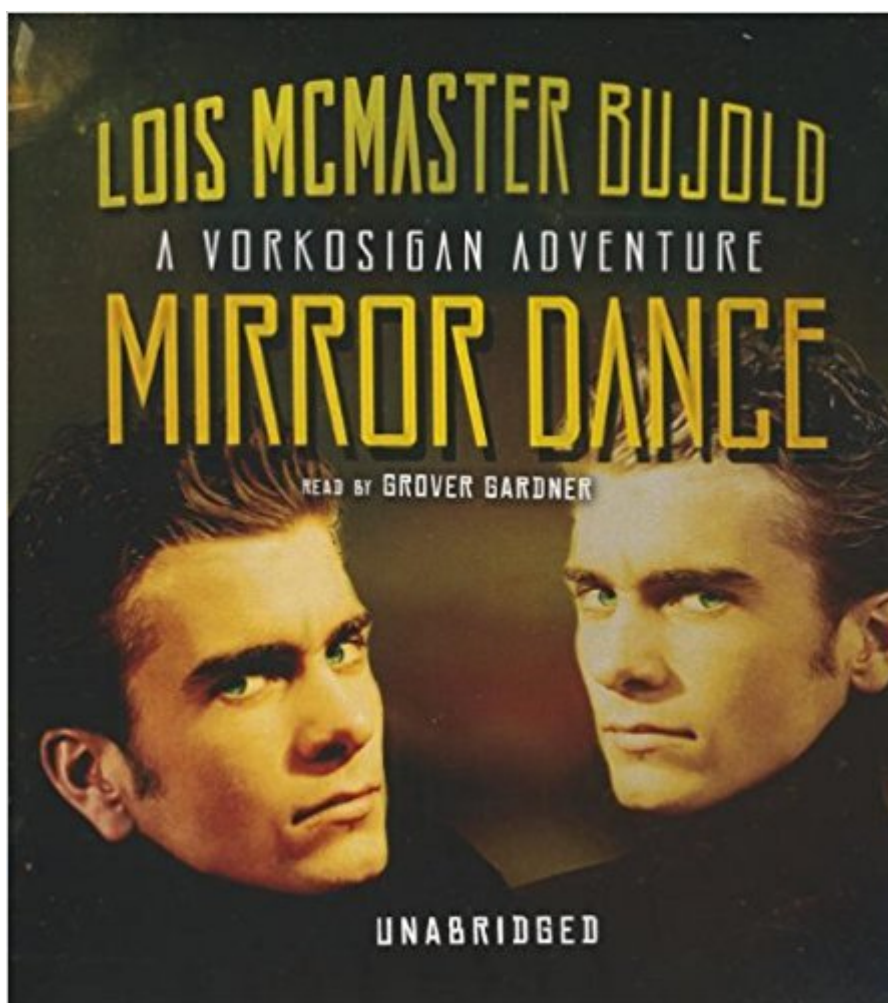


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Mirror Dance (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures)



Synopsis

[Read by Grover Gardner]The dwarfish, fetally damaged yet brilliant Miles Vorkosigan has more than his share of troubles. Having recently escaped an assassination plot whose tool was a brainwashed clone of himself, Miles has set the clone, Mark, free for a new chance at life. But when he decides to let his clone brother assume his secret identity and lead the Dendarii Free Mercenary on an unauthorized mission to liberate other clones from the outlaw planet of Jackson's Whole, things start to get really messy. The mission goes awry, Miles' rescue attempt goes even more wrong, and Miles ends up killed and placed in cryogenic suspension for future resuscitation. Then, as if that weren't bad enough, the cryo-container is lost! Now it is up to the confused, disturbed Mark to either take Miles' place as heir of the Vorkosigan line or redeem himself by finding and saving Miles.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Miles Vorkosigan faces more than his share of troubles as the protagonist in *Mirror Dance*. Not only is he deformed and undersized but he has a cloned brother who gets into a jam in the free enterprise plague spot known as Jackson's Whole. Miles tries to help his brother but ends up injured, placed on cryogenic suspension and then lost in intergalactic limbo. And that's just in the first 100 pages. The following 300 pages add a wealth more to this fantastic tale that's both humorous and finely written. *Mirror Dance* won the 1995 Hugo Award for Science Fiction. --This text

refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Honor and his sense of self place the fetally damaged, dwarf-like and brilliant Miles Vorkosigan in grave danger as he attempts to save his disturbed, younger clone Mark from the consequences of folly in this intricate and rousing new installment of the Vorkosigan adventures (after *Barrayar*), the series' first appearance in trade hardcover. Passing himself off as Admiral Miles Naismith, Miles's secret identity, Mark commandeers one of the Dendarii Free Mercenary vessels to liberate clones being raised as brain-transplant hosts on the outlaw planet Jackson's Whole. When the plan goes awry, Miles is killed. He is preserved for resuscitation, however, in a cryo-chamber, which disappears in the confusion of evacuation. As the Dendarii search feverishly for their leader, the terrified Mark is sent to *Barrayar* to Miles's parents, Count Aral and Countess Cordelia Vorkosigan. The couple welcome him as a son and begin his training as their heir in case Miles is never found. The competitive and confused Mark, who had been created as a tool to assassinate his father and was brutalized by a madman in his youth, begins to find himself. His (and Miles's) penetrating intelligence flowers, and he plans a return to Jackson's Whole to find Miles and redeem himself. Hugo award-winner Bujold creates a tapestry of variegated human societies dispersed throughout a colorful galaxy. She peoples it with introspective but genuine heroes who seize the reader's imagination and intellect. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm going to post the same review for the entire Vorkosigan saga. MANY years ago (shudder to think - we only had books made of paper) I was stuck at an airport with nothing to read. The only book I could find in the store was named Cordelia's Honor. It was about a woman and written by a woman. From what I could discern from the cover, it was a combination of books from some sort of "Vor" series. With no intent to offend anyone, for me back in those days the book had 2.9 strikes against it before I read the first word: it was about a woman, science fiction written by a woman, and this stupid sounding "Vor" word. I very reluctantly bought it. I sat down in that miserable airport (aren't they all?) and started reading. On that day, the fickle finger of fate was FINALLY pointing favorably for me. The book had rich and deep characters, complex plot, thought provoking ideas and statements, a different way of "seeing" things, it forced you to think instead of numbly process words - it was everything I love about my life long relentless pursuit of reading. I've read the series several times. They still make me think, they still make tears, and I keep finding little tidbits that I missed. I could write much more but I'm going to try to imitate a wonderful author named Lois

McMaster Bujold and use just the right amount of words - no more, no less. Please read these in order. I promise you won't regret it. I'm ashamed of myself for not writing a review years ago. I feel that I did a great author a disservice by not giving her a few timely words after the thousands of wonderful words she's given me.

On one hand, this is a writing tour-de-force. It unwinds the tortuous relationship between Miles and his clone-brother Mark, delves into some of the issues which will likely be paramount when cryopreservation and revival are common, considers sibling rivalry from many perspectives (including multiple personalities!), and places immoral Jackson's Whole in the context of a future, biologically advanced humanity between aggressive, but "moral" Cetaganda and passive, but accepting Beta Colony. On the other hand, it has the least humor in the entire Vorkosigan Saga and the torture sequence, while absolutely fitting in context, is gut-wrenching. While one can follow the thread without it, this volume sets up the humor of "A Civil Campaign", when Miles and Mark next get together. I prefer Bujold at her acerbic best, but this is great straight space opera.

Another entry in Bujold's fabulous Vorkosigan saga. Unfortunately, Miles takes a backseat to his clone-twin for much of this tale, and, let's be honest, Mark is just not as compelling a character as Miles. Mark is, for most of the book, and for good reason with what we know of his "upbringing", an idiot. And main characters who are idiots do not usually draw me in. There are a few big problems Bujold must overcome - problems she gives herself. First, there is Mark's lack of character. He is a poor-man's Miles who "grew up" with many of his problems (and more) and none of his role models or training. Then there is the betrayal of one of Miles' most loyal followers. No matter his/her motivations, it becomes a co-conspirator in a clearly underplanned, overconfident mission that leads to tragedy. Third, there's the 'then what' waiting that turns all of Simon Illyan's precision and cleverness into bumbling ineptitude. And then there's the frankly disgusting torture. Not cool. I don't need to know these things. It doesn't make me pity/understand Mark more, it just makes me want him and all his issues to go away. The 4 stars are largely for Cordelia and Aral. Oh, how I've missed them. They are written beautifully here, dealing with their more advanced ages, the family horrors, and the perfectly believable consequences of Mark's actions. Aral reacts to Mark as a man of his background would. Cordelia is the voice of the mother we all wanted and now try to be. Even Gregor and Ivan's outlines are filled in in ways that make me want to visit Barrayar just to meet them. The book ends. And the reader likely has found a way to deal with Mark and his mountain of baggage. I will admit it makes me want to read Memory immediately, just to get the taste of him out

of my mouth.

I have read a large amount of classical literature and an increasing amount of SF genre, space opera and hard SF mainly. The Vorkosigan series is exceptional, in my opinion. It offers not only classical SF and mystery elements, but incredible character development. Just when I thought it could not get any better, a key turning point in the protagonist's life is introduced in this book. The next book skillfully exploits this further. To my mind this series is now getting very close to some of the best classical literature - as characterisation and character development overshadow the genre elements.

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