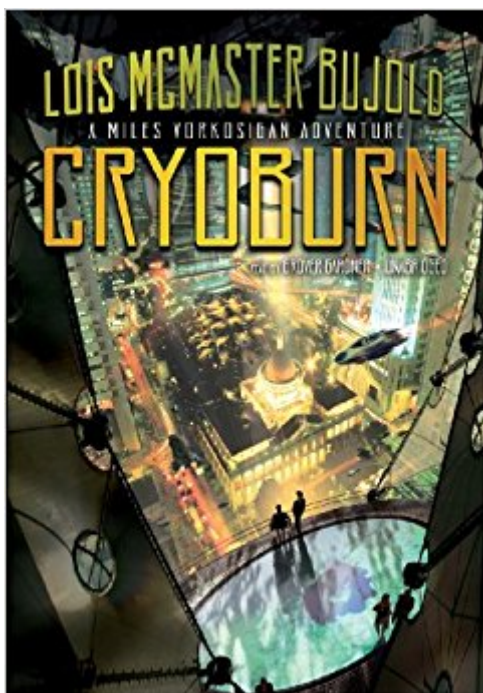


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Cryoburn (A Miles Vorkosigan Adventure) (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures)



Synopsis

Miles Vorkosigan is back! Kibou-daini is a planet obsessed with cheating death. Barrayaran Imperial Auditor Miles Vorkosigan can hardly disapprove -- he's been cheating death his whole life, on the theory that turnabout is fair play. But when a Kibou-daini cryocorp -- an immortal company whose job it is to shepherd its all-too-mortal frozen patrons into an unknown future -- attempts to expand its franchise into the Barrayaran Empire, Emperor Gregor dispatches his top troubleshooter, Miles, to check it out. On Kibou-daini, Miles discovers generational conflict over money and resources is heating up, even as refugees displaced in time skew the meaning of "generation" past repair. Here he finds a young boy with a passion for pets and a dangerous secret, a Snow White trapped in an icy coffin who burns to rewrite her own tale, and a mysterious crone who is the very embodiment of the warning "Don't mess with the secretary." Bribery, corruption, conspiracy, kidnapping -- something is rotten on Kibou-daini, and it isn't due to power outages in the Cryocombs. And Miles is in the middle -- of trouble!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fans have been clamoring for Hugo winner Bujold to pen a new Vorkosigan Saga novel since 2002's *Diplomatic Immunity*, and they will not be disappointed by this thoughtful tale. Only five days after arriving on Kibou-daini for a cryonics conference, interplanetary diplomat Miles Vorkosigan narrowly escapes kidnapping. Drugged, dazed, and alone, he is taken in by Jin Sato, whose mother

was the leader of a cryonics reform movement until being declared mentally ill and involuntarily frozen. Now Jin lives in a building full of squatters running an illegal cryonics clinic. Under imperial orders to investigate the shady dealings of the cryo cartels, Miles connects the far-flung pieces and exposes a sneaky plot. Bujold introduces appealing characters to join familiar ones in exploring the ramifications of a planet-wide culture of postponing death, and her deft and absorbing writing easily corrals the complex plot and softens the blow of a tear-jerking conclusion. (Nov.) (c) Copyright © PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Bujold retains the wit, intelligence, action, and great character development that have made the Miles Vorkosigan series so superior. In Komarr she proves once again that it is possible for the latest book in a series to be as good as the first." --Voya on Komarr
Bujold successfully mixes quirky humor with just enough action, a dab of feminist social commentary and her usual superb character development . . . enormously satisfying. -- Publishers Weekly
One of sf's outstanding talents . . . an outstanding series. --Booklist. . . an intelligent, well-crafted and thoroughly satisfying blend of adventure, sociopolitical commentary, scientific experiments, and occasional perils . . . with that extra spicing of romance. . . --Locus

I read this when it first came out and would have given it four stars: good, but not great, and missing all the beloved characters and side kicks from earlier books. I just read it again after re-reading the entire series in one stretch. This time I was moved and impressed. The entire story arc became clear, and this last book unerringly draws the series to a perfectly drawn conclusion. In this final book, Bujold begins with Miles, alone and drugged into confusion in an underworld. If you sense Miles will rise again into planet saving, you would be right. Bujold gives us Miles Alone -- without Ekaterin, Ivan, Simon, Ellie, or his parents, We see his knight errantry, his generous genius, his famous forward momentum. This second time around I was glad to just have Miles to focus on. It helps conclude the series. (Yes, there is Roic, a latecomer in the series, who serves as a foil and an observer. "Because ... m'Lord.") There is a parallel story of a marvelous boy, eleven years old, who would make a wonderful protagonist for a new series. I wonder if Bujold was trying him out? Even if not, he helps draw out the elements that make the Vorkosigan saga such an uplifting one. There is a Cause and there is injustice. There are powerful corrupt people and there are difficult issues. In the end there are justice, love, and hope. We glimpse Miles' final coming of age. Bujold accomplishes this with power, skill, and simplicity. She weaves in other voices (Miles, Cordelia, Gregor, and Mark) in a set of final musings, each 100-words -- a tip of the hat to the popular s/f "Drabble" form. Each

voice wraps up something key in the series. If you wonder whether or not the series is truly over, re-read Ivan's musings at the end. It is profoundly sad, yet lovely. It doesn't leave much room for a new Miles adventure. Not this Miles, anyway. Although I am very sad about it, this book makes it all seem right.

I love Bujold's writing in general, and her space opera remains my favorite space opera ever! This is an excellent installment, albeit with a sobering end after all the shenanigans are resolved. One planet is seriously into cryotechnology, to the point where it drives the economy. And while people are frozen, their assets- and votes- are held by the company that froze them, to their profit economically and politically. When one of these companies wants to expand to Komarr- a planet belonging to the Empire- Emperor Gregor asks Miles to look into things. Of course, complications ensue, and Miles meets up with a lot of interesting people, solves the puzzle that brought him there, as well as solving a few more semi-related problems with his unique blend of wits, luck, good support, and unique outlook. If you are not reading the series, I think you could start here- though it's richer if you know more backstory for some of the characters, and the ending will not be as much of a shock if you start here. Still, you don't need to know the backstories in all their intricacies to appreciate the plot. Very recommended!

"I've greatly enjoyed all of Bujold's Vorkosigan tales since the first, Shards Of Honor, when his mom and dad met. This continuation of the tale begins six years after Miles marries Lady Ekaterin and now he has four young kids. As usual, Miles takes up Emperor Gregor's call to "check on" a life extension by cryogenic freezing business that seeks to set up on Komar. There is wild adventure, mercantile bad guys, mysteries, a far future version of the Roman catacombs that Miles wakes up in, in pitch black, as the story begins. Then there are the real and delightful "street people" of this story. The tale begins with Miles escaping from underground suspended animation catacombs, while suffering hallucinations, only to be helped to a refuge by 11 year old young Jin, a boy whose Mom was frozen away by authorities nearly two years ago. Thus begins a wondrous tale of relationships among Barrayarans, subjects of the cryotomb world Kibou-daini, Roic his Armsman, Vorlynk the Consul General for Barrayar on Kibou, Suze the mysterious crone chief of a place where street people live and survive, and the corporate chiefs whose aim is to get everyone under contract to be "frozen" when badly ill or elderly. Then like the Wall Street moguls of 2008, the corporate chiefs begin selling "options" on such contracts, with implications for one of Emperor Gregor's empire worlds. This is a far future detective story that deeply explores the social

implications of "putting off" real dying in return for enough money. What I loved tho was the depiction of family life issues and the street people that Bujold paints in a far future where society is far from perfect, there are the rich and the poor, and a rejuvenated Miles has his own health issues to deal with. Bujold gives her readers a tale of adventure, but it is a tale that is not adventure-linear. It branches out into a spider web of relationships, including Miles' memory of his own children, how his family members could be harmed by the bad guys he often pursues, and his realization that all that he does for Gregor is really for the future of children everywhere in the empire. For me, this was a wonderful "adult" expansion of Bujold's Vorkosigan saga. Highly, highly recommended."

A good continuation of the Miles Vorkosigan story with most of the usual hallmarks of a Miles story. It opens with the action well underway, and Miles spreads chaos in his wake as he conducts his version of looking after Emperor Gregor's interests as only Miles can. Bujold's writing is technically sound for the most part, but there are many transitions and jumps between points of view which are abrupt and occur at awkward points in ongoing action. Not enough to spoil the book, but occasionally distracting and not up to Bujold's usual standards.

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