



The Ship Avenged

S.M. Stirling

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It's ten years later, and Joat, the eleven year old techno-demon from "The Ship Avenged," is an adult herself, and by hook, crook, and blackmail (with an assist from Rand, her very own Artificial Intelligence), she's become one of the youngest commercial ship owners in human space.

Using the good ship WYAL (for While You Ain't Looking) for various motley "transport" jobs, she has quickly gained a reputation as a trustworthy courier with a flexible approach to the rules. Which is why Centrals Worlds Security haas recruited Joat and the WYAL to determine the present whereabouts of the Kolnari space raiders, with whom Joat has an old score to settle.

But Belazair of the Kolnari has his own plans for revenge through an incurable and highly infectious disease that quickly destroys the higher brain functions, leaving the body a mindless husk. Belazair needs to find a carrier ship to spread the infection - and the carrier he has hired is Joat, who is completely unaware that she is receiving a deadly cargo which could destroy civilization throughout the galaxy!

The Ship Avenged Details

Date : Published February 1st 1997 by Baen Books

ISBN : 9780671877668

Author : S.M. Stirling

Format : Hardcover 364 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fantasy, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Ship Avenged for online ebook

Tim Gray says

A very well put together follow up to The City That Fought, Rand is nicely done as an 'emerging' AI - and the author resists the urge to make everything 'neat', I like that.

Bonnie says

This science fiction adventure store is the 7th in the Brainships Series, which features "The Ship that Sang" as the first story. This story focuses on a girl who has grown up in the shipping business between planets. She's a spunky, smart and hardheaded young woman, which helps her survive...but the story focuses on a really unfortunate encounter with a man who is essentially a crook. He ropes her into accepting a really horrendous "fine" for a transgression in space that really had a small penalty fee...but he messes with her mind and keeps upping the "ante" until she owes more than her ship with worth. For the majority of the story, she is struggling with all her energy to find ways to pay the fine (which will only end up in his fat hands at the end). Eventually she faces the possibility of losing her ship by "repossession", and it's looking pretty grim before the issue is resolved. It's a good story for these times in the USA right now (in the 21st Century)...a lot of this kind of swindling and shuck 'n jive is going on in capitalist countries now. The story was interesting, but there were times when I needed a break from it...lots of struggle here! It ends well, however.

Doreen says

I suppose it was alright. If you want a space opera that zips along nicely, this is the book for you, but I don't think I'll be reading any more Brainship books in future. Character development is pitiful, and there aren't any of the new ideas that made the earlier books in the series at least interesting for that.

Maria says

I really love this series, so I was expecting a lot from this book. Boy, was I disappointed.

First off, although the plot was well paced, the characters were more like caricatures. They had no real depth, and certain trait were blown out of proportion. Joseph, supposedly a wise mentor, was more like a sulky, anger-prone teenager. Amos just sort of sat around and felt bad about everything. Alvec lived for nothing but sex. Belazir was just a flat stereotypical evil overlord. Ciety's only defining trait is greed.

This book is also blatantly sexist. There are very few women in it. In fact, there are only three women who show up in more than one scene. Joat is supposedly the main character, and yet throughout the entire novel, she is being constantly upstaged by Bros, who messes up her life without telling her he is to blame, who she later inexplicably falls in love with (nevermind that he's twice her age and incredibly overbearing). Joat's agency is constantly being undermined by the manipulations of the men (mostly Bros) around her, who act

supposedly in her best interest.

One of the other few women of any note is Soamosa, who exists mostly just as motivation for the men around her. She spends most of the book chasing after men or weeping while she waits for a man to rescue her, while the author makes a big deal of calling her brave and modest.

Joat didn't even have a single conversation with another woman until halfway through the book when she meets Silken, who is supposedly the hard as nails second-in-command of a large smuggling ring. I had some hopes she would be interesting, but she turns out to be nothing more than the plaything of a powerful man, and she also spends a lot of time clinging to her man and weeping. See a pattern here?

As if the blatant sexism wasn't bad enough, this novel had a rushed, unsatisfying ending, and was filled with typos and grammatical issues. I'm giving it a reluctant two stars because it had the virtues of good pacing and a well-thought-out universe (even though the universe is thanks to McCaffrey, not Stirling). Overall, though, a pretty disappointing read. The rest of the series is filled with strong, interesting women, so I had expected the same from this book, too.

Al says

Review

It's not necessary to have read *The City Who Fought* in order to enjoy this sequel, though familiarity will certainly lend to this title's appeal. One of the youngest commercial ship owners finds her cargo a carrier ship for a deadly worlds-destroying infection in this compelling story of resourcefulness and politics in space. -- *Midwest Book Review*

Bryan457 says

Joat (from "The City Who Fought") is reincarnated as a female version of Han Solo.

In "The City Who Fought" I like the brainship/brainstation Simeon, and I like the guerrilla war tactics. In this book there are no brainships and no guerrilla war tactics. So basically the things I like about the previous book are missing in this one.

Kristine says

Such a fun read!

Richelle says

The description for this one doesn't seem to be quite correct...

But anyway. It was fine.

2 out of 5 stars, I guess.

Anatoly says

See my review of "City Who Fought." All that and even more so.

Kathi says

Other than Joat, the main character, her AI Rand, and Karak of the Kolnari, I found myself not caring about the characters—their backstories, their motivations, or their fates. And of the three I mentioned, it was the ship's computer, Rand, who capture my interest the most. Not sure what that says about the story—entertaining enough, but not absorbing, provocative, or powerful.

Jon says

This was probably my favorite ship book to date other than the original short stories. At first it was a little difficult to get interested, but that was in large part because I had just finished the Wheel of Time and Ender's Game right before this, so it wasn't fair to give it an assessment. Joat's a great character though, a lot of fun and so sassy. Really worth reading.

Meg says

In *The City Who Fought* Anne McCaffrey and SM Stirling came together to introduce us to Simeon, Channa, Joat, and the Kolnari. In *The Ship Avenged* SM Stirling continues the story, focusing around Joat and her courier business as well as the Kolnari and their attempts at revenge.

Overall well plotted, we are introduced to characters from Joat's distant past, characters from the previous book, and new characters from Joat's current life. I quite enjoyed the read other than the love subplot of Joat's story.

Jessica Malice says

This book was good.. but parts of it left me so unsatisfied as to pretty much spoil it for me.

I missed the brainships, but it was nice getting to know adult Joat and meeting an AI with personality. There were lots of very thrilling and engaging space piratey scenes, yay! And nothing hooks me more than severe injustice that is gloriously rectified by the end of the book. It is one of McCaffrey's greatest skills (I'm thinking of Menolly in Dragonsong as the pinnacle example), and all the way through the book I thought Stirling was right on track for another very satisfying example of this.

(view spoiler)

So, um.. yeah. I'm disappointed. It could so easily have been so good. What happened, S.M.Stirling, why are you so evil ;_;

Robert says

very interesting series

Oscar Maquito says

4.2/5
