



Acorna's People

Anne McCaffrey , Elizabeth Ann Scarborough

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Filled with adventure and wonder, *Acorna's People* continues the enthralling saga of Acorna, the beautiful, brave, and kindhearted creature known as the Unicorn Girl.

"Welcome Home, Linyaari Child!"

With the help of her "uncles" and the thousands of humans who love and admire her, Acorna has found her true people, the peaceful, telepathic Linyaari. But Acorna still has much to do before she can enjoy her new home. The legendary resting place of the lost Linyaari ancestors has yet to be found. And with the help of a rogue spacetrader and his feline sidekick, Acorna must strive to right an unspeakable wrong and defeat an enemy even crueler than the Khleevi. Along the way, she will at last uncover the Universe's most carefully guarded secret--the true nature of the ancient link between the Linyaari and the space-faring humans she has also come to think of as her "people."

Acorna's People Details

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From Reader Review Acorna's People for online ebook

Searska GreyRaven says

I love this series, but this was easily one of the weakest books in it. Still, it had strong points, and the introduction of Aari was the best part.

Adrian Rose says

This is the third book in the series about the unicorn girl, Acorna. Found by a trio of miners as a young child, Acorna has grown up believing that she may be the only one of her race alive. At the end of the last book, she discovered that, not only did her people still exist, but they were intelligent space travelers called the Linyaari, who have come to warn the humans about the advance of a hostile race of insectoid invaders they name the Khleevi. Now, in this book, Acorna has accompanied the crew of the visiting ship back to her race's adopted home world, their original planet having been wiped out by the Khleevi. On her arrival, Acorna, who has grown into a brave and resourceful young woman, finds herself suddenly thrust back into the role of a child who knows little to nothing about how to act in polite society, and becoming the unwitting victim of jealousy between two rival families. In the meantime, a spacefaring junk dealer has landed on the original Linyaari home world and found some horns of those of Acorna's people who were slaughtered during the Khleevi attack. When their healing and purifying powers come to the attention of some old enemies, it makes the entire Linyaari race the target for those who would enslave them for their horns' qualities.

Again McCaffrey and Scarborough have created a story that will keep you turning pages long past your bedtime. This novel includes a familiar supporting cast, introduces some new characters, and provides a look at a world of beings who, though being innate telepaths and pacifists, possess all the faults and shortcomings of any human civilization. The heroine is resplendent in her patient but determined efforts to learn about a new culture, while at the same time maintaining her own identity, a situation that any teenager can relate to. There are some pretty intense scenes having to do with the mistreatment of the Linyaari at the hands of their captors, so this may not be for very young readers. But, for everyone else who enjoys a good, space-hopping, rollicking adventure with a heroine that can hold her own with the best of them, this is definitely worth the read.

Jerry says

Yet another great installment in the series. Some great new characters, especially RK the cat, are introduced.

EDIT: This was a bit edgier than I remembered; then again, maybe that's why I gave it three stars instead of four.

Jerry says

Acorna is a great character, and this novel made for good reading...even if it was a little edgier than I would have liked.

Content Concerns: A character is violently attacked; occasional suggestive details, including some involving an interstellar polygamist; profanity ranging from d-words and h-words to even s-words throughout.

Veronica says

Finally we get to a book with dynamic characters and enemies! The pace picks up as well. I imagine if you've suck it out this far you don't need me to really give you much more info, but i was so glad for the inclusion of more non-perfect characters and obstacles that were harder to overcome. This book feels better written in general than the previous ones.

Kay Iscah says

Can anyone convince me to continue with this series? I'm ready to give up on it.

I can understand when you bring a new author into a multi-novel franchise, it can be difficult to keep all the details of the world straight. But there were only two previous Acorna novels, only two, and really no excuse for all the factual inconsistencies.

It was weirder because it seemed like 10-20% of this book was recap, trying to summarize material from the previous book, often where it was least needed.

The truly frustrating thing about this novel is that it had all the elements poised to be the best Acorna book yet...culture clash, galactic conflict, psychotic villain, new alien races to explore, etc. But somehow the authors managed to find the least interesting PoV one could conceive of to tell what ought to be an interesting story.

The great climatic battle at the end was covered in a paragraph, while we get chapters dedicated to Uncle Hafiz lusting after his not overly bright new bride. Hafiz is fine in small doses, but he's really a rather squicky character. I think we're supposed to forgive the fact he kidnapped his first wife because she turned out to be nastier than he is, but her stupidity does not excuse his morally reprehensible behavior. The woman seemed to feel it necessary to fake her own death to escape him and return to the sex trade...

The child torture seemed sort of randomly tossed in to show us how evilly evil the villains were. I'm not sure I want to continue a series where awful things are done to imaginary children for what's supposed to be an entertaining fantasy. At least in the first book, some of the kids were allowed personalities, but here they were simply plot devices.

Acorna is certainly not hard science fiction, but the lack of any sense of time and distance pushed way past the bounds of probability. In the first book, the human race had never met an alien before... and now they're able to easily locate dozens of different aliens homeworlds, figure out how to communicate with them, and yet still be unable to find the one world they're actually looking for (though they easily scoop up everyone

who has traveled from it)...

There was no logical flow of events. The villains would have had to start on their mission months before receiving the news that inspired them to go in the first place.

And poor Pal is never going to get any character development at all, is he?

Frankly, I get tired of people overusing and misusing the "Show Don't Tell" mantra in writing groups, but I was ready to scream it at the book during several points. Telling can be a great tool for summarizing the boring bits and confirming story points that are difficult to demonstrate. However, stuff that's easily demonstrated through action doesn't need to be told and retold and then discussed in dialogue.

This was quite bad enough to put me off the rest of the series, unless someone can convince me it's an unfortunately low point and the rest takes a brilliant turn.

Charles Harrison says

This book was terrible on many levels. I will now discuss those levels.

1. The science fiction. I am forgiving when it comes to sci fi, I acknowledge that sometimes liberties are taken, it is what makes the genre so fun however some thought needs to go into it and for crying out loud be consistent! All of a sudden they are talking about populated galaxies, the sheer shift in scales makes me think that the author does not understand how large a galaxy is essentially if you found and replaced galaxies with systems the book would make an awful lot more sense. The technology takes huge unexplained leaps, suddenly ships can be cloaked undetected (apart from when its convenient) ships which could not land can do so now. A mysterious jammer is developed which only works on the aliens the inventor of the jammer has never met. Humanity goes from never having contacted an alien race to finding/ intimidating/ imprisoning several in a matter of weeks. I accept in a book about a unicorn girl there to be a little hand wavy magic around the horn however the clumsy attempts to apply science and them mysterious but inconsistently working when unattached just doesn't make sense. Suddenly there are androids for no good reason. The interplanetary government (or should it be intergalactic) seem to be non existent. Just because they had it in star trek does not mean it has to be in the book.
2. The internal inconsistencies. A character who left with a certain group appears elsewhere. If it is a huge galaxy why do the same people keep running into each other. Unicorns sure are mean for a bunch of empaths.
3. The needless inclusion of every character mentioned before in the franchise. The new ones were actually ok but were drowned out by the endless meetings between all these other people who seem to be the only people who live in this end of the galaxy.
4. The repetition of plot devices from earlier books. Seriously hiding in service ducts again?
5. Not enough detail in the bits which actually made the previous books good. There was some serious deus ex machina involved with several times entire armies suddenly deciding to leave for no good reason leaving the way clear for the minor protagonists. What made Acorna really stand out for me was how loathsome the baddies were, this was done but thrown in almost as an afterthought around two thirds of the way in. All of the separate (seriously they barely even crossed let alone tangled) plot lines were resolved in rapid succession towards the end. No cliffhangers no loose end nothing.
6. An all powerful merciless race of killers which was sweeping across the galaxy crushing all before it has seemingly completely disappeared and barely gets a mention.
7. The ancestors suddenly appear to clumsily tie the aliens with the human unicorn myth. The first and only

folk tale Acorna gets told happens to be the exact one which is about how bad humans are and that unicorns are originally from earth.

In conclusion don't read this book even if you enjoyed the first two, actually especially if you enjoyed the first two.

Laura says

In this instalment of the Acorna series, Acorna attempts to adjust to the xenophobic society of the Linyaari. Somewhere else in the universe, a spacetrader named Becker inadvertently reveals the location of a sacred Linyaari burial ground to a woman bent on getting revenge on Acorna. Ultimately, they must stop a man who seeks to exploit the healing powers of the Linyaari for financial and political gain.

This book, although fast-paced and a delight to read, did not hold together the same way as the previous books. Becker and RK (his violent cat) were delightful, and Hafiz was hilarious; however, Acorna read as flat in this book. She does not grow significantly other than realize that there is nothing wrong with knowing different customs. Some of the plot details were a bit... convenient, and phrases such as "None of them were aware that..." were a bit annoying--there have to be ways around that kind of phrasing, which felt out of place in this story.

Still, I like the world that McCaffrey has crafted here with Scarborough and look forward to reading the next book.

Kimberly Karalius says

Can't believe that the authors actually mixed up Acorna's uncles. Since when does Calum have red hair and bushy eyebrows (that's Gil) and why is Mercy dating Rafik (when she was in a serious relationship with Calum?)

Despite that, I hate to rate this book high because Aari appears in this book for the first time, and he's the best.

Susan says

Acorna's People is number 3 in a series featuring the Unicorn Girl, a humanoid alien with a magical horn on her forehead. For this episode, the great science fiction writer Anne McCaffrey has collaborated with Elizabeth Ann Scarborough to create another fine read. Orphaned Acorna has recently met others of her people, the Linyaari, and has just arrived on the planet they now call home, their original one having been destroyed by a murderous insect race. Having been brought up by humans, she is struggling to adapt to her new life. This story introduces us to Jonas Becker, salvage expert, and his space cat Road Kill who between them give us plenty of amusing moments. Jonas and RK stumble across the burnt out Linyaari homeworld where they collect some strange rocks which they soon realise have the power to heal injuries and clean polluted environments. When the bad guys [including a particularly evil girl] realise that in fact these are horns from dead Linyaari, they become desperate to acquire them and also to track down Acorna's people to ensure their supply of such a powerful resource. Acorna, her human family and some of the children she had

earlier rescued from slavery fight together to save her people. This is another great McCaffrey tale of good triumphing over evil.

Michael Nalbone says

Brutal

Gillian Murrell says

Acorns finds what is left of her people in this book. Although her parents are dead her aunt is still alive and they eventually meet up. But life on the new home planet is not quite what Arona was expecting. Some of the one in charge still see her as a child and do not allow her to be involved in missions she is quite capable of doing. It has also been discovered that the horn does not need to be attached to its owner to be able to perform, although not as well it's good enough for some unscrupulous people to want to exploit.

Devonte Moore says

Ifflfgiggufihv if

He change good k not no more but not novel tubing job Jose job has ba got a complete yg

Carina says

Well... I'm really not sure where to start here... I'd say this is probably the weakest in the series so far, but you could argue the ending is complete enough to formulate a good stopping point. I'm certainly not tempted to try and find the fourth book somewhere though, let me put it that way!

There are a lot of things I disliked about this book, and I actually can't think of one thing that I legitimately liked. So I'm going to try and blast through what I found to be the negatives and hope a positive comes to mind at some point!!

Acorna's people, or at least a lot of the ones left behind, are utterly vapid and dislikeable. For the first time in the three Acorna books I found the non-Acornas to be better! I'm not a fan of vain, self-righteous people (in RL or in books!) and unfortunately there was far too much of that in Acorna's POVs... some of the new characters were perfectly likeable but they were marred by the others.

A number of the major players in this seem to be secondary/tertiary characters from the first/second book and the way they come together is...almost too perfect. I get that some of the planets in this series are more developed than others, but is the galaxy really such a small place that people would so easily be able to A: run into one another completely by chance B: decide to drop in and visit an old friend at the perfect moment C: be within such close distance of a distress call as to respond in just the right amount of time or D: happen to be 'old friends' with nearly everyone else in the galaxy... the book is basically one huge coincidence!

The villains didn't interest me in any way, the one I gave up caring about when she kicked the cat (why do authors always seem to pick on cats or dogs?), the other I never gave a damn about. Oh - and some of the forced romances/suggested romances - again I just didn't care. To care you need to make me interested in the characters and this never happened.

As for a positive the only one that came to mind as I wrote the above was that Karina wasn't quite as irritating in this book so... there is something positive after all!

Would I read this again, no I highly doubt it. I think I'd still read the first Acorna book again but as for these others... I think this is it for the Acorna series for me.

Gerold Whittaker says

Book #3 in the Acorna Series. In this book, Acorna is with her people at last, though extremely unhappy. Being disregarded or ignored by most of her people, she longs - and is denied the opportunity - to assist in the search for the legendary resting place of the lost Linyaari ancestors. The ships sent out on this search mysteriously disappear and when a rogue spacetrader turns up on their world, Acorna takes the opportunity to go with him when he leaves....

The Linyaari are supposedly a non-violent people but I think a step too far in this book: The Captain of one of their ships is captured, they are unable to send a signal home, and at the instruction of those who captured their Captain, they simply dock ship and hand themselves over as prisoners - this when they were safely in outer-space to begin with. It didn't seem the likely thing a normal person would do.

There is a sentence in the book I thought worth repeating: "*A grave matter indeed, my sumptuous slave of scintillating salaciousness*". Acorna's "Uncle" Hafiz to his "wife" Karina.

The back cover of the book states that (Acorna) "*will ... uncover the true nature of the ancient link between the Linyaari and the space-faring humans ...*". Somehow I must have missed that - or the link was not so ground-breaking after all!
