



The Mercenaries of the Stolen Moon

Megan Derr

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For twenty years Myra has served the High King, so familiar, respected, and envied the rest of the palace calls him the High Secretary. For twenty years he has kept his secrets buried, and after so long he dares to believe he has left his past behind. But during the Festival of Harmony, tragedy strikes, and Myra's past is dragged into the present.

Once third in command of Fathoms Deep, Charlaine is used to shadows and secrets, but even he is shocked to learn what his best friend, and the man he secretly loves, has been hiding all these years. In the wake of a terrible tragedy, he doesn't know what to do—except whatever it takes to help his friends.

Though Jac is a member of the Three-headed Dragons and primary bodyguard to the High Consort, she is used to being overlooked and underestimated. But she didn't earn her spurs by backing down, and she's not about to do so now—even if she must defy the High Throne itself to save the man she's falling in love with.

The Mercenaries of the Stolen Moon Details

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From Reader Review The Mercenaries of the Stolen Moon for online ebook

k reads says

I liked books 1 &3 in this series but was bored by 2 & 4.

This is also the second Derr book I have read that featured a poly relationship. Neither really worked for me as a romance. No fire or passion in the romances.

I am also not a fan of the *I'm not good enough. He deserves better than me* internal obstacle and here we have *three* main characters whining about it.

I don't remember Jac being so giggly and young. And while I appreciate a woman with a strap-on, here, each mention of Jac using one felt belabored.

I absolutely loved Char in the previous book, whereas this go-round, I was fed up with him pretty quick. I don't believe he really loves Myra. I think he loves being a love martyr. I don't care how he feels about Jac. Myra had a really interesting backstory regarding how he came to court. There is some serious betrayal and death here. I felt like it was glossed over and it also made it harder for me to understand Myra's place in court. I think the High King is crazy to have Myra as his chief secretary.

I love how there is no homophobia in Derr's fantasy worlds. I wish she did the same with transphobia.

llv says

Rating: 3 stars

This book was extremely hard for me to finish. There was just so much detail. I think the book would have been better if it had been shorter. I found all the political stuff a bit boring. I did like the relationship between the MCs. The fact that all three didn't get together until about 70% in didn't bother me. I think it was because they all knew each other for a long time prior to the events in this story. It would have bothered me more had they just met.

Overall, I was somewhat disappointed in this story. It was okay, but way too long and a bit boring. I do find myself looking forward to the next one in the series. I can't quite figure out how the author is going to redeem Chass, but am looking forward to finding out.

Rachel T says

Great book

This is an excellent addition to the series. I loved it, and seeing Myra, Jac and Charlaine get the happy ending they deserve. I think it would work as a stand alone, but I love this series so much I thibk everyone should read all of them anyway.

R.S.T. says

There was a lot going on in this fourth book from the series. Echoing a bit of what other reviews have said that there's a lot of plot going on in this book. I still really loved reading this book, and I absolutely cannot wait for the fifth book. I look forward to reading more about Chass, who was mentioned a lot more with more scenes with him in it. I think the next book is supposed to be the final one in the series, which I'm quite saddened about. I love the characters and the world.

Evy says

The more I read these, the more they feel vaguely (less-and-less vaguely) problematic, especially in terms of their trans representation, which I feel is Not Great. In this book I also had a lot of trouble with the seeming redemption arc of Chass, who to me is pretty irredeemable (and he is the main character in the next book...).

On the other hand--poly fantasy romance? Where else will I find that? And, I did really love the relationship that Myra, Jac, and Charlaine end up finding themselves in.

Like, these books are not great literature or anything but they tick a lot of boxes for me and I like SO MUCH about them. It's a real war, for me, between the parts I like and the parts I can't take, and when will that second thing become so much that I can't enjoy the first? This instalment pushed that pretty far, and I'm not sure it's likely to improve in book 5... But we'll see.

Becky says

This is probably my least favourite of the series as I'm not a big threesome fan (and a lot of the book focused on them being a pair and a solo), and mostly prefer MM and this is a bit of a mix. That said, the storyline itself was intriguing and what I've come to expect from reading about the Harken Empire, and it was great to see some of the earlier cast such as Sarrica, Allen and Lesto.

Will definitely be checking out the last book of the series.

Hemmel says

Well... One star. I was looking forward to this one, because I like the High Court and the bickering between the MC's. Insults and sarcasm are my kind of humor. And that didn't occur in this book.

On the plus side: I noticed only two editing errors. A record for a Megan Derr book.

The plot was identical to the other three books: lovers get separated and travel through the countries. Lots of history and politics while waiting for the story to pick up.

You have to excuse me for rating a book which contains something I knew beforehand I do not like: female erotic scenes. It bothered me in book three a bit, when I was surprised one of the "he's" had female genitals. I should not have read this.

Pete W says

[Even Myra, who was being kidnapped and transported back to his homeland, commented on how tedious the travelling was. And he was the prisoner. (hide spoiler)]

Nicole Field says

I think, if the worst a person can say is that there is too much plot, then it's still a very good book. This book had too much plot. The downside of that, of course, is that I felt as though it just didn't have enough character progression.

Perhaps that was my own personal biases. I had heard that this was a polyamorous read, and I wanted to really get into knowing the three personalities involved.

We know all of them, of course, from previous books in the series. I think Myra is probably the one I remember most, though, as High King Sarrica's secretary. Oh! Actually, also Charlaine as the body guard to Kamir in The Heart of the Lost Star. Jac was a wonderful surprise.

Myra is in the middle of trying to decide his feelings for Jac and Charlaine, both of whom have recently come out of the woodwork as being interested in him romantically, when he is kidnapped by family members he would much rather have forgotten. This leads Jac and Charlaine on a quest to find and then rescue him. In the process they connect independently of Myra and come to the realisation that, if Myra is willing, he doesn't need to choose one or the other of them but can have both.

Looking back, and now that I have read the whole series, I think that too much plot and not enough of a feeling of character connection is what I felt way back when I read

~nikki the recovering book addict says

Another great addition to The Tales of the High Court. I absolutely adore this world and Myra in this book sums up why I love it so much when he talks about Sarrica and his posse, I mean family =P It has heart, it has kindness and it has a lot of love for friends who have been chosen as family.

The three main characters had been side characters in the earlier books in this series so they're not completely strangers, except that now we get to get to know them better. Get to know their backstory and background. Charlaine and Myra have more interesting backstories than Jac, although that doesn't mean she's less interesting, I think she's still one of those characters who are always in the forefront even when she was a side character. Charlaine was more of a background shadow, but Myra..Myra really piqued my interest here. I wouldn't say he carried the story but his history was so fascinating and so different from his current role as High Secretary, although, don't call him that, he doesn't like it =P

It felt more focussed on Charlaine and Jac, only because it was up to them to move the story along. We did check back with Myra quite often but I felt he had a bit less "screen time" than the other two. I would have

loved to have more of Shemal and Kamir in here, even Jader but alas, those characters were largely missed.

I've seen some reviews that have noted that the pacing was rather slow. For me, I rather liked it because each slow step along the way, we learned more about each character. Perhaps it's because I love seeing character progression and peeling layers off one at a time. Sure, it did not have as strong a story as the first book, but I don't know, I am oddly satisfied.

I'm now very, very intrigued about Chass' story though. Can't wait!!

Sarah Meerkat says

I wanted to enjoy this book as I did the others in the series but this one followed the same trope as the other three. The characters are separated for over 30 to 40% of the book which impedes emotional relationship development and left me irritated and skimming.

It led to a power imbalance where Char and Jac have more solo development together than the three of them as a couple. Which if the relationship had been solidly established before Myra was captured would not have been as much of an issue.

It kept dragging on and on almost like the walking scenes in the hobbit. Each book does this. Love interest are separated for large swaths of the book which impedes emotional and romantic development of the characters instead of them growing through the plot on page together or being kidnapped and such later on in the book.

I am also very much not here for Allen's abusive brother Chass getting a redemption arc in his own book.

I wanted to like Char, Jac and Myra as a poly triad but overall due to three of them sharing less than quarter of the book together as a full triad there wasn't enough satisfying relationship development and it just left me feeling left wanting. Normally I really enjoy this author's books like Tournament of Losers or Harem Master being my favorites.

I also feel this one could have done with another round of editing as there were really weird spelling errors that would jump out or formatting errors.

iam says

[sex on-page, canon typical violence, misgendering and deadnaming of a trans character, violence through and death of close relatives, effects of colonialism, execution through staking/exposure to sun, kidnapping (hide spoiler)]

Joanne says

I loved this book. Wonderful world building with a plot that had so many twists and turns that I couldn't put it down. I'm going to have to read it again but more slowly to savour it and I can't wait for the next book.

This whole series is one of the best I've read.

Allerleihrau says

Mit diesem Band geht die Reise nun noch tiefer in das High-Court-Universum.

Inzwischen habe ich mich auch leidlich an den Umgang mit den Geschlechterrollen in Sacricas Reich gewöhnt und stolpere nicht mehr ständig darüber wenn sich eine Figur plötzlich als anderes Geschlecht entpuppt.

Im Mittelpunkt steht Myra, der Sekretär des High King und zwei weitere Figuren die im Universum schon fest verankert sind.

Charlaine den wir als Bodyguard von Lord Kamir im Band 3 kennengelernt haben und Jac, die schon seit Alans unglücklicher Eskapade mit den Three-headed Dragons ein fester Bestandteil des Universums ist. Nun lernen wir die drei besser kennen. Wenn man diese Geschichte zur Hand nimmt, sollte man sich klar sein, dass es sich hier weniger um eine "richtige" Liebesgeschichte handelt, denn das ist sie eher nicht, finde ich, sonder eher eine Quest-Geschichte. Dafür fehlt es irgendwie an Interaktion zwischen den Dreien, schließlich müssen Jac und Charlaine, Myra retten und ihm hinterherreilen wobei sie eine neue ihnen völlig fremde Kultur kennen- und verachten lernen.

Es werden neue Feinde des Reiches eingeführt und die Vorstellung dieser Feinde samt ihrer "altmodischen" Betrachtung der Geschlechterrollen nimmt viel, viel Platz ein in dieser Erzählung.

Wie gesagt ich bin mit dem Universum inzwischen vertraut genug, um das als wichtigen Punkt der Geschichte zu verstehen.

Es gehört halt zu Megan Derrs Geschichten, dass sie eben LGBT denkt und nicht Gay-Romance und das macht auch ihren Reiz für mich aus.

Gestört hat mich, dass aus den anderen Bänden immer noch Erzählstränge offen bleiben und dass Blutbad im ersten Viertel ist mir auch zu heftig.

Bin dennoch gespannt auf den kommenden Band, weil ich gerne in dem Universum unterwegs bin

Monique says

I liked it, but I didn't love it like the other books in this series. For me there was too much inner dialogue and too little actual communication between the MC's. The tone of the story felt slightly off to me, I can't really explain it. The middle part of the story dragged on and on. I also missed the presence of the former MCs and their interactions, luckily we did get to enjoy some Sarrica/Lesto.

Looking forward to the next one in this series.
