



Fortune's Wheel

Lisanne Norman

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They have been brought together by mutual need when both their peoples were faced with the threat of the warlike Valtegans, an enemy bent on conquering any other race it encountered,

She was Carrie, the daughter of the human governor of the Terran colony planet Keiss. He was Kusac, the son and heir of the Sholan Clan Lord. Both were telepaths of the highest order, and the bond they formed was compounded equally of love and mind power. But even as they sought to refine their suddenly enhanced and intermingled powers and to define their relationship, the two were thrust into the heart of an interstellar conflict.

For while Terran and Sholan representatives worked together in good faith to negotiate a mutual defense strategy, opposing factions on both their worlds sought to use Carrie and Kusac for their own ends...or failing that to destroy them—and with them all hope for a Terran-Sholan alliance!

Fortune's Wheel Details

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From Reader Review Fortune's Wheel for online ebook

Erin says

The story of Carrie and Kusac continue...

This book is a big step down from the first book in the series that had me hooked from the start. 'Fortune's Wheel' is broken down into two halves: the first taking place on the Sholan spaceship in orbit above Carrie's planet and the last taking place on the planet of Shola, Kusac's homeworld. The first part is incredibly boring. A lot seems to be happening onboard the space ship but, in reality, not much happens. The author was trying to juggle too many plots and characters at once and ended up going nowhere.

Thankfully, their time on Shola is far more interesting and is definitely worth wading through the first half of the book. The second half of the book is very fun, fast-paced, dangerous, and full of twists and turns. I wish the two halves could have been broken off into two books so that I could have given the first half one star and the second half of the book four and a half stars.

Carrie, who was a very interesting and active character in the first book, spends most of this second volume being a damsel in distress. She gets kidnapped, she gets sick, she gets attacked, she gets injured, she even has to be rescued from her own nightmares! Most of this rescuing comes from Kusac, which would be tolerable except for the fact that he is constantly reminding the readers that he is turned on by her weakness. He likes protecting her because a female of his own species would be able to protect herself while Carrie depends on him for nearly everything. Even another character points out that Carrie has him very well 'trained' to rescue her whenever she needs it. She finally begins to come into her own in the second half of the book but she still has a long way to go.

Also the cast explodes with a ton of new characters, most of them Sholans who all have very similar names. I could barely keep any of the characters beyond the main cast straight.

These points aside, 'Fortune's Wheel' is still a good book and the second half of the story (especially the wonderful ending) is well worth fighting through the dullness of the opening half of the book. I've heard the books to follow are a major step up from this one; I hope that is true.

Kim says

I made it to page 147 of this book before stopping.

I liked the first book in the series fairly well. I thought the characters and situation were interesting. In book two, the character of Carrie was very different. In the first book she seemed strong, intelligent, curious and likeable. She made friends with the aliens quickly, handled herself well in a fighting situation and seemed to accept her relationship to Kusac and her powers. In the second book, she was more a child having a tantrum. By the end of the first 100 pages, I just wanted her to die.

There was a lot going on in this book-many groups plotting things along side the main character's personal issues. It was hard to get into the book with so many different characters/groups doing things. I didn't really get why the Sholan would need a treaty with the small human colony.

Tony Hisgett says

I enjoyed the first book in this series and looked forward to this book. However after the first chapter I nearly gave up. I just got so fed up with the irrational behavior, temper tantrums and constant whining from just about every character, especially Carrie. I don't understand what the author is doing, it's as if she has decided to completely rewrite Carrie's characteristics and create a new individual. An individual that is annoying and I don't want to read about.

I kept reading in the hope things would improve, but the next chapter turned into a badly written SiFi Soap Opera (Yes SOAP not SPACE), illogical intrigue, gossip and back-biting rubbish. Added to this are numerous sub-plots that completely stop any flow to the story.

It maybe that the book improves, but I was so disappointed with the start of this book that in the end I just gave up.

Mike says

Great Continuation of the Sholan Alliance. More Sci Fi Romance than the previous. Well Written.

mlady_rebecca says

The second book in the Sholan Alliance series picks up immediately after the end of the first book. In the second book Carrie and Kusac return to Kusac's home world of Shola, with Vanna, their personal physician in tow.

Now that the immediate threat of the Valtegans has been eliminated, Carrie and Kusac have some time to explore the depths of their new relationship, and their Leska link. But they find themselves embroiled in local politics. Both the guild of Telepaths and the Brotherhood want to study and control them. And Kusac still has a duty as his mother's heir to have cubs of his own, something that shouldn't be possible between alien species.

And as more telepathic humans start interacting with telepathic Sholans, more alien Leska relationships are formed, including one that sneaks up on the reader. /summary

I mentioned the sexual nature of the Leska link in my review on the first book. The tease does pay off in the second book. Not LKH explicit, but a good level for what presents itself as a sf/fantasy series.

I'm still enjoying this series. In fact, even as I write this, I'm already pretty deep into the third book. The books read as one larger story, with no time or events passing between books.

Great read.

X-posted to LJ.

Amara says

Wonderful series. This series is colorful and complex. The author does a wonderful job describing and creating a whole universe of different people, cultures, and politics. I enjoy the reading about the two main characters attempts to adapt to their new relationship and over come the obstacles in their path. If their relationship problems weren't enough they're being dragged into a war involving a deadly reptilian race. Read this series to discover if their bond to each other is enough to overcome the trials that await them.

Rebecca Huston says

While the first book was very good, this second volume was much longer, and far lesser in quality than I had hoped for. Here, the characters slide into overused tropes, and the heroine is very quickly turning into a Mary-Sue. Arugh. Worst still, the hero for all of his feline sexiness, is also a powerful warrior, heir of a powerful family, and blah, blah, blah. Can't anyone do something a bit more creative with science fiction? Please?

For the complete review, please go here:
http://www.epinions.com/content_33658...

Coral Mitchell says

Carrie and Kusac continue to struggle in their relationship and find themselves in the middle of a political nightmare. Carrie faces censure from her fellow humans and Kusac is pushing back against his family and the life they want him to have.

Lucy Takeda says

Really? Take a fragile, small blonde girl that is evidently a virgin nymphomaniac and combine her with a much larger, virile, powerful, cat-like alien. I was undecided about Carrie in the first novel. She seemed to exhibit some intelligence and independence. I get the whole mental Link is affecting her hormones and emotions, but she comes off as a petulant temper tantrum throwing toddler. I really adore the Honor Harrington series with tree cats, and the Pern series with mental links. This scenario just doesn't work for me.

Elise says

Thank goodness I have Fire Margins already, or I'd be going crazy trying to find a copy. Fortune's Wheel leaves off on a very important cliff hanger.

Overall I was highly pleased with this book. There were many twists and turns that I hadn't at all expected,

like what happens with Vanna for instance, and the death of one character at the end. I'd hoped she would live, but the death adds more of a realistic touch to the story.

Anyway, this book will keep you on the edge of your seat, especially near the end. I think Lisanne Norman was also caught in the energy of her own story, since I noticed a larger number of typos near the end of the book.

If you loved the first book, you'll love this one twice as much. I can't wait to start reading the next one.

Barbara Ghylin says

EXCELLENT!!!

Jerry says

Combining the human/alien romance theme of *My Hero*, the interplanetary settings and beings of *Star Trek*, and the drama of a soap opera, Lisanne Norman's *Fortune's Wheel* is a well-written and involving, yet morally problematic, science fiction novel. The bi-species couple is easy to root for, and the book doesn't feel nearly as long as the 646 pages it really is. However, some sexual content, profanity throughout the novel, a disappointing ending, and a few graphically violent scenes messed up *Fortune's Wheel*. Will I read the next novel in the series? I don't know.

Calisto says

Human Carrie finds herself psychically bonded to feline Kusac body and soul. But all is not well as interstellar intrigue, personal jealousies and religious visions endanger the lives of just about everyone.

As simple and easy to read as *Turning Point* was, *Fortune's Wheel* is rich and full of detail. It almost feels like it was written by a completely different person. Which makes me wonder if someone made Ms. Norman break up a single book into two and then fill out the first one with some fluff just to pad it out.

Fortune's Wheel is really an epic scifi adventure with a ton of romance, angst, and a surprising amount of furry smexing. So be aware that there is a whole lot of loving going on of the mixed species variety and I would personally rate one section as lite "R"-ish but the rest is rather fade to black. In a way this is were this book actually shows its age, because what was rather risque in the mid-90s is actually pretty tame nowadays.

Plot wise there is a lot (A LOT) going on and a TON of characters coming and going. What starts off as a bit frustrating actually saves the book because if all 600 pages had been about Carrie and Kusac, I don't think I would have gotten halfway through it. Carrie in this book suffers from the 'virginal TSTL syndrome'. More than once I just wished someone would b*tchslap her already and tell her to grow up and buy a pair. However, the fact that there are so many other things and new characters with their own little subplots emerging, saved this book from being a wallbanger.

Now there are A LOT of tropes in this book: TSTL, whiny virginal heroine; rich, powerful, struggling to get out from under the thumb of his father, hero; evil bitch trope, interesting new 'protector' guy; unrequited love; miracle baby; duel to the death; one dimensional assassins; evil (or just kinda mean) manipulative

parents, etc. I'm sure I missed some and at some level it starts to weigh down the story and you can't help but wonder when the kitchen sink will show up too.

There are definitely sections that should have been cut and some of the dialog is clunky but ultimately, I liked this universe and most of the people in it. I wanted to know more about it and more about what is actually going on and where the whole thing is going. And in the end that's what it's all about. I was definitely entertained.

Michael says

A great addition to the Sholan universe. I've read this book a few times now, and I will definitely read it again in the future. I just love this series.

Tigress (Warrior Elf) says

I take back all the good things I said about book one. Everything goes to hell in this one. Weird, graphic (and I'm not a prude by any means--I read erotica & romance novels all the time--but this was much more graphic than I was expecting, since it's a sci-fi book published by DAW in the 90's) furry sex abounds--not just the main couple, but now the majority of the Sholan crew are fraternizing with humans. All the girl power of the previous book is thrown out. Kusac becomes a rapist, instead of waiting for Carrie to choose, as he had previously said he would do. He angrily demands to know why Carrie fears him, and insists that he would never hurt her, literally while he's raping her. And the other Sholan/human relationships are also pretty rapey and unhealthy, with the possible exception of Mito and Anders, but it's still all really furry and creepy. What a waste of a pretty cover. And book one was so fun.
