



Postmarked the Stars

Andre Norton

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Trouble started early for the free-trader Solar Queen the moment cargo-master Dane Thorson collected a package for transit from Xecho to Trewsworld. What was in the package Dane did not learn until after he had been kidnapped, knocked out, and a dead man bearing his credentials had been substituted for him aboard the ship.

Efforts to find out the reasons for the mysterious switch seemed hopeless until they made the ghastly discovery that their precious cargo of alien embryos had been subjected to secret radiation, causing them to regress genetically into monster forms.

Only after Dane and his fellow spacemen had endured a series of nightmare adventures on their port of call did they begin to fit the puzzle together - to realize that they had stumbled upon a criminal operation that involved a whole cluster of stars.

Postmarked the Stars Details

Date : Published March 13th 1980 by Magnet Books (first published 1969)

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Author : Andre Norton

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From Reader Review Postmarked the Stars for online ebook

Sandra Munger says

I like the Solar Queen series. It's straight forward science fiction. Traders meeting different species, seeing different worlds.

Mick says

Not one of the strongest in the series. This one didn't really hook me some much. The opening was absolutely engrossing with Dane replaced by stowaway it looked it it had all the requirements to be a great story, but it simply fell apart about halfway through. Keep in mind, it isn't a bad story, it just hit a plateau early and never really moved off it for me.

Still a good entry in the Solar Queen series.

Randall Hunt says

Starts off with a great mystery, then devolves into an endless escape. The end is abrupt and the mystery is never explained. I am learning that Andre Norton, once my favorite author, is very hit and miss.

Valerie says

This is the 4th story in the Solar Queen series. For many years it was also the last, until the publication of Redline The Stars.

There's a very thorny legal and ethical point raised in this story, which isn't really resolved. The Free Traders tend to fight shy of complex ethical questions (so how come the Solar Queen crew helped fight the Gorp on Sargol? If there were ever a case of local politics...), but the question of whether you have a moral responsibility to restore intelligence to a species that's lost it is not-too-deftly evaded. I'll have to get to the end again to remember who it was finally foisted off on, but the Traders essentially just offer to serve as negotiators for the intelligent brachs.

Nope, got there, and the brachs are last mentioned as being VIP residents in a lab. Not exactly a free and untrammelled life, though they are free to leave, if they insist. But to go where?

Jamie Barringer (Ravenmount) says

A postal delivery pick-up goes disasterously wrong and when the Solar Queen arrives at its destination the crew discovers that they made their pick-up after all, and now must deal with the awful consequences.

I like the way Norton imagines life on semi-developed agricultural planets, and that her aliens really don't all look like humans.

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LadyCroft86 says

Another exciting adventure with the Solar Queen. Apart from some plot holes, this book was interesting and entertaining. There was not a whole lot of closure with the brachs and what happens to them in the future. It would have been nice to know what was going to happen with them. Overall 3 out of 5 stars.

Keith says

The last of the Solar Queen series I read in the 60's. Others were issued later.

Wendell Saunders says

Good book, easy read, typical Andre Norton. I've read the first three books in this series years ago, but never read this, the 4th book. Now, with Miss Norton using co-authors, there are 3 more waiting to be read.

Lena says

The beginning was so promising.. and then we had cute animal sidekicks and wandering around and a lot of radiation doing things that radiation does not do.

Oh well. The rest of the series is with co-authors and I have higher hopes, assuming I can track down copies of the books.

Ken Lowe says

Once I started Andre Norton's SiFi series I wanted to read them all.

John says

1977 grade C+
1995 grade B-

Series book ST3
