



The Legacy of Lehr

Katherine Kurtz

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Best known for her beloved Deryni series, Katherine Kurtz rockets into new territory in this breathtaking science fiction murder mystery.

The interstellar cruiser *Valkyrie* has been ordered to take an unexpected detour from its normal route to pick up a strange and valuable cargo. Capt. George Lutobo cannot disobey the commands of his emperor, but the idea of bringing four huge, blue-furred lionlike creatures onboard a luxury vessel makes the captain uneasy. Nor does he trust the big cats' escorts, husband and wife scientists Mather Seton and Wallis Hamilton. Though these magnificent felines possess remarkable psychic abilities and are worshipped as deities on their home planet—and, for that reason, are essential components of the diplomatic negotiations between worlds—they are nevertheless frighteningly dangerous beasts, powerfully built, with razor-sharp claws and teeth.

Soon after the creatures' arrival, the discovery of a dead passenger, ripped to pieces and clutching a clump of blue fur, seems to justify Captain Lutobo's fears. The killings continue, each as savage as the last, though Seton and Hamilton insist that the great felines could never have escaped from their cages. But the dark mystery only deepens when one of the imprisoned cats is murdered—the manner of its death impossible to fathom—and one terrible truth becomes frighteningly clear: No one and no *thing* is safe any longer aboard the *Valkyrie*.

Thrilling, surprising, and marvelously inventive, Katherine Kurtz's *The Legacy of Lehr* is an exciting science fiction adventure that displays a daringly different side of the acclaimed fantasist best known for her popular Deryni and Knights Templar fantasy series.

The Legacy of Lehr Details

Date : Published July 5th 2016 by Open Road Media Sci-Fi & Fantasy (first published 1986)

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Author : Katherine Kurtz

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From Reader Review The Legacy of Lehr for online ebook

Angela says

A great sci-fi mystery. I picked this up in a used bookstore intrigued because I didn't know Kurtz did anything outside of fantasy; it was well worth it. Even though it's almost 30 years old the technology doesn't feel dated. The characters are likeable (or disagreeable as the case needs be) and the mystery has a little of the "locked door" feel to it. The cultural anthropology developed for background of the story is really unique and satisfying. I hope I can find more things like this that Kurtz has done!

NarielLimbaear says

Lu pour la première fois en 2003 ou 2004, j'avais alors une douzaine d'années, et ce fut mon premier livre de science-fiction, avant même Asimov, avant même tout le reste. Je pense que j'aurais pu tomber sur largement pire. Roman pour enfant, il m'a marquée, à l'époque terrifiée et angoissée, et j'ai voulu le relire par nostalgie. Après avoir repoussé l'achat par crainte de la déception, j'ai pris mon courage à deux mains, trouvé un exemplaire d'occasion (épuisé le livre, forcément), et j'ai commencé ma lecture aussitôt le livre reçu.

Donc, les Chats de Lehr raconte comment deux officiers impériaux (un commodore et unE médecin, j'avais pas souvent des héroïnes dans mes bouquins !) doivent livrer au nom de l'Empereur quatre chats de Lehr, de beaux chats bleus, style petit lion ou gros maine coon. Seulement, une fois à bord, des passagers d'une autre espèce paniquent (forcément, ce sont en gros des oiseaux) car les chats leur rappellent les démons de leur religion. Et cette panique semble fondée puisque bientôt, on retrouve un cadavre, tenant dans sa main, des poils bleus.

Donc, une enquête, un peu fantastique sur les bords, mais trop. Le tout est plutôt bien mené, les relations entre les personnages sont tendues, développées, et la traduction est plutôt bonne. On y retrouve presque un petit côté Conan Doyle ou Agatha Christie, c'est riche en mystère, en tension, etc.

Bon par contre, le côté SF a un peu mal vieilli, avec des bases de données sur des ordinateurs à écran vert (je ne sais même pas si vous avez connu ça), des « vaposeringues » et du « plastacier ». Hum. Heureusement que certains éléments sont intemporels !

Pour conclure, je mets un joli 8 en tant que roman pour enfants ; pour adulte, ç'aurait peut-être été un 7, mais si vous avez des enfants, c'est une lecture que vous pouvez tout à fait partager avec eux, et avec plaisir.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

Frankly, I read this because it had cats as main characters, and I enjoyed it very much.

Brent says

I read it in high school and I remember liking it then. Recently I was able to find it on Goodreads again after searching for it for several years. Got it from the library and read it again.

Must say I am disappointed with the high school version of myself, almost as much as I am disappointed in

the book. Where to start? Let's start with the good.

The book is a quick read. I could have finished it in one evening if I had not starting reading it so late. Also there is a cool picture of a blue Smilodon on the cover. Now the cats in the books have tails, unlike Smilodons, but what ever. A cat fighting against green lasers on a spaceship is just freaking awesome. (Incidentally if I remember correctly that is also the reason I read it in high school). The book is basically pulp science fiction. As long as you know that when you start the book you should be fine.

Now the bad.

1. She uses the word 'hugely' in a sentence. "...yawned hugely..." I stopped reading Declare by Tim Powers because of that word. ("...hugely surprised...") I would have stopped reading this book too, but I was over halfway through. Am I the only one that has something against this word? I don't mind seeing it on the internet, but to hear it in conversation or see it in print...

2. The characters talk about reason is such a way I wanted to quote Professor Kirke, "What do they teach in schools these days?" Characters would say things such as, "It's not reasonable," or "That is superstition." Even though it is VERY clear there are people and aliens who are telepathic, can see the future and do other things in the realm of spooky religious flim-flam. So we have a hokey setup between science and religion. Heck, someone is even able to manufacture a sort of telepathic machine that acts as an irritant. So even though we are in the future with all sorts of freaking weird aliens, space ships and strange crap happening, people are going around saying things you would expect to find in Dawkins or Ingersoll. Empirical methodology over reaching into territory it has no business to be in.

Entertaining enough for a quick read but I doubt I will read any more books by the author.

But what do you expect with a blue saber-toothed tiger on the front? (A lot, thus my disappointment).

John says

1990 grade B

Ian says

My review is on SF Mistressworks here: <https://sfmistressworks.wordpress.com...>
