



The Service of the Sword

David Weber , John Ringo , Eric Flint , Jane Lindskold , Timothy Zahn , Victor Mitchell

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Readers can't get enough of Honor Harrington and her world, and here David Weber is again, accompanied by some of the top science fiction writers in the field, with new adventures of the best starship commander in the galaxy, and explorations of previously uncharted corners of her universe. It's a party-and you're invited!

The Service of the Sword, published in 2003, is the fourth anthology of stories set in the Honor Harrington universe or Honorverse. The stories in the anthologies serve to introduce characters, provide deeper more complete backstory and flesh out the universe, so claim the same canonical relevance as exposition in the main series. David Weber, author of the mainline Honor Harrington series, serves as editor for the anthologies, maintaining fidelity to the series canons.

The Service of the Sword Details

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Author : David Weber , John Ringo , Eric Flint , Jane Lindskold , Timothy Zahn , Victor Mitchell

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From Reader Review The Service of the Sword for online ebook

David says

Six stories set in the Honorverse.

1. The Promised Land by Jane Lindskold. The story of Michael Winton's snotty cruise and how he met Judith. Those Masadans sure are nasty. Good background for later events.
2. With One Stone by Timothy Zahn. Rafe Cardones is detached from Fearless, captained by Honor Harrington, to chase down a mystery ship doing nasty things to merchant ships. A free-standing story, ie not direct background for the main story-line.
3. A Ship Named Francis by John Ringo and Victor Mitchell. A short comedy of no import. Portrays Graysons in a way that is very much out of character.
4. Let's Go To Prague by John Ringo. Mullins and Gonzalvez are two members of a Covert Insertion Team working for ONI. A couple of cowboys, they decide to have a holiday in Prague in the PRH and get involved with a defecting official and an exotic dancer. A fun read with a fairly jokey style. The only connection with the main story is that Admiral Patricia Givens is the boss that chews them out in the end.
5. Fanatic by Eric Flint. Starts by describing the interview of Victor Cachat by Oscar Saint-Just following the "Manpower Incident" described in From the Highlands. Victor Cachat is appointed as Special Investigator for the Director of Public Security and assigned to the task force at La Martine following the murder of People's Commissioner Jamka, a sadistic brute hoist on his own petard. This is a substantial story that fits between From the Highlands and Crown of Slaves. Very good background. Victor is an interesting character, even if slightly hard to believe.
6. The Service of the Sword by David Weber. A substantial story about Abigail Hearn's snotty cruise aboard RMS Gauntlet. In this piece we meet Captain (Junior Grade) Michael Oversteegen and Abigail herself, the first female Grayson to graduate from Saganami. Abigail goes on to star Shadow of Saganami. I really enjoyed the background in this story

I could have done without A Ship Named Francis and Let's Go To Prague, but the others are just what I wanted.

Zachary says

Wow.

That's all I have to say. I've enjoyed every one of the short story compilations for the David Weber's Honorverse, but usually there was a story which I didn't care as much for or could have done without. Not so much in this book. I enjoyed everyone, and could barely put it down as I devoured the last three. And each story gets better than the last.

It starts off with "Promised Land" by Jane Lindskold, which centers around two characters. First, Michael Winton, the brother of the queen of Manticore who is trying to prove himself in the military on his own merits, and secondly on Judith, who was captured as a child by pirates and forced into a marriage with an

older man when she came of age - and she wants to escape. I was already intrigued by the character of Michael Winton, and Lindsfold does an excellent job of crafting and pacing the story. You know the paths of the two characters will cross, you just are not quite sure how it all is going to play out - which Lindsfold does excellently.

The second story, "With One Stone," is written by Timothy Zahn, whom I think has never written anything bad. Honor Harrington plays a secondary role in this story, while the primary character is Rafe Cardones. The story takes place after *On Basilisk Station*, so if you've read that book, this is a neat follow-up story. All in all, it builds to a neat little climax.

It's been a long time since I laughed as hard as I did reading "A Ship Named Francis," by John Ringo and Victor Mitchell. So often the ships and captains of the Manticorans (as well as their allies) are depicted in quite complimentary terms. But everyone knows not every ship is perfect, right? And there's got to be a ship where just about every element of "not perfect" come together, right? Well, in this case, there is. It's hard to explain, but I can remember vividly laughing so hard I had tears in my eyes and couldn't even read the words on the page.

"Let's Go to Prague" (John Ringo) has this spy-noir feel to it. I really enjoyed the story and was slightly disappointed when it was over - I felt like I'd been cheated out of more. It centers around two non-conventional spys (in enemy territory) who decide to go on vacation (in a better locale, albeit still in enemy territory). They stumble upon the defection of an admiral which has just gone south and end up on the run for their lives.

The last two stories were my favorites among many enjoyable stories. "Fanatic," by Eric Flint, is a masterful follow-up to "From the Highlands" (also by Eric Flint) from the compilation *Changer of Worlds*. Victor Cachat was a primary character in that story and he plays an almost primary character in this one. If you have read or are planning on reading *Crown of Slaves* and *Torch of Freedom* then you really should read first "From the Highlands" and then this story, "Fanatic." Flint manages an almost breath-taking pace throughout, and the ending is really a masterful turn of phrase and concept - it kept me chuckling to myself for hours afterwards.

The final story is the title story, "The Service of the Sword," by David Weber. A classic Weber tale. It centers around Abigail Hearn, who is also a significant character in *Shadow of Saganami* and *Storm from the Shadows*, and it takes place shortly before those two storylines. Basically Abigail is the first female from the planet Grayson to enter into naval training with the RMN (Royal Manticoran Navy). She's on her midday cruise and gets quite the baptism by fire. I couldn't stop reading - it was fantastic! Makes me want Weber's next book in the series all the more.

In conclusion, if you enjoy the Honor Harrington series, of all the short story compilations Weber has put together for the Honorverse, this is one I would highly recommend. If you don't know anything (or don't care) about the Honorverse or Honor Harrington but you still love a good sci-fi tale, you'll still greatly enjoy this collection.

The Pirate Ghost (Formerly known as the Curmudgeon) says

The short stories from the Honorverse are great reads for those who like short stories. Love em. They are anthologies with entries from old favorites like Conqueror's Pride legend Timothy Zahn and long time sci-fi-military-space-opera-veteran David Drake.

These stories fill in the holes in the longer books and are just fun reads. Think Thieve's World in space.

Cloak88 says

A slightly uneven collection of short stories in the HonorVerse.
The tone of the stories varies quite a bit, but they are good stories each.
If you're interested in the Honor Harrington series this might interest you.

tip

Check the reading order for the series to avoid spoilers.

Dan says

2018 re-read. Very good collection.

Jim says

From Booklist

In the fourth World of Honor volume, other military sf specialists visit the universe Weber created for female astronaut Honor Harrington. In the title story, Weber places Honor, the first midshipwoman graduated from Grayson, the astronautical academy, aboard her first Manticoran warship and has her win out in a situation for which she wasn't trained. Jane Lindskjold's contribution confronts Manticoran royalty with female refugees from a planet whose sexism beggars the word *barbaric*. In Timothy Zahn's "With One Stone," the kind of futuristic thriller of which he is a master, Honor isn't the only one who can detect a booby trap and detonate it safely. John Ringo contributes twice, collaboratively with Victor Mitchell in "A Ship Named Francis" and solo in "Let's Go to Prague"; light but not frivolous, these stories show his flair for military absurdity. Finally, in "The Fanatic," the semi-ubiquitous Eric Flint thinks and writes well about secret policemen and their possibilities. If Honor's audience hasn't yet expanded beyond its military sf core, this book should make it do so. *Roland Green*

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Product Description

Readers can't get enough of Honor Harrington and her world, and here David Weber is again, accompanied by some of the top science fiction writers in the field, with new adventures of the best starship commander in the galaxy, and explorations of previously uncharted corners of her universe. It's a party-and you're invited!

Mayank Agarwal says

Pretty good collection of short stories.

1.Promised Land - Jane Lindskold

Good Plot and Pacing. The training cruise of Crown Prince and the dilemma it brings to the command. The introduction of Masadan's and the very unique culture they bring to Honorverse was well portrayed. The ending felt very rushed but understandable considering it's a short story. (4/5)

2.With One Stone - Timothy Zahn

The focus on Cardones instead of Honor was just not to my taste, also I have never been a fan of two plot approach. Cardones story seemed too technical for me but it did end with a bang. Honor's seemed like filler but I really enjoyed her and Andermani captain's meeting. (2/5)

3.A Ship Named Francis by John Ringo & Victor Mitchell

First time I have come across Humour in Honorverse and it was done superbly. The Plot itself has no significant as the very short story is focused on giving us few laughs. Still the eccentric Chaplin can fit in perfectly with Grayson navy.Will love to have such a permanent character in Honor Harrington books.(4/5)

4.Let's Go to Prague by John Ringo

It's a fun story but empty. The writing is good and the crazy spy's are amusing but as it has no relevance to Honorverse, it felt a waste of time. (3/5)

5.Fanatic by Eric Flint

Victor Cachat is back (must read "From the Highlands" from Changer of Worlds to enjoy this story). Eric Flint gives us the best peep story in Honorverse. The books full of Slynness and Humour. Also we get to see a little bit of what actually happened with Heaven after "Ashes of Victory". (4/5)

6.The Service of the Sword by David Weber

Real good read, a typical Honor Harrington style story with Abigail Hearn, the first Grayson midshipwoman in the heron's seat. Fun to read about fight's against great odds and coming on top. (3/5)

Mike Franklin says

This collection of short stories (novellas really; 6 stories in around 450 pages) is something of a mixed bag. The first two stories – Promised Land by Jane Lindskold and With One Stone by Timothy Zahn – are moderately good. A Ship Named Francis by John Ringo and Victor Mitchell was dreadful; the best thing that can be said about it is how short it is. Let's Go to Prague by John Ringo was entertaining but so improbable as to be laughable (it might have worked as a comic/graphic story... possibly), Fanatic by Eric Flint was actually quite good and the final story – The Service of the Sword by David Weber – was (finally) very good.

Many of the stories were riddled implausibility and inappropriate comparisons. The central premise of the Promised Land is a teenager who learns to pilot a starship purely from reading 'the manual' – please. A ship named Francis has every naval failure being 'deliberately' posted to the same ship – as if any navy would operate so stupidly – and then repeatedly goes on about being sent to 'Siberia,' this metaphor being used directly by the protagonists in dialogue; bear in mind these stories are set some two thousand years in the future and hundreds of light years from Earth, what chance is there that these people would even know where Siberia is, never mind having any knowledge of Stalin's Siberian political exiles? Let's Go to Prague has two of the top Manticoran deep cover agents deciding to sneek off and take their leave undercover in an enemy city on the basis that it will be more fun than going home; the idea that any member of such an organisation, never mind two of their top operatives, would ever do anything so starkly stupid is simply ridiculous. Even

Eric Flint's considerably better offering suffers similarly; he has one of his main character's be, moderately believably, an expert on twentieth century Earth but then he just happens to find another two people that he just happens to be working closely with who are experts on twentieth century films; really, just what are the chances of finding three military personnel on a the same starship that share an in interest in the thousand year old films of a distant planet? It wasn't necessary for the story and, as far as I could see, served only to show off the author's knowledge of these things. Weber's offering thankfully managed not to make the same mistakes.

Setting all the stories next to each other in the same book sadly demonstrates the difference in quality between Weber and the others. In particular Weber's characters are truly three dimensional with each character showing both good and bad qualities and, most importantly, the many shades of grey between those extremes. The other author's characters were all completely two dimensional, being generally either clearly good or clearly bad, and any character that has both is either all good with one token bit of bad or all bad with one token bit of good. I found the difference made painfully obvious by the placing of Weber's story at the end of the book.

Apart from Ringo and Mitchell's 'A Ship Named Francis' which was nothing more than a truly dreadful and utterly pointless series of anecdotes, this collection was enjoyable but certainly not satisfying.

Christopher says

The Service of the Sword of the sword is brilliant collection of novelettes and amongst the stories cover the introduction of Abigail Hearn, Guttierrez and Michael Oversteen! :D The Service of the Sword is full of daring do and really edge of the seat stuff told at an incredible pace that is relentless! :D The stories are separately told but with great tie ins to themselves and the other books! :D It also serves as a clever way to expand on events and new technologies setting things up brilliantly for future books! :D

The Service of the Sword is brilliant, fast-paced, touching, and action packed! :D Brilliant and highly recommended! :D

Coyora Dokusho says

Read at least (5) times

"A Ship Named Francis" - Always gives me the extreme lol'z

"Fanatic" - So funny, I lovelovelove Victor Cachat

I have lots of homework I'm behind on, I also have a paper due and a midterm to study for, I have taxes, I'm working on the fourth step, I called my biologic father today that I've only met once when I was seven and he hung up on me, and I have a million and one things to do at work. And! A bunch of other stuff. But after reading this my life seems more manageable. Thanks John Ringo, Victor Mitchell and Eric Flint!!!!

Steven Allen says

I have really enjoyed these collections of short stories set in the Honorverse. I hope that the authors see fit to release more of these short stories. I especially like the stories featuring young Honor or her ancestors either when they bond with their treecat or afterwards.

In paperback form, this book is hard to read without creasing the spine. I worry about the longevity of this book so I also acquired a copy of this book in Kindle format preserving my paperback copy from undue wear.

Beth says

Does exactly what it says on the tin, with all the authors doing it in their own styles.

I liked Jane Lindskold's women, enjoyed seeing Honor for a little while in Timothy Zahn's entry, am amazed that a story by John Ringo had no prostitutes in it (maybe because he had a co-author, Victor Mitchell), although his solo story of course starred one. Sometimes I wonder if Ringo realizes that there are many women in difficult situations who don't turn to prostitution, but that he's less likely to meet them in a whorehouse. Eric Flint had fun with Havenites, and Weber himself gave us another heroic Greyson mididy.

Marina Sinelnikova says

My favorite novella here was, once again, Eric Flint's story about Victor Cachat. I think I liked this one even better, because of good sense of everyday life on Haven ships, and also because of Yuri and of the attempt to show the good side of the Commissioner institute.

As for the other stories - Abigail Hearn's, the first Grayson midshipwoman, is sort of another HH, only minus treecats, but I liked captain Oversteegen and that there wasn't an evil officer, there was just ordinary tension and misunderstanding. I got confused about what those evil ships were doing in that system, though.

The story about HH and Rafe Cardones was entertaining enough, and seeing the Andermani and the ONI was interesting (poor HH, an academical fan in Andermani empire! I kind of wish for a story about their correspondence over the years...)

"The ship named Francis" was amusing to read, but I didn't like the conclusion; that is, the fact that there sort of wasn't any conclusion. The spy story was less absurdly amusing and kind of empty to me.

As for the story about Michael Winton and Judith, I liked the Judith parts better, they were so tension-filled.

William Bentrin says

The Service of the Sword by David Weber

This is Worlds of Honor number 4. It is a series of short stories by David Weber, John Ringo, Eric Flint, Jane

Lindskold and Timothy Zahn. With the exception of Ms. Linksold, I have multiple books from each of the other authors listed. The story takes place in David Weber's Honor Harrington universe.

You would not need to have read all of David Weber's books to enjoy this series of short stories. Of course having read all of David Weber's work, I was able to enjoy all of the nuances that might be missed, if you are not a fan, that were in the stories.

It is always a treat to revisit the Honor Harrington universe where courage loyalty and honor our hallmarks of the stories.

I highly recommend the book and the series.

Jennifer says

3.75 stars, rounded up. probably my favorite so far of the anthologies.

here's a little aside, though. for some reason, when i look at the descriptions/back covers of david weber's books, i tend to make a note of which authors are the ones that are quoted as saying they love weber's books. anne mccaffrey is an author that apparently loves weber's books, and for some reason, i was afraid that he had asked her to participate in one of his anthologies. for some reason, from a literary perspective, it terrified me. note that this didn't actually happen, and mccaffrey doesn't appear in this collection, but the idea of it was enough to almost put me off reading the anthology. (don't judge me. i'm eight months pregnant, and as a result, can be extremely irrational.) ;)

this book, however, was really good. the only reason it doesn't get a solid 4 stars is because i really don't like john ringo's writing style, and his stories, while a little amusing, were really not up to par with what i was expecting. as an author, ringo irritates me, and as a general rule, he's *extremely* poorly edited/proofread. (also, authors and proofreaders, please note: grisly and grizzly are NOT the same word. describing something like the discovery of a shipboard massacre as "grizzly" is really just... wow. grisly means something horrific, sad and gruesome. grizzly is a bear. A BEAR. that is all.)

i loved the story featuring victor, once again. now that he's a little more jaded, a little more experienced, it's interesting to see how he's turning out, and how he can turn things around without anyone in the situation even seeing it. i loved this master plan with the opposition, and how he ran the investigations. it was a great vignette.

i also enjoyed the story regarding the masadan women.

there were a few moments, though, where i was reminded how very unsubtle and heavy-handed david weber's universe can be. haven's state security, conveniently shortened to the SS. "rob s pierre" and his reign of terror. the fact that the upper crust of the star kingdom talks like cowboys, to the point that i was getting EXTREMELY irritated trying to read the last story in the book. it was a great story. i really loved it, but every time the captain opened his mouth, i wanted to punch someone. (see above, where the pregnant lady is irrational... but in this case, i'm pretty sure i could get away with it.) his heavy-handedness and repetition actually go to the point of distraction to me, so that if it's more than a short story, it can be hard for me to handle. he's got some great ideas, and he's made a great world, so i have to hand that to him, but sometimes, i think he's all about the world-building and that, deep down, he's not that great of an author, which is unfortunate.

but still, a pretty good romp.

