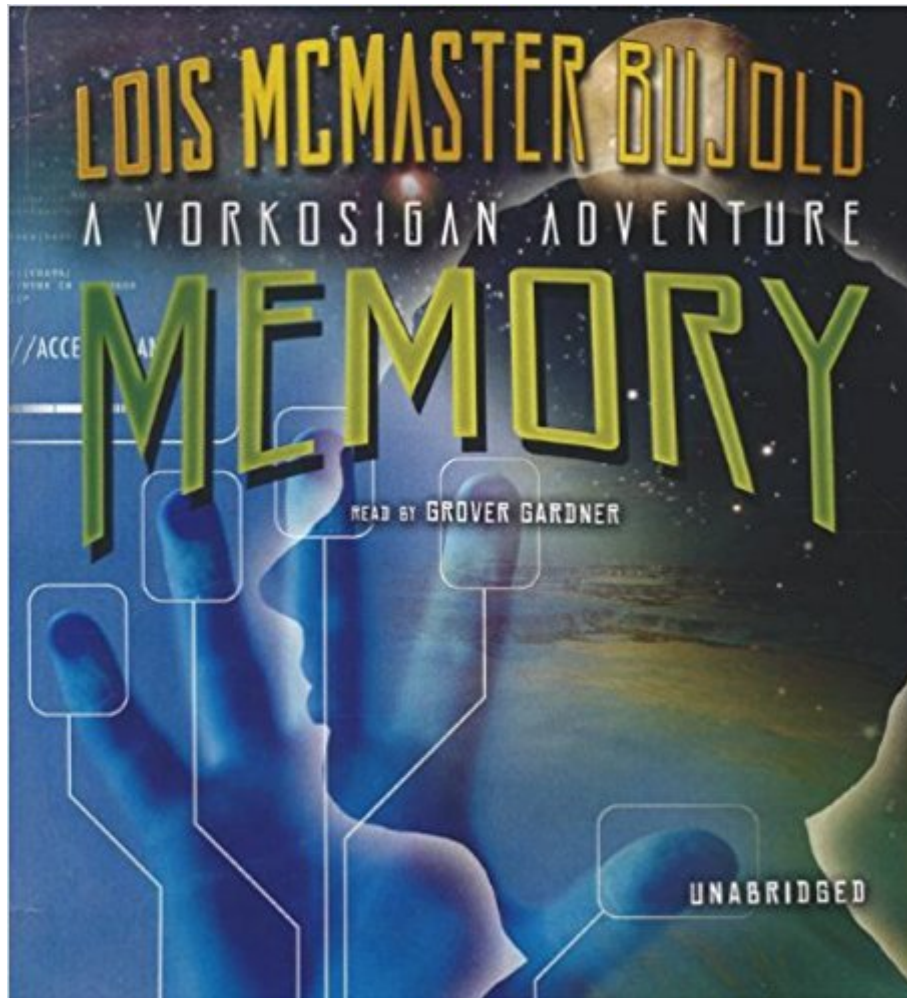




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Memory (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures)



Synopsis

[Read by Grover Gardner]Dying is easy. Coming back to life is hard. At least that's what Miles Vorkosigan thinks, and he should know, having done both once already. -- Thanks to his quick-thinking staff and incredible artistry from a medical specialist, Miles' first death won't be his last. But it does take some recovery, a fact he has been reluctant to admit. When he makes the mistake of returning too soon to military duty, he finds himself summoned home to face the Barraryaran security chief, Simon Illyan. But Miles' worst nightmares about Simon Illyan are nothing compared to Illyan's own nightmares. Under suspicion himself, Miles must seek out the answers to Illyan's nightmares or see the inevitable destruction of Imperial Security and, with it, the Empire.

Book Information

Series: Miles Vorkosigan Adventures

Audio CD: 1 pages

Publisher: Blackstone Audio; Unabridged edition (July 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1470824574

ISBN-13: 978-1470824570

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.4 x 5.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 182 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,711,225 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in [Books > Books on CD](#) > [Authors, A-Z](#) > (B) > [Bujold, Lois McMaster](#) #3161 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction](#) #3732 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy](#)

Customer Reviews

Miles turns 30, and--though he isn't slowing down just yet--he is starting to lose interest in the game of Wall: the one where he tries to climb the wall, fails, gets up, and tries again. Having finally reached a point in his life where he can look back and realize that he has managed to prove his courage and competence, he can move on to bigger and better things. Depending on how you count it, this is the eighth, ninth, tenth, or eleventh book in a series--not all are about Miles or even his extended family. A good place to start is with the first Vorkosigan story,

Miles Vorkosigan, secret agent extraordinaire and hero of six previous Bujold novels, has made a

serious error. Not entirely recovered from the near-fatal injuries sustained in *Mirror Dance* (1994), he has a seizure while in combat, nearly wrecking the mission. Worse yet, fearing that he will be removed from active duty, he has falsified his report to Simon Illyan, the chief of Barrayaran Imperial Security. Illyan, who has perfect memory due to a computer implant, catches Miles in a lie and so must dismiss him from the Service. Devastated, Miles contemplates suicide. His career as a secret agent has propped up a damaged psyche; can he now live on his own? The Vorkosigan series started out as fairly lightweight space opera, but Bujold has matured as a writer over the years, and in such novels as *Barrayar* (1991) and *Mirror Dance* has both moved away from straight action and shown increasing skill as a delineator of character. Now, both Miles's strengths and his weaknesses come into play as he must struggle first with his own failure and then with a mystery that may have a potentially devastating effect on Barrayar itself. Not long after dismissing Miles, Illyan, who holds the safety of the Empire in his hands, begins to forget things and make serious mistakes himself?and only Miles, now a civilian with a serious medical disability hanging over his own head, has the knowledge needed to deal with impending disaster. Three novels in this series, including *Mirror Dance*, have won a Hugo for Best Novel; expect a nomination, at least, for this compelling new one. Major ad/promo; author tour. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm going to post the same review for the entire Vorkosigan saga. MANY years ago (shudder to think - we only had books made of paper) I was stuck at an airport with nothing to read. The only book I could find in the store was named *Cordelia's Honor*. It was about a woman and written by a woman. From what I could discern from the cover, it was a combination of books from some sort of "Vor" series. With no intent to offend anyone, for me back in those days the book had 2.9 strikes against it before I read the first word: it was about a woman, science fiction written by a woman, and this stupid sounding "Vor" word. I very reluctantly bought it. I sat down in that miserable airport (aren't they all?) and started reading. On that day, the fickle finger of fate was FINALLY pointing favorably for me. The book had rich and deep characters, complex plot, thought provoking ideas and statements, a different way of "seeing" things, it forced you to think instead of numbly process words - it was everything I love about my life long relentless pursuit of reading. I've read the series several times. They still make me think, they still make tears, and I keep finding little tidbits that I missed. I could write much more but I'm going to try to imitate a wonderful author named Lois McMaster Bujold and use just the right amount of words - no more, no less. Please read these in order. I promise you won't regret it. I'm ashamed of myself for not writing a review years ago. I feel

that I did a great author a disservice by not giving her a few timely words after the thousands of wonderful words she's given me.

I can't say much about *Memory* without spoilers, which would be criminal, but I can at least share that this was one of the best written books I've read in years. I've enjoyed each of the previous books in the series, thinking they were self-contained, only to find that the real payoff was here, in this volume. I wish more authors would allow their characters to naturally evolve the way Bujold does. Maybe that's a sign of a master author. She doesn't allow Miles to stagnate, but instead pushes him, sometimes ruthlessly, sometimes gently, forward. Who is Miles, when he's lost almost everything? Who does Miles become when he's no longer a brash 17 year old with a chip on his shoulder? We get to find out, and it's a joyous ride.

I'm rounding up about half a star. This is definitely not the place to dive into the Vorkosigan saga. The emotional impact of this story derives from an understanding of the complicated life that series protagonist Miles has built for himself over the preceding years and books. Read in internal chronological order, it packs quite a wallop. There was one point at which I thought Miles was being uncharacteristically dense (though not nearly as dense as prior to the start of *Mirror Dance*, #9 in the series) -- but emotional factors might semi-plausibly explain his being a bit slow on the uptake. The resolution is both satisfying and intriguing.

If there were a higher rating, I would have chosen it. Bujold is a brilliant writer, and is at her best with the Vorkosigan saga. Since I have just finished it, *Memory* is my favorite. It seems at first to be about a most complex and surprising turning point in the life of Miles Vorkosigan. In addition to what would already have been a fascinating story, Bujold layers in complex and surprising turning points for at least three other favorite characters. She does a superlative job writing ends that are wrenching and beginnings that inspire. If you haven't started it yet, you might want to begin with *Shards of Honor*, the very first of the Saga, or *Warrior's Apprentice*, which starts Miles' story. (Those are also my favorites.) Even if you choose to embark on your discovery of the Vorkosigan Universe at this point, you will encounter characters you will want to spend time with again and again. You will be absorbed by the history and culture of a world you can't wait to visit again. You will become involved in stories that are layered, intriguing, humorous and wistful. I cannot recommend this book and this series enough.

One of my favorite books of all times. This book will have greater meaning if you have read some the earlier series books first. In this story Miles, a character who has a history of overcoming adversity becomes the source of his own undoing. Having thrown a monkey wrench into the career he attained by effort and creativity, he is faced with redefining his own identity. At the same time he he must use his characteristic determination to solve a mystery of the attempted murder of a friend. This book is simutaneously funny and deep, dealing with the matter of how a person moves forward when everything he has always wanted is no longer an option. My favorite form of science fiction consists of stories that illuminate the the human condition within an imagined reality. To add spice to these proceedings Bujold has quirky sense of humor all her own.

Memory is the linchpin of Lois Master Bujold's series based on her crippled hero, Miles Vorkosigan. Events in previous novels have left Miles with complicated forms of damage that could not be repaired--damage which would inevitably cost him his covert-ops identity and his career. Struggling to hold on to his career despite his obvious incapacity, he got himself into deeper trouble. The process by which he reclaims his family, his home, his responsibilities--finally, his honor--is not to be missed. The climax scene, in which Miles wrestles with the temptation to reclaim his old life or move on into something different, testifies that a climax need not involve physical action to be cataclysmic. And cathartic. Long live Miles and the Vorkosiverse!

One of the best in this series... fantastic twists to it. Love this book and all the rest of the Vorkosigan books. Well anything by Bujold really. Something seems to have gone wrong with that Eidetic memory chip that Captain Illyan has in his head... and then more shenanigans ensue. Seriously fast read, as usual with a Miles book it leaves you (and the bad guys) breathless.

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