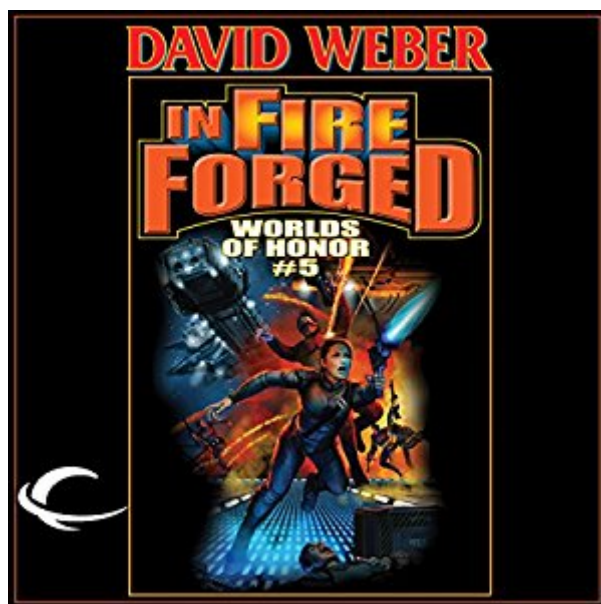


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In Fire Forged: Worlds Of Honor #5



Synopsis

The hottest military science-fiction series of all time continues. The mission: to boldly explore David Weber's Honorverse; to deliver all the action, courage, derring-do, and pulse-pounding excitement of space naval adventure with tales set in a world touched by the greatness of one epic heroine: Honor Harrington. This fifth volume in the popular Worlds of Honor series includes stories by best-seller Jane Lindskold and New York Times best seller and Star Wars novelization phenomenon Timothy Zahn. It's rounded out with an all-new David-Weber-authored novella featuring a mob of space pirates who make the fatal mistake of taking on a young Manticorean Royal Navy commander who goes by the name Harrington.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In *Fire Forged* (2011) is the fifth SF anthology in the World of Honor series, following *The Service of the Sword*. The initial work in this series is *More Than Honor*. This work contains four short works by various authors. It includes a novella by the creator. "Ruthless" by Jane Lindskold is a sequel to "Promised Land" in the previous anthology. A child is kidnapped for political purposes and the queen's brother gets involved. "An Act of War" by Timothy Zahn is a story of a con artist working a scam in the People's Republic. Honor is involved only at the end. "Let's Dance" by David Weber is about Commander Honor Harrington, captain of the destroyer *Hawkwing*. She faces a decision that may ruin her career. "An Introduction to Modern Starship Armor Design" by Andy Presby is a presentation on the history and characteristics of armor protecting spacegoing warships. It includes

four appendices. Like the previous anthologies, this work further illuminates the worlds of Honor Harrington as seen by some of the leading SF authors of today. These stories cover aspects of Honor's milieu that are not covered by the numerous works produced by the creator. Highly recommended for Weber fans and for anyone else who enjoys tales of future societies, space warfare, and interesting people. Read and enjoy! -Arthur W. Jordin

As previous reviewers have noted, the stories in this anthology are good. They either continue threads from earlier anthologies, flesh out the career of Harrington or fit well into the style of the series. I found the technical paper to be mere padding and not really additive to my appreciation for this long and rich series of books and stories. What bothers me is the value proposition offered by Baen. The 3 stories plus the technical appendix weigh in at just over 330 pages; without the index it is about three hundred pages. To justify the purchase I think a fourth story is required, as earlier anthologies in this series had.

This is a collection of 3 longish shorts and technical paper on armor design. "Ruthless" follows the story of Michael, Judith and Ruth that started in "Promised Land". The characters are very nicely done and the plot interesting. The ability of the villains of the piece to successfully pull off their deception is rather a stretch and their motive isn't convincingly stated. Although the weakest of the stories, still a very good read. In "An Act of War" Charles--a con man--has gone back to the Peeps for a second try. If we consider what we found out about the "Mesian Alignment" in *Mission of Honor* (Honor Harrington, Book 12) his actions and access to advanced tech. as well as intelligence make sense if he is acting as their agent or at least cat's paw. Interesting story, Honor is uninvolved except that her image appears. Intricate plot nicely written not as strong as it could be. "Let's Dance" involves Honor (commander of the destroyer Hawkwing) in a convoluted plot by the central Silesian government, the sector governor, the Ballroom, and a Mesian/Manpower operation. The plot is well done and I like the way that Honor was rewarded under the table. An excellent story. The last section "An Introduction to Modern Starship Armor Design" is of interest to tech. inclined fans of the series. Well thought out but for most of us padding. It does offer a nice overview of weapons development--you can't talk about armor without talking about what your armor is being armored against. The article is marred by failure to distinguish between ions and plasma. Ordinary sunlight is ionizing radiation, you simply knock off an electron from an atom or molecule resulting in a positive or negative charge. It doesn't change the state of matter and usually isn't a big deal. Plasma on the other hand is the fourth state of matter and doesn't consist of atoms any more. The nuclei are stripped

of their electrons and the electron/nuclei gas (using gas loosely) is plasma. Its properties are very different from ionized matter and it interacts strongly and differently with magnetic fields. Leading me to speculate that using a magnetic field to push the plasma away from the ship could both limit damage and provide additional shielding by the plasma itself.

The 3d story, "Let's dance" might be the best Honor Harrington short story ever published. Early in her career, she finds information about a pirate and slaver base, and she faces a moral dilemma. If she merely reports the data, hundreds of innocents die. If she attacks and fails, she loses her ship, her crew, and her life. And if she attacks and succeeds, she has disobeyed direct orders, created an interplanetary incident, and loses her career. The 2d story, "An Act of War" by Timothy Zahn is exciting and is marred only by the reader not being sure he wants the con man to save his life from the Peeps by helping them provoke a third empire into a war against Manticore. The 1st story is pleasant but mediocre. But Honor Harrington fans should read this book even if they only read "Let's Dance."

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