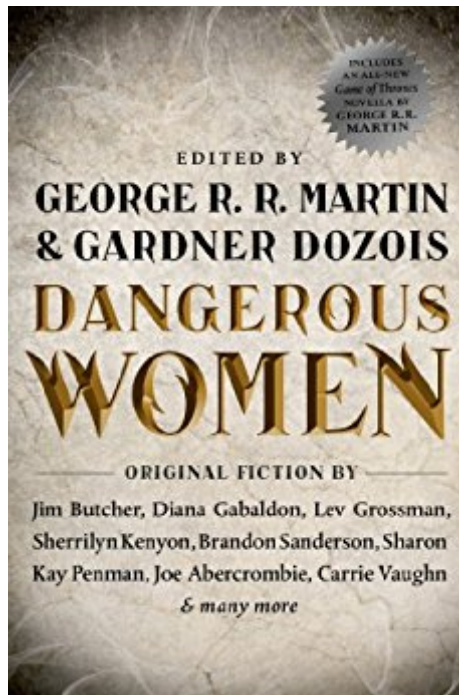




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Dangerous Women (Outlander Series)



Synopsis

All new and original to this volume, the 21 stories in *Dangerous Women* include work by twelve New York Times bestsellers, and seven stories set in the authors' bestselling continuities—including a new "Outlander" story by Diana Gabaldon, a tale of Harry Dresden's world by Jim Butcher, a story from Lev Grossman set in the world of *The Magicians*, and a 35,000-word novella by George R. R. Martin about the Dance of the Dragons, the vast civil war that tore Westeros apart nearly two centuries before the events of *A Game of Thrones*. Also included are original stories of dangerous women—heroines and villains alike—by Brandon Sanderson, Joe Abercrombie, Sherrilyn Kenyon, Lawrence Block, Carrie Vaughn, S. M. Stirling, Sharon Kay Penman, and many others. Writes Gardner Dozois in his Introduction, "Here you'll find no hapless victims who stand by whimpering in dread while the male hero fights the monster or clashes swords with the villain, and if you want to tie these women to the railroad tracks, you'll find you have a real fight on your hands. Instead, you will find sword-wielding women warriors, intrepid women fighter pilots and far-ranging spacewomen, deadly female serial killers, formidable female superheroes, sly and seductive femmes fatale, female wizards, hard-living Bad Girls, female bandits and rebels, embattled survivors in Post-Apocalyptic futures, female Private Investigators, stern female hanging judges, haughty queens who rule nations and whose jealousies and ambitions send thousands to grisly deaths, daring dragonriders, and many more." At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

Book Information

File Size: 2442 KB

Print Length: 785 pages

Publisher: Tor Books; 1 edition (December 3, 2013)

Publication Date: December 3, 2013

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00CVMHCJW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #25,571 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #45

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Anthologies & Short Stories #62 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Anthologies #155

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Customer Reviews

I was really excited about this anthology! I love anthologies, I love kickass women, and the Martin-Dozois anthologies attract the best fantasy writers. I've read and liked one of their anthologies (Songs of Love and Death: All Original Tales of Star Crossed Love) before, but this one blew it out of the park! Dangerous Women doesn't just feature sci-fi/fantasy stories; there are a variety of genres represented. This makes the collection have an incredibly broad range. The eponymous dangerous women are all pretty different too - physically or magically powerful women, women who flourish despite their circumstances, femme fatales, vengeful ghosts, and more. Sometimes they drive the plot, sometimes they're the protagonist, and sometimes they're both. I enjoyed some stories more than others, but unusually, I didn't think any fell flat. Some were disturbing or implausible, but I think they still made good additions to the anthology. I'm not going to review every story, but I'll talk a bit about some standouts.

THE HANDS THAT ARE NOT THERE by Melinda Snodgrass This story takes place in the same universe as one of my favourites from Songs of Love and Death, and I was immediately pulled into this universe again. Unfortunately there aren't any full-length books in this universe, but I'm hoping there will be soon! It involves an extraordinary story told in a bar, which if were true, would have incredible repercussions.

SHADOWS FOR SILENCE IN THE FORESTS OF HELL by Brandon Sanderson I don't really like the title of the story, but the story itself was fantastic. It's set in Sanderson's Cosmere (although I don't know what planet) and features a terrifying world and a resourceful woman who makes it a little safer. I'm probably biased by my indefatigable love for Sanderson, but I loved this story.

BOMBSHELLS by Jim Butcher I've only read the first book of the Dresden Files, but this story made me really want to catch up with it (it also contains major spoilers for the direction of the series, but I didn't mind that). It features Molly, Harry Dresden's apprentice and some other Dresdenverse women on a mission. Molly gets some great character development, and there's a lot of gratuitous ass-kicking. Some of it was a little cliched, but it was so much fun that I didn't mind.

A QUEEN IN EXILE by Sharon Kay Penman and **NORA'S SONG** by Cecelia Holland Both of these stories were historical fiction and featured women figuring out how to become dangerous in a male-dominated world. Other than that,

they were fairly different - in the former, Constance, future Queen of Sicily, takes charge of her unhappy life and in the latter, a young Eleanor of England, Queen of Castile learns how to get her way. I found both fascinating, and I really need to read more historical fiction.

MY HEART IS EITHER BROKEN by Megan AbbottI don't want to say very much about this heartbreaking story, but it examines the emotional consequences of knowing a truly dangerous woman. Or thinking you do.

LIES MY MOTHER TOLD ME by Caroline SpectorThis story is set in the shared Wild Cards universe, and involves a superhero that goes from having dangerous powers to being truly dangerous even without her powers. I found it very poignant.--I could keep going, but I'll just say that I also loved **SOME DESPERADO** by Joe Abercrombie (I can't wait to see more of Shy in his latest book, *Red Country*), **THE GIRL IN THE MIRROR** by Lev Grossman, **NAME THE BEAST** by Sam Sykes, and **RAISA STEPANOVA** by Carrie Vaughn (I haven't read anything by Vaughn that I haven't loved). **THE PRINCESS AND THE QUEEN** by George R.R. Martin read like the dry medieval telling that it was meant to be, but was strangely fascinating.

The stories I wasn't as thrilled about:

I KNOW HOW TO PICK 'EM by Lawrence SandersThis is an extremely well-written story, but it left me feeling unclean just having read it (which seems intentional). It definitely adds to the diversity of the anthology, but I wish I hadn't read it. It probably didn't help that I was envisioning Tricia Helfer as the "dangerous woman" in the story.

SECOND ARABESQUE, VERY SLOWLY by Nancy KressThe idea behind this story was fascinating (discovering beauty in an ugly world), and I was somewhat touched by the ending, but I was distracted by finding the worldbuilding implausible - 99% of women are sterile, and civilisation totally breaks down. I can see how women's place in society would change significantly, but I don't think cities and technology would be completely destroyed. I didn't even mind the world, but the cause of it seemed forced.

PRONOUNCING DOOM by S.M. StirlingI got the gist of this story, but was thoroughly confused by the world. American society is now heavily influenced by ancient Scottish/Irish tradition, and this all happens within a few years? I found out that this is set in the "Emberverse", but I don't think there's enough of an introduction to this universe for people not already familiar with it.--That ended up being much longer than I anticipated. Summary: this is one of the best anthologies I've ever read. Buy it!

The events of this tale precede *A Game of Thrones*. I became ever more enthralled the further I read. The pace is very quick, probably due to this being a footnote in the history of Westeros. This would make a great film. Perhaps a trilogy. Many will already be familiar with some of these families like the Targaryens, as well as with the locations such as Dragonstone and Kings Landing. If you are considering this, buy it at once. It can be read in one sitting, but is very compelling. It's in

essence Game of Thrones but each side in the conflict has Dragons. It's incredibly amazing if you've been waiting to see the Dragons in Game of Thrones battle. At one point the princesses youngest and only surviving son begs his mother to let him ride his Dragon into battle and do what he can. Having lost all her other sons the queen refuses. However, when peasant mobs begin overtaking the gold cloaks in the streets of kings landing, and begin to head for where the Dragons are kept to kill them in their enraged and crazed rioting, the Prince only a child escapes. The queen cries "No" but it's too late. The boy mounts his mother's Dragon in a heroic attempt, only to be refused by the twisting Dragon in the sky and fall to his death beneath in a chaos filled city. His body broken, the queen becomes inconsolable. Tell me you don't want to hear more. Plenty of action and betrayal fill this, which can only be called "dance of dragons". This is the last involvement of dragons in Westeros, at least until Daenerys arrives, if she ever arrives. This is definitely worth a read.

I bought this anthology because I'm a huge fan of George R. R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" series, and this book includes a prequel novella. I enjoyed the novella and would say--as a fan--that it alone was worth the cost of the book. For non-ASOIAF fans, the novella is written as a historical text and would probably be very boring to you, but that's only a small part of the book. For me most of the other stories were interesting though for the most part not really my thing. Nothing stood out as really great, but it was mostly a good read. The pieces by Jim Butcher and Joe R. Lansdale draw on negative female stereotypes that border on sexist, and I feel like they didn't belong considering the theme. I also didn't like that there seemed to be a major typo at least every 2-3 pages or so. I was hoping for more speculative fiction considering the authors and editors (fantasy and scifi are in the minority here), but overall a good anthology.

The title says it all. I enjoyed some of the stories immensely and they finished much too quickly. Other stories seemed to drag along and I thought they would never end.

For those who may have been drawn in by the title but are not aware of the editors' works, warning! You should know that many genres, with majority sci-fi and fantasy are covered by these short stories and novellas. I know some people will not give these genres a shot so if you're buying only the title, caveat emptor. With that said, I truly enjoyed this collection with the exception of a few duds. I enjoyed learning more about each author before reading their story. The editors have done a great service to the reading community by introducing some new and many long suffering writers to people outside their genre. The variety of setting and stories combined with the many different

timbered voices of the authors results in a satisfying bite size feast. The only reason for not giving it five stars is the couple of stories that were, at best, uninspiring. Oh, and G.R.R.Martin fans will not be disappointed!

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