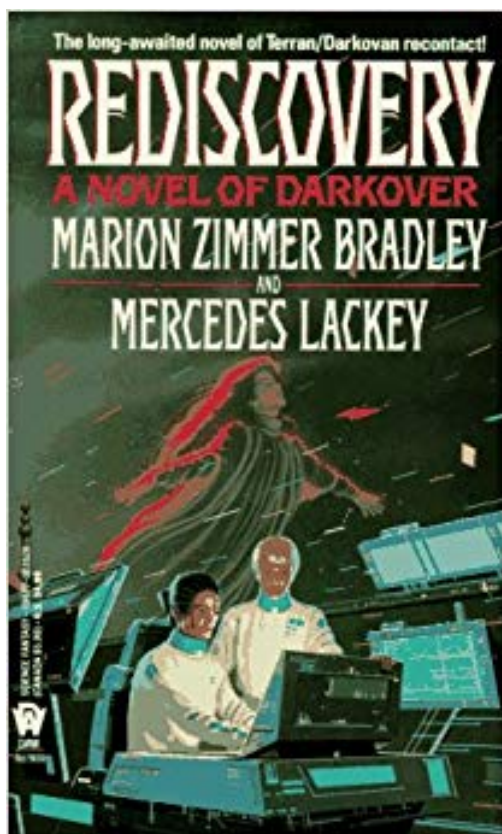


Rediscovery: A Novel of Darkover *by* Romas Kukalis, Mercedes Lackey, Marion Zimmer Bradley



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Leonie Hastur, a powerful telepath and daughter of one of the most powerful ruling clans of Darkover, becomes disturbed by a premonition that something is about to happen that will forever change her world. Reprint.



Reviews of the *Rediscovery: A Novel of Darkover* *by* Romas Kukalis, Mercedes Lackey, Marion Zimmer Bradley

Nekora

The Darkover series was begun by Marion Zimmer Bradley in 1960 and carried on by her and others such as Mercedes Lackey, Diana Paxson, and Elisabeth Waters. Random short stories have been published recently in electronic form, but this book, copyrighted 1989, is listed as part of the original canon.

The rediscovery is the discovery of Darkover by Terrans many generations removed from the original stock that formed the human population of Darkover. Because the Terrans had no

knowledge that the Darkovans even existed, everything in the culture has to be explained to them, and thus to the reader who has not been a fan of the series.

To most of the spaceship's crew, the Darkovans' laran (telepathy) is an example of the Arthur Clarke saying plus an attempt to mislead the crew with an advanced technology that they claim to be magic. Since a few of the crew members also have telepathy, this tangles a few story threads nicely.

Considering when this was written, the Terran computer technology which is the responsibility of one of the main characters doesn't feel too archaic and one particular plot twist will appeal to the computer geek reader. The other noticeable sign of its age is the abruptness of its ending. The reader is left with the feeling that the series will continue (which, of course, it does), but not on the next page where it is expected.

Marad

Rediscovery in the Darkover Series was one of the many books the author wrote after she started the series, in order to "give an overall picture" of the whole epic. Her writing is superb, with lots of twists. A reminder though, for those who do not know about the Darkover Series of books. Each one is a complete story in itself, therefore one can read them in any order, if you wish. This fits in after things start to settle down on Darkover, during the Hundred Kingdoms when many would take over smaller ones, and also after the Ages of Chaos which Bradley started to fill in just before she died. She had help on this one with Mercedes Lackey, one of the many Friends of Darkover.

Anaragelv

For the simple fact that Thendara House has Magda Lorne. And her parents figure prominently in this novel.

It's a good novel in that it demonstrates the problem of a First Contact protocol, and mistakes that humans will make. Especially when encountering 'long lost colonies'. Leonie Hastur (when young, as opposed to the ancient one in the Forbidden Tower cycle), figures prominently. As do David and Elizabeth Lorne (Magda's parents).

Perhaps the most arrogant thing that the Terranan (us humans) make- is the complete lack of objectivity when it comes to dismissing the notion of telepathy.

I admit that I tend to view and read novels with a military background and/or Star Trek protocol. It is well that the Terran Empire has not encountered any Alien Empires of an equal or near so tech level. As the humans would blunder in and spark a war.

Cia

I love all of the Darkover novels and expected to get a lot of questions answered. This book was a disappointment. It was definitely not as well written as most of the other novels. It did not have the "feel" of the other novels. It tells about the founding of the Terran spaceport on Darkover but really doesn't have as much character development as it should have. This was not up to MZB's usual standards.

Gravelblade

I really enjoyed "Rediscovery" but I thought some of the ideas in it could have been a little more thought out. One item that stands out is the fact that the "first" team does not consider that there may be other factions to deal with on a large planet rather than just one "clan" chief. Even though the crew was kind of pushed into first contact, there should have been some consideration of the fact that there might be other societies on the planet and before pushing ahead with a permanent landing site.

That said, I almost "pushed ahead" to see what was going to happen next so it was a fun read and too soon ended.

Zeleence

Unfortunately the author's attempt to connect the dots and fill in the gaps in other books falls short here. Particularly unbelievable is the "allergy" rationale for a pivotal part of the story. No space-

going society would allow a victim of life-threatening allergies to hold a critical position on a space ship...this totally disrupted my "willing suspension of disbelief.

Wetiavavas

It has been something like 10 years since I've read any Darkover books. I had the omnibus edition of "The Shattered Chain" and "Thendara House" together, and while I found them interesting, I eventually decided I wasn't going to read them again.

This story provided insight into the beginning of the Terran relationship with the Darkovans, and it also provides a bit more detail about some things that were rather obscure to me. (Of course, only reading two of the books doesn't exactly give one a comprehensive worldview.) It was a pleasant surprise to realize that the story was dealing with Margali/Magdalen Lorne's parents.

Since my only experience with this world was largely from the perspective of the Renunciates, I was anticipating a bit more of the same. While this book does still focus more on the women than the men, it is more subtle about it.

Ysaye's situation was heartbreaking; I hoped with all my heart that all would be well for her. The involvement of Iaran added another layer of sorrow to an already difficult situation. I suppose ultimately all was indeed well for her.

The cover is just plain weird. I did a double-take when I saw the authors' names listed, because this just looked like a bad Photoshop job, and that's unusual for both of them. The MZB books I've owned have all had lovely covers, and while I don't care quite as much for Lackey's, they're still always attractive and competently done.

Reading this was like a visit with an old acquaintance - I won't say a friend, because I was never that deeply involved with the world, but it was pleasant.

A clash of cultures and ideas from two sides of the same species! Awesome story!

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