



Working God's Mischief

Glen Cook

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Working God's Mischief

Glen Cook

Working God's Mischief Glen Cook

Arnhand, Castauriga, and Navaya lost their kings. The Grail Empire lost its empress. The Church lost its Patriarch, though he lives on as a fugitive. The Night lost Kharoulke the Windwalker, an emperor amongst the most primal and terrible gods. The Night goes on, in dread. The world goes on, in dread. The ice builds and slides southward.

New kings come. A new empress will rule. Another rump polishes the Patriarchal Throne.

But there is something new under the sun. The oldest and fiercest of the Instrumentalities has been destroyed--by a mortal. There is no new Windwalker, nor will there ever be.

The world, battered by savage change, limps toward its destiny. And the ice is coming.

Working God's Mischief is the savage, astounding new novel of *The Instrumentalities of Night*, by Glen Cook, a modern master of military fantasy.

Working God's Mischief Details

Date : Published March 11th 2014 by Tor Books

ISBN : 9780765334206

Author : Glen Cook

Format : Hardcover 432 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Epic Fantasy, Fiction, Dark Fantasy

 [Download Working God's Mischief ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Working God's Mischief ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Working God's Mischief Glen Cook

From Reader Review Working God's Mischief for online ebook

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

? A Seasoned and Nearly Seasoned Glen Cook Mercenaries Buddy Read (SAaNSSGCMBR™) with The Real Evgeny™, Elena the Nearly Seasoned One and My Dearest Wife Choko ?

Previous rating #1: 3 revoltingly pathetic stars.

Previous rating #2: 3.568975212896488623 pathetically revolting stars.

New temporary rating: 4 stars. And a quarter.

So. As I may or may not have perhaps mentioned previously in one of my previous pre-reviews, I wasn't experiencing the most **warmhearted feelings** towards **My Dearly Beloved Mr Cook** (MDBMC™) when I finished reading this book. Not that I felt **angry** or anything. No, it wasn't exactly that. Let's just say I wasn't **entirely satisfied** with the way this series ends.

Told you I wasn't angry.

Nope, not angry at all.

Well it turns out this was just another case of **She Who Leads Murderous Crustaceans Proves Yet Again That She Can Be As Dense As A Herd of Supremely Apathetic Barnacles** (SWLMCPYATSCBADAAHOSAB™). Which is as rare an occurrence as **crayfish whistling on top of a mountain**. Of course it is. Right. Moving on and stuff.

As I **may or may not have perhaps mentioned** previously in one of my previous fascinating pre-reviews, the reason I was ever so slightly pissed off after reading this book is that I felt **absolutely nothing was resolved** at the end of this instalment, when it was supposed to be the **final one** in the series. **Ha!** Well it turns out it wasn't! The last instalment in this series, I mean! Okay, so technically it is, because really it isn't, since **it was never meant to be!** I bet that makes a lot of sense and stuff! Yay!

Long story short (view spoiler): the **#\$@&!!%* lovely publishers** lost interest in the series, meaning Cook never got a chance to finish it. Ergo I'm not angry at him anymore. I'm just harbouring somewhat homicidal thoughts towards the **#\$@&!!%* lovely publishers**, that is all.

Anyway, there isn't much I can say about this particular instalment because **spoiler spoiler spoiler** and stuff, but since I'm so nice and kind and friendly and stuff, I'll give you a few **Reasons Why You Should Read This Series Even Though Argh Argh Argh It Is Not Finished Shrimp You You Heartless Publishers You** (RWYSRTSETAAAIINFSYYHP™):

- **Glen Cook** wrote it (view spoiler).
- **The Crusades meet Fantasy** = YAY.

- Extreme ~~double~~ **octuple crossing**, duodecuple **backstabbing**, political **shenanigans**, villainous **tricks** and Machiavellian **schemes** galore.
- **Wickedly mischievous gods** (or is it mischievously wicked gods? I forget) and monsters and *demon girls* and dwarves and bloodthirsty avenging spirits and ~~awesome~~ kids and spoiler spoiler spoiler and super cool **ascendants** who sometimes swim with salmon (don't ask) and relics and doubles valves and peacocks and **serial butt-grabbers** (don't ask either).
- **Dark** stuff + **gritty** stuff = **yummy** stuff.
- **Hahahahaha** dialogues and situations and, um, you know, stuff.
- **My boyfriend Else Tage** the tredecuple? agent. He might act like an exasperating, immature, ungrateful, **nitwitted brat** sometimes, but he is still **super hot**. And he is still super MINE.
- **Slightly amazing female characters**. Pretty sure they'd end up ruling ~~the~~ this world if Cook wrote another instalment in this series. And that some of the puny male characters in it would get the **Super Cute Kitty Treatment** (SCKT™) as a result:

I mean, that's what usually happens when there is a whole bunch of ~~fieree~~ **fearless**, ~~homicidal~~ **kick-ass**, ~~batshit~~ **crazy determined superwomen** at hand, isn't it? Not in your world, you say? How **terribly sad** for you indeed.

- Think the **Brady Bunch** is the coolest family ever? Wait till you meet **Double Great, Auntie H.** and the rest of the **Slightly Stupendous Posse** (SSS™, aka S³).
- If you read this series, you will learn **how sausages get made**. I kid you not. You will also meet **Pig Iron**, the bravest ~~donkey~~ mercenary that ever was and ever will be. Now if that alone isn't **incentive enough** to read this series, I really don't know what might be.
- **I said so**. Which is the only reason you need, obviously.

► And the moral of this **It's Official Glen Cook Brings Out the Pathetically Braindead Crappy Non Reviewer in Me Crappy Non Review** (IOGCBOtPBCNRiMCNR™) is: I could threaten the ~~#\$@&!!%*~~ **lovely publishers** with severe pincer-induced bodily harm until they decide this series is worth their ~~money~~ time, but I won't. Because I'm not like that. **No I'm not**.

P.S. *"The mythic process got fucked."* Just so you know. You are quite welcome.

- **Book 1:** The Tyranny of the Night ★★★★★
- **Book 2:** Lord of the Silent Kingdom ★★★★★
- **Book 3:** Surrender to the Will of the Night ★★★

[Fascinating pre-review update]

I have just been informed that the ~~BLOODY SHRIMPING~~ ever-so-slightly **disappointing ending of this book** is not to be blamed on my beloved Mr Cook (who is perfect in every way and can do no wrong, as we all know. ~~Well except maybe perhaps when it comes to spikes that are made of silver and stuff~~). It just so happens that the ~~#\$@&!!%*~~ **lovely publishers** lost interest in the series, you see. Which explains why it feels like Glen Cook (is a God) ~~totally~~ kinda sorta **left things hanging** at the end of this instalment. I mean, he would never deliberately pull such an excruciatingly painful **Inconclusive Ending Thingie** (IET™) on

his nefarious worshipers. (Because is perfect in every way and can do no wrong and all that crap.) I have therefore decided to most graciously **forgive** this involuntary failure on his part, and most generously **upgrade** my rating of this book. Ergo:

- **Previous rating:** 3 revoltingly pathetic stars.
- **New temporary rating:** 3.568975212896488623 stars. *And a half.*

I shall return with a Full Crappy Non Review extra pronto. **In 2068 or something.**

I knew I could count on your patience, my Little Barnacles.

[August 18, 2018]

Glen Cook, we need to talk.

WHAT THE BLOODY SHRIMPING KIND OF A STINKING FISH OF AN ENDING IS THIS?!

In this gif: Glen Cook on the right, my nefarious little self on the left. Just so you know.

Full **I'm Ever So Slightly Pissed Off Right Now But This Too Shall Not Pass Crappy Review** (IESSPORNBTTSNPCNR™) to come.

Bard Bloom says

Ow, ow, ow. Glen Cook is generally one of my favorite authors, but he has a characteristic flaw. In most of a series he develops a strong military character, and in the last book he kind of drops him into a mess of personality issues, crappy romances, and pissing off all his friends. That's this book. The rest of the Instrumentalities series was quite good, but this one was about the worst quality-per-word ratio that I've read in any Glen Cook book.

Spoilers: Piper acquires a gaggle of outright gods and modernized near-gods as his loyal assistants. He uses them fairly effectively. This is a militarily useful thing, but it really, really doesn't help the book. Also Piper has quite blatantly gotten merged with Zyr (\approx the Norse god Tyr), but nobody notices and says anything. And other plot threads come to near-conclusions, but the conclusions are dulldulldull.

(Unlike the previous book in the series, where Heris – a woman whose top-rated skill was initially "making coffee" — takes out the Big Bad God That All The Other Gods Are Scared Of **all by herself**, and then destroys him while the rest of the protagonists are off fussing with something far less important. That's Glen Cook at his best.)

Shawn says

This is Glen Cook doing what he does best: Dark Fantasy with complicated characters. But with more humor than most of the GrimDarkers who call themselves his successors. This is book FOUR. And it most certainly is a series. Which means if you haven't started *The Instrumentalities of the Night* from Book 1: *Tyranny of the Night*, you really, REALLY, need to.

For those not familiar with the series, here it goes: Imagine an early Renaissance Mediterranean world with sorcery, the contest of pagan gods and monotheistic religions, Crusades, and 500 years of European history crushed into a single lifetime. Got it? The lead character is a former Sha-Lug named Else Tag (think Janissary), exiled for being too successful, to serve as a spy in the western world, now named Piper Hecht. He does something unusual along the way: He eschews any idea of politically attached feudal armies, and constructs a fully professional fighting model that refuses to fight by any rules but getting the job done.

But this point in the series, that has made him a **very** dangerous man. Without spoiling, it's sufficient to say that in this book, the long promised Crusade kicks off. The relationship with the Grail Empire (and its Empress) continues to strain that with Anna at home. *The Night* continues to use and be used by Piper, to ends that are not yet fully clear. Nothing is completed, though some things are consummated. And that perhaps is my one point of frustration. In the end, I'm not sure if this book is anything more than "How Piper gets to the Holy Land." Did it need a whole book to do that? Meh. Not sure. Still a very good read. But I'm hoping the next book begins to tie things up in the series. The waits between them are too long for them not to.

Fantasy Literature says

Working God's Mischief is Glen Cook's fourth installment in his *THE INSTRUMENTALITIES OF THE NIGHT* series. I had a mostly positive response to the opening novel, though it had its issues, but my pleasure waned somewhat through books two and three, leaving me to say at the end of my review of *Surrender to the Will of Night* that "the ratio between frustration and reward" was nearing the danger zone. Unfortunately, *Working God's Mischief* did little to reverse that trend and in fact, for the first time in the series, I seriously considered giving it up. I persevered, but I'm not all that sure I'm happy I did so.

My irritation with the novel began off the bat. Perhaps it's my readerly dotage, but I'm growing less and less patient with long-running series whose new installment don't come with at least a little bit of a recap. For god's sake, weekly ... Read More: <http://www.fantasyliterature.com/revi...>

Evgeny says

A buddy read with the following people:

?Choko who finally decided to join and almost beat me - who started a couple of weeks ago - to the end,

?Elena a not-so-mercilessly bullied former newbie,

?Sarah who is currently feeding the tourists (a very stupid idea if you ask me unless you feed *them* to

**something that can appreciate their taste),
?Some other people temporarily lost (I am looking at you, Eilonwy!)**

I do not even know what to say. Considering the previous book ended mid-sentence and this one picks up right where it left anything I say related to the plot would be a big spoiler. If you read the book blurb you might as well skip reading books 1-3 as it gives away *everything*. I am not kidding.

The idea for the whole series is to present an alternative history of the Old World during the time of Crusades.

Only these guys also had some supernatural entities - mostly hostile - and some magic. After some struggle the strongest entities (proclaimed to be gods) were subdued, but strongest human sorcerers decided it would be fun to allow some of them roam free in our (human) world under some defined restrictions. This book talks about the consequences of this. Full stop: I already said more than I intended.

The whole series is complicated. Not because Glen Cook went out of his way to make it so (after all, he is not Steven Erikson with his incomprehensible Malazan tale), but because the events themselves were interlocked in such complicated pattern that it took all of our buddy readers (see above) keeping notes to make sense of what is going on. The result is a rewarding story what gives you a fresh outlook at our own history of that time.

Sadly, it looks like this is the last book of the series. The publishers lost interest in it and Glenn Cook moved to delivering a couple of long-promised Black Company books; not that I am complaining about this last part. Ask me, 'What was resolved by the end of book 4?' My firm reply would be, 'Absolutely nothing'. I might exaggerate a little as some fairly big plotlines were closed, but the whole tale was left wide open. What a pity!

In any case I found this book slightly weaker than the first two, but not enough to reduce my rating by one star. Goodby, Instrumentalities of the Night! It was nice meeting you.

Ron says

Finally finished *Working God's Mischief*. It picks up right after the cliff-hanger of the last book, then meanders all over the map with Piper Hecht sleeping through part of the book. I wonder when a character will realize that Piper keeps switching personalities because the god in the egg he was carrying out of the Realm of Gods slipped into him during a transition. But he is having success in carrying out his mission of conquering the Holy Lands because of The Shining Ones he enlisted. Part of the problem with the series is the sheer number of viewpoint characters Cook is using; which is also part of the richness of the series since we see events through different lenses at different time scales. I am still enjoying the series, so will look forward to the next book.

Pavlo Tverdokhlib says

A portion of the not-Norse pantheon is unleashed onto the not-Europe of Cook's world. Piper Hecht, the mameluke-turned-mercenary captain of the HRE's Army of the Righteous finds his crush, the Empress' sister Helspeth ascending the throne and eager to reciprocate his feelings- and finally let him get on with business of conquering the Holy Lands- something he was initially sent from not-Egypt to not-Rome to prevent... Meanwhile, in the not-Provence, one of the not-Norse Instrumentalities starts playing her own game with the murderous women Kedle and countess Socia, with the not-Cathar Perfect Fathr Candle stuck in the middle...

"Working God's Mischief" continues Cook's series with an amazing pseudo-historical setting. Plots develop, characters' fates converge, and a whole lot of stuff happens. Unfortunately, as this was the last novel written and no word whether Cook will ever finish the series, it leaves a sad aftertaste. There's no real cliffhanger this time around- but it kind of feels like one, anyways. This happens because a major plot development happens to Piper- one he fails to notice, but everyone around him does- and so does the reader. Although Cook never outright *states* what happened, he continually barrages Piper (and the reader) with hints, and at a point the amusement from Piper's ignorance becomes annoyance. The ending sort of hints at Piper possibly soon realizing what's going on-and as the reader expects major things to happen once he does, it creates a kind of anticipation that can be compared to a cliffhanger without being one. And that's pretty annoying.

Aside from that, the series staples are here: very solid pacing, fun characters, and an amazing setting.

Everyone needs to buy this book so that we can get a sequel.

Renee says

I received an ARC of this book from the publisher via a Goodreads Giveaway.

It should be noted right off the bat that I read this book without reading the first three in the hopes that it would either a) provide a brief summary of what has happened or b) intrigue me enough to cause me to want to read the others. I am disappointed to say that it did neither.

I found it hard to identify with any of the characters. The novel was very much plot driven rather than character driven with the majority of the characters being one-dimensional. There were *a lot* of characters, places, and objects which were not explained and which I can only presume to have originated in the previous books. An index of sorts would have been helpful. I also found the writing style to be irritating with short and simplistic sentences throughout, including the dialogue between characters. This made the story unrealistic and tedious to read.

Exmample:

Hecht summoned his staff. "What's happened?"
De Bos Asked, "What brings that on?"
"I suddenly felt like something big was shaking."
"We haven't heard of anything." Suspiciously intent.

Eilonwy says

Sigh. I really enjoyed this fourth installment in The Instrumentalities of the Night series, but apparently there are no more books following this one, and may never be. So that is a terrific disappointment. Still, the four books that exist are interesting, ambitious, and definitely worth reading, so maybe I can just accept that this story may forever be left dangling.

Charty says

Glad Tor picked this series up - the third book left you with quite a cliff-hanger and it would have sucked to not have known what happened. That being said, this book plunges you right into the story where book 3 left off without any helpful back story for new readers, or anyone who read the last book some 3-4 years ago. Once I got back into it, at least I remembered enough of the main cast of characters to keep running with the story. He inter cuts to other story lines with other characters and perspectives I didn't care about as much (and hence remember little of) so I sort of skimmed those. All in all, vintage Cook. If you've never read him before I'd suggest starting with the first book otherwise you'll be hopelessly lost. If you've been a fan of his current series you should enjoy the ride. I'll be waiting patiently for the next installment.

Ryan St George says

Very interesting series! Looking forward to book five.

astaliegurec says

This is what I'd like to say to Glen Cook after I finished reading "Working God's Mischief:"

"Yo. Glen. Any time you want to give us a clue on where you intend to go with your "Instrumentalities of the Night" series, go right ahead."

So, as you can see, a point I brought up in my review of the previous book in the series still goes unanswered and actually gets more pronounced: there doesn't seem to be any direction to things. Where is all of this going? World Domination? World Peace? The End of the Night? Ascension for Piper Hecht? I have no idea. The first book in the series started out with a stated goal. But, that went by the wayside long ago and nothing has replaced it. The series has turned into nothing but The Continuing Tales of Piper Hecht. And that's part of the rating quandary I keep running into with this series: on the positive side, a pretty good set of tales in a well-researched world. On the negative side, the same old re-hashing of medieval Europe with far too many made up place and character names (with Piper having yet another new set of titles he goes by) and a continuing lack of perceived direction. Unfortunately, there's a new issue with this book: it just stops. It was bad enough when the previous book finished up in a cliff-hanger. But, this book, after picking up from there, just goes from event to event until (it seems) Cook ran out of gumption. As I said, it just stops. The characters finish up a recurring evil, but leave the major theme of the book just sitting there. It's not even a cliff-hanger. IT JUST STOPS. So, I'm dropping the book a notch down to merely an OK 3 stars out of 5 and am seriously considering whether or not I'll read anything else in the series.

The books in Glen Cook's "Instrumentalities of the Night" series are:

1. The Tyranny of the Night: Book One of the Instrumentalities of the Night
 2. Lord of the Silent Kingdom (Instrumentalities of the Night)
 3. Surrender to the Will of the Night (Instrumentalities of the Night)
 4. Working God's Mischief (Instrumentalities of the Night)
-

William Gerke says

Unfortunately, I can no longer give an unbiased review of Glen Cook's work. Quite simply put, there is nothing out there that scratches this itch. I've heard people recommend Steven Erikson or Joe Abercrombie (both excellent writers whose work I enjoy), but there are fundamental stylistic differences that make Cook stand out alone.

"Working God's Mischief" fits right in with the rest of the "Instrumentalities of Night" books. All the usual players are there. It moves fast. Empires rise and fall. Gods and monsters do battle. Sometimes magnificent, sometimes a bit uneven. Cook turns his characters' lives inside out, turns them into forces of nature, and turns them into corpses. This he shares with Erikson. But he moves faster, treads lighter (none of Erikson's long philosophical musings). He shows us the toughest, grittiest, greediest, and most down to earth characters. This he shares with Abercrombie. But, again, Cook moves faster, spans wider, and actually gives us a few decent sorts and redemptive moments (unlike Abercrombie who is unforgiving to all but a few characters).

Even Cook's minor characters get moments of self awareness (even as they backslide) and the level of realism is unparalleled. Some may argue that last point, but one of the things I enjoy about Cook is how his books feel like life. Characters make plans, execute, and then, instead of being foiled, the situation changes. Their plans become irrelevant, foolish, contribute to other things but no longer achieve their goals. Even major characters and major powers have this problem. And it feels like life, not narrative. Like the Rebels stealing the Death Star plans only to find out the Emperor ran out of funding and the Death Star is an abandoned, half-built hulk and the Emperor is busy fighting a rearguard action against an invading species of aliens from beyond the rim of the galaxy. What do the Rebels do now? The direction they (and the narrative had) is no longer valid.

No one else does this (except perhaps M. John Harrison, but that's an entirely different milieu). Its why, despite the odd uneven passage and the sometimes abrupt pacing, I keep coming back to this well. And will until the terrible day that it runs dry.

Joy says

It's been so long since I've read the previous books, I'm stuck re-reading them to get to this latest addition. Having read *The Black Company* so many years ago I haven't preconceived expectations as to what I want from Cook. It's hard to top his best seller but I love his writing style and his grasp of warfare and the battle humor of soldiers.

It's obvious from the ending there will be more books to this world. At first it seems like a rip-off of current affairs in the real world until Cook's acerbic humor starts in on his obvious dislike of religions in general and

especially the bloodshed ensured by Believers. By this fourth book the "Instrumentalities of the Night" are more active and fine examples of old gods who have lost their followers. Much more magic, mayhem and deception arises by their goals of regaining power (which comes from the faith of believers; a common concept.) Cook also addresses the way religions in current favor turn the gods of older religions into their devils. Adding depth is a protagonist who is constantly conflicted by his own religious concepts.

Choko says

***** 4.75 *****

I love this series! I adore this author! I really enjoyed this book... BUT, IT COULDN'T BE THE LAST BOOK IN THE SERIES! This is not an end, when we have only one issue resolved and all the rest is just hanging! We need more, Mr. Cook, much, much more! And I know you know how to finish a series in a satisfying manner - one of the all time greatest finishes of a series is that of the Black Company! So, I am just going to presume that you have been taking a longish break from writing this series and at any moment you will surprise us with a final book giving us a real ending! Don't let us hanging, Mr. Cook! We are not giving up on you!
