



Conan the Rebel

Poul Anderson

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A grand adventure of the mighty thewed barbarian, from one of Fantasy's biggest names

Conan, The name has inspired generations, one that resounds through time immemorial. Yet it all began with a handful of stories from Robert E. Howard. In the decades since, there have been feature films, television and comic book series, and numerous spin-off novels. In 1979, Poul Anderson—winner of a staggering eight Hugo and three Nebula Awards—wrote what is regarded as one of the finest adventures in the canon of Conan:

Conan the Rebel.

Conan the barbarian and Belit, his raven-haired beauty, lead a band of savage pirates striving to free Belit's people from the iron grip of an evil reptile god and its cruel minions. Striking at the heart of tyranny, Conan must break the chains of oppression before eternal darkness claims them all.

Conan the Rebel Details

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Author : Poul Anderson

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Genre : Fantasy, Heroic Fantasy, Sword and Sorcery, Fiction, Adventure, Pulp, Pirates, Science Fiction
Fantasy

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From Reader Review Conan the Rebel for online ebook

Lyn says

Conan the Barbarian is to fantasy fiction as Pabst Blue Ribbon is to cheap American beer: he is an atavism, a throwback to a simpler time. Kids on the playground can say “My fantasy hero can kick your fantasy hero’s ass!”

He-Man and the Masters of the Universe?

Please.

Katniss Everdeen, Beatrice Prior?

My point exactly.

Hey, Conan, what is best in life?

“To crush enemy, see him driven before you, and to hear the lamentation of the women.”

Thank you.

And so we come to Poul Anderson’s contribution to the franchise: Conan the Rebel.

“You got some entrails on you, pal”

In this journeyman edition, a reader gets to visit with Conan through the vision of Grandmaster Poul Anderson. A writer’s got to write ... and eat. Not one of his better outings, but not bad at all either, and HEY! it’s Conan! Published in 1980, around the time that a certain Austrian was making the role his own.

This is a Conan story, but it is also Poul Anderson, and his writing is as good as ever. Anderson’s tremendous world building powers are in full bloom and he makes the most of the work that has come before him, adding detail, design and history to an already rich legacy of fiction.

Angel says

Me ha sorprendido gratamente este libro, habitualmente los libros de Conan que no son de Howard suelen gustarme menos porque cada autor, aunque intente respetar el espíritu original de la saga, suele imprimirle su propio estilo y eso se nota, sin embargo este me ha gustado bastante, se centra en un periodo de tiempo desconocido con Conan como pirata compañero de Belit (En los originales de Howard Belit solo aparece en una historia aunque es un personaje clave en la vida del cimmerico, tanto que sirvió de inspiración para el personaje de Valeria en la película "Conan el bárbaro") y en esta ocasión descubrimos algo más de tan carismático personaje (aunque no tanto como nos habría gustado). Tan recomendable como cualquiera de los otros libros de Conan.

Jonathan says

I loved the Conan movies and enjoyed the other books and even the role playing game, so I picked this up on a whim in a vending machine at an airport. What a treat!

Take an iconic fantasy hero, add in a pretty good story line, and then a vocabulary that made me reach for the dictionary several times and you end up with a great book. If this is Poul Anderson's style I will definitely be looking for more books by him. I enjoyed the sometimes obscure wording, the sentence structure, and the descriptions of battle scenes and landscapes.

Charles says

One of the best of the Conan Pastiches. Also one of the earlier ones. I'd say definitely 3 and a half stars.

Dale says

Not so hot

I was feeling the need to read something different, so as I walked past the new books section at the library I saw a Conan book. I've never read Conan, but one of my cousins is a giant fan and I respect his opinion on books so I picked it up.

The plot was pretty simple (hero gets even with sworn enemies who have wronged him in many ways, along the way he gets to use a magical weapon and fulfill some prophecy), but it was entertaining enough, especially in the middle. The ending was way too abrupt (he completes all of the above parenthetical accomplishments in 35 pages) and the language was too clunky. I realize its a style thing, but it's like Mr. Anderson sat in front of his typewriter with a thesaurus and looked for the more macho version of each verb used to describe Conan's behavior. He never throws anything, he heaves it. He always cleaves skulls, rather than splits them. I got tired of it rather quickly.

<http://dwdsreviews.blogspot.com/>

Dwayne Caldwell says

This was a fun easy read, but I'd have to agree with some of the other reviews here. Conan is not the same Cimmerian Robert E. Howard fans are accustomed to. Granted the violence is par for the course where Hyborian adventure is concerned. The elritch creatures Conan and company must fight and the magics they endure are likewise typical of Robert E. Howard's world. But Conan's dedication and loyalty to his mate Belit seems very boyish at times and his motivation to please her because her joy is his joy and her pain is his pain just makes the barbarian look like a lovesick puppy. And this is rather odd when you take into account how sickening he finds Falco's love for Senufer. Granted the love is definitely more blind in Falco's

case. However another main character - Daris - falls for Conan who spurs her advances for the loyalty in his heart towards Belit. Which is fine. But at one point Conan becomes jealous after he sees Daris and Falco disappearing for a while. It's a real "what-the-hell" moment. Maybe there's sorcery in the air. Regardless, it boils down to a small group of people who fall in love easily when they aren't killing, maiming, or otherwise incapacitating people and undead left and right. But if you can stomach the lovesick crap, the rest of the story is pretty entertaining.

"Wakonga mutusi!"

Esai Torres says

Holy smokes! A Conan novel written by Poul Anderson! I'm soooo down. My thoughts as I came across this book at Half Price Books. Now I haven't read too many non-Howard Conan books, but from all the ones I have read this one is my favorite. Literally everything is captured so well in this book. The characters you come across, the monsters you fight and the way Conan has a sense of feeling is just brilliant. There's a scene where he fights a Saurian and a giant hyena which was so much fun to read. There's a city of the dead and of course some sex here and there. In this book we are shown that Conan can actually have feelings that we were taught he didn't have before. He isn't a mindless barbarian. He actually can develop jealousy and loyalty. But what's wrong with that? What's wrong with breaking a barrier? Absolutely nothing. I hope you find some time to read this book. It's one fantasy ride you'll never forget.

East Bay J says

Not the best Conan pastiche, but not the worst. Poul Anderson is a successful and prolific sci fi and fantasy author. He's a good writer and the result is a pretty well told story about everybody's favorite barbarian. However, not everything is roses in Hyboria.

The most hilarious part of *Conan The Rebel* is when Tothapis and Nehekba making a hissing noise any time they mention the god, Mitra:

"And once he is corrupted in the priggish eyes of Mitra... s-s-s-s... once he is enslaved to me, ah, *then* we have him, whether he recognizes it or not. His destiny will be lost, his soul rudderless- and yet, while he lives, none else can have the honor or being the god's warrior. For is it not written that, "The pledges of Mitra... s-s-s-s... are for eternity?"

It screams Monty Python or Mel Brooks. I doubt Anderson's intent was hilarity but he pretty much nails it on that one.

Another funny passage:

"They had scrubbed their faces and Conan had shaved. Otherwise they depended on clothes to hide grime, since they dared not draw washwater from the Styx and felt it best to conserve what they had that was potable. They were not unduly gamy, having been outdoors nearly the whole time in dry air."

At that point in this gripping tale of high adventure, I was *totally* worrying if Conan and friends had gotten too gamy. I know I hate going on a mission unbathed and unshaven.

What's with Daris using a belt as a weapon throughout the novel? I can see making do in a pinch but I'd be grabbing a sword the second I found one.

I think Anderson is the only Conan pastiche author to call Ophireans "Ophirites."

Perhaps the most incredible part of the book is when Anderson predicts instant messaging:

"He has no reason to suppose they are not well ahead of even the fastest carrier pigeon. But you can send an instant message to Ramwas, ordering he keep clandestine watch on the Ophirite embassy and stand prepared to take the gang when they approach."

Now that's what I call foresight!

Anderson is another of the pastiche authors who doesn't do too well with Conan's dialogue. His Conan could be more or less any fantasy hero. Maybe it's the fact that I grew up reading the original Marvel Conan The Barbarian, which I thought nailed the Cimmerian, but a lot of these authors don't even seem to be trying. And I don't think Conan would ever shout "hoy-ah" for any reason.

More illustrations of boats and armor and candlesticks from Tim Kirk. I don't know who Zorin is, but his cover art ain't bad. Conan kind of looks more like Tarzan, though.

Erik says

I generally like Poul Anderson's work and was excited to read this foray into the world of Conan. It was frankly disappointing. It "felt" wrong. This is an ambiguous thing to say, but it accurately reflects my thoughts after completing the read... wrong. Like hearing classical music while watching a mosh pit kind of wrong.

I found Conan to be almost completely re-imagined. While he still possessed the toughness and skills of the typical "Conan", here was presented a completely sappy, love-struck teenager Conan that really did not fit ANY mental image I have ever had of him.

The story plot was equally silly at many times, with too many implausible scenes and dialog that clearly was not Anderson's best efforts. I several times found myself asking aloud "Really?!!"

Anyhow, I will admit that part of me still enjoyed the read; a Conan story is always fun for me as I mentally drop back to my childhood and have visions of the wild lands, beasts, and villains filling my head. And maybe a few thoughts of the exotic and lovely heroines, lol.

This is a simple tale, told in a so-so manner that somehow satisfies the desire for a fun Conan story. It is not great, or even good. It is merely adequate. Like wanting a sundae with all the toppings and getting a bowl of vanilla ice cream. I like vanilla, but I wanted more.

Mtineer says

Although I'm a huge fan of Conan the stories, and of Poul Anderson's other books, Conan the Rebel didn't seem to have the chemistry to make it really good. The story was pretty straightforward; it didn't have the advertised twists, or not as I expected twists should work. Some aspects of the story seemed a little over the top, or uncharacteristic of how I expected Conan to be. However, the story was readable, and for the most part, the scenes flowed well.

Elar says

Conan not in the best sauce, but decent might and magic session.

Jared Millet says

It's been ages since I read a non-Howard Conan novel (not counting the outstanding Conan graphic novel series by Dark Horse). This was an excellent entry to the series, and much more in the Howard vein than the Conan books by Robert Jordan, etc. that I vaguely remember from the 1980s. While Poul Anderson is regarded as a giant in SF, he's an author I've never quite gotten into before. I remember trying to start a couple of his books in high school but never getting very far into them. Maybe he's someone I need to give another try.

Anderson captures the style and feel of Howard's world perfectly and, because of the advantage of time and experience, is able to bring a few more elements to the Conan universe than Howard himself managed. For one, he gives the nations of Hyborea a more "lived-in" feel than Howard did, putting much more into the depictions of the markets, the countryside, and the everyday people of the different cultures clashing in this novel. Also, toward the end of the book in particular, Anderson is able to create a feeling that Conan himself might be in actual danger - a feat that Howard seemed to have trouble with after he'd made Conan nigh-invincible in his own stories.

Manuel Adametz says

Well, the very fact why I highly appreciate this book, in a few words: Although a pastiche by Poul Anderson, it was this book that introduced me into the works of Robert E. Howard!

Gabriel Ávila says

No le pongo menos nota porque no puedo. Esta historia es terrible.

Jordi says

*"Why do they live like this?" Conan wondered. 'What do they get from their lives but toil - for the good of their overlords, not themselves - and want and an overseer's lash across their backs if they flag?'
'It is the only life they know,' Otanis replied.
'But can they not even imagine something better?'"*

Ay, Conan y el espíritu de la libertad.

Confieso que siento debilidad tanto por Poul Anderson como por las historias de Conan, así que encontrar esta novela de 1980 ha sido todo un descubrimiento para mí. Un *retelling* del origen de Bêlit, y a la vez una aventura de Conan en Estigia contada con la maestría narrativa y el estilo evocador de Poul Anderson. Puro placer.
