



They Fly At Çiron: A Novel

Samuel R. Delany

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As this novel begins, the peaceful village of Çiron faces conquest and domination by the army of Myetra, as led by a cruel prince. The Myetrans subdue Çiron, killing many and enslaving the rest.

But Rahm escapes—and then befriends one of the fearsome Winged Ones, humanoids with batlike wings. Meanwhile, led by the young village garbage collector and an itinerant singer, the Çironians resist where they can, as the Myetran lieutenant Kire struggles with his conscience and tries to ease the Çironians' burden.

They Fly at Çiron—appearing here in its first paperback publication—offers "vintage Delany in his finest fantasy mode" (Ursula K. Le Guin).

They Fly At Çiron: A Novel Details

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Author : Samuel R. Delany

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From Reader Review They Fly At Çiron: A Novel for online ebook

Greg says

When I do laundry I like to bring a book small enough to fit into one of my pockets with me. This happened to be on top of a pile of mass markets I hadn't read, so it got read today.

It's ok. In college I took a Sci-Fi literature class, and the teacher got really excited about what SF and Fantasy could do in the area of social commentary that other literature couldn't. He never really sold me on this point, yeah there is social commentary in the books, but there are in lots of books, and well just because a book has some social commentary doesn't mean that it is necessarily insightful social commentary (as in the book we read in the class about the women who live in a big walled city and only bring in men to fuck in order to reproduce with, I think there were supposed to be some deep messages in that book, but it was just a 'what-if' women ruled and acted in civilized manners that men are not capable of. Ok, that's possible, but it's also sort of simple minded and lacking any real complexity in the thought of what causes evil shit to happen in the world).

This book is about an evil imperialist nation (city-state?) who needs to take over land to grow the food it needs to sustain it's population. They conquer and destroy in OT biblical fashion, kill 'em all, it is our destiny to have your land as our land kind of way. The story takes place when the evil imperialists come to take over a peace loving community (nation? city-state? large village? I don't know). The evil doers look to wipe the good peaceful folk off the map, but some of the peaceful folk fight back.

This was originally written in the late 1960's. There is a certain anti-war thing going on. The aggressors are described repeatedly as pig looking, the evil doers describe the good doers as dogs and maggots. There is a blurring of lines at times between what is good and what is evil, but never more than just kind of mentioned and never developed. There is also a feeling to me that this is sort of a stab at America's western movements and our treatment of the native population, but with an idealized qualities but on the evil and the good. There is a little bit of a discussion of religion, and one kind of funny shot at Christianity and it's worship of a dead god on a tree, but I never quite figured out what the purpose of the few theological discussions were supposed to mean for the book.

Criticism aside, the book was kind of fun to read. It was very light, went by quickly and had enough plot development going on to make me want to keep reading it even though there are like six other books that I'm halfway through all within arms distance from where I sat reading this.

One more gripe though, the blurbs on the back of the book make this sound like something much greater than it really is. I think it's the blurbs fault that I feel so critical about it. The blurbs also promised lots of sex, ('full of sex'). Now I don't pick my books based on if they have sex or not, but if you are going to promise a book 'full of sex' there should be some sex in the book, maybe at least one sex scene that doesn't involve three flying creatures pleasuring a man by throwing them in between themselves as they fly and nibbling at his legs. That was the one sex scene in the book, and it's just as confusing to imagine reading in the book as it is from my paltry description.

Lisa says

A pretty straightforward fantasy novel, with two short stories at the end. One only tangentially related, the other a kind of epilogue or outtake.

I was pleased to find the cover illo is highly inaccurate: Delany's Winged Ones are not ethereal, angelic-looking men with feathers but Bat People with flattened noses, large ears, and leathery wings.

Fascinating on a sentence level. I wanted to diagram these sentences, to determine how they could be at once so "muscular" yet also revelatory, like poetry. The plot, though not complicated at all, moves masterfully through various points of view. The characters tend to monologue, which is fine in the beginning, when they're brooding over questions of ethics or the afterlife, but seems unnecessary near the end, when we have a handle on the characters and already know what they're thinking/feeling.

Not my favorite Delany novel, but quite instructive.

Christy says

I rated and reviewed this book, just not for Goodreads/Amazon. See http://www.librarything.com/profile_r...

A. says

Didactic to an unpleasant degree.

John says

An early sci-fi/fantasy novel from Delany, one of my favorite authors. Delany worked on this story for 30 years until he got it where he wanted it. It is really a cautionary tale of inadvertent fascism, of forcing your values & culture down the throats of your neighbors for their own good. Take heed, imperialist regimes!

Fraterno Saccis says

ZZZZZZZZZZ...

Tomás says

Una novela de fantasía con tintes de ciencia ficción sobre un conflicto entre tres culturas. Los invasores, pueblo avanzado y regido por la violencia y los invadidos, un pacífico pueblo pre-tecnológico que no conoce los aspectos oscuros de la humanidad y finalmente una especie de murciélagos, que vendría a ser un punto medio entre las otras dos culturas. Además de venir incluidos dos cuentos al final, uno relacionado con la novela y otro no.

Habiendo leído "La intersección de Einstein" de Delany, mis expectativas por "En Çiron vuelan" eran bastante altas. Lamentablemente, a mi parecer la historia no pasa de un tres. Si la historia hubiera seguido con el ritmo y la forma narrativa de la primera parte, podría haber sido mucho mejor. Sin embargo, decido darle un 4 de puntaje debido al excelente cuento "Ruinas", incluido en la edición, que sí está a la altura de este genial autor. Trata sobre un muchacho muy pobre que encuentra, en un día de lluvia, un templo lleno de riquezas y una extraña mujer que está allí.

Espero seguir leyendo más de este autor, hasta ahora a mi parecer, de los más originales y locos en la ciencia ficción junto a Theodor Sturgeon y Ray Bradbury.

Scott Golden says

A strong fantasy about a conquering army that meets its match in a group of humble villagers aided by some neighbors with wings.

Caleb Liu says

A light and sweet little fantasy novel. Good fun.

Jesús says

Una historia que mezcla la ciencia ficción y la fantasía de forma aceptable, cargada de mucha violencia y sadismo.

Hilary Sklar says

Delany wrote it. I read it. That gives it five stars. Always. It's a wonderful mix of early and late Delany. I am just a fan-thing really when it comes to Delany. Reading his writing is pure pleasure. Read on the plane. Other bits in the Kindle version read waiting for the plane to take me home.

Eric says

An interesting, if flawed, piece of fantasy science fiction that follows a pretty simple path and reaches a pretty obvious conclusion. There are depths of interest in it (the nature of the Winged Ones, the future of Rahm), but nothing too Earth-shattering. But an enjoyable read, especially when the "evil" prince reveals a more tender nature.

That ambiguous nature is perhaps the most interesting aspect of the book.

Felipe says

Coaching con PNL

Betsyvsews says

Found this book on the curb, no idea what to expect. Ambivalent - not my style but I found I had to finish it. I think I would recommend to YA readers starting a fantasy binge.

Tyrannosaurus regina says

There was really some interesting examination here of the roles that people play in their communities, and the ways that people perceive their own morality (and their own importance). I appreciated the misdirect, that not everything was as straightforward as it seemed. Even expanded as it has been, though, the story felt somewhat slight and the characters underserved.
