



# The Warrior Within

*Angus McIntyre*

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**Angus McIntyre makes his debut with *The Warrior Within*, a mind-bending science fiction adventure about a man with many people living in his head.**

Karsman has a dozen different people living in his head, each the master of a different set of skills and hoping to gain mastery of Karsman's body. He survives on a backwater planet dominated by the Muljaddy, a mostly ambivalent religious autocracy, where devotion and prayer can be traded in for subsistence wages and enough food to survive. Surrounded by artifacts of a long dead civilization, the population survives off its salvage, with Karsman eking out an uneventful life as the unofficial mayor of his small town.

But that life is soon interrupted, when a group of commandos arrive, coming from the wastelands as only off-worlders could. They've come to kill a woman, or so they say. At first the commandos merely threaten as they search. Unable to find what they're looking for, they begin to ratchet up their measures, separating the men from the women, instigating violent encounters, and eventually staging a coup against the Muljaddy and his Temple.

Faced with the task of protecting his quiet town and a woman he might love from the commandos who could want to kill her, Karsman must balance between maintaining his personality and harnessing the personas whose skills he desperately needs.

## The Warrior Within Details

Date : Published March 6th 2018 by Tor.com

ISBN :

Author : Angus McIntyre

Format : Kindle Edition 144 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Novella, Fiction, Fantasy

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## From Reader Review *The Warrior Within* for online ebook

### Kim Ward says

This was a fun story and a different world McIntyre has created. I, myself, and forever fond of desert type worlds, thanks to Frank Herbert, and the labyrinth structure of the dead city in the book is interesting, though I would have liked a bit shorter run through the maze like structures...

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### Brian says

Three men cross the wastelands to a strip town along the Road. They've come to kill a woman. The only person seemingly in their way is unofficial mayor Karsman. Officially Not in Charge, but Karsman's brain houses multiple personalities that could mean the difference between life and death for the hunted.

While not going to thrill many, *The Warrior Within* is a competent novel. It's short, but rarely strays from its compact plot, while still developing a world and characters in it. Karsman gets the most focus and is distinctly a reluctant hero. While shaping Karsman's voice, his other personalities, named by function like Warrior, Diplomat, and Strategist, likewise have their own aims and tone. Karsman and his personalities easily double the cast of characters, with the rest functional but a little flat. In particular, the villains of the story don't really have much going on beyond menacing.

There's no indication that this novel is setting up a series, but it could. It takes place on a backwaters world in a larger universe, and hints at what could be beyond this small town, its benevolent autocracy, and the people scraping by. If anything, *The Warrior Within* did a better job of setting up future works than telling this story, but it's by no means bad.

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### Matt Ward says

I've been trying to read one Tor "best of the year so far" books a month. While both have been good, I'm concerned if this is the best we can do. (At least I can console myself that those lists are just propaganda to get people to buy Tor books).

The concept of this was good. It just had nothing to go with it. The descriptions were sparse. The plot didn't have a lot of forward motion. I'm not sure what else to say. Even a short novella needs more than good worldbuilding and a good concept to keep someone's interest throughout.

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### Ozsaur says

What caught my interest about this book was the idea of a man having 12 different people inside his head. I wasn't disappointed, but I figure a lot of people might be. They're not exactly fully realized people, but more like... memory modules that do a specific thing, with a bit of personality tacked on to some of them. If you're looking for 12 individuals, you might be disappointed.

I enjoyed it. There's an interesting plot that is resolved at the end, but still open ended in a way that didn't bother me. I found the different layers of the story nicely woven together. While the main plot moved along, there was a deeper plot - who is Karsmen? Which led to an ending that was completely unexpected! I really didn't see that twist coming.

Some parts were vague, and I wish they'd been explained or described better. But the world building was really good, and I liked the characters, and was happy with the twist ending.

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## **Books, Vertigo and Tea (Danielle) says**

This review mini review may also be found on BVT

I think we have established that I am a huge fan of Tor.com. When it comes to short stories and novellas, they bring one of the biggest "A" you can find on the market. If you crave sci-fi and fantasy, you will find it. *The Warrior Within* is no exception.

Set in a futuristic world scattered with remnants of past civilizations, we meet Karsman. He is a man of many talents. Talents which can each be attributed to the multiple personas living within him. He presides over his current town as the "Mayor" or so many of the locals have dubbed him. Overseen by the Muljaddy (dominant extraterrestrial beings), life is a rather quiet and uneventful affair that can easily be sustained through prayer and worship. This all changes when a group of soldiers arrive, claiming to be in search of a woman they must assassinate. When their searches prove fruitless, they begin to take more extreme measures, forcing Karsman to enlist the help of his personas and their skills while maintaining a firm grip on himself.

This is the rare example of a successful story accomplished in limited time that manages to leave you wanting more in the best of ways. Characters development is a process of revelation and gratification. There is a lot of mystery shrouding Karsman and his personas, but the eventual explanation helps to complete him, adding a new layer of depth that is hard not to appreciate.

*\*I received this copy courtesy of the publisher. The above review is my own honest and unbiased opinion.*

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## **Nadja Miller says**

This was a great novella. Because of the size (about 170 pages) there was not as great character development as there would be in a full novel. That being said the few characters we were introduced to were interesting. There was an element of mystery/ suspense throughout that was enjoyable. What I really loved was the world building. The author took his time with it and left me wanting to know more.

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## **Borja says**

Pobre y desaprovechada. Da mucho menos de lo que promete.

Al menos se deja leer. Es cortita y sencilla.

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## **Michael Stokes says**

### **Love it.**

Single skill artificial intelligences grafted onto a human mind, I'm hooked. 5 or more intelligent skills grafted into a human mind, great, except the human does not have the capacity to hold them all so memories and experiences must be deleted, wow. The second law of thermodynamics in action, there is no such thing as a free lunch. The ending is a mystery, are the skills deleted? Are they now integrated into one persona? Does our hero now have mastery of those skills? We don't know, until the next book?

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## **Lucille says**

**2,5/5**

Neither good nor bad so I guess the average rating is right!

While this was not a bad story, I have to admit I was bored the whole time. It's just not one for me.

I wish there would have been more on the different personas in Karsman, though I liked that there was an explanation for them. For the most part they are more like a set of skills than real persons like you could find in Legion by Sanderson.

The worldbuilding was well handed, you can feel the author knows what he's talking about and while not everything is explained or shown you know it's all carefully thought of and planned.

I was a bit confused from time to time, for example regarding the use of "ship", there were times when I wasn't 100% sure if it was for spaceships or boats, but keep in mind english isn't my first language and that might explain why this novella wasn't a hit for me.

It's only 100 pages on my ereader and I kept on reading because it was short and I wanted to give it a chance, maybe I would be nicely surprised in the end.

The final twist was cool, to be honest, I'm kinda glad I kept on reading! But it doesn't change the fact that I didn't \*love\* the book as a whole. I have no strong feeling and would say that if you're intrigued, go for it, it's really not long and the end could be worth it for some readers.

*A review copy (e-galley) of this book was provided by the publisher. Some things might change in the final copy.*

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## **Cam says**

One of the weaker of a bunch of recent novellas I've read; a debut by McIntyre featuring a future dominated by artificial intelligences with interstellar influence. Our titular warrior is a down-and-out former courtier living a precarious life in a western-style town serving as an unofficial mayor. His world is a series of towns and villages following a road girding the whole planet, with some mobile temples and abandoned cities along it that are scavenged mostly by regular humans. He's not quite regular; he has artificial personalities embedded from his time as a courtier and often loses hours or days when one dominates his normal consciousness. One is a warrior, another a diplomat and so on. The "and so on" turns out to be important once some strangers come to town with murder on their minds. It's a better outline than a story; it may have

been done a disservice by the shorter format since the plot revelations and conclusion are fairly choppy by the end (hence the "2"."

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### **Sarah says**

Grrr. I was hoping this would be an epic tale. Something with shades of Joe Abercrombie, and some humor, and some conflict within Karsman over the personas. But I finished it and said, aloud (annoying my almost asleep husband in the process), "What? That's it?? Eh." I woke up the next morning and thought of it again, and thought, "That would have been a better short story."

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### **Ryan Laferney says**

If you crave sci-fi and fantasy, look no further than Tor.com's line of novellas. The Warrior Within (the debut novella by Angus McIntyre) is one of the new titles from Tor to be published this year. Set in a futuristic desert like world scattered with remnants of past civilizations (which the population survives off of), The Warrior Within is a mind-bending science fiction adventure about a man named Karsman with many people living within his head. Karsman had basic modification surgery when he left home to cope with the conditions of the other world, except what the surgeons did was far more invasive than simple modifications. They managed to graft single skill artificial intelligences (such as Warrior, Dipolmat, etc) in Karsman's mind.

The plot of this novella is pretty intriguing. Karsman presides over his current town as the "Mayor". It's overseen by the Muljaddy (dominant alien beings) who run an ambivalent religious autocracy. Life is sustained through prayer and worship. Yet, this all changes when a group of commandos arrive, claiming to be in search of a woman they must assassinate (or so they say). When their searches prove fruitless, they begin to take more extreme measures, forcing Karsman to enlist the help of his intelligences....Karsman is forced with then protecting his town and a woman he might love from the commandos all while maintaining his personality and intelligences. Can he keep the Warrior under lock and key?

I was pleasantly surprised by this novella and its ending. If you loved The Gunslinger, Dune, or Ancillary Justice, you'll probably dig this novella. The Warrior Within combines many Western and SF tropes into something wholly new that looks at what a post-human society might look like. I liked that the story wasn't bogged down by exposition but rather McIntyre gives us just enough information. An excellent debut.

Looking forward to seeing what McIntyre might write next.

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### **Kend says**

Tor.com blew me away with this, yet another stellar (heh heh) addition to its ever-expanding shelf novellas, set on a planet where the sun never rises, never sets, and never gives us an excuse to yawn with boredom. This is also Angus McIntyre's debut, which feels wrong, somehow; the world-weary voice of Karsman (and the many others who inhabit his mind) doesn't so much feel like it's been adopted for the moment as it does a fixed feature of this nightless waste, populated by people who never stop moving, who never stop traveling

the road. The road which marks, presumably, the Goldilocks line of a Goldilocks planet tidally locked to its star.

[full review on [www.imaginaries.net](http://www.imaginaries.net)]

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### **Pallav says**

A short and immensely entertaining read. It seems that this book was not written with pen on paper, but with a scalpel, mercilessly cutting away all the unnecessary things in a story, leaving pure movement of narrative, intrigue, and action. All the while giving the reader a glimpse into a world that is as alien and mystical as the characters in the book.

There is no hand-holding in the book. You are put into a world that is seen through the lead character Karsman's eyes. There were several points in the book that were written to create a sense of awe and of touching something incomprehensible and the book gives off a lovecraftian vibe of exploring hidden tunnels and getting trapped in secret passageways.

Things I wish the book had:

More detailed fight scenes. One fight scene was a sheer cop-out and I plan to write about that to Mr. McIntyre, but other than that, the entertainment value for the length of the book is amazing.

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### **Pieter says**

I really enjoyed this book. Tor has been publishing some fantastic worlds with their novella line, and this is no exception. The book tugs you along perfectly, giving you just what you need, when you need it, to remain intrigued. I love the idea of exploring these little backwater cultures, with glimpses of this huge space opera backdrop. Karsman's a great character, and I hope to see him again, but I REALLY want McIntyre to take us on as many tours through his universe as he can write.

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