



# Night's Slow Poison

*Ann Leckie*

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## **Night's Slow Poison** Ann Leckie

“Night’s Slow Poison” is from the same setting as Ancillary Justice, and tells a rich, claustrophobic story of a galactic voyage that forces one guardsmen to confront his uneasy family history through the lens of a passenger with his lost lover’s eyes.

## **Night's Slow Poison Details**

Date : Published June 10th 2014 by tor.com (first published July 2012)

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Author : Ann Leckie

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## From Reader Review Night's Slow Poison for online ebook

### cereus says

damn it ann

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### Jaylia3 says

I read this engrossing, unsettling short story as the first step of my holiday refresher re-read of the rich, complex, mind-bending, Ancillary Justice in preparation for the joyful tackling of its sequel Ancillary Sword.

I found the story on Tor.com, it doesn't seem to be available on Amazon or anywhere else.  
<http://www.tor.com/stories/2014/06/ni...>

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### Althea Ann says

Right after finishing 'Ancillary Justice' I saw that Leckie had a free story up on tor.com, so of course I rushed to read it...

This is set in the same universe, but deals with other concerns and issues altogether. It's quite different from the novel... but equally good (which makes me excited as all-get-out to read more from Leckie in the future!)

Here, we have a glimpse of other cultures outside the Evil Empire we were introduced to in Ancillary Justice - and get more of an idea of the perspective from outside the Imperial Radch, rather than from the rotten core.

A long-haul trading ship takes on passengers to travel to a planet which has remained free and independent due to its hidden location. One passenger claims that he is seeking long-lost relatives... but in the claustrophobic loneliness of space, secrets will out...

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### Greg says

This was an interesting short story set aboard a spaceship which has to take six months to pass through a dangerous stretch of space called the Crawl from one space station to another in orbit around a planet called Ghaon. The protagonist is a security guard who develops feelings for a passenger on the trip and these get him to think about his past and possible future. There is some discussion between the characters about life on Ghaon as well as the threat posed by the empire of the Radch which, so far, has been thwarted by the Crawl.

I'm not sure what to make of the name for a venomous animal on Ghaon called a vonda - I wonder if this is a reference to somebody the author knows....

Anyway, the story is interesting enough to encourage me to read more of Leckie's Imperial Radch series.

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### **Bradley says**

I have the feeling I'm going to need to reread the first Ancillary book to pick out the characters from this prequel story, but more and more I'm getting a distinct feeling. The several short stories I've read of Ms. Leckie all deal with small gods and their place in the universe, and the novels, while structured differently, are well within the same feel.

The people that make up the gods is the biggest question that's posed. What carries over? What songs are retained?

I enjoyed this one mainly in reflection of the questions that are posed in much greater detail later.

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### **Buck says**

Night's Slow Poison is in the same universe as Leckie's Radch trilogy, the Ancillary books. It was written before the trilogy. It doesn't have the same characters, but the most notable difference is that it doesn't have the gender ambivalence. Anaander Miahai, Lord of the Radch, is referred to as him. In the trilogy there are no male pronouns.

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### **William says**

Good short story, nicely visualised and crafted.

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### **Lucille says**

Obviously I knew that anything I would read right after the Imperial Radch trilogy wouldn't live up to how amazing it was, so I thought I should just go on and stay in this universe with the short stories!

This is set around a world not yet colonized by the Radch. It was entertaining and I liked the ending! Very slow though

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### **Tracy says**

Interesting look at the Imperial Radch from the outside. This story has left me feeling a bit unsettled, imagining the profound six month isolation of the voyage to Ghaon.

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## **Fil Garrison says**

Oddly enough, when I first read *Ancillary Justice*, I was into it, but just not really obsessed with it. The book was hard to read, and the pronoun issues and writing style made it a little bit inaccessible. Something like that sticks in your mind. "I had a hard time reading it..." I haven't said that since I tried *Infinite Jest*. I swear I'll go back to it someday.

The more I think about it, though, the more that novel sticks in my mind. So, finding this little short story was a treat. It's a small story, one about isolation and sub themes of class and imperialism. Interesting characters, and a weirdly great plot involving a trip through a mysterious zone to the heart of an empire in direct competition with the Raadchi.

This time, we follow an ousted guard on said ship, and his preoccupied thoughts with one of the passengers, a man whose genetic makeup marks him as a relative to the guard's lost true love. With the culture's emphasis on manners and looks, each interaction with another character is intriguing, like reading a British drama, where every character must be careful to put up certain appearances. The plot is just as intriguing, short and to the point, with a decent twist that flavors the Imperial Radch series just a little bit further.

If you've already read *Ancillary Justice*, this will make a sweet side story. If you haven't, I feel like it'll make an interesting read and a good introduction to the universe.

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## **Cathy (cathepsut) says**

Set in the world of the Radchaai. I hadn't realized that there even were short stories set in this world! Nice story, good world building and engaging characters.

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## **Tomer says**

Just a tiny little snippet to glimpse into the world of the Radch empire and its relations.

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## **Mike says**

Good short story in a corner of the *Ancillary Justice* universe; one the could easily stand alone but still dovetails nicely with her novels.

My library's September monthly challenge is to read the shortest book (or maybe 'item', I'm not sure) on my reading list. I have another candidate, one that is an actual book and is on a higher TBR shelf, but I had to order it from inter-library loan, so it may not arrive by the end of September. So, I'm counting this unless I get my copy of *Batman/Captain America!*

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## **“Gideon” Dave Newell says**

This short story, best appreciated after first reading Leckie’s multiply-awarded debut novel “Ancillary Justice”, takes place in the same narrative universe, and while unavoidably mentioning a character in common, otherwise stands independent of the events of that story. As a side story, it adds some color and character to two of the prominent societies in the “Ancillaryverse”, the Radch and Gerentate. Otherwise, it doesn’t break new ground with any large speculative ideas or concepts, instead choosing to explore themes of confinement and claustrophobia. The most memorable bit of dialog questioned the honesty of a deliberately rude and forward façade which, while affecting brutal honesty, could itself be a ‘mask’ of personality. Like the novel, it also featured a theme of judging a person by external appearance at great risk, and suggests the best antidote to this poison is a quick, dispassionate amputation of the affected wound.

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## **Jan says**

While this short story was published after Leckie’s Ancillary trilogy, it feels as though it was written before the books were. It’s clumsier, and it lacks the compelling narrator and the universal female pronouns. It was still good, however.

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