



Masks of the Martyrs

Jack L. Chalker

Download now

Read Online →

Masks of the Martyrs

Jack L. Chalker

Masks of the Martyrs Jack L. Chalker

The renegade pirates of the giant spaceship THUNDER have collected all five of the rings necessary to eliminate the threat of Master System forever. But no one -- not even Hawks -- knows how the rings are used. And with Master Systems space fleet dogging their every step, they better find out fast!

Masks of the Martyrs Details

Date : Published February 1988 by Random House Inc (first published January 12th 1988)

ISBN : 9780345343093

Author : Jack L. Chalker

Format : Mass Market Paperback 340 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Fantasy

 [Download Masks of the Martyrs ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Masks of the Martyrs ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Masks of the Martyrs Jack L. Chalker

From Reader Review *Masks of the Martyrs* for online ebook

Gavin says

This was a disappointing end to *The Lords of the Middle Dark* series. I think I'd just grown tired of the time it took for all the rings to be gathered.

On the plus side this book did feature characters like Hawks, Raven, and China in a more prominent role which was an improvement on the last installment. The story revolved around the gathering of the final few rings of power and the showdown with Master System.

Sadly, the ending, the big showdown with Master System, was a bit anticlimactic.

All in all this was not a great read. The final two books in this series are just not up to the same standard as the first two. They are not totally devoid of interesting moments or happenings, but they are too few and far between.

Rating: 2.5 stars.

Audio Note: Jamie Du Pont MacKenzie has done an OK job narrating the whole series.

Lew says

This is the final book in the *Rings of the Master* series. This was an ok series. It was good enough not to have any problems finishing the series. The whole series has a *Star War* feel or influence. Considering it was written in that time frame of the eighties. I would recommend it to Science Fiction fans especially those that like new worlds to explore. Not much suspense in the final outcome of the series. I like the native connection of the main character, Hawks.

Justin says

It's two turtle doves, not two calling birds! (p. 320). Though this error gets corrected shortly after. Sheesh!

On the first day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
A Partridge in a Pear Tree
On the second day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Two Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree
On the third day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Three French Hens
Two Turtle Doves

and a Partridge in a Pear Tree
On the fourth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Four Calling Birds
Three French Hens
Two Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree
On the fifth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Five Golden Rings
Four Calling Birds
Three French Hens
Two Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree.

Molly says

This book finishes off The Rings of the Master quadrilogy, it's very much a volume of a series than a book that stands up for itself. On the whole I really enjoyed this series, it is very rare to find a set of characters this diverse, both in race, gender, species, sexuality, but it all felt very realistic, even at its most fantastical location. This book had great characters, ideas and a reasonable plot. The writing style is fairly pedestrian, but still very readable and doesn't distract from the whole.

I would have preferred that this volume had been fleshed out into two books, containing the quest for the final two rings and the return to earth, the ending feels a little rushed.

On the whole however a really good read and end to the series and I will keep a look out for other books by this author

Rik says

Compared to the previous books, this one packed quite a lot in, though it didn't feel rushed. However, the ending disappointed somewhat and seemed rather lame, and, considering this was supposed to be a sentient computer, it didn't communicate with them even once. There was a bit too much philosophising at the end and no feeling of triumph from the characters, making it feel a bit flat.

Ira says

Read the entire series. The first book was pretty good with some real imagination -- a powerful computer has killed its creators, shipped off most of earth's population to other planets and has created a zoo like society on earth by sending most cultures back to pre industrial periods, i.e. pre columbian North America, feudal China etc. A group of elites with full technology supervises the cultures, but all under the auspices of the master system. Now, a historian native North American begins a quest to find "rings" that will turn off the power of master system. Pretty neat premise and good character development. As the story progresses

through 3 more volumes it becomes increasingly nutty and mostly just ridiculous with implausible inventions that allow humans to be converted to otter-people, buddhist walrus- people, man eating shape shifters, and a whole host of other wacky forms, all while a motley crew of adventurers figure out ways to beat the system and get those rings. None of it really makes much sense in the end, many of the characters are just ignored for huge portions of the book or replace with new conveniently found characters and the final "battle" is pretty anti-climactic with a "code" that is so moronic that it kind of made me regret all the time spent reading.

Arwen says

The finale to the Rings of the Master Series. It all comes together (at the last minute, of course.) And we see that sometimes we are the ones who create the monster that almost destroys mankind. Of course that plot has been done before, but this is a totally different way of telling it.

Christopher Litsinger says

This series was not well written to begin with, and it hasn't aged terribly well. The technology it describes has limitations that are simply illogical, if convenient to the plot.

I simply don't see how a modern reader could find entry into the series- I only enjoy it from a sense of nostalgia.

The plot is fast and fun, if silly, but in this conclusion to the series it is very rushed.

L. says

In *Masks of the Martyrs* Jack Chalker brings his strangely fun space swashbuckler to a close. Hawks and his crew of pirates/revolutionaries must take the last two rings and shut down Master System all while dodging the tyrannical computer's minions as well as those who would use the rings to rule humanity themselves. We find out more details about the pirates of the Thunder, Chalker again puts them in a really bizarre situation in order to get ring four, and there is lots of fun to be had in the heroics and space battles.

Brian Turner says

A good end to the Rings of the Master series.

All of the characters get their moment to shine, rather than just concentrating on a few.

Hawks and his band finally get what they have been searching for so long, and head back to Earth to try and shut down Master System.

Overall this has been an enjoyable series. Book 2 could possibly be skipped without missing much.

It was a good journey with all the characters, what they gave up and what they gained.

Sarah says

I have relived this author and now I can be done. This series was an important one in my formation as a sci-fi reader, because it was the first giant-universe, far-future story I found. It opened up the galaxy for me. But dang this guy is a sex-obsessed pig. As characters are changed into other alien races, half of them change gender and struggle with that. All of them have different bodies and body types (obviously), but few attributes are described in as much detail as the secondary sexual characteristics. I must have skipped most of that junk as a young(er) reader, because I didn't remember how pervasive it is.

The writing is clunky, switching randomly from folksy, trying-to-sound-like-"real"-people to falling back on something that sounds sometimes like formal language and sometimes like high(ish) fantasy stereotypes. Although there are dozens of characters, none, even the most crucial, have unique voices. And while I recognize that the computer in the big space ship is a sentient AI and practically a person, I refuse to believe an AI would use exclamation points, and certainly not multiples. Space ship cores can't save your life and fly through the battle if they're freaking out all over the place.

Glad I reread them, and even more glad that I'm done.

Ian Massey says

The best of the series, because it moves faster than the others with less emphasis on the planning of the heist, but still too "talky" overall and seems to just fizzle out at the end.

Cathy says

Finally finished my second read of the The Rings of the Master books with this, book four. It was OK on the second read and I had forgotten enough that it felt almost like a first read. Since I knew the final result, I found myself paying more attention to the characters and I think Chalker does a good job at developing them and making the interesting. And there was enough action to keep me satisfied.

Michel Clasquin-Johnson says

An anticlimactic ending to the series. After all that soul-searching if human control would be superior to computer control over human affairs, we are never really given the answer, only a hint that the original goal was a symbiosis rather than a takeover.

Lavendersbluegreen says

Just saw this series and it has been years but I was in the mood... so a marathon re-read of the series ensued...

and it was fabulous!

We start out many years in the future... Earth is under control of Master System, a computer. The population has been culled, changed, the universe seeded with our oddly changed descendants, and what is left on Earth has been reduced to limited populations of racially distinct groups isolated in area as well as era.

Each generation any who have the potential to challenge are eliminated or are allowed into the inner sanctum. They live most of the year with science and technology, and the other times within their "primitive" cultures.genius,

What if there was a way to challenge the status quo? Enter an AmerIndian Historian, a Chinese teenage genius, and more...

Book 2 carries the story further. We are now in space with a band of pirates determined to break the system that has enslaved humanity. We go with them on a quest to collect 5 golden rings... on different planets where humanity was settled by Master System. Or at least versions of humanity...

Book 3 see our renegade heroes with some rings and some challenges... how many will have to make the ultimate sacrifice of being mutated into the creatures humanity has transformed into to survive on these alien planets?

The Conclusion...

WOW. It all comes together... some surprises, other things revealed you probably guessed. A terrific series. I very much enjoyed re-reading these.
