



Winning Colors

Elizabeth Moon

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Booted from the Fleet on trumped up charges after saving a villainous superior from catastrophe, Heris Serrano has been marking time captaining the deluxe interstellar yacht Sweet Delight. Now, Heris has been offered a chance at vindication and reinstatement in the Navy. All she has to do is save the galaxy from an interstellar mafia gone berserk.

Winning Colors Details

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Author : Elizabeth Moon

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From Reader Review *Winning Colors* for online ebook

Carolyn F. says

I read a review where the reviewer complained about all the horse talk. It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be, but there was still a ton. I've never been into horses which I think is because as a teenager I rode a horse once without a saddle. He tried to buck me off, and when he finally stopped, I tried to get off, however, his giant shlonge came out so I had to do a kind of slide/hop back so I wouldn't accidentally touch it with my foot. It's just like a dog (well a lot bigger), it's all wet. Yuck! So, not a big fan. I think they're pretty from afar.

Not enough Heris. I don't know if the author was trying to rope in younger readers but I didn't enjoy it as much as the other books in the series. I'm still going to work my way through, but I'm hoping the future books are more about Heris (or Cecilia as long as there's not too much horse talk).

Katie Bee says

Following on in the footsteps of the first two books in the series, this is another satisfying installment. Cecelia and Heris continue to grow and to chart a path through the increasingly complicated military and political situation that confronts them. There is more outright battle in this book, and that is done very well.

Character work continues to be strong. Heris and Cecelia are fantastic, and so is Brun. George and Ronnie are annoying, but play their roles well. Admiral Serrano is wonderful.

Heris's Big Move before the battle is compelling reading and a lot of fun.

Weak points:

- * The regeneration subplot is confusing and rather uninteresting.
- * The Patchcock detours are weak, poorly paced, and have a glaringly annoying Gary Stu. They let down the climax of the book rather badly.
- * Koutsoudas is another impossibly brilliant Gary Stu/deus ex machina.
- * The world of Xavier has some wince-worthy stereotypes/cliches.

By the end of this book, both Heris and Cecelia are facing new roles and responsibilities. I fear they will be almost certainly split up in the next book, which is a pity (as I enjoy them together so much), but I see why it has to be that way. Hopefully the author continues to create new and wonderful characters for them to interact with in the rest of the series.

Choko says

I loved this book! It was fun and exciting with strong female characters a person can fall in love with:-) A bit nervous about the change of protagonist in the following volumes...

Alex Shrugged says

I'm not sure why this SciFi novel is called "Winning Colors" by Elizabeth Moon but I really liked it. In fact I stayed up late finishing it. It had a very exciting (and long) battle scene that kept me interested. That is probably why I rated this sequel (book 3) higher than the other two novels of the series (The Serrano Legacy). This book sets up the beginning of a new series (or a different path along the same series) with the book "Once a Hero".

The story: Captain Heris Serrano takes on a scan tech as a favor to a space navy captain. Serrano was now running a private charter space yacht but in fact her only charter is Lady Cecelia, the former owner and her friend. But the Benignity of the Compassionate Hand (anything BUT compassionate) has plans to invade Familias Regnant space. How will Heris Serrano hold off an invasion of the Compassionate Hand with only a small luxury yacht?

She manages but not alone.

Any problems with this novel? A few but only if you've read the previous novels. While the battle scene was terrific, the ending itself was a little long, spending most of its time tying up a lot of loose ends. It was also a little sappy. The over all theme of this series is how older people guide the younger to solve problems. While that works well enough, it becomes a little tedious toward the end.

There is some cursing as I recall. Sex is not described in any detail but it does exist and it is non-marital.

Over all I liked this novel best of the three. I'm going on to "Once a Hero" which is the next in the series, moving Heris Serrano to the background and focusing on one of her relatives and Esmay Suiza who was introduced briefly in Winning Colors. You don't need to read Winning Colors to understand "Once a Hero," but it helps to understand the Serrano family.

Rebecca says

Another re-read. This one has as many delightful bits as the previous two in the trilogy, although the structure is a bit odd. The climactic space battle falls square in the middle, and the climax feels more like a very extended denouement. But there's betrayal and drunken shenanigans and a very dapper engineer.

Snail in Danger (Sid) Nicolaidis says

I was really itching to read this, after the second book. It had some interesting and clever moments, but I was disappointed that it didn't go into any real detail about Esmay Suiza's adventures. (She's the heroine of the next four books in this series/setting.)

Cloak88 says

A good conclusion of one story arc and just a hint of a new one.

Heris Serrano still in tow of the eccentric Lady "aunt" Cecelia. Having recovered just a bit from the events in the previous book are yet again in the pursuit of horses. And by what should be a familiar theme by now. Things go easily and at a sedate pace, handling the mundanities of running a ship in space... until they do not.

Things go just a bit wobbly when the planetary government of Xavier asks Heris to offer "advice" on a "little problem" regarding some "raiders". Seeing the writing on the wall all the way from orbit, she asks for help. Except the help that arrives, isn't the help she wanted, or helps she can trust.

Well Heris good luck fighting a space battle in a souped up pleasure yacht...

In short a good book where the characters are still great and the story fun. If you liked the second novel, you'll love the third one.

Tani says

If you liked the first two books, you'll like this one. The major changes between this book and the second in the series were mostly just writing-related. There was better pacing. There was a bit more plot and action for the side characters. There were some really fun character interactions.

There was also a very neat and tidy wrap-up to the books, at least for now. Everyone gets a resolution and a new path to head out on. For some, it may be too tidy, but for me, it gave me a nice sense of closure on the series, even though I know that there's another three-book sequence, featuring a new main character.

Speaking of which, this book did introduce the new main character, and I'm kind of looking forward to her. She seem like whatever ride she takes me on, it will be a fun one. Of course, I'm not sure when I'll be taking that ride, given the million other books I have on my list. But I know it'll happen eventually.

Dahrose says

My biggest problem with this series is that I in know way feel like I know the main character Heris, she remains a shallow cardboard cut out. There was a lot happening in this book - but I felt like the delivery should have been smarter - that Heris and the gang should have used more stealth and tricks to win against the larger foe. Instead we had a very dry battle that was kind of boring. Ronnie and George continue to stumble about in the background. Brun and even Raffa, step up once more. I get the feeling the author either doesn't like or respect her male characters or just doesn't care about them.

Deborah Ideiosepius says

In Winning Colours, we follow some of our favourite characters from the previous books in this series by the

author. Heris Serrano has found that, due to the adventures in book two she now technically owns lady Cecelia's space yacht, they get around this by renting it out to lady Cecelia and setting off on a trip relating to (unsurprisingly) horses.

Despite the innocent intent, they get caught up in a political and military situation which leads to some brilliant space battle writing and, ultimately, something of a resolution to Heris' story arc.

While I enjoyed this one I did not find the plot as linear as in the previous couple of books in this series. Definitely do not read this book unless you have read the others. It was a while since I read the last one and the political details were very hazy for me, since it has been a while and they are not gone into in too much detail (this is no criticism; I don't like books that over rehash plots from previous books in the series).

The number of characters and plot lines was also quite diverse. It seems that the author is setting up the reader for subsequent books, where Heris and Cecilia may not be the primary characters. George, Raffa, Ronnie and others get their own plot lines which are elaborate, ever curlesque at times.

The diverse plot lines, obscure politics and discontinuous adventures meant that I did not enjoy this one as much as the last two. Also, I feel this book would benefit from being read in large portions, continuously. I had to read it a bit at a time, slowly and I don't think that improved it. Still, it was a fine novel with good writing, especially of the space battles, I will read more.

Rob Markley says

Last of Moon's 'horse centred' scifi books. Interesting concept and delivered well enough

Unwisely says

This is the third book in the Serrano trilogy. And...while it's better than the last one, it still wasn't great. Honestly, the plot was kind of silly and there were parts where I wanted to punch Cecilia in this book (possibly related to some multi-book arc that will be developed in the second series set in this universe?? I haven't read them yet), but... I was still riveted, and once again stayed up Too Late, turning pages. More than once.

This one gets a little more into the military SF vein - there is a fight in space, Fleet shows up, and Heris's aunt-the-admiral even appears. Lots of good female characters, which is always nice. So, nothing amazing, but very readable.

Lushr says

a good fun series. this one rounds out an ending nicely though i believe there are more. there are a lot of strong female characters in here and it's funny how much it makes the reading more interesting and relatable. this particular book suffered from some seriously heavy editing, maybe it's the ibook edition, leaving out chapter breaks or something. but the publisher needs to do something about it. this book was nearly unreadable in parts due to a lack of context that you'd never see in a printed book.

Dan says

Reread,,
