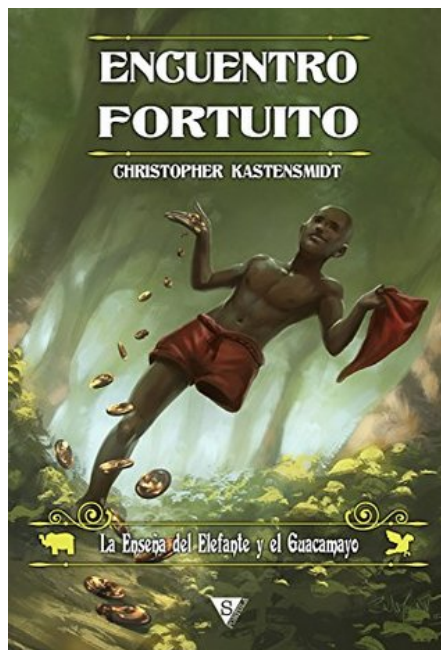




Encuentro fortuito

Christopher Kastensmidt

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Finalista del Premio Nebula

Traducción de Rodolfo Martínez

Bienvenidos a la primera historia de la serie «La Enseña del Elefante y el Guacamayo», una fantasía histórica ambientada en el Brasil del siglo XVI donde la recreación de una época y un lugar fascinantes se combina con la aventura más desenfadada y con los mitos africanos y americanos.

El Nuevo Mundo. Belleza, magia y misterio. Gerard van Oost llega al Brasil decidido a labrarse su fortuna. Pero sus menguados fondos y la hostilidad del capitán Dias, famoso matador de monstruos y bestias y el hombre más influyente en la zona, supondrán un obstáculo casi insalvable. Mas un encuentro casual con el esclavo africano Oludara, de mente ágil y carácter resuelto, puede ser la solución a sus problemas.

Gerard tendrá que adentrarse en la selva y convencer al travieso Sacy-Perey, señor de la espesura, de que lo favorezca en su empresa, tarea nada fácil y que requerirá grandes dosis de paciencia e ingenio.

Encuentro fortuito Details

Date : Published April 23rd 2017 by Sportula Ediciones (first published December 23rd 2010)

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Author : Christopher Kastensmidt

Format : Kindle Edition

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From Reader Review Encuentro fortuito for online ebook

Carlex says

3 1/2 stars

A good novelette with a flavour of classic adventure tales.

Alfonso Junquera perez says

Dos personajes bien perfilados y con carisma, un ambiente exótico, unos contrincantes astutos y peligrosos. ¿Que mas se puede pedir en tan pocas paginas? Por mi parte pocas cosas desde luego, un relato altamente recomendable y que deja con ganas de leer mucho mas.

Mangrii says

3,75 / 5

Nos situamos en Brasil en el siglo XVI cuando el holandés Gerard van Oost llega en busca de labrarse fama y fortuna matando bestias y monstruos. Pero se topa con un muro, el capitán Dias Caldas no está por la labor de admitirlo en su grupo. Un encuentro casual con Oludara, un fuerte y astuto esclavo africano, puede ser la solución a sus problemas.

Esta primera entrega de la saga (ya lleva 8 en total, y para seguir) es una carta de presentación al lector, un punto de partida, una presentación de los personajes, entorno y tono por el que se van a mover las siguientes entregas que me recuerda tremendamente a los relatos cortos de los dos primeros volúmenes de la Saga de Geralt de Rivia.

Toda una mezcla de acción, mitología, misterio, buenos diálogos y humor que huye de las épicas batallas para utilizar la astucia como arma. Todo un descubrimiento de mitos brasileños o europeos que suponen un soplo de aire fresco. Aunque la historia es autoconclusiva, si que se nota como un primer acercamiento con mucho potencial para las siguientes, esto es solo el prologo. Por suerte, pronto tendremos más.

Reseña en el blog: <http://boywithletters.blogspot.com.es...>

Pablo Bueno says

Está claro que eso que llamamos Fantasía Épica —y todos sus derivados— llevan tiempo viajando hacia nuevos horizontes en busca de su emancipación de las leyes y los planteamientos que tan férreamente asentaron algunas de las obras clásicas de mitad del siglo pasado. En este sentido, la obra de la que vamos a hablar hoy supone un soplo de aire fresco por varias razones. La que primero llama la atención, sin ninguna duda, es el escenario: el Brasil de la época colonial.

Enlace a la reseña completa en Sense of Wonder:

<https://sentidodelamaravilla.blogspot...>

Chris says

This isn't that bad a novella, making good use of the mythology and history of the discovery of the New World. The one false note, however, is somewhat off. And I don't blame Kastensmidt, I'm not really sure how he could have solved the problem, so the fact that he addressed the issue is worth something. After Gerard buys and frees Oludara, he has the formerly enslaved African if any of the other slaves were his family. The answer is no, and Oludara seems to be fine letting them be enslaved. This seems slightly false because he did cross the ocean with them.

Derek says

[(What did he do or learn today? I haven't the slightest idea. Fortunately the story finished before the class did.) (hide spoiler)]

Jim Sibigtroth says

I read this story aloud to 3rd graders though it would also work well in grades 1-5. This is described as science fiction but it is in the form of a Brazilian folktale or legend. It is short (kids could read it in one or two sittings). Unfortunately it is only available as a Kindle book but you can put a free Kindle reader on an iPad. I picked this book because it features a folk character (Saci) who is totally unknown in the US but is as familiar to Brazilian children as Micky Mouse is to us. For your boys, it is full of adventure, mythical monsters, and daring-do and for you it is full of positive moral messages.

There is a second story embedded in this story - told by the slave character, Oludara, which offers some insight into the African culture of the "slave coast".

Peter says

An old fashioned sword & sorcery tale in a original setting: colonial Brasil. The two main characters are a Dutch explorer and an African warrior.

For my tastes this is a bit too much of an introductory story, we get the backstory of both the characters and some of their adversaries, meet a mythical creature of two, but we don't get to see the two in action together. It feels more like a first chapter of a novel than a complete story (of course it is a novelette).

I'm curious where the stories will takes these characters, but I'm not immediately blown away.

(Another minus is the fact that it's Amazon only. I don't own a Kindle, and Amazon really does not want you to read their books on other ebooks, and I don't like reading on a phone or tablet..)

Kate says

The Fortuitous Meeting is an engrossing beginning to a series of stories that will hopefully continue to grow.

Two men, one a Dutch explorer and the other an African slave, find themselves stuck in Brazil. Gerard Van Oost can't find an exploring team that will take him. Oludara is about to be sold on by the slave traders. But both have what they need to help each other- and so begins their adventure.

This is a colorful story with a deep sense of what Gerard calls "beauty, mystery, and magic". Both Africa and the New World are populated by creatures out of folklore, and like the heroes of folklore, Gerard and Oludara have to use their wits, not brute strength, to outsmart the monsters.

This first installment offers two clever heroes, a taste of myths not often seen in Western literature, and a Brazil full of tricks and magic.

Arturo says

Más bien un 3,5.

Si le he puesto esa nota y no una más alta es porque es bastante introductorio pero aún así me ha dejado ver que tiene mucho potencial. Eso sí, me ha encantado descubrir una historia fantástica ambientada en el Brasil del siglo XVI y eso quiere decir, **¡¡¡mitos brasileños y africanos!!!!**. Preveo que es el principio de una historia que me va a gustar mucho y me alegro de que la vayan a publicar en España (ya hablaré de todo eso en mi blog dentro de unas semanas)

Se nota que estuvo nominado a los Nebula.

Cathy (cathepsut) says

First sentence: "High atop the Church of the Immaculate Conception, in contrast to the subdued hues of the building's unpainted mortar and stone, a scarlet macaw perched upon a wooden cross."

Extra points for being convoluted.

The story consists of about 40 pages of folk tales set in Brazil and Africa, with some unscary monsters and a simple-minded trickster thrown in. It is also the first in a series, introducing us to the two main characters. Hopefully subsequent stories are more interesting. It was ok, but not exactly inspiring.

Apparently this story was a finalist for the Nebula Award in 2011.

I received this copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!

Sara J. (kefuwa) says

Rating probably due to my reading it in the wrong context/frame of mind. I think my brain just failed to get in the right gear for it.

Chris Bauer says

I heard about this series of novelettes on the Unreliable Narrator podcast and was intrigued. I was able to download the first 5 works in the series and had burned through ALL of them, plus pre-ordered the sixth book in a single day.

Christopher Kastensmidt has provided US readers with a remarkable view into the history of Brazil during the Age of Exploration (Exploitation?) by Europeans. I consider myself to be well-read on the mythology and legends of various cultures, but Kastensmidt schooled me. ;)

The pace is brisk and gets right into the thick of things. Our protags, an unlikely duo, are introduced and propelled into action. The dialogue, the background, the research and the setting all merge into a seamless, compelling read.

This is adventure fiction at its finest.

And after reading all five books, I have to point out his remarkable use of a consistent framing device to set up and close each novelette - a non-human POV observer to get things moving and to close out the tale. Just really great and well-done.

While each of the novelettes could stand on its own, I'd suggest reading in chronological order for the sake of consistency.

If you're interested in reading some fine adventure fiction in a setting you've never read before, grab these novelettes and enjoy.

Jana Bianchi says

Muito legal ler fantasia na época colonial brasileira, em especial com um cast multiétnico. Achei muito legal a dinâmica entre os protagonistas (e os personagens secundários), fazendo conexões tão profundas mesmo com suas divergências religiosas e culturais. Falando em etnia e cultura, todas foram retratadas de forma respeitosa, especialmente os nativos brasileiros e o Oludara, sem barra forçada pra tornar "europeu" o modo de pensar e agir de todos os personagens. Os subtextos - em especial o da tolerância e da amizade - são claros, mas sem panfletarismo. A escrita é muito boa e a história é ágil, cheia de cenas de ação. Gostaria

muito de ter lido quando era mais nova, quando inclusive sentia esse desejo de ler fantasia que tivesse a ver com as lendas brasileiras. O fim é muito bem encaixado, gostei de como tudo foi resolvido e fiquei com vontade de saber o que viria depois. Recomendado! :)

Koeur says

<https://koeur.wordpress.com/2015/06/2...>

Publisher: Christopher Kastensmidt

Publishing Date: July 2015 (2010)

ISBN: 9788591933808

Genre: Fantasy

Rating: 3.0/5

Publisher Description: In The Elephant and Macaw Banner series, two brave adventurers—the Dutch explorer Gerard van Oost and Yoruban warrior Oludara—travel the unexplored wilderness of sixteenth-century Brazil. Along the way, the encounter a host of creatures inspired by Brazilian folklore: from the brain-sucking Kalobo to the one-legged prankster Sacy-Perey.

Review: This is a fairly short novelette, that read more like a preview....only shorter. Really good so far but still just a taste.
