



Garan the Eternal: An Epic Adventure of Time and the Stars

Andre Norton

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Few authors have achieved such renown as World Fantasy Life Achievement honoree and Science Fiction Writers of America Grand Master Andre Norton. With the love of readers and the praise of critics, Norton's books have sold millions of copies worldwide.

In our world he was Garin, jet pilot and explorer. In the lost land of Tav, he was Garan, who would supply the link with their most ancient past. And in a world far distant in space and time, he was Garan of Yu-Lac, who would stand alone between a planet's doom and the ones he loved.

Garan the Eternal is a web of wonders woven by a master writer. It is the story of three lives tied by a recurrent destiny—that of Kepta the Ambitious, of Thrala the Divine, and of Garan himself, man of three worlds.

Garan the Eternal: An Epic Adventure of Time and the Stars Details

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From Reader Review Garan the Eternal: An Epic Adventure of Time and the Stars for online ebook

Ero says

Picked up a stack of old space opera sci-fi from the junk store around the corner. Just looking at them took me back to my youth. When I was 13-14 I must have gone through at least a dozen books by Andre Norton... the plots had a lot of similarity to each other, but the level of creativity in the imagined-worlds, I recalled, was formidable. That seemed pretty appealing.

Actually reading them, though, was a little trickier. The writing is, in some places, hilariously bad. (In others, it's fine). The book reads as if it were cranked out without time for thought or revision; the plot veers from crisis to crisis without attention to where it'll end up.

My wife delightedly made fun of the genre after dipping into a few of the books and narrated to me something much like this:

"Grob rested his Yor-spear on the battlement of Rew and sighed. All of Rytukk was in peril, for only he and his dark-eyed witch-princess Twiffil, she of the lissome limbs and crystal throne, knew of the onrushing armies of Vrud, which would crush all of gentle Floom before their horned feet unless a miracle were to befall them. If only, he thought, I had not vowed to stay here in Rew and never leave off the defense of this high quartz tower unless the three moons, Quop, Vrit, and Xid, were first smashed into splinters... for if he could leave Rew, then he would be able to sally forth in his retro-jet-equipped wov-craft, with a hand-picked crew of Fwif-fighters and Zum-wizards, and take up his three-pointed Yor-spear against Vrud's menace. But that could never happen, for all Rewians knew that the triple moons were prophesied to be un-splinterable, save only in the fated upheaval of Brigqop, which was an impossible dream.

Just then, Twiffil came loping from the shadows, crying out: 'Grob! The moons! The moons!'

All in all, very enjoyable reading.

Carl Palmateer says

This is a collection which I did not realize at first. One failing of e-books is the inability to flip quickly through a book and see its divisions.

The first story I kept thinking I had read, and I had, it is People of the Crater which leads into the second which is Garan the Eternal followed by some Witch World short stories.

All and in all its ok but not great. The stories are fine and I think the Witch World ones might be the better. The grouping doesn't make much sense. Its like someone just put together stuff to make a book of a certain length and let it go.

Joseph Andros says

Ace pilot and discarded world war 3 hero Garin Featherstone, on a routine expedition, gets sucked down below the ice crust of Antarctica into a "land of the lost," of sorts: without the dinosaurs, but there are wise and civilized lizardlike people, furry house elves, and enormous intelligent bees. Those are the good guys. It seems to have been the lizards who called Featherstone down, using arcane means. His mission: to rescue and then mate with Thrala, last daughter of the humanlike Older Ones - they who, long ages past, came as refugees to this planet and kickstarted evolution. Or at least they gave it a helpful push or two towards the weird, down in the crater. Meanwhile on the bad guy side, you've got a bunch of bad descendents of the humanlike Older Ones, who used to call bad people down to mate with them instead of good people. As a result: all bad. They keep huge, slavering ratlike dogs (possibly doglike rats), and experiment with weaponized fungus.

Basically the top bad guy and Garin both want the same girl, and after all the drama pans out in the crater, we flash back to the original planet of the Older Ones where Garan, the same bad guy, and the same girl had roughly the same problem: reincarnation, apparently.

The main tales of Garin/Garan and his time-crossed exploits are backed up with two unrelated stories: "One-Spell Wizard" about a wizard who can't make his spells last more than 24 hours, and "Legacy of Sorn Fen" about a magic ring that turns one-eyed cripples into successful bartenders. But when the local jerk overlord discovers the secret, will bad stuff happen pending some further comeuppance?

Kris says

A blast from the past - Andre Norton was one of my favorite authors from way way back, 6th grade in fact. Enjoyed re-reading this one (a Kindle freebie).

Valerie says

There's evidently at least one other edition--mine is a DAW paperback.

This seems to've been an attempt to mimic something along the lines of Edgar Rice Burrough's Pellucidar books--set on Earth, but, in this case, in an artificial crater in Antarctica.

From internal evidence, it seems likely there were meant to be at least two other 'Garan' stories in this book, but apparently it came up a little short, because there're two Witch World Stories at the end: (1) One Spell Wizard, and (2) The Legacy of Sorn Fen. I don't remember the former in any other books, but the latter is in at least one other collection.

Lita Acevedo says

This was just okay for me. Not as good as her other books.

D. says

This is a collection of short stories. I'll post reviews as I finish the stories.

PEOPLE OF THE CRATER: Written in 1947 under the pen name "Andrew North," this is Andre Norton's first published work of what we would call today "Sword and Sorcery." I read somewhere that she wrote this very early in her writing career, and couldn't sell it because "women don't write science fiction or fantasy," so she eventually had to use the pen name.

That may be an apocryphal story, but it rings true with the quality of this story, which lacks the "punch" that much of Norton's writing that shows in other work written around the same time.

This is a standard by-the-numbers Edgar Rice Burroughs pastiche, about a pilot in the future (well, 1985, but it was the future then), who is hired to explore something strange at the South Pole. Things get weird, and suddenly he is in a fantasy world fighting to rescue a princess from some typical fantasy bad guys.

It's pretty lightweight, and there's not a lot to recommend it as anything more than a curiosity. There is a kind of funny "gotcha" ending, but that's not enough to recommend it to anyone but a Norton enthusiast. The follow up story, GARAN of YU-LAC was written in 1967, and I'll review that when I get to it chronologically.

Mary j Osberg says

Saran the Eternal

There was no real ending to this story . It just ended and another story started in the middle than another with no end or beginning. It started out good but!!!

Justyna says

Not worth a read, very poorly written, like some parts were just skipped. Boring beyond description.

Mercia McMahon says

I adored Andre Norton as a child, but returning as an adult to read this book leave me less impressed. The twists in the plot seemed to have over easy answers and so I couldn't get into the story. Mind you it is from 1947 and I would have enjoyed this as a child.

Mike Brannick says

I love Andre Norton! I have since way back when I was in her primary target demographic, ten boys. I still love anything she wrote.

Victoria Vivian says

I enjoyed the the story enough to finish the book. It was a quick easy read. The second piece being the best of the book.

Serena says

Garan the Eternal: "Garin of Tav"/"Garan of Yu-Lac" does a lot to remind me in it's writing of Edgar Rice Burroughs's Barsoom/Mars books. This is not necessary a bad thing - merely somewhat surprising to me, and while Andre Norton does put her own bent to it, Barsoom is not usually to my liking.

Yet I found Garin/Garan intriguing, if not quite so engaging as I would have liked and come to expect from Andre Norton's writing. The other two short stories dealt in the Witch World sage, "Legacy from Sorn-Fen"/"One Spell Wizard".

Amanda says

Garan the Eternal is like reading a MST3K screenplay. Hilariously bad. It's even better dramatically read out loud with a friend.

Charles says

Probably 2 and 1/2 stars. Not bad, but not great.
