More than thirty years ago in Beast Master and Lord of Thunder, Andre Norton created a memorable character, Hosteen Storm. A Native American soldier for Earth, he barely escaped his doomed home world when the Xic destroyed it. Armed with his soldiers skills, his ancestors insights, and an uncanny ability to communicate mind-to-mind with animals, Storm is a hero unlike any other in science fiction.
Now, science fiction Grand Master Andre Norton has teamed up with Lyn McConchie to pit Storm against his most dangerous enemy yet: Death-which-Comes-in-the-Night.

It is silent. It leaves no tracks. The only evidence that remains is the perfectly cleaned bones of its victims. And it has developed a taste for humans.

No one has survived an attack yet, and the natives of Storms adopted planet, Arzor, are moving in on human territory as they try to escape the silent scourge. The already high tensions between Humans and Natives soar, sparking a race against time as Storm attempts to solve the mystery of Death-which-comes-in-the-Night before Humans and Natives clash.

But he can’t do it without help from Tani, a genetic engineer from the Ark, a ship traveling space with genetic material from across the galaxy, including the destroyed Earth. But Tani has been poisoned against Beast Masters by her mother. She must conquer her own unreasoning hatred, and awaken the powerful Beast Master in herself, before she and Storm can conquer Death-which-comes-in-the-Night and uncover the great conspiracy that threatens not only Arzor, but all human-occupied planets.

**Personal Review: Beast Masters Ark (Beastmaster) by Lyn McConchie**

Beast Master’s Ark (2002) is the third SF novel in the Beast Master series, following Lord of Thunder. In this novel, the Arkship is trying to collect genes from every available Terran species. This collection started with unauthorized samples of species used by the Beast Master Command and expanded to include all Terran species. After the flaming of Terra by the Xiks, the Ark became an official instrument of the High Command.

Tani is the niece of Brion and Kady Carraldo, the couple running the Ark. She is the daughter of a Beast Master who died with his whole team on Trastor. Tani’s mother went a little crazy after his death and she has told Tani that the High Command deliberately sent her father on a suicide mission. She also tells Tani that most Beast Masters send their beasts into combat without regard for their safety. Then her mother is killed by Xiks on Terra.
Tani has been working on the Ark for her aunt and uncle as a biogenetic technician, collecting gene samples and splicing gene sequences for various species. She is a good worker, but she still has an attitude toward Beast Masters. When an effort to obtain samples from one team on Fremlyn was mishandled and a beast died, Tani blamed the Beast Master rather than her uncle.

With this attitude of disdain and distrust for beast masters, Tani comes to Arzor to collect samples from the team of Hosteen Storm. While Hosteen had been scheduled to greet the Ark crew, a local rancher reports that something is killing his frawn and asks for help from the Beast Master and his team. Hosteen finds evidence of something eating both animals and men down to the skeleton. The natives are also suffering from its hunger and are totally mystified.

When he is not present at their arrival, Tani decides that Storm is being rude toward her aunt and uncle. However, she learns to like Brad Quade, Hosteen's stepfather. After Storm arrives and encounters Mandy, the paraowl, Tani reacts defensively and abruptly asks his business. Then she foists him off to Jarro, an unimaginative prig, who snubs the Beast Master and sends him on his way.

Although Tani continues to see Storm as an arrogant and self-centered man, Hosteen learns more about her and begins to treat her as a victim of war trauma. When the mobile lab vehicle arrives at the Quade ranch, Tani relaxes her defenses and spends much time with Logan Quade, Hosteen's half-brother. They go for long rides and Logan tells her about the Norbies and other aspects of Arzor.

Then Tani starts to have trouble sleeping. When her aunt gives her something to help her sleep, she has a full-blown nightmare. From her description, Hosteen suspects that she is picking up the feelings of both the victim and its killer.

Tani grows tired of being confined to bed and decides to go for a ride. She sees a young duocorn-bred filly in the corral and makes friends with the animal. The filly is entranced by the young women who displays no trace of fear. Tani presents the riding tack to the filly and then saddles her. Although the filly is slightly startled as Tani leaps into the saddle, Tani is a good rider and the filly is soon satisfied. They walk out of the corral and they speed up a little. Finally, Tani lets out a war whoop and they take off into the brush.

Tani, the filly, her coyotes and Mandy enjoy the ride and the subsequent meal. However, Tani drops off to sleep and wakes up too late to ride back; she doesn't want to chance riding the filly at night for fear of hidden holes and obstacles. They settle down for the night. The next day four Nitra warriors appear and Tani welcomes them to her camp.
No one has told Tani about the Ntras. Since she has been told that the natives are friendly, she treats them as such. They are impressed with her lack of fear and her respect for tradition; the leader tells the others to treat her with full courtesy. One young warrior, however, tries to ride the filly without permission and the filly kills him for his arrogance. The Nitra leader accepts the death as justified for the defiance of his orders and he invites Tani to accompany them back to his camp.

This novel is an action adventure, but is also a romance. Despite the poor start, Tani and Hosteen gradually develop a deep affection for each other. Of course, both doubt that the other reciprocates such feelings, but the intimate mental linkages soon resolve such doubts.

Highly recommended for Norton fans and for anyone else who enjoys tales of high adventure, alien cultures and romance.

-Arthur W. Jordin

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
Beast Masters Ark (Beastmaster) by Lyn McConchie 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!