

April/May 1998

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The High Seas

The White Order

L.E. Modesitt, Jr.

Tor/St. Martin's Press

\$24.95; April

Welcome back to the world of Recluse! L.E. Modesitt, Jr. has added another chapter to the continuing saga of Recluse. To introduce this new book we need to first define the universe of Recluse. I choose to use the Yin-Yang symbol, the ancient Chinese understanding of how things work. The outer circle represents everything (the universe of Recluse), while the black and white shapes within the circle represent the interaction of the two energies (magicks). Yin (Order) and Yang (Chaos) cause everything to happen, but are not completely black or white nor can they exist without each other.

Modesitt has been concentrating on Order in the scope of his previous books of Recluse. This book concentrates on the Chaos of Recluse. The main character (can't say hero, because he isn't) is decent. He is a reluctant fighter but is extremely dangerous when crossed. What is this guy's name? It's Ceryll, remember it.

After the death of his parents, Ceryll is raised by his Aunt Nail and Uncle Syodor, a master miner. Soon he is sent off to a master miller named Dylert because his aunt and uncle cannot take care of him. Ceryll is torn apart by this but knows that there is nothing he can do.

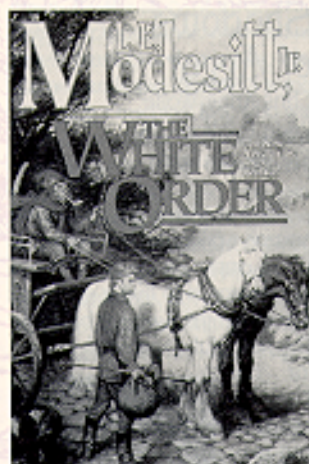
One day his uncle secretly meets with Ceryll, it's a rainy day and Ceryll is having headaches, a symptom of his white wizardry. Ceryll

learns of his father's legacy: a small mirror, a bronze dagger and two books. He also learns that his father fled after taking some items from the White Order and was destroyed by them.

Weeks later, a lone rider is fleeing a white wizard and his lancers. Dylert sees the danger and has Ceryll hide. The unfortunate rider edges toward the hidden Ceryll but is soon waylaid by the chaos wizard and is killed.

The writing is on the wall, Dylert must have Ceryll leave before the Chaos wizards come back. Dylert sends Ceryll to Tellis, a scrivener in Fairhaven, who owes him a debt. In Fairhaven, Ceryll earns his keep and learns to write and read what he copies. During his tutelage Ceryll reads his father's books, one containing the history of Candor and the other the Colors of White, a Manual of the Guild at Fairhaven. The user manual of the White Order! Ceryll becomes distraught. He is missing half of the book, which is all the good stuff.

You can't imagine how delighted Ceryll is when a white wizard walks into the Scrivener's shop and wants a book copied for him. It just happens to be the manual Colors of White. Only the master scrivener can copy the book so Ceryll sneaks a look at the book in the dead of night to read the missing pages from his father's book. A few days later, wizards come to the shop to look around and question Tellis and Ceryll. Tellis becomes distraught with worry which is justified a day later when the wizards return and take Ceryll with them.



The principle leaders of the White Order of Fairhaven are Sterol the High Wizard of Candar and the Overrage Jeslek. Jeslek is ambitious and covets Sterol's position.

Watch for the power plays. Is this the beginning or the end for Ceryll? If you want to find out, read this book. Like all Modesitt's previous books, it is really good.

On the Recluse time scale the book is before the *Magic Engineer*. I have read all of Modesitt's books on the Order/Chaos universe and it was rewarding to me to be able to read about the Chaos wizards, the White Order of Candar.

In his Recluse series, Modesitt's previous books were not written in chronological order; nevertheless, they are best read in the order they were written, which are as follows. *The Towers of Sunset*, *The Magic Engineer*, *The Order War*, *The Death of Chaos*, *Fall of Angels*, and *Chaos Balance*.

—Jason C.

Welcome back to the world of Recluse!