

February/March 1999

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# The High Seas

## Colors Of Chaos

L.E. Modesitt, Jr.

Tor Books

\$27.95; Available

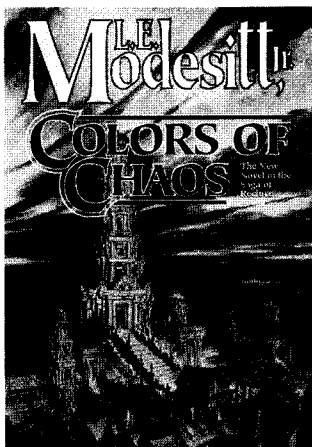
As you can guess from the title, *Colors of Chaos* is the second book of the White Devils, the Chaos Wizards of Candar and the sequel to *The White Order*. L. E. Modesitt, Jr. has added yet another chapter to the continuing saga of Recluce. In *The White Order*, we are introduced to a young wizard-to-be named Ceryll. We watch him grow and learn how to harness and guard his secret abilities with Order and Chaos. Ceryll knows he is mightier than Jeslek, but he will not reveal his true power. He is very cautious and knows that he still has much to learn. And he'll need to be more cautious than ever before, as you will read within the pages of *Colors of Chaos*.

Like a shaft of light, Chaos can be split into colors. There is a wide color variation in Chaos, from white to almost black and everything in between. Gray can be perceived as white if black is shielded correctly. Ceryll has done so and has become a Gray wizard amongst the White brethren of Fairhaven. He is consorting with a Black named Leyladin. Her father, Layel, is an honest trader, loyal to Fairhaven and the Guild. Later in the book, it is Layel who saves Ceryll and his White lancers when they are almost out of provisions. Is it because Leyladin has chosen Ceryll for her consort?

We are in a new chapter of Ceryll's life, his adult years. He is no longer alone and people respect and

even fear him. He will face love, life, loss, and death, but he is also on a path to greatness. After all, it has been foreseen.

In the last book, we learned that the principle characters of the White Order of Fairhaven are Sterol the High Wizard of Candar, Overmage Jeslek, and Overmage Kinowan. In



*Colors of Chaos*, we learn that there has been a great deception. Who are the principle players now?

Sterol has been demoted and become a recluse. Jeslek is named High Wizard. As the greatest White mage in history, he wanted to teach the Spillarian traders a lesson about paying their road tariffs. Esaak has become the other Overmage, due to a general lack of interest by the other mages. Is Anya behind all this? Is the powerful red-headed Chaos wielder who uses sex to intrigue and dominate her victims a human black widow spider? She kills her victims

slowly as she pulls their strings, and when the strings end they die.

Remember Myral, Eliasar, Redark, Fydell, Lyasa, Faltar, and Heral? They all have a part to play in Ceryll's fateful life, but what are their true intentions? Jeslek may have hated Ceryll and wanted him dead. Maybe that's why Ceryll received the most perilous tasks. The work didn't destroy Ceryll, it gave him a convenient way to learn about how the Guild and the world worked and about how it didn't. Ceryll learned from his own mistakes as well as from the mistakes of others, and he never repeated these bad decisions. He had two good teachers looking out for him, the mage, Myra, and the Overmage, Kinowan. They have big plans for Ceryll, that is, if he survives.

On the Recluce time scale, *Colors of Chaos* takes place at the same time as a much earlier volume, *The Magic Engineer*. I have read (and thoroughly enjoyed) all of Modesitt's books in the Order/Chaos universe and it was rewarding for me to be able to read about the continuing adventures of Ceryll and the White Order of Candar.

And just so you know, L. E. Modesitt Jr. did not write his Recluce series in chronological order, and they are best read in the order in which they were written: *The Towers of Sunset*, *The Magic Engineer*, *The Order War*, *The Death of Chaos*, *Fall of Angels*, *The Chaos Balance*, *The White Order*, and lastly, *Colors of Chaos*.

I hope you enjoy this complex, highly entertaining series as much as I have.

—Jason C.

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