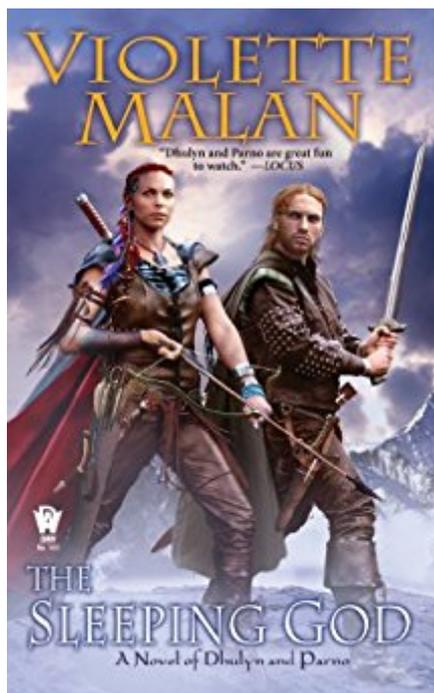


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The Sleeping God: A Novel Of Dhulyn And Parno



Synopsis

Dhulyn Wolfshead and Parno Lionsmane are members of the Mercenary Guild, both veterans of numerous battles and missions, each a master of martial arts. And more than that, Dhulyn and Parno are Partners, a Mercenary bond that can only be broken by one or both of their deaths. Their past lives are supposed to be irrelevant?but Dhulyn and Parno have histories and secrets that may make all the difference between success and failure in the mission that awaits them...

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this book. On the surface, it is a standard sword-and-sorcery novel with incredible swordsmen, barbarians, snivelly townsfolk, and evil magicians plotting destruction. But it's more than that: each character is solidly portrayed, with development and growth that is believable. Each character makes a choice/choices, both good and bad, that have consequences. Some of the decisions of the characters are agonizing to read, because you know they will regret them later. Other decisions are so right, fit so perfectly with the character, that you simply agree with the character and continue reading. The world is mapped out more by caste than by geography, which is unusual. The various castes are not explicitly defined, but instead are shown to the reader by each

character's actions and beliefs. Figuring out exactly what each caste's role is adds another layer to the story. An improvement over *The Mirror Prince*, which was also enjoyable but more uneven, this book is good escapist fiction that also shows strong characters with distinct personalities acting according to their nature.

Reviewed by Christina Wantz Fixemeron 09/22/2007
Members of the Mercenary Guild, Partners Dhulyn Wolfshead and Parno Lionsmane are accustomed to danger. Their fighting spirit is summed up in their ritualized parting: "In Battle," to which another Mercenary replies "Or in Death." When they arrive in the land of Parno's birth, they are shocked to find homicidal hostility toward the Marked--people born an ability to Find, Mend, Heal, or See. Historically, the Marked have been treated as everyday tradespeople, paid for appreciated services. Now, they're being persecuted by priests of the Sleeping God. Dhulyn has a secret Mark, that of Sight, which is the rarest of the four. Guided by her ability to See, she and Parno take on a commission to deliver a young girl to her family in a city Parno both misses and would rather forget. Their arrival triggers a series of events that could change everything. In this fully realized fantasy, Violette Malan blends traditional elements with her characters' unique perspectives. Not only are the settings vivid, but the social structure and climes are understandable and believable. Readers will experience this journey as if they were part of it, a sure sign of good fantasy writing. This novel is a fun read with a great combination of danger, intrigue, humor, and more. The pace only slows long enough for readers to catch a breath before picking up with more action. Violette Malan's *THE SLEEPING GOD* is a great choice for good fantasy reading.

4.5-Books
My main issues are with Dhulyn & Parno being billed to among the greatest warriors known, but there are only a few fight scenes. Malan makes it clear in the book and builds the prowess of the Dhulyn and Parno but just doesn't deliver or back it up enough. The few battle scenes in the book are glossed over and end quickly which doesn't seem to be consistent with her two battle loving main characters. The pacing was also off and again I have to point to the main characters not being involved in as much action as you might expect. At times the story moves slow enough where a reader could very well lose interest, but luckily the plot is good enough to give it time to unravel. A patient reader will be rewarded. In the end I can recommend *The Sleeping God* to those who enjoy a good political intrigue fantasy. The characters and plot are strong enough to make you stick around even if the action that the reader is expecting never materializes. I would not recommend this to anyone who is looking for an action packed slug fest. Overall, Malan manages to pull off an

intriguing story of politics, love, and the fate of the world without being clichéd and should not disappoint readers in those aspects.

It strays from classic sword and sorcery type books in that it has very little real conflict of arms. The makings are there for subsequent books that may have more but this one is about intrigue and a curious relationship between the two main characters. Both Parno and Dhuyyn are interesting in their own rights, but their relationship is the bright light of this book.

These books are creative, fun, and adventurous!! I have re-read them all so many times, and this is not something I typically do! I know Violette Malan is eager to publish more, but DAW Books have refused at this time. I am boycotting DAW Books until they publish more of this lovely and entertaining series!

The Sleeping God is a masterfully told fantasy tale that focuses on culture and character. The descriptions of places are vivid and the Mercenary Brotherhood has become a real thing in my mind. This book doesn't disappoint and neither will the rest of the series. The only bad thing I can say about the stories is that there isn't enough of them yet (only 4 so far).

I really wish I could have liked the story more. The cover is amazing and immediately caught my interest. The book starts out really good and I was happy to have found a little gem. The world building is very well done and kept me going for a while. Unfortunately, the story begins to lose its appeal after around 150 pages. The plot is okay, if a bit cheesy and even without reading the ending first one can easily guess how the story is going to continue and will finally end. But the main lack for me is the author's inability when it comes to emotional connections. I had a hard time believing that Dhulyn & Parno are as important to each other as the author wants me to believe. It simply isn't enough to write about a connection like this but to make the reader believe it, feel it. Yes, I'm very well aware that this isn't planned to be a love story but a sword-and-sorcery novel. Still, I want to feel an emotional connection to and between the main characters. I need to either love or hate them and. And this simply didn't happen here. Someone else pointed out that there aren't really a lot of fighting scenes and I would agree. Let them fight some more in the next book. I want to see some of the things they are able to do. Overall, I didn't regret reading the book but I'm a bit disappointed... it could have been done better. However, I will buy the sequel and give Dhulyn & Parno a second chance. There is a lot of potential with them.

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