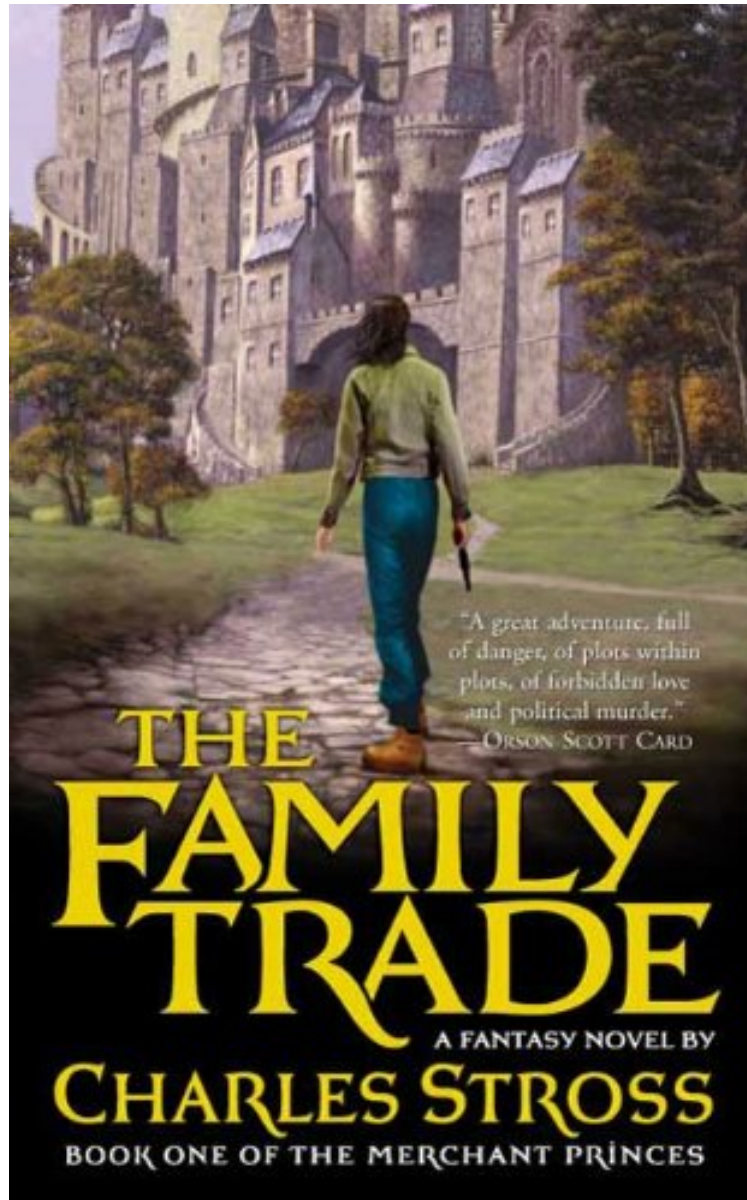


(Online library) The Family Trade: A Fantasy Novel (Merchant Princes)

The Family Trade: A Fantasy Novel (Merchant Princes)

Von Charles Stross

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Von Charles Stross : The Family Trade: A Fantasy Novel (Merchant Princes) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Family Trade: A Fantasy Novel (Merchant Princes):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen7 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Hard sci-

fi wolf in fantasy sheep's clothing Von M. Duda The Merchant Princes saga hits the ground running and maintains a break-neck pace over all of the four books that I have read. Don't let the mounted knights with MP5s fool you: Stross has created a lively and living world of intelligent extrapolation and high adventure firmly rooted in the grand "what-if" tradition of classic science fiction. The heroine is highly intelligent, and she does the reader the favor of never sacrificing common sense for the sake of the plot. In fact, the book feels much more real than many ostensibly rooted in reality. Yes, the world-walking conceit is lifted whole from Roger Zelazny's Amber series (homage!), but it feels as fresh as anything Stross has written -- high praise indeed. After barreling through the first four books at the cost of much sleep, my only complaint is that Stross will never be able to write more books in the series as fast as I can read them! He should stop visiting conventions and get to work.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Der Clan, die Firma und Sliders Von M. W. Broscheit Wer seit vielen Jahren SF und auch den einen oder Thriller sieht/liest wird nicht so wahnsinnig viele, neue Ideen in diesem Roman (erster Band einer Serie) entdecken; was ihn so lesenswert macht ist die Kombination der bekannten Elemente und der in seinem Kontext logisch aufgebaute Handlungsverlauf. Der Grundsatz "Make it believable." wurde vom Autor immer beachtet und so lassen sich die Handlungen der Protagonisten logisch nachvollziehen, auch wenn sie in guter Thrillertradition zunächst überraschend erscheinen. Die Figuren sind vielschichtig und selten das was sie zu sein scheinen, insofern gibt es mehr als fifty shades of grey ;-)

Alle Charaktere haben eigene offene und versteckte Motive und selbst die eigentliche Hauptperson ist nicht einfach nur gut. Als SF würde ich die Erzählung in erster Linie nicht betrachten, das SF/Fantasy Element ist die Existenz von Parallelwelten und einer kleinen, genetisch bevorzugten Gruppe von Menschen, die zwischen diesen Welten wechseln können, der Rest ist eine realistisch geschilderte Hier- und Jetztwelt und der Welt drben/daneben mit einer interessanten Kultur zwischen Mittelalter und von hier importierter Technik, die von den Weltwanderern nicht beherrscht aber stark beeinflusst wird. Schon dieses erste Buch deutet auf eine komplex ausgearbeitete Kultur hin, ich bin auf deren Ausgestaltung in den Folgebänden gespannt. Mehr als schon hier auf der Seite schon zum Inhalt geschrieben wurde möchte ich nicht verraten, jedenfalls habe ich den Roman in einem Rutsch durchgelesen und fange gerade mit Band 2 an. Bisher wirklich eine gelungene Mischung aus Thriller, Fantasy und Gangstergeschichte.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. plötzlich Prinzessin Von Uli Ulrich Eine wirklich fantastische Geschichte. Unsere Heldin hat als Journalistin gearbeitet und eine "mafiose" Sache herausgefunden. Was ein Glück, dass sie in eine andere Welt entkommen kann. Eine Welt die genau an gleicher Stelle liegt nur etwa 200 Jahre zurück und sie ist eine Prinzessin. Es ist immer wieder lustig zu lesen, wie amerikanische Autoren damit umgehen. "Wir sind ja gute Republikaner oder Demokraten, keine verderbten Aristos" Aber dann die Platinkreditkarte voll akzeptieren. Diese andere Welt ist voll von skurrilen Menschen und Gebrüchen, aber es gibt Freunde und Feinde da und die Heldin integriert sich schnell. Da diese Geschichte in 4-5 Teilen angelegt ist, kann man noch nicht wirklich ein Urteil fällen, jedenfalls ansatzweise zu lesen.

Kurzbeschreibung A bold fantasy in the tradition of Roger Zelazny's Chronicles of Amber, The Merchant Princes is a sweeping new series from the hottest new writer in science fiction! Miriam Beckstein is happy in her life. She's a successful reporter for a hi-tech magazine in Boston, making good money doing what she loves. When her researcher brings her iron-clad evidence of a money-laundering scheme, Miriam thinks she's found the story of the year. But when she takes it to her editor, she's fired on the spot and gets a death threat from the criminals she has uncovered. Before the day is over, she's received a locket left by the mother she never knew - the mother who was murdered when she was an infant. Within is a knotwork pattern, which has a hypnotic effect on her. Before she knows it, she's transported herself to a parallel Earth, a world where knights on horseback chase their prey with automatic weapons, and where world-skipping assassins lurk just on the other side of reality - a world where her true family runs things. The six families of the Clan rule the kingdom of Gruinmarkt from behind the scenes, a mixture of nobility and criminal conspirators whose power to walk between the worlds makes them rich in both. Braids of family loyalty and intermarriage provide a fragile guarantee of peace, but a recently-ended civil war has left the families shaken and suspicious. Taken in by her mother's people, she becomes the star of the story of the century - as Cinderella without a fairy godmother. As her mother's heir, Miriam is hailed as the prodigal countess Helge Thorold-Hjorth, and feted and feasted. Caught up in schemes and plots centuries in the making, Miriam is surrounded by unlikely allies, forbidden loves, lethal contraband, and, most dangerous of all, her family. Her unexpected return will supercede the claims of other clan members to her mother's fortune and power, and whoever killed her mother will be happy to see her dead, too. Behind all this lie deeper secrets still, which threaten everyone and everything she has ever known. Patterns of deception and interlocking lies, as intricate as the knotwork between the universes. But Miriam is no one's pawn, and is determined to conquer her new home on her own terms. Blending the creativity and humor of Roger Zelazny, the adventure of H. Beam Piper and Philip Jose Farmer, and the rigor and scope of a science-fiction writer on the grandest scale, Charles Stross has set a new standard for fantasy epics. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied. From Publishers Weekly Best known for his Accelerando novels

(Singularity Sky, etc.) of an ever-speedier techno-Singularity, British author Stross mixes high-tech with medieval trappings in this highly entertaining science fantasy in the "misplaced modern" mode. Reporter Miriam Beckstein, recently fired for exposing a money laundering scheme and threatened by the criminals involved, finds that staring at her mother's antique brooch can move her from contemporary America to a Viking-settled parallel universe, where she discovers her true heritage as a countess among the world-walking, goods-smuggling Clan. Struggling to master the mores and politics of her new family, Miriam discovers trust to be the rarest commodity in which they deal. Earl Roland, her new love, may be too loyal to her uncle, Duke Angbard, while Roland's intended, the Baroness Olga, is much more than a silly heiress waiting to be married off. Miriam schemes to update the Clan's ancient business and make herself invaluable to their interests, before one of the many assassins after her succeeds. Stross makes much of the incongruity of modern technology alongside old-fashioned costumes and customs, and many will be reminded of Roger Zelazny's Amber books, which had similar dizzying intrigues. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From BooklistA fantasy employing the familiar device of a character from our world being zapped into what may be loosely called Faerie, *The Family Trade* features investigative reporter Miriam Beckstein. Pursuing a matter that brings her death threats, she ends up having to use a locket left her by her mother, who was murdered when Miriam was an infant. Naturally, the locket transfers her to the kingdom of Gruinmarkt, where the six Families of the Clan vie for dominance, using methods that have a good deal in common with those of *The Sopranos* and Mario Puzo's *Corleones*. Miriam is no more willing, however, to be a passive victim in Gruinmarkt than she was in our world, and she sets out to uphold her part in the Families' feud in appropriate style. Stross' world building isn't quite as vivid as that of Piper or Zelazny, to which the book's publicity compares it, but in all ways this is a solid page-turner and an uncommonly promising series launcher. Roland GreenCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved