

# EIDOLON

ADVENTURES IN THE GALAXY UNIVERSE® 14



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*Sharon Lee , Steve Miller*

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**Eidolon** Sharon Lee , Steve Miller

This chapbook contains two original stories: "Shadow Partner," and "Persistence." Each story features a well-known member of Clan Korval, portrayed as others see them.

## **Eidolon Details**

Date : Published November 1st 2008 by SRM Publisher, Ltd. (first published 2008)

ISBN : 9781935224006

Author : Sharon Lee , Steve Miller

Format : Pamphlet 0 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Space, Space Opera

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## From Reader Review Eidolon for online ebook

### Jeff Crosby says

When I think about reading I mean novels. Anthologies have always held second place. However, in Science Fiction I am finding myself constantly perplexed by authors who anthologize a single story in multiple volumes. Mike Resnick, Keith Laumer Christopher Anvil, James Schmitz, and Poul Anderson immediately come to mind. So here on Goodreads I surrender.

Both stories in this chapbook say interesting things about human nature.

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### Sbuchler says

This contains two short stories. First, “Persistence” is the story of how Pat Rin acquired the stock for his store on Surebleak. It gives a nice outsider’s view of Netessa, Pat Rin and Cheevely, e.g. they are *scary* individuals. The point-of-view character has an interesting past and is caught in interesting problems but that past is very little explored and the problems are resolved with an ease that’s rather disappointing.

The second story, “Shadow Partner” gives us a brief glimpse of Val Con as a young Scout Commander, as he rights a wrong that is none of his doing or responsibility, much to the relief and consternation of the recipient. This is another tale illustrating the holes in the Liaden social structure if not everyone of a clan buys into the “greater good of the clan” idea.

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### Paraphrodite says

3.5 stars.

Have you ever wondered who the girl was that Val Con swept up in his arms after that skimmer race? Well, you get to find out in the first story. I wondered what happened to her?

The second story is about the sellers of the Sinner Rug that Pat Rin picked up for his store on Surebleak. Another interesting little side-story.

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### Maddy Barone says

What I liked about this:

\*Going back into the Liaden universe.

\*Although I would love a longer story, these two short stories fit my time frame and gave me a taste of one of my favorite worlds.

\*Seeing Val Con in his years before Miri.

\*Seeing what life is like for those in low houses. We've seen quite a bit of how the High Houses, particularly Korval, operate. But there are the little people who make up the world too, and they are important.

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### **Karen says**

I love these short stories that give just a bit of back story to the main novels.

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### **Kathleen says**

**Two interesting and enjoyable stories involving Korval characters.** As the synopsis says, we get a second-hand view, seeing Val Con and Pat Rin through the perspective of other characters.

**4.25 stars for Shadow Partner.** The shadow partner is Shadow himself, a younger Val Con, Scout Captain. It fits in with the short story, A Day at the Races, in Two Tales of Korval, because the woman Val Con sees after the skimmer race, at the Festival in Solcintra, plays a lead role in this story. This was a fine tale of friendship and perhaps passion. As for characterization, it was entirely congruent with Val Con as we have come to know him. I liked Jas Par. Who or what was he?

**3.75 stars for Persistence.** The authors place ignorance and persistence in an either-or relationship. This rather dark piece illustrates how Pat Rin, Cheever, and Natesa went to the ignorant planet Bazaar to buy up a store-load of rugs, for Surebleak (see I Dare). The authors portray Pat Rin as more nuanced than he seemed in I Dare — dangerous, determined, grieving, discerning, and quite deadly. Natesa seemed quite consistent with the Natesa of I Dare. However, Cheever was flavored with subterfuge, deliberately dampening his aura to appear dim, sleepy, and slow, which in effect creates a character almost as lethal as Pat Rin and Natesa.

We learn a bit more about the Sinner's Rug, but that part of the story was difficult to follow. Certainly, Beba is a healer, but I'm not clear about her mystical and persecuted family history, nor the rug's history. That's okay, though. Beba and Joshu made for interesting secondary characters anyway.

**Cross-Series Discrepancy:** In this short story, Pat Rin bought the Sinner's Carpet for five cantra, but in I Dare, he tells Natesa he paid only one cantra for it. Hmm. Not a big deal, but it should be easy enough to check these specific little facts when writing.

**Ps. Interesting backstory:** Pat Rin, undercover, gives his last name as Conrad in this short (I think after Conrad Carpets). Later, in the novel I Dare, (view spoiler).

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### **Li says**

Just because "Shadow Partner" fills in the backstory for "A Day at the Races" (in Two Tales of Korval) so perfectly...

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## **Erin Penn says**

Two in one chapbook with "Shadow Partner" and "Persistence." Stories are also available in the collection "A Liaden Universe Constellation: Volume 2." (Published Dec 2013, by Lee & Miller's new publisher, Baen.) It is cheaper to buy the collection rather than the related chapbooks, so I recommend going that route. I bought the chapbooks in 2012 before the Constellations were available.

"Shadow Partner" stars Val Con during the time of "A Day at the Races." The story focuses on a bar slowly going under because the Delm of the Clan has been milking it to death, while the younger sister is trying desperately to keep it alive. I found the story engaging with several nice twists.

"Persistence" stars Pat Rin about the time of "I, Dare." The story was hard-to-follow, not bad, but had to struggle to understand everything that was happening. If you want to know where the Sinner Carpet came from, read this, otherwise I am not sure the fight through the layers of yet another wizard-ability is worth the effort of reading. I did like how Pat Rin remains true to his carpet heritage; he loves the stuff however much he cannot let it become his living.

Neither book is a must-read for its influence on what is happening in the Novel Universe, but both are interesting character studies on how other people interact and view their brush with Clan Korval. So nice reads, but not must reads.

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## **Laura (Kyahgirl) says**

4.5/5; 5 stars; A

This is a two short story set that fits in with the other Liaden Universe stories. Shadow Partner precedes and then ends up at the same time with A Day at the Races, from the Companion book, Volume 1. It shows a much younger Val Con during the time when he was a scout but not on an assignment.

Persistence fills in the gap before Pat Rin arrives on Surebleak and sets up his carpet emporium.

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## **Lorri-lynne says**

As always, I enjoyed the two stories in this chapbook - I would recommend this to any fan of the Liaden Universe.

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## **Kerry says**

I enjoyed rereading Shadow Partner, but I feel kind of dumb as I don't think I got anything like close to the nuances of Persistence. Still, it was a first reading. Maybe it will make more sense on a reread?

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