



## The Golden Queen

*Dave Wolverton*

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## **The Golden Queen** Dave Wolverton

From the author of this summer's Star Wars bestseller comes an acclaimed blockbuster in the same swashbuckling tradition. A 10,000 planet universe is fast falling to the invading insectoid dronons. A cloned princess, a cocky young warrior and his furry companion challenge the dronon queen, with the fate of humanity in the balance.

## **The Golden Queen Details**

Date : Published August 1st 1994 by Tor Books

ISBN : 9780312856564

Author : Dave Wolverton

Format : Hardcover 318 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction

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# From Reader Review The Golden Queen for online ebook

## James says

Such a classic of a book. I haven't read this one in years but it continues to a great read even now.

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## B.E. says

Excellent book. It satisfied my various loves: fantasy, SF, action, romance. Plenty of blood and battles most gruesome, but with plenty of beautiful description and thoughtful writing to balance it out. Can't wait to see what happens next in this trilogy. (And if you're one of those that worries whether the first book of a trilogy doesn't really end - don't worry. This is a fully encapsulated novel.)

But like all really long and thoughtful books, I need to read something else between installments. Good thing I have the next two loaded on the Kindle for when I'm ready to read them. =o)

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## Wealhtheow says

A frustrating novel in which aliens come to medieval earth. All of humanity's fate will be determined by a combination of a beauty pageant and a wrestling match. The most beautiful woman in the world and her bodyguard go to meet the aliens, with a peasant wench and her boyfriend in tow, and have various adventures along the way. Lessons are learned, hard personal truths discovered, love blossoms, etc. In the end, the wench wins the beauty pageant.

The weirdest part? This book is not humorous in any way. It was not intended to be comical, and it is not funny. It's just frustratingly bad.

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## Chuck Dexter says

The storyline starts a little slow...but never slows down. It has great features, an unwilling hero, and stubborn girl, a mystery man and woman and the best part...a talking bear. The story line is believable and fast moving. I read this on the recommendation from a friend and then found out the authors son has had an accident and all proceeds from the book are going to the medical. I did not download the free version, I went to Amazon and bought it. There are three books and if the next two are as good as this, I will be spending more money for a great, but sad cause. Good Luck to the Authors son!

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## Jen says

I grabbed a copy of [The Golden Queen](#) from Amazon Kindle because the blog, "Pixel of Ink" told me that it was free. I gave it a two star rating because "it was ok" (which is the tool text for two stars).

This is the story of a small band of adventurers who accidentally end up having a science fiction adventure in what originally appears to be a tale about slightly-not-normal ancient, rustic Ireland. It follows Gallen O'Day, Maggie Flynn, and a talking bear named Orick as they team up with two human-like aliens, one of whom has a name that I cannot help but mentally pronounce as "everyone", even though I'm sure that is not how it is supposed to be pronounced.

Those, of course, are the protagonists. And what are protagonists without antagonists? Enter the Dronon: a race of hive-mind alien bugs who are bent on forcing the hive-mind on humans as well. Kind of like the Borg, only without the hot cybernetics.

If you enjoy a good-but-not-great science fiction adventure because you need a palette cleanser in between other, more awesome books (don't judge me!), this book is for you. But it comes with a warning: slog through the initial chapters; the writing style improves. I can tell that the author was out of his comfort zone for the initial few chapters because the sentences seemed rather clipped/too succinct, the prose jumped around, and there was a lot of telling and very little showing. As soon as we leave the rustic Irish countryside, everything improves tremendously: there are more than five words in a sentence, things are more coherent, and there is a lot more experiential learning in the exposition.

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### **Noor Jahangir says**

David Wolverton (better known by his pseudonym, David Farland) is a master of utilizing resonance in writing, a fact that is starkly evident in the *Golden Queen*. The book resonates strongly with the Star Wars mythos, which makes sense as Wolverton has written a number of Star Wars expanded universe novels during his long career as an author.

The *Golden Queen*, begins like a typical fantasy story, with a young warrior (Gallen O'day) seeking his next adventure in a tavern. The setting seems to be an alternate Ireland, complete with talking bears, ogres and Sidhe haunting the forest. But that illusion is soon cast aside with the entrance of old warrior and his alluring charge. The newcomers are actually genetically engineered aliens from another world. Gallen takes a commission from the old warrior to help protect his charge, the last of a people known as the Tharrin, genetically made to be perfect and a natural leader, to a gateway between worlds (kind of like a Stargate) activated by a portal key technology. Unwittingly, Gallen and his companions, a young bar maid called Maggie and his bear friend, Orick (Wookie anyone?) follow the aliens through the gateway and discover that there is a bigger universe beyond their own existence. The universe however has fallen sway to a race of insectoid empire-buildings, with a heirarchy based on the beauty of a tribal/clan "golden queen" and the strength of her "lord protector".

What follows is a rather intelligent science-fiction novel, blended with romance and sword-play (you could call it a space opera) that reaches for the epic scale of Frank Herbert's *Dune* but falls short. There are some original concepts in here that have appeared in later Hugo winning short-stories, which show Wolverton's pedigree as a writer of Sf.

The book is extremely well-written, the characters interesting and provocative. The plot and concepts challenge social norms like any good sf/fantasy book, and as well as the carefully constructed resonances with other narratives, there are original concepts that leave your mind spinning in wonderment.

This is a masterclass for any writer wanting to study the use of resonance in writing and a rather epic tale of sword and science fiction that will delight readers of Frank Herbert and Robert Jordan.

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## Kevin says

Now this is the good old fashioned flavor of science fiction the way it used to be before the genre took itself too seriously as Literature. One part Tolkien, three parts Edmund Hamilton and a dash Star Wars give this entertaining romp an almost retro 1970s feel. Of course since I mostly read older books any way, and this one was published in the mid 1990s, it stands to reason it should have a retro feel.

I'll probably read the other books in the series though this one could be considered self contained.

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## Chris Hawks says

<http://www.saltmanz.com/blog/2006/08/...>

Saturday night (8/27/06) I finished *The Golden Queen* by Dave Wolverton. It's actually the first book of the Golden Queen trilogy, and though I put off reading it for a while because I don't own the next books yet, I eventually figured it would stand alone well enough by itself, so I read it.

It was decent. I won't describe the plot really, since most of it is slowly revealed as you read. I will say that it starts out in a rustic Irish setting on a backwater planet. That's where you first meet the main protagonists: Gallen O'Day, a swaggering but kindhearted bodyguard; his friend, Orick, an intelligent, talking bear; and Maggie Flynn, the girl who works at the inn and has a thing for Gallen.

It isn't long before some strangers arrive, danger breaks out, and the trio are whisked off on an adventure. Which is kind of too bad, because I think that first section of the book is my favorite part. After that, it gets pretty sci-fi-y, and though it's competently plotted and written, it just doesn't stand out as much as the initial chapters. The characters, though, are good -- especially those main three. The aforementioned strangers, Everynne and her bodyguard Veriasse, drive the plot, but never seem as fully fleshed out as Gallen and his friends. Now that I think about it, though, that's probably because (a) they're strangers to the rest of the cast for a good chunk of the story, and (b) it's really Gallen's story anyway.

Last year I read the more-recent epic fantasy series *The Runelords* by "David Farland", which is just Dave Wolverton's pen name. Knowing that, I could see definite similarities between the two, especially in the alien creatures: the Dronon (from *Golden Queen*) and Reavers (from *Runelords*). So far, *Runelords* is the better series; not surprising, as it's the more recent.

There was a slight twist at the end of *Golden Queen* that I kept waiting and waiting for, and when it finally popped up in the last two pages, it kind of fell flat for me. Other than that, I enjoyed the book. I'll definitely need to keep an eye out for the next two books.

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## Chris says

Meh, it was ok. Got it as a free ebook and the description seemed interesting. Found that once I started reading the story seemed jumbled and a mix of futuristic and medieval. The main plot while a decent idea never developed to what I expected. The book seemed to rush along, the characters developing and advancing at rates that were too unbelievable. It made the story seem forced along like the author had a deadline and was

dragging me and the plot to the finish as fast as possible. An overall ok read but not something I will pick up again or really recommend.

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### **Andreas Ragen says**

A refreshing read. While the author could have played for a more elaborate and fleshed out love triangle (actually it was a rectangle in this case) I found it refreshing not to have to deal with every emotion every character experienced. The end was a little childish, however. I feel the antagonists were not developed as well as they could have been and their defeat was very rushed and unexpectedly easy, especially as the result of the final battle, quite frankly, the probable enslavement of their entire race.

I take my beginning back. This book wasn't baked enough. If I ever get to reading the sequel, I'd very much like a bit more history and more fleshy characters.

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### **Charissa says**

Fantasy – This isn't a genre I normally like to read, but this story was fascinating and drew me into its plot with thick tentacles that didn't let me go until I was through. Gates to other worlds, talking bears, golden hive queens, and brain mantels that teach years' worth of knowledge within hours were some of the fantastic creatures and inventions that took this fantasy to a whole new level. The characters were well-developed. I liked them and felt for them in their struggles and weaknesses. The tempo of the story never slowed down and bored me. Farland did a great job of casting the web of his plot over me and drawing me into the conclusion. I will definitely read more from him in the future.

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### **Jennifer says**

The book starts off with two residents of a small village, Gallen and Maggie (oh, and intelligent talking bears, lots of those), who come across a very foreign looking man and woman, being followed by weird ogre-bug things, and end up getting swept up into the story of the couple, who travel to other worlds.

The worlds are being threatened by a massive colony of bugs, with a hive mentality, and are trying to make all other sentient life become part of the hive.

According to the rules, a "golden" or perfect bug queen can challenge the residing Golden for the thrown. No human, or humanesque individual has yet to do so, and that's Everine's plan to win back her people, and the planets.

I just really couldn't get into the characters that much. I didn't find myself rooting for anyone. When some of the other characters were in trouble, or seemed like that would/had/might have died, it didn't pull any emotions out of me for them.

I feel like it was a valiant attempt to have a world traveling, alien bug plot, it just didn't grab me.

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**Bradley says**

More space bugs.. predictable too. Amusing in places but another one I will not recommend. The alien bugs are a lot like the bug horde on Rifts Earth. And the description of the hive city walkers was amusing like something out of Phyrexia. It had potential but falls kind of flat.

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**Lee Meza says**

One of my favorite books. My mom read it to me as a child, and I have read it multiple times as an adult. It is a wonderful blend of sci-fi and fantasy that never gets old.

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**Brian Palmer says**

I first read this years ago; it's a space opera adventure featuring a party of two warriors, a cleric wanna-be, an innkeeper, and a princess. Of course, the would-be cleric is a genetically enhanced bear, the princess is travelling with her bodyguard through the worlds, and the monsters they fight are bug-eyed aliens who are conquering the human race.

This sets up a fun little space adventure; it doesn't try to be super-ambitious. And yet it was good enough to pop into my head when I recently watched *Jupiter Ascending*.

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