



A Difficulty with Dwarves

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When a wizard is unable to cure his malady of magicks, he sends his apprentice Wuntnor to seek aid in the distant land of the Eastern Kingdoms which are ripe with fiendish peril.

A Difficulty with Dwarves Details

Date : Published December 1987 by Ace

ISBN : 9780441147793

Author : Craig Shaw Gardner

Format : Mass Market Paperback 188 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Humor, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy, Comedy

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S. says

I could not get past the first few chapters. Why? I am not sure, but all I can say is that it seemed like an attempt at humor which didn't seem funny to me.

Nattycat says

I finished A Difficulty With Dwarves last night. It wasn't very long (20 chapters, 188 pages), but I didn't find it very interesting or entertaining. I *did* find it better than Miss Buncle's Book, at least maybe in the sense that stuff actually happened. =P

Even though this book is probably supposed to be humorous, there were really only two spots that made me snerk:

1. when Wuntvor used 'nasal avalanche' as a description for mass sneezing in chapter one

and

2. the unicorn starts a poem to Wuntvor in which the first verse is:

"Oh Wuntvor, do not be forlorn,
For you can stroke my golden horn."

That was on page 170 and, yeah, my mind went there. Which is probably why I found it funny.

But, as you can see, I only found two things humorous and they were really far apart. I'm just assuming that this type of humor just isn't my brand, though there is definitely potential there. Especially as the Majyk By... series is somewhat similar and more funny to me.

Another thing I thought about after I finished which probably also didn't help was that most of the book was basically characters running around and interrupting each other like forced chaos. Wuntvor has to travel to the Eastern Kingdoms to speak with Mother Duck, but that basically only starts maybe 13 or 14 chapters in. The dwarves in the title? Show up in maybe the last four chapters and they were annoying.

Also? Wuntvor is a freaking idiot. This moron thought (view spoiler) Yeah. Course, this is the guy who's lap the poor unicorn wants to lay his head on, which is sad for the unicorn. Wuntvor, of course, keeps putting him off which probably doesn't help matters, since the unicorn keeps following him everywhere. If Wunts would just LET the unicorn lay his head in his lap and get it over with, the creature would probably back off a bit.

Character wise, the only ones I really mostly liked were Tap the Brownie, Snarks the truth-telling demon, and the unicorn. Everyone else was just... meh.

I also found the all the 'indeed's annoying *and* I wanted to take a pen and strike out all the 'stout's from Wunt

describing his stupid staff as 'stout oak staff' EVERY DAMN TIME it was mentioned. Once or twice, sure, but not every damn time!

I really hope book two is better, though if book one is anything to go by, it probably won't be.

Corey says

A few good puns here and there but overall, just bad humor with horribly flat characters that no one could care about.

Georgina says

A good light read, easy to pick up and put down whenever. The plot is quite predictable and possibly too long winded, but in the whole it was amusing.

Dutch says

yikes

John says

nuff' said!

Steven says

good book with dwarves and stuff.

Linda says

This is the first book in the "Ballad of Wuntvor" series and it picks up right where the previous series left off. Alas, it didn't really pick up in quality any. I'm not sure why I'm continuing to read these except that they were given to me and I don't want to admit defeat. Fortunately, they are short. Perhaps I'll be able to finish the other two while reading the nonfiction tome on the Salem Witch Trials.

pdarnold says

I probably would have loved this book had I read this in my teens. I enjoyed this tale for the most part, some parts definitely would be enjoyed far more by a younger audience.

Wuntnor, the wizards apprentice finds a world of trouble when his master as well as the other wizards succumb to fits of sneezing. Wuntnor is sent on a quest to find help via Mother Duck in the eastern kingdom. Many pitfalls and run-ins with demons and death. A screwball comedy ensues.

Death (as in the character embodiment), demons (fearlessly cornball), a vaudeville dragon and damsel, a unicorn infatuated with Wuntnor, a lovably annoying brownie, apprentice thugs, and not to be forgotten - Wuntnor's own true love. Adventure, magic, blood boiling, trouble, giants and dwarves.

Walt says

Clever story and some fun twists; but the writing was almost childish with an easily predictable plot.

Susan Ferguson says

I really enjoyed the first three books and something brought them to mind, so I reread the first three and was pleased to find more about Wuntvor. He's still a bit clueless at times but he knows pretty much who he is and knows that he loves Norei. Ebeneezum is still suffering from his allergy to magick, so they set off to Vushta, the city of forbidden delights. At Vushta, in defeating the demon Guxx, ebeneezum has transmitted his allergy not only to the demon, but to the rest of the magicians. So Wuntvor sets off to find Mother Duck in the East Kingdom to see if she will help them against the plot to take over above ground as well as the Netherhells and rule it all.

Jakk Makk says

Wuntvor is a one note steadfast nothing, due to shallow point of view. He is characterized by others and his actions are largely irrelevant. The women were infantile cardboard stereotypes. The story problem is making wizards not sneeze in the proximity of magic. Whut?

Feels like one long predictable talking heads dialogue. Some ideas were good but the repetition wore them down to pointlessness. Dancing dragon couple was somewhat cute, but not believable in the scope of this world.

Browniepower was the only theme that developed in an enjoyable fashion. I really wanted to like this but quit two-thirds through. Might have been better in third-person.

Magister says

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!

Sam says

As fantasy stories go this isn't too bad, it is a little slow to start and not particularly complicated (which is why I think it could be good for children as well as teens) but once you get into it, it is quite enjoyable. There is a good bit of light-hearted humour, which even as an adult I enjoyed and the action is good as it arises. The characters only really start developing towards the latter half of the book but there are quite a few and Gardner uses the first half to introduce most of them and to set up the main story while hinting at plenty of little side stories which are rather intriguing. LOTR its not but still it was an enjoyably easy read, will certainly keep an eye out for the rest of the series.

Todd Martin says

Although it begins with clever ideas, it quickly gets old as the clever ideas repeat themselves like an overused third grade joke. Seriously, as Mark Twain would say, "the novel goes nowhere and arrives in the air."

Jacqueline says

extra 1/2 star.
