



# Frostflower and Windbourne

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## **Frostflower and Windbourne** Phyllis Ann Karr

The swordswoman Thorn has had enough of sorcerers. She has escaped outlawry and found a good warrior job. Then she is assigned the deeply dangerous duty of destroying the magic of a sorcerer named Windbourne who has been unjustly accused of murderer. Now Thorn is an outlaw again, fleeing death with the sorcerer she rescued and searching for her sorceress-friend Frostflower, while vengeful, powerful relatives of the murdered priest-lord seek their destruction.

Melding mystery elements with fantasy, *Frostflower and Windbourne* is the sequel to the equally entertaining, thoughtful, and well-written *Frostflower and Thorn*. Other fine fantasies by Phyllis Ann Karr include *At Amberleaf Fair* and *The Idylls of the Queen*. --Cynthia Ward

## **Frostflower and Windbourne Details**

Date : Published October 1982 by Berkley (first published January 1st 1982)

ISBN : 9780425055915

Author : Phyllis Ann Karr

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## From Reader Review Frostflower and Windbourne for online ebook

### Aelin says

I read this book (and its predecessor) when I was a teen. I was a bookish child, and my allowance went mostly towards books at the awesome used bookstore in town, which stocked quite a lot of older fantasy and SF. I stumbled across Frostflower and Thorn (the first book), and upon finishing it, HAD to go back to find this one.

Now, I mostly expect that books I read as a teen to... not hold up. Some of my teen favorites, I can't read now, not always because they were badly written, but because of things I recognize now as offensive and problematic.

Such is not the case with Karr's Frostflower books. While the society is a patriarchy (in an odd sort of way -- women are warriors, because they are considered expendable; this is not something I have ever seen done before or since), the focus of the books is on women and their relationships with each other.

I felt the second was a little more info-dump-y than the previous, but it didn't bother me too much as I was interested in the world setting. I could have done with a little less of Eleva's personal monologue, since it took time away from Frostflower and Thorn, who I wanted to read about more... but she won me over, and by the end, I adored her.

This is definitely sword and sorcery in the style of Marion Zimmer Bradley's *Sword & Sorceress* anthologies. They are fun, intense stories about two women and the deep friendship they have. That is exceedingly rare, I find. There is also plenty of adventure, and in this book, a whodunit plot that has immense stakes. There is also serious personal growth on the part of Frostflower, especially; her questioning of the religion she was brought to is poignant and relevant to those of us who have doubts and questions about the religions we were raised in.

I wish there were more books about these two characters. I love them so, and want to read more about their adventures!

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### Amanda Kespohl says

I love love loved the first book. This book, I barely finished.

It was bad enough that the two wonderful MCs from the first book lost a serious amount of screen time to newbies, but worse because the newbies were boring and unlikeable. Eleva is everything I'm supposed to admire, but came off without a sufficiently denied personality to be anything but a generically spunky gal. And Windbourne is the biggest tool this side of the fantasy equivalent of the Mississippi River. You can save his life and put yourself at risk for him, but all the thanks you'll get is him complaining about your crudeness or putting you off cheese. His endless whining and brooding made me want to hurl him off the side of a mountain. Ordinarily, I'd say two boring MCs out of four isn't so bad, but the plot hinges on your investment in the happiness and well-being of these two characters. Plus, it leaves Frostflower and Thorn criminally underused. To top it off, the mystery in this book isn't really that interesting, and I called the twist before it happened.

Buuuuut I gave this book three stars because I love Thorn even if I didn't get to see as much of her and the

writing was still solid. The world-building is also pretty great. Still, the first book was sooooo much better, so that's the one I'll go on recommending.

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## Carol says

I got this book in High School from a pal who was upset by the graphic description of female on male rape. It was a good fantasy read and I don't think anything is wrong with turning the tables on the Gorean norm.

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## Cissa says

I read this sequel more because I was interested in the world than in the characters.

While the characters, both main and some secondary, are more nuanced than they were in "Frostflower and Thorn", none are yet really three-dimensional, and the Bad Guys are rather unrelentingly so.

For books in which religion (of a sort) is so vital, there is little emphasis on it, or on why the various creeds have such a low tolerance for each other. There are some implications...but they are not really addressed. It was interesting that polytheism was here the "establishment" view!

I really don't think the world, as written, would work. It's patriarchal, to the point of (some) men having multiple wives, and while women can inherit and rule, they can do so only in the absence of a male heir. The people who are not in the ruling class marry monogamously, and seem to mostly be married. OK, fine so far, but...

ALL the warriors are women. And there are a lot of them! This would, I'd guess, pull at least a third of non-noble women out of the marriage market... so what happens with the men they would have married? there seems to be no excess of them, and there would be. I will note that women are warriors explicitly because men are "too important" to be so, and the status of the warriors is in decline; they used to also be priestesses, and now are not. It does remain a fact that one man can impregnate several women at the same time, while the reverse is not true; therefore, putting at least a third of your society's women in regular peril means that the population would likely decline, not increase.

There's also the reality that those who have the weapons and the training can pretty easily push their way to the top. Why don't the warriors here? Especially those with enough historical knowledge to regret their diminishing status?

I gave this book 3 stars, because while it did raise interesting questions, it didn't do much of anything with them. Also, the 2 main character sorceri got tiresome.

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