



The Traitor Baru Cormorant

By Seth Dickinson

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The Traitor Baru Cormorant By Seth Dickinson

In Seth Dickinson's highly-anticipated debut *The Traitor Baru Cormorant*, a young woman from a conquered people tries to transform an empire in this richly imagined geopolitical fantasy.

Baru Cormorant believes any price is worth paying to liberate her people—even her soul.

When the Empire of Masks conquers her island home, overwrites her culture, criminalizes her customs, and murders one of her fathers, Baru vows to swallow her hate, join the Empire's civil service, and claw her way high enough to set her people free.

Sent as an Imperial agent to distant Aurdwynn, another conquered country, Baru discovers it's on the brink of rebellion. Drawn by the intriguing duchess Tain Hu into a circle of seditious dukes, Baru may be able to use her position to help. As she pursues a precarious balance between the rebels and a shadowy cabal within the Empire, she orchestrates a do-or-die gambit with freedom as the prize.

But the cost of winning the long game of saving her people may be far greater than Baru imagines.

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Editorial Review

Review

“A fascinating tale of political intrigue and national unrest.” – *The Washington Post*

“Literally breathtaking....Baru Cormorant as a character is magnificent. I found it impossible not to root for her even amid horrors of her making, to grieve with her and for her at various points, to clench my fists in her defense and in desperate need for her to stay whole. There is so much to admire and so much to mourn throughout the building tragedy of this novel....A crucial, necessary book ? a book that looks unflinchingly into the self-replicating virus of empire, asks the hardest questions, and dares to answer them.” – NPR.org

“Dickinson's dense, chewy, deftly orchestrated narrative cleverly exploits fiat money and debt as tools of statecraft.... A highly impressive debut that engages intellectually.” – *Kirkus Reviews*

“This is an accomplished debut, with a heroine whose motives are murky, seemingly even to herself. The twists and turns our unreliable narrator takes as she pushes the Aurdwynn nobles to rebel reveal her goals yet also expose her loneliness. We've only seen a fraction of the world of the Masquerade and a glimpse of Baru's plans, setting the stage for a compelling series. ?*Library Journal*, starred review

“Dickinson's debut, the start of a trilogy set in an impressively well-crafted fantasy world, is assured and impressive....Readers will share every one of Baru's strong, suppressed emotions. Dickinson's worldbuilding is ambitious and his language deviously subtle; both are seductive in their complexity. He combines social engineering, economic trickery, and coldhearted pseudoscientific theories to weave a compelling, utterly surprising narrative that keeps readers guessing until the end.” –*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Smart. Brutal. Gut-wrenching. You'll be captivated from the very first page. Dickinson is a sly, masterful writer who pulls no punches. Get ready to have your heart ripped out through your throat. Highly recommended.” ?*Kameron Hurley, author of The Mirror Empire*

“Fascinating characters, a world imagined with wonderful depth, and storytelling that succeeds on both an epic and a powerfully intimate scale. This is really something special.” ?*Sunny Moraine, co-author of Line and Orbit*

“A beautiful, perfectly formed crystal of a novel borne out of a tight plot mated with elegant language.” ?*John Chu, Hugo Award-winning author of 'The Water That Falls on You from Nowhere'*

“Skillfully combines intrigue, action, and philosophical musings to create a suspenseful and deeply satisfying read. An intelligent and accomplished first novel reminiscent of Le Guin in its reflections on imperialism, colonialism, and the attractions and corruptions of power.” ?*Una McCormack, New York Times bestselling author of The Crimson Shadow*

“Brutal, relentless and with the heartbreaking beauty of the best tragedies. *The Traitor Baru Cormorant* is a haunting book that asks hard questions about revolution, change, and what it means to keep faith.” ?*Aliette de Bodard, Nebula Award-winning author of 'The Waiting Stars'*

“Dickinson has written a poet's *Dune*, a brutal tale of empire, rebellion, fealty, and high finance that moves

like a rocket and burns twice as hot. *The Traitor Baru Cormorant* is a mic drop for epic fantasy.” ?Max Gladstone, author of the *Craft Sequence*

“An extraordinary debut--powerful, complex, and passionate. I was blown away by it.” ?Kij Johnson, Hugo Award-winning author of "*The Man Who Bridged the Mist*"

“Amazing and inventive.” ?Tobias Buckell, *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Xenoworld* series

“Stunning! There are moments that take my breath away.” ?Ellen Kushner, World Fantasy Award-winning author of *Thomas the Rhymer*

“Visceral and unflinching, *The Traitor Baru Cormorant* employs a rich palate of cultures to explore brutal moral complexities. Lightning strikes when those elements collide, setting off the bitter internal conflict of a narrator with vast, irreconcilable ambitions. With this debut, Seth Dickinson declares himself as a novelist with power and acuity.” ?Rachel Swirsky, Nebula Award-winning author of “*The Lady Who Plucked Red Flowers Beneath the Queen’s Window*”

“Beautiful and brutal. This is unflinching fantasy.” ?Chuck Wendig, author of *Blackbirds*

About the Author

SETH DICKINSON's short fiction has appeared in *Analog*, *Asimov's*, *Clarkesworld*, *Lightspeed*, *Strange Horizons*, *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, among others. He is an instructor at the Alpha Workshop for Young Writers, winner of the 2011 Dell Magazines Award, and a lapsed student of social neuroscience. He lives in Brooklyn, New York. *The Traitor Baru Cormorant* is his first novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dennis Bloom:

Reading a book to be new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to read a book. When you go through a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you want to get information about your analysis, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and soon. The *The Traitor Baru Cormorant* will give you new experience in reading a book.

Wanda Mason:

Many people spending their moment by playing outside together with friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, do you consider reading a book will surely hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It all right you can have the e-book, having everywhere you want in your Cell phone. Like *The Traitor Baru Cormorant* which is finding the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's see.

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