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## The House of the Four Winds

by Mercedes Lackey, James Mallory

**Price: \$25.99**(Hardcover)

Published: August 05, 2014

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### From the Publisher:

Mercedes Lackey is the New York Times bestselling author of the Valdemar series and romantic fantasies like *Beauty and the Werewolf* and *The Fairy Godmother*. JAMES MALLORY and Lackey have collaborated on six novels. Now, these New York Times and USA Today bestselling collaborators bring romance to the fore with *The House of Four Winds*.

The rulers of tiny, impoverished Swansgaard have twelve daughters and one son. While the prince's future is assured, his twelve sisters must find their own fortunes.

Disguising herself as Clarence, a sailor, Princess Clarice intends to work her way to the New World. When the crew rebels, Clarice/Clarence, an expert with rapier and dagger, sides with the handsome navigator, Dominick, and kills the cruel captain.

Dominick leads...

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### About The Author

Mercedes Lackey, James Mallory  
MERCEDES LACKEY is a multiple New York Times bestselling author for her Valdemar novels. JAMES MALLORY and Lackey have collaborated on six novels, including the USA Today bestseller, *To Light a Candle* and the New York Times bestsellers *When Darkness Falls...and The Phoenix Transformed*. Lackey lives in Claremore, OK. Mallory lives in Baltimore, MD.

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## What We Say

This swashbuckling tale is diverting fun and perhaps the first of a series, if I'm not mistaken. Princess Clarice is one of twelve (!) daughters in a very tiny kingdom. The thirteenth child is a boy and the heir -- though there won't be much for him to heir if all his older sisters are given decent dowries. So as the eldest, Clarice is the first to go off and seek her fortune. Luckily, her parents are broad-minded sorts and she's very handy with a sword, thanks to a lifetime of training. Dreaming of establishing herself as a fencing master, Clarice knows she must first deliver some derring-do. Off she goes, disguised as a man and gallivanting about. Soon, she finds herself on a ship with a hateful captain, a mutinous crew (rightly so) and a navigator she's grown awkwardly fond of indeed. It's awkward because said navigator -- the handsome and modest and clever Dominick -- believes Clarice to be his new best pal Clarence. The sailors become pirates and before you know it they're snared into a somewhat fantastical quest while a sorcerous from The House Of The Four Winds (a pirate hang-out) plots their deaths whether or not they succeed. It's all good fun, with the best bits involving Clarice wondering exactly how to tell Dominick she fancies him (probably AFTER she reveals her gender seems the consensus). The tale stumbles a bit with a finale that is poorly plotted and described (our heroes mostly avoid getting killed). But the overall vibe is fun and the pages slip by nimbly. -- Michael Giltz

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## What Others Say

"Explicitly feminist, extremely readable and entertaining." —RT Book Reviews, 4 ½ stars, Top Pick! on Beauty and the Werewolf

"An awesome take on the world of fairy tales." —RT Book Reviews, 4 ½ stars, Top Pick! on The Fairy Godmother

"Delightful [and] amusing. Appealing characters faced with challenging circumstances keep the plot lively." —RT Book Reviews on The Snow Queen

"A narrative motif fit for a Technicolor swashbuckler. A fantasy fanatic's feast." —Kirkus Reviews on Crown of Vengeance

"The three novellas are well written and entertaining . . . starring strong females." —The Midwest Book Review on Trio of Sorcery

"Trio of Sorcery gives us three talented, courageous heroines in an enjoyable urban fantasy collection. Fascinating women and stories that draw us into their worlds." —Lesa's Book Critiques (written by the winner of the 2011 Arizona Library Association Outstanding Library Service Award) on Trio of Sorcery

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