
Alan Dean Foster

The Tar-Aiym Krang (Pip & Flinx #2)



Title: The Tar-Aiym Krang (Pip & Flinx #2)

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Description

Moth was a beautiful planet, the only one with wings -- two great golden clouds suspended in space around it.

Here was a wide-open world for any venture a man might scheme. The planet attracted unwary travelers, hardened space-sailors, and merchant buccaneers -- a teeming, constantly shifting horde that provided a comfortable income for certain quick-witted fellows like Flinx and his pet flying snake Pip. With his odd talents, the pickings were easy enough so that Flinx did not have to be dishonest ... most of the time.

In fact, it hardly seemed dishonest at all to steal a starmap from a dead body that didn't really need it anymore. But Flinx wasn't quite smart enough. He should have wondered why the body was dead in the first place...

Insightful reviews

Perry: There was a chunk of VERY obvious infodumping near the beginning of this that actually made me smile.

Because?

I KNOW that the young version of me would NEVER have noticed it. And it's only now that I'm grown and have tried my own hand at writing that I can realize what Foster did.

Aelvana: Flinx isn't sure what to make of the strangers he meets one day while performing on a street corner, but he doesn't expect the map he recovers to be of much use, until a chance meeting with other new arrivals shows him what the map is for. Then he's off with a small group hunting the legendary Krang, an artifact by the extinct Tar-Aiym. No one is really sure what it is, or what it does, but one thing is crystal clear: they're not the only ones looking.

I had to look at the original publication dates for this novel to make any sense. For Love of Mother-Not is indeed the first chronological book about Flinx, when he's sixteen. However, The Tar-Aiym Krang was published eleven years earlier, and looks to be one of the first books Alan Dean Foster wrote. It shows. A number of minor plot details are inconsistent between the two books, although The Tar-Aiym Krang does explain one rather puzzling decision of Flinx at the end of the previous book: why, after so much trouble with people after his Talent, does he decide to lead the public life of a street entertainer, making his Talent one of his primary tricks? The answer is simply, because that's where he started at the beginning of The Tar-Aiym Krang. The slang is different, the character of Flinx is different, the relationship between Pip and Flinx is less developed---everything favors For Love of Mother-Not at the expense of The Tar-Aiym Krang.

The plot here doesn't hang together very well either. The book starts with a massive amount of information about the world, its geology, ecology, sociology, and other high points that feel more

like reading a textbook, and such information dumps continue throughout the story. Character flashbacks are randomly placed and poorly set up, point of view shifts feel like being jerked around, and the characters themselves are fairly flat.

I have the 1979 edition. Unless this novel was heavily edited on its re-release, it's not something I would point anyone towards. The good news is that *For Love of Mother-Not* shows Foster did improve substantially between the writing of this book and that one, so I have enough faith in the series to continue. One final thing worth mentioning is that although *For Love of Mother-Not* can be read as a Young Adult or adult novel (and from the new covers, it looks to me like the series is being marketed for YA instead of adults now), *The Tar-Aiym Krang* definitely feels more like an adult novel. There are no graphic scenes, but it does contain a lot of innuendo and some nudity. For people interested in the series, the only thing worth noting about this book is that Flinx's Talent (which isn't even called that here) gets a bit of an upgrade by the end, with the implication that it's now less random and more under his direct control. I rate this book Not Recommended.

Ladiibbug: Sci Fi - adventure

Fun, quick read. Flinx & Pip (Pip being Flinx's minidrag(on)) were intriguing and very likeable. The author captured me immediately with the world building and plot.

Due to my heavy TBR, I won't be able to continue reading this long series. The characters grabbed my attention (ty to Good Reader and Book Cocoon mod G.K.) in the January 2015 Alien Creature Feature Challenge.

John: Fast-paced, packed with enjoyable and adventure, the Pip&Flinx novels by way of advert Foster are possibly the easiest of a very good choice of works. Foster is imminently readable, although no longer deep and soul-satisfying like Le Guin's *Dispossessed* or Heinlein's *Stranger in an odd Land*. Still, if i would like a quick, light, completely stress-free read, Foster may be between my first choices. this is often technology Fiction and for these of you arrogant idiots who imagine SF isn't worthy reading, Foster's contribution to the sector offers such place the lie. And P&F are not anything yet enjoyable and entertainment. certainly his Humanx Commonwealth novels are all worthy reading, yet as I acknowledged on the beginning, his P&F novels are the simplest of a superb salad.

Tom Rowe: My first readings of Alan Dean Foster have been the books *Alien* and *celebrity Wars: Splinter of the imagination* and the superstar *Trek Log* series. i didn't get pleasure from any of those books greatly yet suggestion i'd provide Mr. Foster a test along with his personal material. Eh-This ebook is an beginning story. it truly is quite dull and looks to depart out info that is very important to sure subplots. perhaps that's simply he audio dossier that i used to be hearing since it additionally repeated one bankruptcy two times within the file. i didn't suppose that this ebook did what it had the capability to do with its characters. i could learn one other Pip and Flinx. they appear interesting, yet Foster did not provide them whatever attention-grabbing to do. Also, if Flinx is the most personality and Flinx is the companion/sidekick/pet/familiar, why

dies Pip get most sensible billing. the one cause i will be able to get a hold of is that it sounds larger in that order. ***Spoiler*** It ends with a deus ex machina ending, however the unusual factor isn't the deus ex machina, however the arrange for using it which turns out contrived.

Meggie: the second one e-book of Pip & Flink wasn't tremendous active, yet fairly passive, I cherished it nonetheless. Flink's skills built a section extra during this half and we acquired an effect what might occur next. In total I loved the tale in an audio formatted model and should proceed on.

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