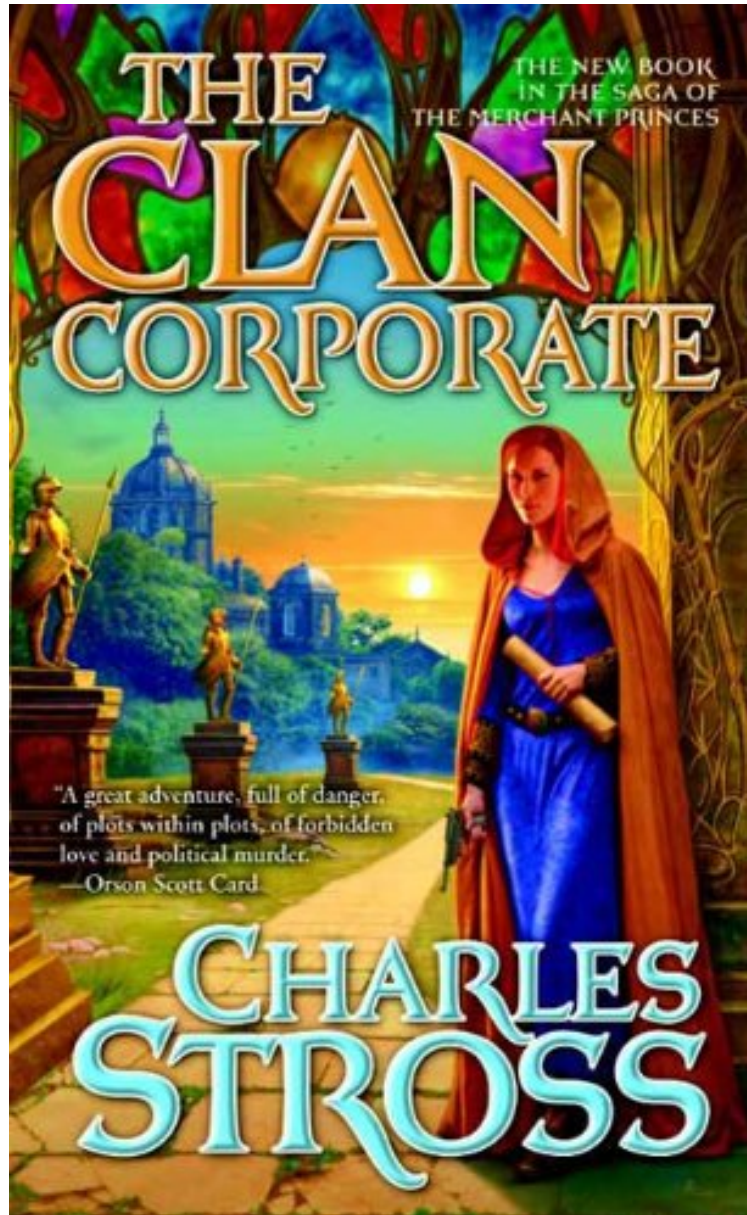


(Free) The Clan Corporate: Book Three of The Merchant Princes

The Clan Corporate: Book Three of The Merchant Princes

Von Charles Stross

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Von Charles Stross : The Clan Corporate: Book Three of The Merchant Princes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Clan Corporate: Book Three of The Merchant Princes:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. From the

frying pan... Von Javelin
In the third part of the "Merchant Princes" series, main protagonist Miriam Beckstein, former high-tech journalist and unluckily, in a parallel universe also known as Duchess Helge of Thorold, is successfully grounded by her mafia-like relatives, striving to keep her docile, and, preferably, silent. While the Clan's business structure is falling apart after the defection of Count Angbard's right-hand-man, Matthias, Miriam/Helge is forced to cool her heels on Gruinmarkt, taking dancing and etiquette lessons. This is not going all too well, as can be imagined, and after undertaking one social blunder after another and a too short period of freedom, Helge is sentenced to private imprisonment and being married off to the dim-witted crown prince Creon. At the same time, in the "real" USA, Matthias' revelations about the Clan enable agents of a special investigation unit to come up with a method of infiltrating Gruinmarkt. As it happens, the first agent to cross over is Miriam's former lover Mike Fleming. Their first encounter is anything but romantic, the circumstances unexpected, to say the least, and Miriam has to run for her life and her freedom. While the story starts rather slow and seems sometimes as boring as Miriam's confinement to medieval quarters - there is a lot of intriguing and maneuvering without real and decisive action - it gains speed at a breathtaking clip and closes with a showdown of medieval proportions. There is no real ending, rather a cliffhanger keeping the reader wondering what will become of Miriam, pardon Helge, after the dust has settled down. Stross once again tells a tale in the best tradition of Zelazny, seasoned with some SF- and Secret-Service-flavors of his own, making it attractive for fans of alternate-reality-SF as well as special-agent-stories.

Kurzbeschreibung
Miriam Beckstein has gotten in touch with her roots and they have nearly strangled her. A young, hip, business journalist in Boston, she discovered (in *The Family Trade*) that her family comes from an alternate reality, that she is very well-connected, and that her family is a lot too much like the mafia for comfort. In addition, starting with the fact that women are family property and required to breed more family members with the unique talent to walk between worlds, she has tried to remain an outsider and her own woman. And start a profitable business in a third world she has discovered, outside the family reach (recounted in *The Hidden Family*). She fell in love with a distant relative but he's dead, killed saving her life. There have been murders, betrayals. Now, however, in *The Clan Corporate*, she may be overreaching. And if she gets caught, death or a fate worse is around the bend. There is for instance the brain-damaged son of the local king who needs a wife. But they'd never make her do that, would they? At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied. From Publishers Weekly
Stross's lively third volume in his Merchant Princes SF series (after 2005's *The Hidden Family*) finds 33-year-old Boston journalist Miriam Beckstein still caught in a "barely post-feudal" alternate world where she's part of a mafiosa-like family called "the Clan." The Clan is holding Miriam's mother hostage in an effort to force the reluctant, thoroughly modern Miriam to make a politically advantageous marriage. Also dragged into deadly Clan politics is Miriam's ex-boyfriend, Mike Fleming, a DEA agent who has infiltrated Miriam's world on the orders of Homeland Security. Miriam's foolish, headstrong decisions help propel the fast-paced plot. Mike's discovery that the Clan may have planted nuclear weapons on our world raises the ante. While Miriam can be frustratingly dense, playing right into her captors' hands, the book gallops along to a cliffhanger ending that will leave readers eagerly awaiting future installments. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist
In the third volume (after *The Family Trade*, 2004, and *The Hidden Family*, 2005) of *The Merchant Princes*, Miriam Beckstein's situation continues to resemble an alternate-worlds version of *The Perils of Pauline*. Having escaped immediate reduction to the status of breeding stock for her Mafia-like kinsmen, she lands in a third world, one in which, unfortunately, the local king has no brains. No heir, either. Ulp! Miriam suspects she has jumped from the frying pan into the fire, and also that her relatives may still be pursuing her to a probably gruesome death for defying their will. Persons in our world discovering that they have ties to others is a classic sf and fantasy theme; just see Roger Zelazny's two *Chronicles of Amber* series. Stross and his feisty heroine are currently about the best practitioner and heroine the old motif boasts, and many are and will be the readers hoping for more than the three volumes they've given us so far. Roland Green Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved