

Ivory Sun

There is a strange world beyond the Earth, which is called Lloerr, where the Ivory Sun of Order wars against the Gilded Dark of Chaos. For aeons that stretch in ways unfathomable to mortal minds, the Lords and Ladies of Order have upheld the universe against the unbending will of Nergal and Tiamat, and at the head of the Lords and Ladies was Artorius, great Prince of Order.

But, fearing Artorius dogmatic to the point of insanity, the Lords and Ladies banished their prince to Earth, to live out generation upon generation of mortal life, unbound to Lloerr by repeated deaths and shattered memory, leaving those who remained to their own devices. For their treason, the Ivory Sun vanished from the world.

In a desperate gambit, Jacob, least of the Lords and Ladies, has returned Artorius to Lloerr. Rather, he has brought Timothy into Lloerr, a man with a broken mind and none of Artorius' almighty power. Can Timothy reclaim the power of his birthright and bring back the Sun before his fallen siblings dominate or destroy him?

Gilded Dark, Vulgar Ash

These two novellas continue after Ivory Sun, following a small handful of the Lords and Ladies as they navigate the aftermath of their sister Circe's death and struggle with the question of how far a person can fall and still find redemption, as well, by extension, as what happens when only evil people are left in the universe.

Content Guide

Language

Mild. "Damn" and "hell" appear with fair frequency, though the meaning of the former is more literal than not. "Bastard" appears two or three times.

Violence and Gore

Frequent violence, little gore, some body horror. Characters fight with swords, chitinous appendages, magical electricity. A character bleeds to death from a stab wound and is described as lying in a huge pool of blood while she waits for help. Several characters are stabbed or crushed or cut to death. Human sacrifice is offhandedly mentioned. An artificial human is electrocuted to death. A horse is forced to continue running while exhausted, being

magically healed to keep it alive. Jesus carrying the cross is shown in a flashback, with some wounds described. A character's body occupies non-Euclidian space so that when she is stabbed, many of her organs are ruptured at once. Siblings reference having repeatedly assassinated their brother to try to find a way of killing him once and for all while he is constantly reincarnated.

Sexual Content and Nudity

A character hints at rape when she describes her village overtaken by barbarians, but doesn't overtly say it. A character takes a bath while her maid washes her hair. Nergal is described as naked, but no details are given beyond that.

Religious and Ideological Content

The rulers of Chaos are the real-world Babylonian deities Tiamat and Nergal. The Lords and Ladies of Order are described in godlike terms, upholding the order of the universe, having utmost power within their own realms, and accepting the devotion and service of mortals. Artorius is told he is not God, and the story of him becoming a Lord of Order is described in very similar language to the story of Samuel responding to God. A character quotes the Bible. A character prays to Jesus on what she believes to be the star of Bethlehem, asking for power. Jacob is shown to be the Wandering Jew from Christian mythology, though I try to redeem what has been throughout church history a harmful and unfortunate mythological tradition. Several denizens of the lands of Chaos are described as demons, including a "mail demon" who travels between Lloerr and Earth delivering messages for gold, and a terrier-headed man who joins the heroes in Vulgar Ash. Self-sacrifice always leads to redemption, while pride always leads to death. The heroes revere the Ivory Sun as a scripture analogue, on which is written all the truth of the universe, too much for even any of them to comprehend. The Lords and Ladies fear the power of Chaos to overcome them individually, believing it has the power to snuff them from existence entirely, but in the individual cases we see, those who die in the service of Order are delivered from the darkness.