



Conrad's Quest for Rubber

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ONWARD AND OUTWARD

Conrad Stargard has come a long way since he was first transported from the twentieth century to the thirteenth. Thanks to his knack for "inventing" such astonishing things as steam engines, machine guns, radios, and riverboats, he's turned Medieval Poland into a military powerhouse--capable of repelling invasions by marauding Mongols and Teutonic troops alike.

Now, with enemies vanquished, industry booming, and peace in the land, it is time to continue Poland's remarkable technological progress. And doing so requires harvesting raw materials only Lord Conrad knows where to "discover." Thus is founded the Explorer's Corps, whose intrepid members set out to map new frontiers from the Arctic Circle to the Amazon. But can even Conrad's knowledge of the far future prepare him and his subjects for what lies just beyond the borders of their kingdom?

Conrad's Quest for Rubber Details

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Author : Leo Frankowski

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From Reader Review Conrad's Quest for Rubber for online ebook

Bryan457 says

A few good things, but mostly a don't bother. The new pygmy wife was kinda disturbing/strange sexually.

Arthur says

This book is very little about Conrad (who, by this point in the series isn't all that likeable or interesting anyway), but does take place in the world. I was pleasantly surprised by this book and it felt the author was back in the game and enjoying writing the series again. The plot is interesting and the sense of exploration is really fun.

What I didn't find as interesting was the introduction of the sexbot, and most especially how unrealistic the reactions of the characters to her. Throughout the series, it's felt to me like the women have been somewhat unrealistic in their views on sex. In books 1-4, though, a lot of it could be attributed to the eccentricities of Count Lambert (the medieval Polish Hugh Hefner) and it kind of added a comedic element at times. Mostly, though, it's just felt like the author's teenage fantasies leaking through. Fine, whatever, as a guy I can see how it can be fun to think about sometimes, but in reality, a steady diet of bimbos just seems boring. In any case, up until the last book, it was pretty much ignorable and wasn't a huge part of the series. In book 5 (Lord Conrad's Lady), the women just started being completely unrealistic and it started feeling uncomfortable. In this book, it gets even worse, and the introduction of Maude the sexbot just made me roll my eyes and wince.

Luckily, unlike book 5, this book has more meat to the plot and it's easier to ignore the sex fantasies, because if you can get past that, there's some good writing and an interesting story here.

Wolfgarr says

I have to say, the first few books in this series was pretty good. But the longer i read this series the more the main character seems like a idiot. What got to me about this book is the main character doesn't even make a appearance until nearly 160+ pages into the book (Ebook format, 160 out of 487 pages).

Another thing that really annoyed me was the fact we basically have to reread the first few books, just told from someone else s perspective. No new material for all practical purposes.

This book was a disappointment..

Lars Dradrach says

Second book in a row where Leo lets another POV retell most of the previous books with only slightly

different words, it's quite annoying and I have to admit I skimmed quickly though most of it. The rest of the story was definitely weaker than the previous more repetitive and even more unbelievable, this is where I leave the series, RIP Conrad.

Timothy Boyd says

Incredibly good series. The basic man-out-of-time story line but very involved. Excellent characters and story. Highly recommended.

Brentman99 says

Conrad's Quest for Rubber was a welcome addition to the series because it sees him starting to explore the larger world around him. In order to move some of his technologies forward, Conrad needs rubber and the flexibility (pun intended) that it will bring with it. Thus, he establishes and equips a group called the Explorer's Corps.

This book was a major departure from the previous books, in that it focused on the diary of one main member who was a very minor character in previous books, even then only for a moment. While Conrad himself had a few moments in the book, Josip Sobieski, the corpsman who worked on Conrad's eye wound when fighting the Mongols, is the major player.

I think that this was a good change, however, in some ways it meant that the first quarter to third of the book was Josip retelling things that we had already seen from Conrad's point of view. While some of that worked, other parts were a bit boring.

I did like the expanded part about the bioengineered beings (Maude) and found the Explorer Corps time in the Amazon very interesting. But the part of the "invasion" of Conrad's territory by the Margrave of Brandenburg was a bit anti-climatic. The part where he calls upon his cousin, Tom, to help him solve the huge disease problem that he started in South America was a bit of a forced solution, but it worked.

Finally, I have to say that I gave the book only three stars because I was quite unhappy with the final ending. Here, Josip finally reunites with his father, then basically says, "Screw you for treating me like an asshole for so long," then packs up his wives and rides off. Not ending on a high note, that's for sure.

Overall, I still enjoyed the book because they are quick reads and the concept is so good. I have really enjoyed the series and will look forward to re-reading it when I retire in another ten years.

Worth the time spent reading.

Fatbaldguy60 says

My favorite time travel books/series ever.

Matthew Esham says

This was the worst book of the series for me.

Leo takes the last couple of books and retells basically the same story from the view of a peasant who was at Okoitz and then joins the army, re-hashing the highlights of the other books.

Unfortunately for me, the magic was gone. I remember reading this book years ago and thinking it was just okay - but on reading it again I wasn't even able to finish it. It just got to be too boring.

I will miss you Leo Frankowski. I really liked the Conrad series, and was sad to see you passed away. I would have loved to read a conquest of Europe set of Conrad books.

Jonathan McGaha says

I'll say I was the least disappointed by this book of the past few in the series.

It's interesting and exciting in places, what with the exploration and all the adventure which that entails.

The first third of the book is a review of the prior three, which one assumes was the author's attempt to familiarize us with the new narrator-character. Unfortunately his personality is essentially the exact same as that of Conrad, so it's generally just a bore.

The ending of the book is utterly ridiculous, and screams of unresolved family issues.

Justin Overton says

Starting to get a bit too far fetched.....but anything goes I suppose in alternate realities

Richard says

the Deus ex machina aspects of this series are starting to become somewhat annoying. Like many authors of series, the first one or two are truly novel and fun, the later ones are "turn the crank and cash the paycheck". I am reminded of Piers Anthony who wrote "A Spell for Chameleon" and then wrote a series of increasingly lame pun-themed sequels.
