



Victory of Eagles

Naomi Novik

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Naomi Novik's triumphant debut, *His Majesty's Dragon*, introduced a dynamic new pair of heroes to the annals of fantasy fiction: the noble fighting dragon Temeraire and his master and commander, Capt. Will Laurence. Now in the latest novel, they soar to new heights of breathtaking action and brilliant imagination.

It is a grim time for the dragon Temeraire. On the heels of his mission to Africa, seeking the cure for a deadly contagion, he has been removed from military service - and his captain, Will Laurence, has been condemned to death for treason. For Britain, conditions are grimmer still: Napoleon's resurgent forces have breached the Channel and successfully invaded English soil. Napoleon's prime objective: the occupation of London.

Separated by their own government and threatened at every turn by Napoleon's forces, Laurence and Temeraire must struggle to find each other amid the turmoil of war and to aid the resistance against the invasion before Napoleon's foothold on England's shores can become a stranglehold.

If only they can be reunited, master and dragon might rally Britain's scattered forces and take the fight to the enemy as never before - for king and country, and for their own liberty. But can the French aggressors be well and truly routed, or will a treacherous alliance deliver Britain into the hands of her would-be conquerors?

Victory of Eagles Details

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From Reader Review Victory of Eagles for online ebook

Donna says

This book is the 5th one in the Temeraire series by Naomi Novik. I found this a very enjoyable series. The little dragon is all grown up and working some things out on his own. His attachment to his human is still binding and very sweet. Speaking of his human, I really like Lawrence. Even with his British stiffness, he is easy to like and flexible to a certain extent. I think his personality plays well off of the other humans and even the dragons.

Cherie says

Very emotional but interesting story with the Dragons embroiled in fighting Napoleon and fighting for their rights to pay and rank in the service.

Jeffrey says

Naomi Novik continues her winning alternative history series with Victory of Eagles. For those fantasy fans who have not read any of her books, you should venture to the local library and get into the books because they are a wonderful combination of history and fantasy.

In the last novel in this series, Laurence and Temeraire (his dragon) discovered a cure for an epidemic that was killing all of the dragons. Laurence brought a cure back to England but the lords decided in a little smallpox idea to infect their enemies the French dragons. Laurence and Temeraire gave the cure to the French dragons.

In this new novel, Temeraire has been sent to the breeding grounds while Laurence is imprisoned on a brig in the harbor. Laurence is only alive to keep his dragon in line. As those who have read prior books know, the dragons are used by the British as slave soldiers. In this story the French under Napoleon invade England and Laurence and Temeraire are united again to fight for England and thwart the invasion. The authors take on the battle between Wellington and Napoleon is great, and her story moves crisply along. Laurence cannot escape the fact that his conduct was judged treasonous and takes a harrowing mission from Wellington in the war.

Fresh and original, this novel is better than the last three in the series maybe because the war scenes are good or maybe because it settles various plot lines. I am eager to read the next.

YouKneeK says

[About half of the book is written from Temeraire]

Rebecca says

So, at the end of *Empire of Ivory*, Laurence and Temeraire agree to commit treason to deliver a cure to a draconic plague to France -- Temeraire feeling that the lives of thousands of innocent dragons isn't worth victory of the war, and Laurence agreeing. Laurence then wishes to return to Britain, despite knowing he will be imprisoned or hanged for it, and Temeraire confined -- his own honor prevents him from staying in Europe, either as a French officer or a civilian. The book picks up several months later. Which I appreciate for two reasons. First, it give us a chance to see how dragons organize themselves on their own -- the breeding ground dragons are pretty much left to their own devices as long as they eat and mate and don't cause trouble. One of the dragons we meet, Percitia, is a mathematically inclined and quite clever dragon who refused to serve in the military because she didn't see the sense of getting shot up. Second, it gets to the interesting bit -- where Napoleon and Lung Tien Lien invade Britain -- quickly. Laurence, imprisoned on a ship, is presumed dead for a short while, long enough for Temeraire to be quite put out, and decide that he needs to fight Napoleon, and talks the rest of the dragons (ferals, captured dragons, some old retirees, and ones that just refused to fight) into forming their own flight to go fight.

Temeraire himself really shines here. He's forced to develop a sense of politics and leadership to negotiate with both other dragons and the human government and military. In *Victory of Eagles* he makes a lot more advances than I ever expected -- mostly because he points out that Napoleon was able to come so far because of giving dragons a reason to fight besides loyalty to their captains. Not to neglect Laurence, who is forced to go through a lot dealing with his own actions from *Empire of Ivory* -- questioning what honor and patriotism really mean. And even some of the secondary characters, such as Admiral Roland, get to play a role -- I'd love to see more interactions between her and General Wellsely/the Duke of Wellington, simply because the two of them quickly figured out the other was pretty damn good at their job, and developed a professional relationship, despite the fact Roland was a woman. (Thanks to Gentius, a veteran Longwings, we also got the story about how female Longwings captains got full rank. He told the story about how his first captain had left without the drunkard who had actual command, fought a tremendous battle, and then was commended by everyone, and finally got her proper rank.)

As for the end, I was quite pleased by it. It ended in a way that doesn't diminish what Laurence did in *Empire of Ivory*, but keeps our pair flying. Plus, this way, we might get to see new parts of the world -- I think *Victory of Eagles* is the first book since *His Majesty's Dragon* where we don't hardly leave Britain.

Leseparatist says

This novel shows that a great set-up a great novel makes. The excellent, game-changing ending of the previous novel dictates the repercussions here and it's as good as expected, or maybe even better.

The best Temeraire novel by far, *Victory of Eagles* takes those elements of the previous novels that really worked for me (characterisation, conflict of values, honour versus pragmatism, *dragons being adorable*) and adds unprecedented depth to the characterisation by making the characters face hard choices and terrible situations. Temeraire gains new maturity, and Laurence new depth, and on top of that the terror of warfare is finally addressed more fully. Considering the previous treatment of war in Temeraire novels, which seems light and almost nonchalant in comparison, the Napoleonic invasion allows Novik to truly shine and stretch her wings, metaphorically speaking. This post-treason Laurence is a much more interesting Laurence. And his interactions with Tharkay and their growing affection were a particular highlight. I literally squeed several times - not what I'd expected from these novels.

I look forward to more from Laurence and Tharkay, Iskierka and both Rolands. Not so much Riley and

Australia, but what can you do.

Richard Derus says

Rating: 3* of five

Series books always run a big risk: They can feel "phoned in" or less than exciting to the writer; or they can feel place-holder-y, like the book is a bridge to the next one in the series, without an obvious and unique place in the series's created universe. A little of both happens here.

I wasn't in any way doubting that Novik would take me back into Temeraire's alternative Earth with dispatch; she certainly did that. This is a writer who knows what mood she wants to create and how to create it. She also knows her history, and brings characters to life who fit into that history, whether based on fact or wholly imagined. So why complain?

Because the trip to Africa, from the previous book, feels contrived; the characters who join Temeraire's family there are virtually ignored here. Because the actions of the British government are presented as faits accomplis and then the action starts, in what feels to me like a very unrooted in the series's reality fashion. Because the entire book is a search-in-progress; half the book, grudgingly okay, but the **WHOLE THING?!** Asking too much of my patience, Ms. Novik.

So three stars based on your excellent world-building, exciting writing, and a hope for the future.

Scott Sigler says

A stellar tale. Some fantastic battle scenes. And Laurence becomes a more real character, IMHO, as the consequences of his actions catch up with him.

Christine (AR) says

Can I give this six stars? It's the best book in the series since His Majesty's Dragon, and I've enjoyed them all.

No spoilers here, but I read this entire book with my heart in my throat. I came away thinking what an incredible commentary it was on how the right choice isn't necessarily the easy or popular one, and how making a moral decision can still exact an unbelievably high cost. I admire Novik so much for never taking the easy way out, for making her characters pay the consequences for their actions, and yet still leaving me both smiling and weepy at the end. I can't wait to see what happens next. Highly recommended.

Julie Davis says

I was filled with a kind of wild glee at Temeraire's peremptory actions on behalf of the nation. It never occurred to me to consider his fate once Laurence had been condemned for treason or that each might be

held as hostage for the other's good behavior. Temeraire on his own gives us a better look at dragon priorities, natural behavior, and capability for adaptation.

Here, too, we get down to brass tacks as Bonaparte invades England. Unlike many of the battle oriented parts of the previous books I really was engaged by this entire story, battles and all.

Hailee says

4.5 stars

There will be spoilers in this review for the last book in this series Empire of Ivory and the information the blurb on the back of this book provides.

After being left on a bit of a cliffhanger in the last book I was relieved to finally have time to read this and find out about the consequences of Temeraire and Laurence's so called treason of preventing the slaughter of thousands of enemy dragons through poison. Temeraire and Laurence spend about a third of this book separated and it was really fascinating to see as this is the first time you really see them act independently of each other and while I adore them together watching Temeraire really develop as a leader was a lot of fun. Experiencing things from his perspective was also a nice change of pace.

There is a good mixture of action and plot/character development in this novel, so there is always something to keep you turning the pages. There were so many returning characters in this novel and it was lovely to see people that were left in England while Temeraire and Laurence have been travelling the world. And some that were less lovely to see but no less interesting for it.

There was also a lot of emphasis put on dragon rights in this novel and you get to witness people who haven't had much experience with dragons realizing that dragons are actually thinking and feeling creatures with minds and stubborn personalities of their own. Considering how this novel ended I'm very curious to see how this theme is developed in the next few books.

Overall it was a fun read that I devoured in about three days which is a record for me at the moment. I can't wait to move onto book 6 and see what is next in store for our dynamic duo.

Manisha says

With each book, I have a clearer understanding about what kind of series this is. I will never recommend this series to fantasy readers. If anything, I will recommend this series to historical fiction readers.

Yes, there are dragons, a completely fantastical element that is the focal point in the storytelling.

However, the dragons themselves have their own personalities and histories. The issues that occur in the story are military based and more in line with problems arising in historical fiction rather than in a fantasy story.

Having said that, as someone who *adores* historical fiction, I really enjoyed this instalment of the series. The story continues, and I found myself swept away by it, as well as by the words of Novik, who suits this genre of historical fiction.

My only complaint is that I wish there was an obvious distinction between the voices of Lawrence and Temeraire. If you gave me a passage from either, I would not be able to recognise who the voice belongs to. It wasn't confusing as to whose thoughts we were following, but that distinction would have made for a much more enjoyable read.

I will be remiss not to mention how much I adore Temeraire. He is such a great character! He just might be my favourite dragon. And his relationship with Lawrence is so... darn... *cute*!

Kitvaria Sarene says

As you might notice, I quickly got addicted to this series! Just finished book 5 - and especially enjoyed this one! Not 80% of travel again, but real progress for both of our main characters and crews - if the progress might not be for the good, it is another thing completely...
It really was a step up again from the last two books, and I bought book 6-9 right away too now.

Kelly says

I made some pretty incredible noises when I opened this book and realized that I was getting TEMERAIRE'S POV -- but actually, oddly enough, that didn't end up being my favorite part of it! I wanted Temeraire's sections to be a little more distinct from Laurence's than they were, I think. I guess I'd just gotten so used to the idea that dragons think very differently from humans that I wanted that to be clearer in the narration.

Laurence's enormous pit of despair at being a traitor was pretty fantastically done, although it made for all kinds of sadness while reading -- and gyah, the bit where Jane was like, "So btw, Will, you could have been SUBTLE and still saved all those dragons instead of, like, BEING A HUGE DAMNED MORON," was really a slap to the face for Laurence and the reader both -- it really highlighted how great a job Novik did at the end of *Empire of Ivory* in making it seem as though there was no other choice for Laurence or for Temeraire than to act the way they did.

In happy news, I greatly enjoyed the dragons' total disdain for Harcourt and Riley's baby (and how it is always just "the egg", amazing), and also how Harcourt and Riley don't really know what they're doing with it, either. Riley is like, "It needs feeding ALL THE TIME. I don't understand!" and Harcourt is like, "You mean it WON'T be fine on a prison ship?!" AHAHA, OH DEAR. I was also FULL OF GLEE at the fact that Iskierka dragged Granby off to the ship to Australia. Poor Granby. Good thing he's got Laurence there, so they can have 972834 more years of UST that they are thoroughly incapable of acknowledging while Iskierka goads Temeraire into trying for an egg. OH HI PARALLELS.

Emily says

Out of the five Temeraire book I've read, this is my 2nd favorite (after book 1). Every time I read one of these books I fall in love with Temeraire all over again - best dragon ever! Not much else to say about it a this point -if you're considering reading Victory of Eagles, you already like the series.

OH - PS - I love the narrator on the audiobook. He sounds exactly how I imagine Temeraire to sound.

Andreea says

Recenzia complet? se poate citi pe blog: <https://andreeapandelea.blogspot.ro/2...>

„A fost un volum exploziv, plin de ac?iune, de tensiune ?i de fric?, în care mult a?teptata lupt? cu Napoleon Bonaparte pe p?mânturile Angliei a început; de fapt, ca s? o spun pe aia mai drept?, faptul c? turnura pe care a luat-o povestea la finalul volumului – legat? de ce s-a întâmplat cu acesta –, m? cam sperie pentru ce se va întâmpla în cartea viitoare, cel pu?in. Spun asta, deoarece, în ciuda faptului c? a fost un volum foarte sângeros, cu multe mor?i ?i dureros în anumite privin?e, siguran?a c? nu a fost toat? puterea lui Bonaparte aruncat? în acea b?t?lie, m? înfrico?eaz?. [...]”

Jack +Books & Bourbon+ says

Well, here we go. It definitely feels like we are getting close to the final stretch in this series. *Victory of Eagles* certainly has that “setting up for the endgame” feel to it, especially as the playing field starts to shift to equality, pretty much for the first time. England has always been reactive to Napoleon’s tactics and numbers, but we finally get a sense of strategy and forethought from our British military leaders (a nice switch).

Picking up shortly where *Empire of Ivory* left off, we see Laurence fully dealing with the fallout of his fateful decision that ended book 4. Utilizing the bond between captain and dragon to full effect, the British military is keeping Temeraire under wraps at a breeding ground, separated from Laurence, with the implicit threat of action against his captain should he misbehave in any way. It’s cruel but effective, shackling Temeraire as well as any physical chains could. And because of this forced separation, we finally get...

...chapters from Temeraire’s point of view. I daresay that this has been a long time coming, and I am glad that we are finally at the point where we get to see things from his perspective. While Laurence was by no means a bad main character, the world definitely felt smaller due to only seeing things from his point of view. Temeraire has always been a rich and detailed enough character that he could stand on his own, and in *Victory of Eagles* he gets to do just that. Not that he hasn’t had a voice before, but now we are privy to his thought processes as well, some of which are downright amusing. It’s interesting to see the differences between the lifelong patriot Laurence, and the progressive leanings of his “British by association” dragon. “For King and Country” is the stance that has been instilled into the fiber of every British officer, which is a mindset that they stick to like glue even when the rules or expectations are outdated or useless. But Temeraire sees right through the social expectations and vagaries of command & politics, and just wants simple answers to his simple questions. He’s like a child, without a filter, unfazed (though frequently slightly confused) by the socio-political nightmare of a country at war. As such, his chapters stand as a good counterpoint to Laurence’s. We see things as they are, and then we see things as they could/should be. It’s an interesting dynamic that helps keep the narrative fresh. It must be said, however, that even though Temeraire is given his own chapters, Laurence still has the greatest character arc in this novel, as we see the consequences of his decisions start to make him hardened, bitter, and ultimately disassociated from everything around him.

Tharkay makes a return (yay!), but only in a small, albeit, pivotal role. Iskierka & Granby are back, and she’s just as feisty and egotistical as always (and he still at the mercy of her whims). We also get introduced to

Perscitia, a new cross breed dragon who becomes sort of the logistician/tactician for our band of British misfits. She's nearly as excitable as Iskierka, but with a focus on numbers and problem solving as opposed to pyromania. She's fun, and a great foil to Temeraire, as they both think they are correct on all things mathematical. I hope we see more of her going forward, but I'm not going to hold my breath. This series definitely gives you some cool supporting characters to root for, and then pulls them away just as soon as you get comfortable with them. Or they may make a return, but in a much more diminished role that is ultimately disappointing. The rest of the established supporting cast are relegated to just a few sentences or paragraphs each.

The dragons finally get their voices heard in regards to their treatment, even though it's done at about the worst possible time. But, given the British mindset towards dragons and military service in general, there probably wasn't any other way for them to get some concessions. I'm glad we are moving forward on that front, as it's now one of the central themes in the overarching story and definitely needed some kind of progress. It's also amusing to see just how happy and full of themselves the dragons get with their new roles and responsibilities.

And, like I mentioned above, we finally get some NEW and EFFECTIVE tactics for combatting the French forces. Some wins for the home team have been sorely needed in this tale, as our heroes always seem to be effectively retreating or scoring only minor triumphs at best. So here have some actual victories in our *Victory of Eagles*, and it feels oh-so-good. It is also a much needed slap in the face to the British commanders, who haven't realized until JUST NOW that maybe, just maybe, dragons have the best ideas for battling other dragons. Go figure...

So yeah, much ground is covered in book 5, both literally and figuratively. I didn't like it as much as *Empire of Ivory*, but then I didn't expect to. However, it feels like the stage is finally being set for the grand showdown that has been looming on the horizon since book 1. I'm excited, and a little impatient, to see what changes are in store after the closing of this latest installment.

Ben Babcock says

Second review: September 7, 2015

Not going to write a lot here, because I covered most of it in my review of 4 years ago, below.

Victory of Eagles is a lot of fun because Temeraire takes it into his head to form his own little dragon corps and even request a rank. That's cool for many reasons. First, he wrests some acknowledgement of dragon sapience from Government. Second, Temeraire discovers that having rank is not all fun and games. Wellesley gives him quite the dressing-down about taking responsibility for one's subordinates' actions after Iskierka rushes off.

One of the ongoing perks of this series is the way that Temeraire and Laurence misunderstand each other's worlds. We see more of that from Temeraire's side this time in his conversations with the other dragons. Gentius is confused by his first captain's propensity for reading romances. The dragons are all about accumulating shiny things, which is hilarious to me but deadly serious for them. And Temeraire also just doesn't understand Laurence's dedication to this idea of *honour* and how it was necessary to return to Britain to face punishment, even execution, instead of fleeing somewhere more welcoming, like China.

This book features some major battles and extensive departures from established history. (You would think Britain's Aerial Corps would help them win the Napoleonic Wars faster, but Napoleon actually has the upper

hand for most of this book!) However, I'd argue that this is all interesting historical background. The majority of *Victory of Eagles* is, as I outlined above, about Temeraire and Laurence's relationship. Both have now stepped into the other's world a little bit.

Of course, by the end we're back on a ship, bound for the wild and uncharted frontier of Australia. That's exciting! I haven't read *Tongue of Serpents* before, so it will be brand new for me. We'll see how Temeraire and Laurence negotiate this brave new world, and whether Temeraire can continue the struggle for dragon rights.

First review: February 10, 2009

I haven't read book 4 yet, but one of the advantages of Naomi Novik's writing is that this is the sort of series where skipping a single book won't harm your enjoyment of a subsequent volume. As long as you keep up with the major plot points (there was a dragon virus; they found a cure in Africa; Laurence and Temeraire shared it with France as well as Britain and are now traitors for it), it's easy to sink your teeth into *Victory of Eagles*.

Both Temeraire and Laurence were broken at the end of the last book, apparently. Temeraire is consigned to a "retirement" covert while Laurence serves some time on a naval vessel, each being held against the other's good behaviour. Laurence is condemned to hang (although we, as the faithful readers, know at this point that such an event would never come to pass!). Temeraire, as usual, is having trouble comprehending the strange nature of nationalism and the military judicial system. His reactions to the other dragons who live in the covert are humourous. Indeed, the improvements he makes to his own cave are a catalyst that results in Temeraire forming his own "aerial corps" of dragons. Composed of retired fighters, tamed dragons who have never fought, and feral dragons, Temeraire convinces them to join him with promises of treasure and improvements in their quality of life.

Novik knows enough of her history to have fun with altering it to suit her purposes. The book begins with Napoleon establishing a foothold in England and proceeding to attempt to quell the countryside and obtain the resources required for feeding his sizable corps of dragons (one of the very few complaints I'd make about this book is the amount of space it devotes to concerns about feeding dragons). Admiral Nelson hasn't died at Trafalgar, but actually dies in the battle at the climax of this book instead--a casualty of a tsunami created by Lien's use of the divine wind. Lien herself plays a rather minor role in this book.

Perhaps more plot-driven than character-driven, *Victory of Eagles* still contains great moments for both of the main characters. As an "outsider", Temeraire can make brutal observations of the folly of humanity. At the same time, he does or says some things we would find questionable or even unacceptable. Laurence, meanwhile, continues to wrestle with his conflicting statuses--both traitor and potential saviour. Novik has much fun pitting one against the other; they act as each other's foils while remaining allies against those who would rend them apart.

I disliked very little about this book. Parts of it were slow. As I mentioned above, Novik devotes an inordinate amount of time to matters of food and obtaining enough livestock to satisfy the dragons. I'm willing to forgive her, however, since it is an important plot point, so perhaps it's better to stress it rather than understate its importance and risk criticism for glossing over such a potential plot hole.

Fans of the Temeraire series will enjoy this book. It isn't the best of the series, in my opinion, but it's still entertaining. For those new to Temeraire's series, I would naturally recommend reading the first book first--you *will* be a little confused if you skip all the books before this one!

My reviews of Temeraire:

← *Empire of Ivory | Tongues of Serpents* →

Monica says

I enjoyed this installment of the Temeraire series, but I had to take a big break after book 4. This is the type of series that gets a little repetitive if you try to read the whole series at once, but it is still a great series that takes you to many different places in the world in the time of Napoleon. It is wonderful how well the fantasy element fits in with the history!

Fani says

The circumstances were not ordinary. Laurence was a man already dead in law.

After the way things ended in the last book for Laurence and Temeraire, I was a bit scared for them in the beginning of this one. This series proves that it's not necessary to have romance as the main relationship between the characters in order for the story to be interesting.

Friendship is an interesting relationship to explore in the books especially when it is between a human and a dragon. There was nothing more heartwarming than seeing Temeraire and Laurence always thinking about the other no matter where they were, close or apart and always worrying about the others comfort first.

Temeraire gave a low joyful cry and curled around him tightly and said, Oh, Laurence; I shall never let anyone take you from me again.

It was so great witnessing the way Temeraire keeps growing as a character with every book, the trip to China clearly has changed him for the better. Now that he has experienced a different way of living for the dragons and is able to compare it to the way he lives, Temeraire began to actively fight for a better way of living for himself and his friends and it was a very important moment when he had to stand alone and make difficult decisions.

But he was quite alone. He trembled, but there was no use being cowardly; there was no-one to help him, and he must decide.

With each new dragon that we meet there is something new and peculiar we will experience when we follow them in their everyday life.

Perscitia with her war tactics shows how one can contribute to a battle without fighting, as always each dragon has something new to be perplexed about with human behavior be it a newborn child, who compared to dragon eggs can't stop crying or a bookworm with her unusual reading behavior.

Men like to be unhappy sometimes, he offered. My second Captain would come sit under my wing with a book and weep over it, most evenings. I thought at first she must be wounded,

but she told me not to fret at all, she liked to do it; and the next morning she would be right as rain again.

I think the dragon who got the most attention in this book is none other than Iskierka, who with her feistiness and big ego manages to annoy almost everyone including Temeraire. Their banter is always so funny to read and I don't know about anyone else but i ship them, their different characters would make an interesting couple and Temeraire's experience would help tone down a bit Iskierka.

I have decided that you may give me an egg.

Oh! Temeraire said, swelling with indignation, how very kind! I am to be honored, I suppose.

Well, I am much richer than you are, she said, and also I can breathe fire, so you ought to be.

I really hope to see more of them together in the next book.
