



Ship of Magic (Liveship Traders Trilogy Book 1)

By Robin Hobb

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Bingtown is a hub of exotic trade and home to a merchant nobility famed for its liveships—rare vessels carved from wizardwood, which ripens magically into sentient awareness. Now the fortunes of one of Bingtown’s oldest families rest on the newly awakened liveship *Vivacia*.

For Althea Vestrit, the ship is her rightful legacy. For Althea’s young nephew, wrenched from his religious studies and forced to serve aboard the ship, the *Vivacia* is a life sentence. But the fate of the ship—and the Vestrits—may ultimately lie in the hands of an outsider: the ruthless buccaneer captain Kennit, who plans to seize power over the Pirate Isles by capturing a liveship and bending it to his will.

BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Robin Hobb's *Mad Ship*.

Praise for Robin Hobb and the Liveship Traders Trilogy

“Fantasy as it ought to be written . . . Robin Hobb’s books are diamonds in a sea of zircons.”—**George R. R. Martin**

“A truly extraordinary saga . . . The characterizations are consistently superb, and [Hobb] animates everything with love for and knowledge of the sea.”—**Booklist**

“A major work of high fantasy, reading like a cross between Tolkien and Patrick O’Brian . . . one of the finest fantasy sagas to bridge the millennium.”—**Publishers Weekly**

“Rich, complex . . . [Hobb’s] plotting is complex but tightly controlled, and her descriptive powers match her excellent visual imagination. But her chief virtue is that she delineates character extremely well.”—**Interzone**

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Robin Hobb, author of the Farseer trilogy, has returned to that world for a new series. *Ship of Magic* is a sea tale, reminiscent of *Moby Dick* and Patrick O'Brian's Aubrey/Maturin series in its details of shipboard life. It is also a fantasy adventure with sea serpents, pirates, and all sorts of magic. The *liveships* have distinct personalities and partner with specific people, somewhat like Anne McCaffrey's Brain ships and their Brawns, though these are trading ships and have full crews.

Hobb has peopled the book with many wonderfully developed characters. Most of the primary ones are members of the Vestritts, an Old Trader family which owns the liveship *Vivacia*. Their stories are intercut with those of Kennit, the ambitious pirate Brashen, the disinherited scion of another family who served on the Vestritt's ship, and *Paragon*, an old liveship abandoned and believed mad. The sentient sea serpents have their own story hinted at, as well.

Though *Ship of Magic* is full of action, none of the plotlines get resolved in this book. Readers who resent being left with many questions and few answers after almost 700 pages should think twice before starting, or wait until the rest of the series is out so that their suspense won't be too prolonged. But Hobb's writing draws you in and makes you care desperately about what will happen next, the mark of a terrific storyteller. --*Nona Vero*

From Library Journal

The untimely death of Old Trader Ephron Vestrit deprives his daughter Althea of her inheritance and places her ambitious brother-in-law Kyle in command of the live ship *Viveca* and the family fortunes. The author of the Farseer trilogy (*Assassin's Apprentice*, LJ 3/15/95; *Royal Assassin*, Bantam, 1996; *Assassin's Quest*, Bantam, 1997) launches a new series set in a world of sentient ships, merchant traders, ruthless pirates, dangerous treasures, seagoing dragons, and a mysterious elder race. Hobb excels in depicting complex characters; even her villains command respect, if not sympathy, for their actions. Most libraries should purchase this exotic, nonstandard fantasy.

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From [Booklist](#)

Hobb follows the well-received Farseer trilogy (*Assassin's Apprentice* [1995], *Royal Assassin* [1996], *Assassin's Quest*) with the first volume in what promises to be a truly extraordinary saga, *The Liveship Traders*. The basic concept is that, in Bingtown, ships built of wizardwood become sentient beings after three generations of their owning families have died aboard them--sentient but not docile. When Althea Vestrit is driven off her family's liveship *Vivacia* by her ruthless brother-in-law, trouble soon swarms thick and fast. She has to disguise herself as a boy to get back to sea, *Vivacia* is menaced by the pirate Captain Kennit, the Vestrit family's debts and pubescent daughter Malta threaten to create yet more problems, and Althea's nephew Wintrow is virtually kidnapped from the priesthood of Sa to become a sailor with little more status than a slave. Hobb makes the plot complex but doesn't let it become convoluted, sees to it that the characterizations are consistently superb, and animates everything with love for and knowledge of the sea. If Patrick O'Brian were to turn to writing high fantasy, he might produce something like this. Kudos to the author and encore! *Roland Green*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Pinkerton:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book particularly book entitled Ship of Magic (Liveship Traders Trilogy Book 1) your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe not known for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a book then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get ahead of. The Ship of Magic (Liveship Traders Trilogy Book 1) giving you another experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful data for your better life within this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Mary Stockton:

This Ship of Magic (Liveship Traders Trilogy Book 1) is great e-book for you because the content which can be full of information for you who all always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it data accurately using great plan word or we can claim no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but challenging core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having Ship of Magic (Liveship Traders Trilogy Book 1) in your hand like getting the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no book that offer you world within ten or fifteen moment right but this publication already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt this?

Gladys Myers:

Reading a book being new life style in this season; every people loves to study a book. When you examine a book you can get a large amount of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information upon it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you can read a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and also soon. The Ship of Magic (Liveship Traders Trilogy Book 1) offer you a new experience in looking at a book.

Hattie Godfrey:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got learners? We believe that that problem was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. And also you know that little person including reading or as reading through become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important along with book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update concerning something by book. Different categories of books that can you take to be your object. One of them is Ship of Magic (Liveship Traders

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