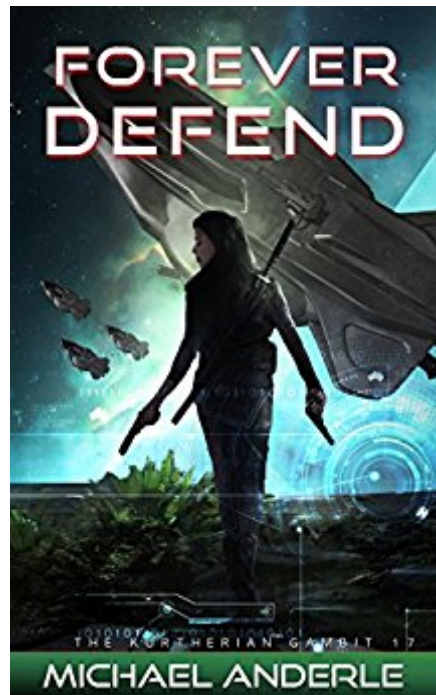




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Forever Defend (The Kurtherian Gambit Book 17)



Synopsis

Some forget why she was called the Queen Bitch. Not Anymore. Bethany Anne is going stir crazy after more than a decade of having to be 'The Empress.' Now, her advisors have to deal with an Empress who is determined to be on the front line. The Ixtali's come to the Etheric Empire, hat in hand. Nathan decides that the best way to handle soft intelligence, is to create a new company. What they name the new company should give a clue what it is about. The Skaine are able to finally get Ranger Tabitha's group right where their missiles can attack. The problem is, who is sucking whom into a trap? Strap back in, because Bethany Anne is putting the Queen's crown back on.

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Customer Reviews

What do you do if you can't find the aliens you really want to make war with? Why, be Empress of course. If you are the Queen Bitch then 10 years of playing nice are going to be very frustrated. So what do you do when the reviled Kurtherians suddenly pop up? Why "Cry havoc and let loose the

dogs of war" and the bitches and the guardians and the marines and the Als. Now we have much more Bethany Anne (always a good thing) and much more exciting, well described action sequences. The secondary plot lines (Tabitha and now the well named Bad Company) add to the book rather than detract from it. This is a rollicking good adventure story well paced, funny and with enough action to keep even the most Pepsi hyped reader engaged. Both this book and book 16 have shown a change of style towards a denser and more focused storyline. This seems to be true of all of the third arc and this arc is much better for it than the mildly disappointing 2nd arc. There are some glitches though. It's a shame that the editors don't know the difference between immigrate and emigrate. For all the times these were used they were only used correctly once. Since one of the minor characters is called Meredith why were they often referred to as Meridith? I know from the author's notes that speed is valued but the editing mistakes are much more frequent in the last two books than the previous ones. Back to the grammar check and a slightly slower process I think. I also liked the pictures of the alien races which have now started appearing - nice touch. Still the alien races are very bipedal - rather like a bad James T. Kirk Star Trek alien with just a rubber suit for disguise. We know that Anderle has a great imagination so please let it roam further. More cats and kittens too. Minor quibbles aside I've now read 17 of these at a rate of one a day (Hugh Sebag Montefiore's the Somme Aside) and I still want to keep reading. Book 17 - I finally got to the end of the currently published Kurtherian Gambit books; it only took me a month (and I read another book in between). Wow what a binge read. Now I do read quickly and these are not Thomas Hardy (thankfully) but what a series.

I'm in love with this series. It's getting to a point that I have a few requests for such a large universe/time line. 1. Updated time line for books with possible earth side date details. I find myself hesitant to start the magic chronicles due to not understanding where they stand within the time line against my favorite character and if/when they come across known characters. 2. Character bios. With so many characters across so many books, and the introduction of new characters from new planets, a quick reference guide on the website would be amazing. Thank you again for another great book :) TC (P.S. Does the Etheric Empire have a flag to go with their colors and sigils? Would she like one?)

Bethany Anne's patience is being tested. All this time spent Emprassing is taking a toll. She and her people are doing good things. But it is not as satisfying as being the Queen Bitch! So, when an opportunity comes along to defend a race against extermination, she is VERY interested. Finding

out the aggressor is a Kurtherian manipulation by one of the Five, is icing on the cake. All her people are against her direct involvement and they work very hard to keep her away from the heat of the battle. Challenge accepted!

I've (of course!) read the whole Bethany Ann series and several others from the Kurtherian universe. They're all fun, with kick-ass heroines and heroes. The typos and other editing issues have gradually gotten better, and have completely disappeared with this one. More to the point, there are several interesting new plot lines involving BA and several other main characters, plus some new characters. BA goes back to war herself, and learns a few things. Nathan and his family begin a completely new enterprise. More babies are born, not without difficulty. There are some intriguing diplomatic initiatives. Creative swearing returns! Altogether a very satisfying book. It must be said that, in all the Kurtherian books, the dialogue is sometimes wooden and frequently predictable, so much so that it can be hard to tell the voice of one character from another. (Not unlike the way alcoholics sound more and more alike, and less like individuals, the further their disease progresses.) Sometimes it reminds me of a bad puppet show, where all the characters have the same intonation and narrow emotional range. I find it annoying when I have to go back a page or more to count paragraphs and quote marks, so I can tell who said what! However, that has obviously not kept me from reading the books :) This book is better in that regard as well. I look forward to seeing how things develop from here. Anyone who likes this kind of adventure SF should enjoy this book, although it will undoubtedly make more sense if you've read the others. Anyone who likes the series and characters should like this one a lot.

Another great story from the Kurtherian universe. In this book we see a new foe arise and Bethany Anne returns to the battle first hand. We also get a bit of political intrigue as some of the alien races adapt and try to deal with the humans. Tabitha returns too and Ranger Two has her own pirate problems. I enjoyed the introduction of Bad Company too. That's Nathan's new focus and I liked the build up for characters there. That was an interesting subplot all on its own and would make for a neat book by itself.

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