



# Change of Command

*Elizabeth Moon*

Download now

Read Online ➞

# Change of Command

*Elizabeth Moon*

**Change of Command** Elizabeth Moon

## THEIR UNIVERSE IS FALLING APART!

Rejuvenants fear the backlash caused by bad drugs; they want to ensure that nothing interferes with their pursuit of long life -- or the profit that comes from promising it to others. Neighbor states fear the aggressive expansion of the Familias Regnant, fuelled by population growth and extended lifespan. Within the Regular Space Service, those who have received experimental rejuvenations fear they may have been given bad drugs on purpose. Esmay Suiza's family fears that her marriage to an offworlder will damage their position. Barin Serrano's family fears that his marriage to a Landbride of Altiplano will damage his career and their reputation.

Fear begets violent reactions -- from foreign governments, from great Families determined to maintain or increase their power, from internal rivalries in the Fleet -- and nothing escapes the resultant bloodbath unscathed. As Esmay and Barin struggle to reconcile their families, others have more cosmic struggles to win.

## Change of Command Details

Date : Published December 1st 2000 by Baen (first published 1999)

ISBN : 9780671319632

Author : Elizabeth Moon

Format : Paperback 448 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Space, Space Opera, Fiction

 [Download Change of Command ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Change of Command ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Change of Command Elizabeth Moon**

---

# From Reader Review Change of Command for online ebook

## Cristie says

I don't think this book is quite up to 4 stars, but it's definitely not down to 3 stars either. It's another really good story, but also feels like a middle book. Which it is, but I thought Rules of Engagement did a better job of being part of a series but still having its own contained story arc. This one follows a bunch of people, and all their stories are interesting, but it doesn't make quite as neat of a package as the other books. It does, however, do an excellent job of setting things up for the thrilling conclusion in the last book. :)

---

## Falynn - the TyGrammarSaurus Rex says

Another good instalment in the series. Took a while to get going, and jumps around between even more different characters than the previous books! but overall I enjoyed it. Except for the cliffhanger ending! On to the next...

---

## Alex Shrugged says

"Change of Command" by Elizabeth Moon is part 1 of a 2 part SciFi novel in the Serrano/Suzia series. It ends at a reasonable spot in the story but you will need to read the next book, "Against the Odds" for the ending.

The Story: The leader of the Familias Regnant is assassinated and his deputy seriously injured. Mutineers working for the Benignity have been a worry throughout the series along with the dreaded Hunters of Men within the Regular Space Service. When a new Prime Minister takes the helm, he changes everything at a time when the government needs stability. There is the ongoing conflict between the Rejuvenates who want to stay in power forever and the young who see no place for themselves in the years to come. And, of course, Barin Serrano and Esmay Suzia are still in love, trying to get married but a new revelation may tear their families apart.

Any problems with this story? Yes. A few. Unless you've read at least the previous book "Terms of Engagement" and probably one of the Heris Serrano books like "Hunting Party", a lot of this stuff is going to seem confusing to the reader. The story starts off well enough but it's too much all at once.

One NEW character is introduced almost at once and it is clear she is a VERY important character... and then she disappears from the pages until near the end of this book. I had to struggle to remember why I thought she was initially so important because it was too long between her introduction and the author actually using the character to move the story along. Also a minor new character is introduced as if she might be important but not used until near the end.

Lady Cecelia is back in her old role as the dotty old maiden aunt who is a very able helper. While that may not seem like a complaint, I worry that the new reader, trying to drop into the middle of the series, might not understand what a very good character she is. She does get a fuller treatment in the next book, "Against the Odds".

This really should have been a single large novel instead of two but what can you do?

I liked it. I'm already half way through "Against the Odds". If I like this next novel then I'll probably read "Change of Command" again... eventually.

---

### **Gemma says**

\*contains minor spoiler\*

Heavier on the politics than the previous 5 books, but still an easy read (which is a relief, as I am not a fan of politics-heavy novels). The politics (within the Familias Regnant) was pretty much the entire first half of the book, with the second half containing a bit of action in amongst the politics. Esmay and Barin made an appearance, if a relatively minor one. The latest obligatory hurdle to their relationship was, I feel, a bit forced: a chance discovery reminding the Serrano family of a centuries old feud/vow which, to all appearances, the Serrano family had no idea about and had completely forgotten until the discovery of said diary. In addition to this, it was to their patron not them, and while atrocious (if true) it was centuries ago, with people on both sides long gone to dust, so why is it a current issue?!? This blowing out of proportion of essentially (to me) non-issue events seems to be a bit of a shaky leg to stand on, and seems to be a bit of a theme, and is what resulted in me rating this novel 3 rather than 4 stars. If not for this, it would definitely be a 4 star read, as it is an easy, engaging and enjoyable read (how's that for alliteration!).

"Change of Command" presents as a lead-up to the last Serrano Legacy novel, and ends on a bit of a cliff hanger, rather than coming to a tidy conclusion as with the previous 5 novels. Moon's disposition of the Nutex women was nicely done, and fit well with the plot/setting already established. All in all, "Change of Command" is as an enjoyable read as its predecessors.

---

### **Carolyn F. says**

I love this series although I do feel the book was bogged own with the machinations of the bad guys and for the chairman to have so much power that he could affect the structure of the military was a little much in my opinion. But overall I enjoyed the book.

---

### **Faith says**

Lord, what a mess. There were entirely too many POVs in this book and some of them I really could have done without. There's no identifiable main plot thread...except *maybe* the shenanigans regarding Bunny's estate? And there was no coherent focus on any character or group of characters - everyone is kind of doing their own thing. I found Esmay and Barin to be totally uninteresting in this book, and there was not enough Heris. (There was barely any Heris).

While there were moments of excitement and immersion, overall the book felt scattered. It was more set up for a climax than a story in itself. I'll finish out the series to see what happens, but I have to say that I'm disappointed. I suspect that, when I come back to the series upon rereads, I'll just stick to the first three.

---

## G33z3r says

It's impossible to discuss "Change in Command" by itself, because the book really doesn't stand by itself. It's not just that it continues the story of many of the characters from its predecessor Heris Serrano and Esmay Suiza novels (including Cecillia, Esmay, Barin, Brun, Vida, and even Heris *et al*), plus a handfull of new characters. Of the newcomers, Kate the Ranger from the Lone Star Confederation is the most entertaining - perhaps the only character in the book who isn't grieving, moping, scheming, or mooning about like a lovesick puppy. This novel by itself really doesn't have an ending, but is just a set up for the sequel "Against the Odds". It has half a dozen different plots, many of them unrelated, and no real central character or focus. Mostly, it puts characters in place and sets up the problems to be solved in the sequel. (Both "Changing Command" and "Against the Odds" are available in a single compendium volume, "The Serrano Succession". You might as well get that one, because you don't want to try to read just this one by itself.) The multiple plots and deliberate lack of much resolution makes the book itslef unsatisfying, and you'll have to trust the author will tie it all together in the next book.

---

## Caleb says

I started this one in 2011 but ragequit because a cool character from the series died in the first few pages. Just wasn't in the mood for a while, and then forgot about it until recently. Pulled me right back in like an old habit... I didn't realize until now it only took me less than 8 days to finish (of only roughly 2 hours a day).

This one was different from previous in the series. Perspectives changed often, which was a little jarring and yet still interesting -- we got to see Moon's universe from many different viewpoints we hadn't tried before. I particularly liked the Benignity of the Compassionate Hand, antagonists that aren't just mustache-twirling villains. Still, this rapid shifting gave the book a more 'scattered' feel, which was not helped by the abrupt ending. (I suppose it wasn't helped by the 5 years since I read the previous books. I may have to read books #4 and #5 again someday.)

Zark, that abrupt ending though! I follow a few authors that tend to wrap up a little faster than I'd prefer, but wow, this one wasn't many steps away from "then the badguy died and they lived happily ever after, the end." If there wasn't another book after this one I'd take two stars off! With that in mind, there's a lot of intriguing setup (and introduction of new characters) that I hope will pay off in the next book. If not, I may be disappointed... there's a few events in this one that feel too convenient, and some enemies whose motivations feel too shallow.

I've enjoyed Elizabeth Moon's Serrano Legacy / Familias Regnant books so far because it's a different take on space opera. In this case while majoring in opera, space also took a bunch of different esoteric electives like horseback riding, fox hunting, hot air ballooning, fencing, and royal intrigue. It's a fun contrast from the other space series I read from David Weber and Lois McMaster Bujold -- there's a lot of shared elements (Space Military), but this one is not JUST about what happens in Space Military. Also, Moon was a computer specialist in the Marine Corps in real life -- this gives her some interesting perspectives on everyday life among the enlisted.

Nearly forgot -- who's that supposed to be on the cover? Hardly anyone even holds a gun in this book, let

alone fires it. Esmay, star of previous books, never saw combat beyond arguments. Is that Margiu? I'm not even sure she unholstered hers.

---

## **Celia says**

Lord, I'm annoyed that the library didn't have the fifth book in this series, because jumping from the fourth book to this, the sixth, made things very difficult indeed. There were some dramatic things that occurred in book five, and it's a little difficult to catch up with everything that's happened in the character's lives. However, people discuss this often enough that it soon falls into place.

Esmay Suiza's relationship with Barin Serrano has progressed to the point where they're discussing marriage. However, Esmay isn't really the focal point of this book - or rather, she shares that focus with Brun, who has returned as a major character, as she gets heavily involved in the growing political struggle between Rejuvenants and Agists.

This book jumped around a bit too much for my liking - rather than staying mostly with one or two characters' viewpoints as previous books have done, this leapt around all over the universe - little headings indicated whether we were on this planet, that planet, this ship, that ship... it was all a bit scattered. I think this book may be setting up various threads for a very strong 7th book - or at least, I hope so, because I've been really enjoying this space opera, and want to continue doing so.

---

## **Beth Cato says**

This is the sixth book in the space opera Serrano Legacy, or can be regarded as the third book that focuses on Esmay Suiza. Sort of.[return][return]The Familias Regnant is in tatters after the Speaker is assassinated. The entire political system hinges on the rivalry between the wealthy Rejuvenants--the ones who could afford the treatment to become endlessly young--and the lower classes who cannot rise higher since the older generation isn't dying off or retiring. Immediate suspicion is laid on the Old Texan-based extremists who figured prominently in the last book, but more is afoot. The Benignity makes its move for dominance in space; the old allies of the corrupt Admiral Lepescu are also on the move. Meanwhile, Esmay only wishes for Serrano approval to marry her fiancé and finds every effort stymied by ship schedules and continued acts of terrorism across the system.[return][return]This book wasn't bad, but it suffers from a lack of focus. It jumped from place to place as more attacks were orchestrated, and there was no one major character to follow. Esmay did almost nothing but pine during the entire book. Mind you, some bits had lovely tension--especially a few chapters where a tram of preschoolers were caught in a hostile invasion--but that was resolved all too quickly, with no major characters stepping in. It felt more like reading a collection of short stories set in the same universe than a cohesive novel. I wonder how everything can be resolved in the next book.

---

## **Dan says**

Reread..

---

## **Susan says**

These books were fun to read, but I much prefer Paks, Remnant Population and Speed of Dark (though that one made me mad at the end)

---

## **Rhode says**

Unlike the previous books in the series which focused on just one or two main characters' lives, this jumps about all over the place. The Familias universe itself becomes the main character and everyone in it, from a clerks to admirals, all have their on-stage appearances within it.

As a book about a universe, it doesn't dig deeply enough into the universe itself for me. All these cute scenes between random people don't delve deeper, instead we are skimming the surface in multiple directions.

Also, infuriatingly, despite the sexist-pigs-world vs. Familias-world battle lines of the last book in the series, now it becomes quite apparent that the Familias world is plenty sexist as well. In fact, it's so sexist that I wonder if the author realizes fully how sexist she's made it. A few Serrano admirals aside, boys are very definitely in charge here, there and everywhere.

The only reason this gets two stars instead of one is (a) I have been following the story for so many books now, I can't stop (b) many of the characters are enjoyably drawn even if there are only a few pages about the majority of them.

---

## **Unwisely says**

Ok, so, this book didn't keep me up the way the other ones in the series have. In fact, I put it down and read several things in the middle. But the second part picked back up.

The problem with this book is that it's *\*very much\** a middle book - pretty much nothing gets resolved. A bunch of stuff happens, but it definitely isn't a stand alone volume. Having said that, it had some moments. I loved the Texan Ranger character in this book - I lived in Texas for a while and I knew a couple of women that were a lot like her. Worth reading if you loved the rest of them, but, do *\*not\** start here.

---

## **Snail in Danger (Sid) Nicolaides says**

Okay. It's been pointed out by numerous people that villains think of themselves as the heroes of their own story. But the main villain here has no redeeming qualities at all. That's a little tough to take. Power-hungry, controlling, no sense of humor, sees women as objects and men as tools ... yeah.

Also, it seems like this book and its sequel, Against the Odds, should have been one book but were split in half for logistical reasons.

Also also, sometimes it seems like Esmay is kind of the universe's woobie/chew toy. Bad stuff just keeps happening to her and people keep thinking she must be completely untrustworthy, for no reason.

---