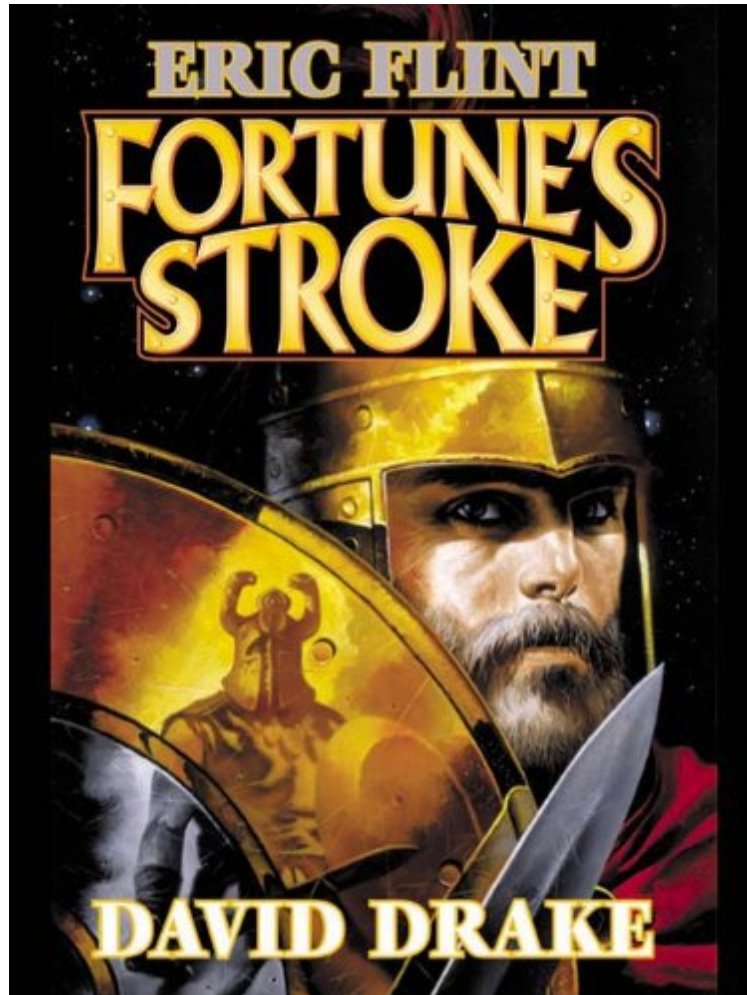


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Fortune's Stroke (Belisarius Saga Book 4) (English Edition)

Von David Drake, Eric Flint

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Von David Drake, Eric Flint : Fortune's Stroke (Belisarius Saga Book 4) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fortune's Stroke (Belisarius Saga Book 4) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. You're sending Belisarius? Sire, that's ALL you had to say!Von CombatBalleurThis is the fifth Eric Flint book I've read. I suppose it's possible that some day he'll write a bad book, but I won't be able to review it because the shock will have killed me.This one didn't disappoint me in the least. Belisarius doesn't figure as centrally in this one as in the previous three books, simply because Flint gives more room to the vitally-needed Rome-Axum alliance and to Shakuntala, Rhagunath Rao, and the Deccan Revolt. With the possible exception of Churchill, nobody has ever changed the course of a war single-handed, and even Belisarius can't manage this one alone. Fortunately, Belisarius has friends, without

whose help he would find himself out on the end of a long tree limb, and find the Malwa standing behind him with chainsaws. Antonina, Eon, Ousanas, Shakuntala, Irene Makrembolitassa, Kungas, and Rhagunath Rao are all people well worth spending time with. I'd have liked to see a bit more of Byzantium and what's going on back there in this book, but that can wait. We'll be going back. The really neat thing about this book is that Flint understands that, while wars aren't won without combat, the true battle is always in people's minds and souls. Two scenes in the book bring this out starkly. In one scene (no spoilers here) Belisarius does more damage to the Malwa in ten minutes with his wits, wisdom and words, than in the entire Battle of Charax. He did it so neatly that I didn't even realize the Malwa had been stabbed through the belly until the book was almost over. In the other scene, we encounter the *true* depths of the Malwa evil. The key section occupied only two paragraphs, but when I finished them, I felt as if somebody had dripped icewater down my spine. This is *writing*!

The book is, of course, part of a series, so we don't see how the whole story comes out, but the ending, like those of the earlier books, is both logically and emotionally satisfying. We are allowed to rejoice with our friends even as we realize that the REAL work lies ahead. There are now three living authors whose new books I'm willing to buy sight unseen on the strength of their names. Poul Anderson, Lois McMaster Bujold, and now, Eric Flint. Once more, thank you Eric. I'm looking forward to the next Belisarius book, to "Rats, Bats and Vats" later this year, and "1633" next year. Peace and blessings.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Belisarius strikes again! Von Pamala Kuhn Eric Flint and David Drake make a great team. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I have read the three previous books in this series and this one continued the story very well. It was worth waiting for. I love the characters and the plot is fascinating. I have always been interested in this time period, and this series has brought the cultures of this time and place to life for me. I think that I have learned more about India and the people who lived there than I ever did in school. In addition, the authors do a good job of introducing modern military hardware (rockets and guns) and tactics while adjusting them for the capabilities of the period. The military, political and social details in this book add considerable background and depth to the plot. The only problem was that the book did not hold my interest as intensely as the earlier books did. There were also a few places where I would have been happier with a more detailed build up to a scene. I wanted to know more about what happened to the characters on the way; I wanted richer descriptions. I would have been thrilled if the book had been a hundred pages longer. This is not a serious problem. The series as a whole is still a rich and enthralling alternative history and I am looking forward to the next book.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Nice Ride Over-all Von Dianna Deeley If you've read the first three of these, you know the plot outline: Deadly with a blade, is Belisarius. Well, with an army, really. There are a couple nice little plot twists, which I'm not going to give away. There are a couple lightly romantic subplots, which I did enjoy. There is, really, nothing seriously wrong with this book. It's fun, and I certainly don't regret buying it in hardbound. You realize you are not hearing unqualified praise, here. The first two were unalloyed pleasure for me, and the third was pretty good. My problems have everything to do with what I'm beginning to classify as Eric Flint's verbal tics. I didn't before, because I hadn't enough acquaintance with his work to say. While David Drake has a certain grim, economical style of his own, Flint writes like a high school history teacher should speak, with both the enthusiasm and the weaknesses implied by that. He is engaged with his material, he enjoys showing us how these people in the past, who were just as smart as we are, did things. He does fail on the same point that I've never really been able to get across to young people: they weren't like us. I'd put that in caps, except that I don't approve of shouting. Furthermore, I noted this in Flint's 1632, I'm getting tired of certain characteristic phrases, like "mind you," and habits like, "tense. Tense. Tense." "Bad, bad move." And so on. In one character's mental voice, I could abide it. But have mercy! At least once a chapter, the thrice-repeated word? I started muttering, "And what I tell you three times is true." Another verbal tic, and whose fault this is, I don't know, but the word "huge" must be excised from somebody's vocabulary. Using the adjective huge twice in one paragraph? Oh, dear. I am officially declaring this to be a dead word. Perhaps it's simply the fact that I know that a complex series of maneuvers is going to lead to triumph for Belisarius, but the book just felt too predictable, and the neat details of armament, animal handling, and technology weren't there this time. Nor did the territory covered feel more than sketched in. Yeah, I liked it. Yeah, I don't feel cheated. But I'd love to see the writers pay a little more attention in the next book, or I will feel disappointed.

Kurzbeschreibung EVIL FROM BEYOND TIME RULES THE GREATEST EMPIRE ON EARTH! Link, the supercomputer from a future that should not exist, has used terror and gunpowder weapons to forge the Malwa Empire: harnessing the vast manpower of the Indian subcontinent and using the barbarian races of the periphery to bind the whole together. No power on Earth in the 6th century could stand against Link's evil. Aide, a human soul embodied in a jewel, has come back to halt evil's progress. Aide has no power but that of truth, but truth is the only power that could move the greatest general of the age, Belisarius. With his sword, his paladins, and his genius, Belisarius has turned the armies of Byzantium into a weapon capable of blunting the first assault of the Malwa hordes. Now, supported by allies from all the world yet free, Belisarius, with his wife and co-commander Antonia, faces

overwhelming Malwa numbers in a ring that tightens about them. There is no room for maneuver and no safety in defeat. The armies of Good and Evil gathered on the fertile plains of Mesopotamia will decide the fate of the world. And the fate of all the future! At the publisher's request, this title is sold without DRM (DRM Rights Management).

Getting to follow big, bad Byzantine Belisarius around the alt-history battlefield--courtesy of Eric Flint and David Drake--comes in a close second to having your own personal unit of cataphracts. (Although, of course, those cataphracts would be nice to have in traffic.) Following on the heels of *Destiny's Shield*, the fourth installment in this popular series follows the superhuman general as he harries Malwa troops in the mountains leading into Mesopotamia. He's still got the across-time assistance of the crystal Aide to help him deal with the threat, augmenting his senses and keeping him briefed on the tactics of everyone from Wellington to Turenne. But Link, the Supreme Commander of the Universe, still calls the shots for the evil empire, and Belisarius has to double-time to keep up (especially facing such shrewd field commanders as Damodara). Fortune's Stroke downshifts the series a notch in terms of sheer Belisarius-meted carnage, because Damodara's Ye-tai barbarians and Rajput cavalry aren't the only show in town. Flint and Drake spend a good deal of time with other characters in the series in other locales, like Kungas and Irene in south India and Antonina in Axum (for a start). But this investment will surely pay off as the series continues, as Belisarius and his cohort close in on the Malwa for good. (And if you're new to the battle, start with *An Oblique Approach*, the first title in the series.) --Paul Hughes

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