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FIRE AND FUR:

THE LAST SORCERER DRAGON

by Roger C. Schlobin

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\$7.95

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CAUTION TO THE READER: Some portions of this electronic book may be unsuitable for younger or more sensitive readers.

BOOK ABSTRACT

Published for the first time here, Roger C. Schlobin's major epic fantasy and love story, *Fire and Fur: The Last Sorcerer Dragon*, is set in the pre-human Gobi desert and draws upon Chinese mythology. *Fire and Fur's* dragons and cats feel and explore deeply human emotions and problems in their struggle to survive. The cats do speak, often caustically, to a few dragons (cats can still speak but no one interests them enough to bother anymore). The dragons' dark desire for power and their excessive pride lead them to terraform their home from sea to land. Tragically, their fell magic releases their ancient enemy and bane, the Azghun Demons. Once the dragons had a cadre of sorcerers to protect and defend them. Now they have grown lazy and dumb and there is only one strong enough to stand against the Demons. The last sorcerer dragon, Ao Rue, is a social

Fire and Fur Installation -- Roger C. Schlobin -- page 1.

misfit -- immature and idealistic -- and his efforts for dragonkind are either very generous or very foolish. He is aided in his troubles and challenges by the blunt and clear-headed silver-mackerel tabby, Mei-chou. Interwoven throughout their epic battles is the star-crossed and poignant story of Ao Rue's great love for the stunning Nú-kua.

READERS' PRAISE FOR *FIRE AND FUR*:

"... best dragons I've ever seen ... cinematic descriptions ... finally some real love, emotion and humor in a fantasy novel ... painfully beautiful ... passionate, sensual ... loved the sarcastic cat ... bittersweet ... full of action ... awesome love scene in the thunderstorm ... heartbreaking ... best adolescent hero since *Catcher in the Rye*."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Roger C. Schlobin is a professor of English at the North Central Campus of Purdue University. He holds a Ph.D. in Medieval Literature and Languages from Ohio State University. He has authored six scholarly books and edited over fifty. His various other publications include over one-hundred essays, various poems, short stories, reviews, and bibliographies that range over such varied topics as fantasy literature, pedagogy, science fiction, medieval and Arthurian literature, feminism, shamanism, linguistics, and microcomputer hardware and software. He is one of the founders of the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts and its conference and of the "Year's Scholarship in Science Fiction and Fantasy." Currently, he is the editor of *The Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*.

When not writing or teaching, he dreams of a female dragon; tinkers with "Baby" (his souped-up 1977 Datsun 280Z); chases great food, drink, and riverwalks; takes occasional photographs; collects dragons and t-shirts; plays computer games; hangs out in a Northern Indiana hamlet; and still mourns the passing of his own silver-mackerel tabby, the great Joshua Thunderpussy.

Fire and Fur is his first novel ... a sequel is in the works ... the characters won't leave Schlobin alone, especially the mouthy cats.

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SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS & INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Even after this installation, please do take the time to read Firefur.txt (or READ1ST.TXT or README.1ST; they're the same). The TXT files can be read by Windows' File Manager.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

To view this electronic book, you must have an IBM-compatible PC (386 or higher is recommended) with VGA or better video resolution. It must have Microsoft Windows 3.1 installed.

This electronic book has been tested using the common color video resolutions of VGA, 640x480x256, 800x600x256, and 1024x768x256, and so should work for them. For maximum clarity and readability, it is recommended that you use as high of a video resolution as your system allows, up to 1024x768x256. Higher resolutions, which should be even better for reading the WinHelp file, have not been tested. Consult your Windows documentation for how to increase your resolution if that is possible for your particular video card and monitor combination.

No guarantee is given that this electronic document, especially the SoftLock program, will work properly on succeeding versions of Windows (e.g., Windows 4.0), or with Windows 3.1 emulators (such as Windows NT or OS/2 2.x). Contact OmniMedia for more information about upgrades for new versions of Windows.

All further technical details mentioned in this file are specific to Windows 3.1 installations.

Three final and **important** notes:

First, this electronic book is written using the Arial TrueType font, which is part of the normal installation for all Windows 3.1 systems. If you have removed this font from your system, for whatever reason, the file will not appear as it was authored (though it may look similar or at least readable). It is recommended that you reinstall the Arial TrueType font if you have removed it from your system.

Second, a very small number of Windows users have had some difficulties in properly reading all of the characters for reasons that are not completely known, though evidence points to bugs at the user end. The usual difficulties encountered have been left and right single and double quotes not being reproduced properly, as well as other characters not being reproduced properly such as the copyright and trademark symbols, bullets and em-dashes. Do contact OmniMedia if you observe any anomalies regarding characters and/or fonts.

Third, both the background and foreground (text) colors have been hard-coded in this WinHelp format file. If you have color vision challenges which make it difficult to read all or part of this document (and not because you don't like the colors), please contact OmniMedia and special arrangements will be considered.

VIEWING/INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

There are several ways to view and, if desired, install the WinHelp format document on your Windows 3.1 system. Two will be given below. If you are not very familiar with Windows, it is recommended that you print out this section for step-by-step instructions. Of course, it is also recommended that you consult your Windows manual should any questions arise or these instructions don't work for you. No matter what approach you use to view this electronic book, you must NOT change the name of the WinHelp file (firefur.hlp). If you do inadvertently change the filename, you won't be able to view the locked portion of it, even with a valid password.

(Note: it is probable that you downloaded or received this electronic book as a single archive file, probably in Zip format (look for a .ZIP extension to the file name). If you did, you first of all need to find software which can extract the original files from the archive. For Zip files, look for the utility pkunzip.exe (which is Shareware) or some other unzip utility, downloadable from many BBS and the Internet.)

Here are the two ways to view and install this electronic book:

1. If you just want to view the electronic book without permanent installation (e.g., for evaluation purposes), place ALL the files (the list of needed files is in the prior section), into one directory anywhere on your hard disk. Then, from File Manager within Windows, locate the WinHelp file (FIREFUR.HLP) and click on it. The Windows Help file viewer, winhelp.exe, will automatically be executed and the electronic book will be displayed. ENJOY!
2. For a more permanent installation with a convenient icon, it is advisable to first create a special directory on your hard disk and copy all the files into that directory. If you acquire more books from OmniMedia in the future and copy their files into the same

special directory, you will save on disk space since several files are shared in common by all of OmniMedia's electronic books (for example, the SoftLock DLL files). As an example, which will be used for the explanation below, this directory path could be named **C:\WINDOWS\BOOKS**.

The next step is to either select or create the program group into which you will place the title FIRE AND FUR (or whatever you want to call it -- it need not be in caps). In the following instructions, select or type what is in **boldface**. If you don't already have a special program group for electronic books, you need to create one.

To create a new program group which could be called, for example, OMNIMEDIA BOOKS (it need not be all in caps), simply go to the FILE menu of your Program Manager, select **NEW, PROGRAM GROUP, OK**, and then in the box labeled DESCRIPTION, enter the string **OMNIMEDIA BOOKS** (or whatever else you want to call the program group), then press **OK** (leave the GROUP FILE box empty).

Once the program group, whether old or new, is selected, then, from Program Manager select **FILE, NEW, PROGRAM ITEM**, and **OK**.

At this point, you have three text boxes to fill. For the **DESCRIPTION** box, enter **FIRE AND FUR** (or whatever else you want the application icon to be called - it need not be in caps); for the **COMMAND LINE** box, enter **C:\WINDOWS\WINHELP.EXE FIREFUR.HLP**; for the **WORKING DIRECTORY** box, enter **C:\WINDOWS\BOOKS**. Then, to select the icon, click on **CHANGE ICON** and attach the file **BOOK.ICO** from the directory **C:\WINDOWS\BOOKS** to this application using **BROWSE** to locate it. Then, click **OK** twice to finish.

Now, your selected program group should contain an icon of a book with the name FIRE AND FUR underneath it. Just click on the book icon whenever you want to read it!