

## SPECULATIVE FICTION REVIEW by Stephanie Young

TITLE            *Brothers In Arms*  
AUTHOR        Lois McMaster Bujold  
PUBLISHER     Baen  
COPYRIGHT    1989  
PRINTING      1994  
COVER ART     Alan Gutierrez

Continuing along the timeline in the Miles Vorkosigan series, this book is the one where we first meet Mark. Mark is a clone of Miles created by a vengeful Komarran bent on getting his final revenge on the 'Butcher of Komarr', Miles' father Aral.

The story is set on Earth as the Dendarii are forced to go to get the medical needed for a few crew member severely injured in the escape on Dagoola IV (this was one of the novellas in *Borders of Infinity*). While there Miles runs into his cousin Ivan and is assigned as Lt. Vorgosikan, to work in the embassy under a Komarran born Captain Galeni who is head of security at the Barrayaran embassy on Earth.

The plot thickens as the Cetagandans get wind of Admiral Naismith (Miles' alter ego as leader of the Dendarii mercenary fleet) and try to assassinate him. Add to that a messy problem when a couple of his crew on leave destroy a wine shop and a more insidious plot to replace Miles Vorkosigan with the clone, and you have the makings of a typical Bujold story; twisted, action-packed and humorous. No one writes this kind of stuff better than Bujold. The ending is excellent and the gut-wrenching decisions Miles has to make regarding his clone brother are strong emotional moments.

I enjoyed this more the second time because I know what is going to happen with Mark which makes the ending even more intense. On the other hand, it is fun to see where Mark surfaces again (although once you read *Mirror Dance* fun is not the term you will use) and how Bujold ties it all together. That is one of the great strengths of this series - the seamless way seemingly insignificant details all tie in from one book to another.

This book is a big step forward in the quality of this series and it just gets better. Please, read this series, you will be glad you did!

Rating 