

## SPECULATIVE FICTION REVIEW by Stephanie Young

TITLE            *The Warrior's Apprentice*  
AUTHOR        Lois McMaster Bujold  
PUBLISHER     Baen  
COPYRIGHT    1986  
PRINTING      1988  
COVER ART     Alan Gutierrez

**Précis**            Miles Vorkosigan washed out of the Imperial Military academy when he is injured during the physical portion of the tests. This is because of his brittle bones resulting from attempt on his father's life while he was in his mother's womb. Despondent about his failure and laden with guilt, he chooses to go to Beta Colony to visit his maternal grandmother.

He *accidentally* gets involved in a minor issue that leads to his forming the Dendarri Mercenaries under the guise of Admiral Miles Naismith - his middle name and his mother's maiden name - to hide his true identity as a Vor lord. The adventures get more convoluted as the story progresses and he has to defend himself in the Vor council on charges of treason. Always being the quick thinking, and even faster talker, he manages to come out ahead in the end.

**Protagonist**     Miles Naismith Vorkosigan  
**Antagonist**     Too many to name

**What I liked**     The snappy dialogue, unique solutions to problems, excellent pace and a fun story.

**What I didn't like**     The plot is a little too convoluted and the whole mercenary reaction to Miles a bit contrived.

**Final Comments**     This is third book chronologically in the Vorkosigan saga and the first starring the main character of Miles. It was the first book published and it is clear that the writing is good but not as sharp as it will get in later volumes. I like this story a lot but on the second reading, I did find the plot a little busy and I still find it hard to believe that even the fast talking Miles could con so many battled hardened mercs.

On the other hand, Bujold does a terrific job of opening up her characters emotions and you can't help but get pulled in by them. Of all the authors I have read multiple books by, McMaster does this better than anyone. The great thing about reading this series again is I know how much better the writing gets with each novel.

**Rating**     🍌 🍌 🍌 🍌 🍌