

SPECULATIVE FICTION REVIEW by Stephanie Young

TITLE *Cetaganda*
AUTHOR Lois McMaster Bujold
PUBLISHER Baen
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PRINTING 1996
COVER ART Gary Ruddell

This installment of the Vorkosigan saga is set after *The Vor Game* and in between the stories in *Borders of Infinity* (both of which are reviewed on my web site). Miles and his cousin Ivan are sent to the home world of the Cetagandan Empire to attend the funeral of the Empress. Before they even get to the planet, their shuttle is visited by a Ba (a servitor of the haut women) who leaves a strange device behind and ends up murdered later in the hall where the Empress lies in state.

This sucks Miles in to a situation rife with internal politics involving the various levels of society in Cetaganda. Miles manages to use the Barraryan ambassador, the ghem Colonel assigned to investigate the murder and even Ivan in his twisted plans to solve the mystery and clear Barraryar of any embarrassment. As always, Miles uses his mouth and his wits to accomplish his goals, and in the end manages to gain the respect of some Cetagandans.

This is a mainstream story and while fun to read and intriguing is not particularly riveting. It is clear that by this book, Bujold is very comfortable in the Vorkosigan universe and is setting the table for many more novels. If you like Miles you will enjoy the book thoroughly. If you haven't read Miles yet, start with the earlier books to get a feel for the world and this book will more enjoyable.

Rating 
The rating consists of five star-shaped icons. The first four are gold and the fifth is grey, indicating a 4.5-star rating.