

SPECULATIVE FICTION REVIEW by Stephanie Young

TITLE *Star Trek: Articles of the Federation*
AUTHOR Keith R. A. DeCandido
PUBLISHER Pocket Books
COPYWRIGHT 2005
PRINTING 2005 (Palm Reader Format)

As you may have noticed, I read this on my PDA. I don't read a lot of books on it, but since I have it with me almost always, I sneak in a few pages (chapters) while waiting in line, somewhere I didn't bring the current book I am reading or in the car at night (it has a backlit screen).

I haven't read a *ST* novel in ages, surprising considering I'm a huge fan of the various series and films (The original series is still my fav though). In fact I only read this because my partner is being Tuckerized by Mr. DeCandido in an upcoming *ST* novel. If you don't know what that means send me an email and I'll explain.

To sum this book up it's *Star Trek* does *West Wing*. DeCandido chronicles the first year of newly elected President of the Federation – Nanietta Bacco. She is the first human female to hold the office and her predecessor has just resigned for obscure reasons.

There are several crises, most minor but a couple are major. That involves a shipload of Remans who are speeding toward a Federation Outpost. They appear to want asylum but it gets way more complicated, involving the Romulans and the Klingons.

There is also a plot line dealing with the resignation of the previous president which is interesting. Around these two main storyline are small problems, relationships within Bacco's staff and her constant battles with the Federation Council.

DeCandido gives Bacco and some of the characters around her a good mix of fears, doubts, joys and quirks to keep them interesting but overall I found the book a little dull. Maybe if I had watched *West Wing*, I would have found the story more interesting.

If you are dying to find out more about the inner workings of the Federation government, or can't pass up *any* book in the *ST* universe, then get this book. Personally I much preferred the *Ashes of Eden* series by Shatner and the Reeves-Stevens.

I give it 2.5 rings of Saturn.
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