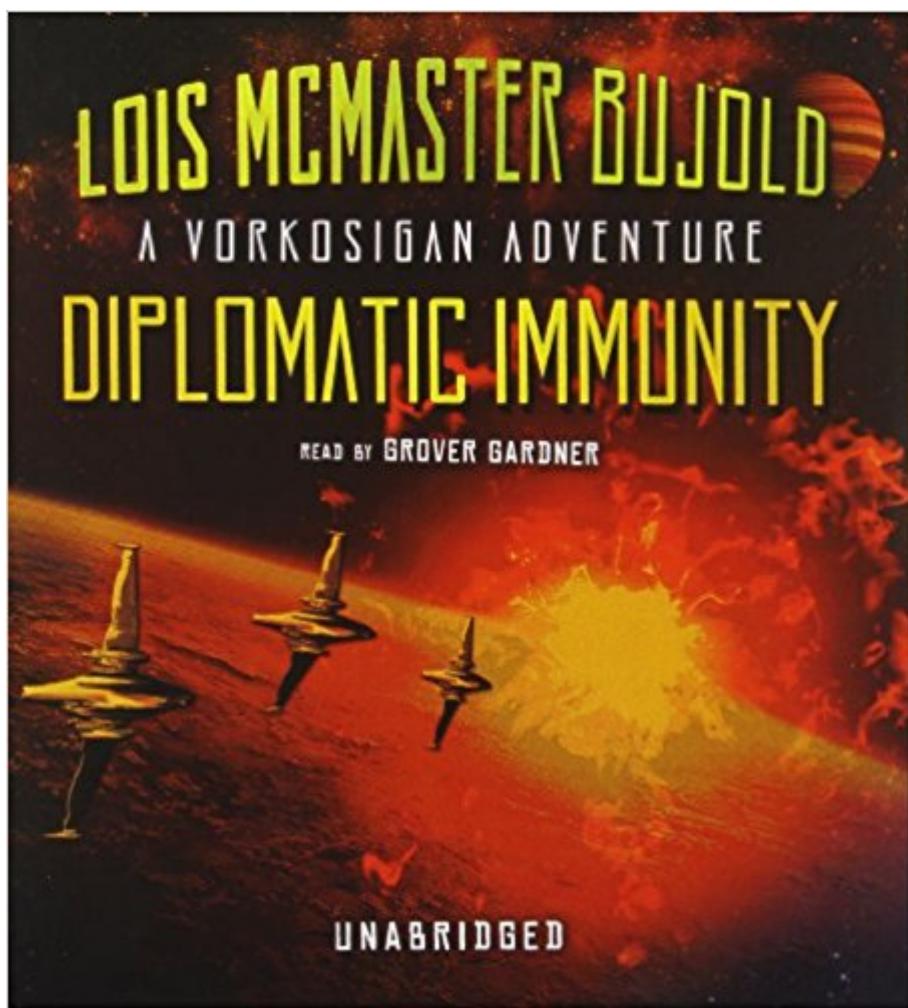


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Diplomatic Immunity (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures)



Synopsis

[Read by Grover Gardner] A rich Komarran merchant fleet has been impounded at Graf Station in distant Quaddiespace after a bloody incident involving the convoy's Barayaran military escort. Lord Miles Vorkosigan and his wife, Lady Ekaterin, have other things on their minds, such as getting home in time to attend the long-awaited births of their first children. But when duty calls in the voice of Barayar's Emperor Gregor, Miles, as imperial auditor, has no choice but to answer. -- Waiting on Graf Station are diplomatic snarls, tangled loyalties, old friends, new enemies, racial tensions, lies and deceptions, mysterious disappearances, and a race with time for life against death in horrifying new forms. The downside of being a high-level troubleshooter comes when trouble starts shooting back.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fans won't find this surprising in the least, but Miles Vorkosigan--the plucky, short-statured hero of Lois McMaster Bujold's beloved series--is uniquely incapable of having an uneventful honeymoon. Between a racially fueled diplomatic dispute, the appearance of a hermaphroditic old flame, and a bizarre Cetagandan genetic conspiracy, Miles just can't seem to get a minute of peace with his new wife, the lovely and resourceful Ekaterin (whom Miles courted in *A Civil Campaign*). Miles had hoped to give "hands-on op games" a rest once and for all, but when the Emperor urgently calls on him to resolve a "legal entanglement" in Quaddiespace, diplomacy alone might prove inadequate.

(Quaddies, you'll remember, are the no-legged, four-armed free-fallers introduced in Falling Free.) Our newly minted Imperial Auditor almost immediately forgets all about "Baby's First Cell Division" (after the assignment comes in, Ekaterin quickly observes "You know, you keep claiming your job is boring, Miles, but your eyes have gone all bright"), but even Miles feels the heat after his diplomatic attempts devolve into a series of flattering assassination attempts. Vorkosigan (and family now!) is as winning as ever, with Bujold offering up her usual fun mix of space-opera action and droll social commentary in a character-centered plot. And here's a bonus for Milesophiles and Vorkosiga novices alike: a book-by-book timeline detailing what trouble Miles got into and when. --Paul Hughes --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Those who have followed Bujold's superb far-future saga about the undersized and unorthodox warrior, Miles Vorkosigan, will heave a sigh of relief as our hero and his beloved Ekaterin enjoy wedded bliss (including looking at "baby pictures," i.e., a sperm fertilizing an egg) on a belated galactic honeymoon until a diplomatic crisis intrudes. As a Bararrayan Imperial Auditor, Miles must look into a murder whose investigation is complicated by the boorish behavior of the Bararrayan military. When the case develops a host of new angles, Miles wonders, "How many angles can dance on the head of a pin?" A seemingly straightforward crime leads him to mass murder, kidnapping, hijacking, biological warfare and Cetagandan genetic politics, all on an orbital habitat of the quaddies (the genetically engineered four-armed humans introduced in the author's Nebula Award winning Falling Free). Preventing interstellar war is a tough job, but fortunately Miles has his lady working beside him, in the best tradition of Nick and Nora Charles or Peter Wimsey and Harriet Vane. As usual, Bujold is adept at world-building and provides a witty, character-centered plot, full of exquisite grace notes such as the description of quaddie ballet (hint: four arms and no gravity make many things possible). Established fans will be thoroughly gripped and likely to finish the book in a single sitting. While this isn't the best place to start for new readers, they'll be helped by a concise chronology at the end that neatly sums up Miles's earlier adventures. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

I am a Vor fan, have all of the books, mostly in hardcover, and have downloaded most on to my Kindle. Mile's search for a Lady Vorkosigan has gained a bit of momentum in the last books, he is a Vorkosigan, after all, I knew if he picked Bararraya it would be a matter only of time before a wife became a major issue. After a Love Story that begins in Murder and Mayhem, is pursued in intrigue, & events that bring social farce to a new height, we finally get to see Miles back in the thick of it with

a wife that not only understands him, but who can manage to assist him in his work without the outrage and exasperation of most people who, not knowing Miles, figure he's either demented, or up to no good!(Snicker) I usually reread the series every 5 years or so, happily Ms Bujold is kind enough to keep adding to the series. Despite the physical damage Miles keeps acquiring, may he live long, Bararray, & his fans need him to be around for as long as possible.

I bought Diplomatic Immunity a while back. Knowing I will be hooked and not just satisfied with one book, I held off reading it until another new book on Miles is available. Strange reason.., maybe. However after the disappointing Hallowed Hunt, I just need to reassure myself that Bujold is still a great writer. I am not disappointed. Diplomatic Immunity may not be the best of the Miles series but it is still a great read and definitely heads above Hallowed Hunt. And of course there is Miles. Intense and quirky, Miles is easily the most memorable and lively character in sci-fi/fantasy today. He is definitely Bujold's greatest creation and it is just so easy to plunge into another crazy adventure with this idiosyncratic but adorable character. No one is disputing Bujold's talent in fantasy. The first book in the Chalion series proves that. But after the lame second and third book in the Chalion series, it is time for Bujold to return to the enigmatic sci-fi world of Miles.

As always, it's wonderful to rejoin Miles and his various companions. Bel Thorne's reappearance is particularly welcome, and it's heartening to see that yes, there is life after 30. ;) The mystery is fascinating, as a plot that seems obvious quickly becomes downright tangled. So this novel is well worth reading. And as always, I'm impressed that Bujold's novels can range from military adventure, to romance, to politics, to mystery while still making each novel interesting to a sci-fi reader. But...the book is somewhat disappointing in that it is short on the usual humor that usually makes Bujold's work so delightful, and rather short in length as well. I'd have to say that the last third of the book is up to her usual quality (Miles starts joking again!) while the beginning of the book is a bit slow. I'm giving this book four stars compared to the average novel, because even Bujold's lesser works are better than a great many other books. Compared to Bujold's other works, however, I'd give it two stars. And as others have stated, this is not the best starting point for new readers.

As I've grown older, I've grown more selective of the science fiction that I've read. But I still rush to the web whenever a new Lois McMaster Bujold novel comes out. I'm still amazed that Bujold doesn't have a wider following among science-fiction fans. Given her four Hugo awards, Bujold should roll off the tip of the tongue as quickly as Henlein, Asimov, or Bradbury.DIPLOMATIC

IMMUNITY is another book in the Miles Vorkosigan series. Like other Bujold heroes, Miles does not conform to the standard space opera hero stereotype. Debilitated by a terrorist attack while in vitro, Miles is a brilliant, devious, hyper-energetic mind trapped in an abnormally short, hunch-backed, fragile body. In this addition to the series, the Emperor of Barryar interrupts Miles and his new wife on their honeymoon to embroil him in a convoluted diplomatic struggle involving the 'quaddies' (a race of humans genetically modified for optimal zero-G living who have arms in place of legs), the Cetagandans (the ancient enemies of Barryar), and a mysterious cargo. As Miles pulls the threads to this knot all hell breaks loose, and Miles must use his lightning wit and endless energy to somehow prevent a new war between his planet and the Cetagandans and a bio-terrorist threat on the entire quaddie race. Bujold has chalked another of my sleepless night up to her exciting and fast-paced novels. Even though I was vastly entertained, I found this book a little disappointing. While other Miles books often had a more serious undercurrent of the difficulties of Miles living in the militaristic Barriayan society and his unquenchable desire to succeed despite his handicaps, this book is more of a straight adventure story with little character growth. While one of the weaker books in the entire series, fans of Miles should still find this book very entertaining and a worthwhile read. As a note for those new to the Vorkosigan books, don't start here. Instead, check out the collection of the first Miles books in YOUNG MILES or start off even earlier and learn about Miles's parents and the Barriayan society in the collection CORDELIA'S HONOR. Dav's Rating System: 5 stars - Loved it, and kept it on my bookshelf. 4 stars - Liked it, and gave it to a friend. 3 stars - OK, finished it and gave it to the library. 2 stars - Not good, finished it, but felt guilty and/or cheated by it. 1 star - I want my hour back! Didn't finish the book.

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