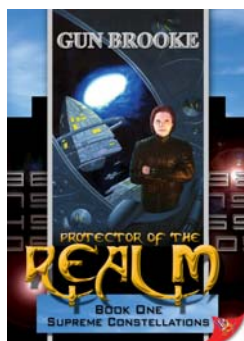


Book Review: January 2006

by Anita Moyt (reviewer at *Family & Friends*, Mag.)



Protector of the Realm

Book One Supreme Constellations

Gun Brooke

ISBN: 1-933110-26-0

Trade paper, 360 pp, \$15.95

December, 2005

Lesbian Speculative Fiction/Romance

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Family & Friends
Magazine

Email: familymag@aol.com

Patricia Pair
Editor-in-Chief
& *Publisher*

This sci-fi novel, the first of a trilogy of Kellen O'Dal, the lifelong protector of a small child with royalty running through his veins, and Commodore Rae Jacelon, who first meets her future wife in an altercation in the area of space she and her team are patrolling, is spell-binding, touching, amazing and incredible.

Brooke is an amazing author, and has written in other genres. Never have I read a book where I started at the top of the page and don't know what will happen two paragraphs later.

She keeps the excitement going, and the pages turning. In a century when marriage is recognized between two adults and gender is not an issue, Brooke shows that love and romance and passion can grow. Likewise, she reveals to us the soft vulnerable side of these two strong, battle-hardy women.

Let's just say, I can't wait for the second in the trilogy to see what happens next.

This sci-fi novel, the first of a trilogy of Kellen O'Dal, the lifelong protector of a small child with royalty running through his veins, and Commodore Rae Jacelon, who first meets her future wife in an altercation in the area of space she and her team are patrolling, is spell-binding, touching, amazing and incredible.

Brooke is an amazing author, and has written in other genres. Never have I read a book where I started at the top of the page and don't know what will happen two paragraphs later.

She keeps the excitement going, and the pages turning. In a century when marriage is recognized between two adults and gender is not an issue, Brooke shows that love and romance and passion can grow. Likewise, she reveals to us the soft vulnerable side of these two strong, battle-hardy women.

Let's just say, I can't wait for the second in the trilogy to see what happens next.

Reprinted with permission.



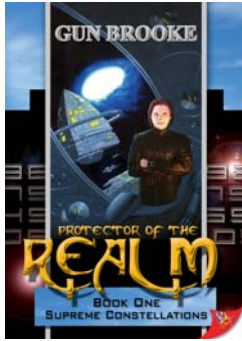
Order from these Distributors:

CDS.....800 343-4499 Baker & Taylor.....800 775-1100
Ingram.....800 937-8000 Bookazine....800 548-3855

Direct from BellaDistribution
800 533-1973

Book Review: February 2006

by Kathi Isserman (reviewer at [JAW](#))



Protector of the Realm

Book One Supreme Constellations

Gun Brooke

ISBN: 1-933110-26-0

Trade paper, 360 pp, \$15.95

December, 2005

Lesbian Speculative Fiction/Romance

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Just About Write

Web site:

www.justaboutwrite.com

Nann Dunne
*Editor-in-Chief
& Publisher*

Gun Brooke has done it again with only her second novel; *Protector of the Realm* hooked me at once with the riveting opening scenes of an intergalactic space fight where Commodore Rae Jacelon takes Kellen O'Dal prisoner. The action never ceases until the last pages are read.

When Rae captures Kellen and holds her on her space station, she learns that Kellen is wanted on kidnapping charges. She has abducted Armeo M'Aido, a young boy, and future heir to the kingdom, supposedly in her care. Kellen's accuser Ambassador M'Ekar claims that Armeo is a relative through his deceased wife, and has been pursuing Kellen. The story doesn't ring true to Rae after she discovers that Kellen was seriously injured trying to escape from M'Ekar. With conflicting accounts from both parties, Rae Jacelon, with the help of her father, Admiral Jacelon, tries to get to the bottom of the truth, but there are forces working against her. To protect Kellen and Armeo from further injury or possible death, Rae is forced to marry her and remain that way for five years so she can become a Supreme Constellation citizen with rights. Neither woman is happy with that choice, but the young Armeo must be shielded from any potential harm.

Gun Brooke has fashioned an enticing love story filled with electrifying conflicts to get this reader's heart racing. The action progresses from the rapid-fire battles, to a possible romance beginning with a forced marriage. While the author sets it up as a marriage of convenience, we are not fooled because the tension is present between Rae and Kellen instantly. Using the characters' thoughts, the reader is treated to a promise of eventual passion. But *Protector of the Realm* doesn't give away anything too early, keeping the reader completely engrossed throughout.

Character development and the smooth interweaving of multiple plots are the book's strengths. Rae Jacelon is truly a heroic character. She is honorable and noble and chooses to protect Kellen and Armeo because it is right, never questioning whether she will put herself in danger by doing so. While Kellen doesn't trust Rae throughout most of the story because of her fear for Armeo's safety, Rae is above reproach, and the reader sees that immediately. Kellen and Rae's mutual distrust of each other, along with Rae's deep seated feeling of unworthiness, cause much angst for the two. Both are tortured by their developing feelings that they do not act on. It takes some time for the passion to ignite fully, but the doubts still linger. Brooke handles this well by giving the reader sweet release along the way, but drawing out all of Rae's and Kellen's issues and insecurities. Their pasts must be examined and revealed before they can hope for a future.

We slowly and methodically find out the truth behind who Armeo, Kellen and M'Ekar are and how they are connected. The answers are complicated and show the strength of Brooke's storytelling abilities. She never takes the straight path and develops a history that continually unfolds up to the book's ending. It is imaginative and spellbinding. We are left wanting more.

Protector of the Realm has it all; sabotage, corruption, erotic love and exhilarating space fights. Gun Brooke's second novel is forceful with a winning combination of solid characters and a brilliant plot. The book exemplifies her growth as inventive storyteller and is sure to garner multiple awards in the coming year.

Reprinted with permission.



Order from these Distributors:

CDS.....800 343-4499 Baker & Taylor.....800 775-1100
Ingram.....800 937-8000 Bookazine....800 548-3855

Direct from BellaDistribution
800 533-1973