



Legacy Systems

Sharon Lee , Steve Miller

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Two stories of ancient computer systems and the changes they bring to the Liaden Universe.

Intelligent Design

When a spaceship's inquisitive cabin boy finds a surplus crate of spare parts at a warehouse, all he knows is that he wants it very much. His older cousin's willing to see him buy it, but not quite so understanding when it comes time to connect the dots.

The Space at Tinsori Light

Sometimes in chaotic moments the panic button is all that's left. Sometimes it saves you, and sometimes it takes you to the Space at Tinsori Light.

Liaden Universe is a registered trademark owned by Sharon Lee and Steve Miller

Legacy Systems Details

Date : Published February 5th 2012 by Pinbeam Books

ISBN :

Author : Sharon Lee , Steve Miller

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Science Fiction, Space, Space Opera

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Beth says

Interesting. :)

I didn't realize that Er Thom was mildly not a fan of dramliza though. His youngest will present a shock -- I'd actually like to read his reaction to that.

Kathleen says

3.5 for Intelligent Design, the somewhat poignant, somewhat obscure, and fairly suspenseful story of how Jeeves came to become butler at Trealla Fantrol, and eventually at Jelaza Kazone. We see Shan, Val Con, and Er Thom, and glimpses of the family, at Trealla Fantrol.

Read it online, **FREE at the Baen books website**: <http://www.baenebooks.com/10.1125/Bae...>
or here: <http://www.baen.com/IntelligentDesign...>

Intelligent Design is very short -- too short -- but I enjoyed it. The story itself was decent, and I liked seeing Shan's brotherly love for young Val Con. I also appreciated getting a peek into home life, especially seeing how the whole clan stood behind Anne when society shunned her, a Terran.

The setting moves from Liad (at Trealla Fantrol) to Pomerloo, a distant planet. The story takes place when Shan and Val Con are apprentice trader and cabin boy, respectively, serving on *Dutiful Passage* under Captain Er Thom yos'Galan (Shan's father, Val Con's uncle). I'd guess the boys are about 12 and 17, maybe. The POV switches from Jeeves to Val Con, frequently.

We learn why Jeeves is devoted to Val Con, and to Clan Korval. We learn what he is — an Independent Artificial Military Module (IAMM). Originally, he was designed, built, and commissioned to protect and defend life. Specifically, Jeeves is (view spoiler) This partially explains Jeeves's role in *I Dare*..

We learn how Jeeves got his name (I had wondered) and learn more about old Terra / Earth.

Supporting characters: Er Thom and his lifemate Anne, their "retiring" butler, a kind man (Ban Del pak'Ora), and his dastardly Delm Ranvit, and a nefarious female trader. As short as this story is, Merlin the cat is mentioned several times. Also mentioned are cousin Nova and a deceased character named Spode.

Quibbles: For Liaden Universe aficionados it's worth reading, because it fills in some blanks. I enjoyed it well enough, and have always loved Jeeves, so it's good to learn more about him. However, there is too much techno-babble, leaving limited words to round off the story. It felt very rushed at the end. I wanted to see the IAMM's transformation to butler. I wanted that rat-faced Ratvin to get her comeuppance. And as for the Pomerloo villain, I suppose Balance is forthcoming, or has it already occurred?

Still, quite happy to read about the origins of Jeeves, and get a view of Shan and Val Con, in their youth.

I didn't read the other story. Probably won't, unless it includes Korval characters.

Jeff Crosby says

As with most Liaden chapbooks, this contains two stories. The first story, Intelligent Design is important in the Liaden timeline in that it describes the origins of Jeeves. It is also quite engaging. The Space at Tinsori Light is of no real importance to the sequence, providing hints of old tech.

Paraphrodite says

4 stars.

The first story is about how a young Val Con, on his first off-world trip as Cabin-boy to his Uncle Er Thom, found a crate with a supposedly "environmental" unit in a warehouse. This unit became Jeeves, who's not only Korval's butler but a most significant character within Clan Korval. Also good to see both Er Thom and Anne still alive and well in this story.

The second story is about Tinsori Light, again, another sentient being being kept more or less in line by the Sandaret Light Keeper. When a Korval pilot was attacked and did an auto-jump, he ended near Tinsori Light and was taken in to be repaired. This story occurs in the past but Tinsori Light and its occupants are mentioned again in *The Gathering Edge*, a very interesting development.

Rita C says

liked the first story better than the second one.

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

4/5; 4 stars; A-

The first story, Intelligent Design, is about a young Val Con out trading/shopping with Shan while they are both working on Dutiful Passage. Val Con finds a decommissioned, fully sentient, former defense command computer. It was boxed up and ready to be disposed of because the guy who was supposed to 'kill it' died first! The end result is that the new butler for Trealla Fantrol is born. Jeeves takes care of the house, the cats, the people and the defense of Korval valley.

The second story, Tinsori Light, might make more sense if a person had read the Crystal Soldier/Crystal Dragon books. It is set in the past and is the story of some old tech from the ancient enemy and the commitment of one yos'Phelium scout to help control it.

Mark Mcdaniel says

A decent addition.

A decent addition to the Liaden Universe series. This universe just keeps getting richer and richer with the addition of these shorter works!

Coyora Dokusho says

Both stories were good, dying for sequels >.<

Karen says

How Jeeves came to be.

Erin Penn says

Two in one chapbook with: "Intelligent Design" and "The Space at Tinsori Light"

Both books are sideways from the main story and can be read as stand alones.

"Intelligent Design" shows how Korval picked up their robot butler Jeeves, making it a must read for anyone who wants further background on the universe.

"The Space at Tinsori Light" is a trifle creepy and a reminder of the Legacy Systems left over from the previous war(s). Worth a read. Can give a hint of the past Lee & Miller haven't fully explored yet.

Both are pretty good stories but not shiny gems, solid work-a-day jewelry instead. Good reads, but not must-reads.

Howard2nd says

Stories to fill gaps, stories to thrill the mind

Characters we know, new characters we are glad to meet. Linden is painted in bold colors and these are more of the pigments.
