

Science fiction inspired by real life

By **Nicole Chillino**

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While this world might have its problems, they pale in comparison to those in Minoan space.

Tri-Lakes area resident Laura Reeve created a world recovering from a war that threatened to destroy the solar system. Her books, "Peacekeeper" and "Vigilante" take place in that world. The alternate universe was created, in part by drawing on Reeve's own experiences in the United States Air Force.

For her last assignment, Reeve was stationed in Sicily, Italy. Immediately before she transferred to the island, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty was signed by the United States and the Soviets. The treaty to draw down nuclear weapons allowed her the experience of escorting Soviet inspectors.

"It inspired the idea of two empires working on a treaty," she said.

Reeve's characters are composites of people she has known pushed beyond what would be normal for the world as it exists.

"I like the imagination part of writing; the storytelling and world-building," she said.

In order to create a science fiction world, she had to think of ways the civilization she wanted to create could have developed. Beginning at the time she wanted her story to take place, she had to work backward to give her civilization the technology she wanted it to have and why.

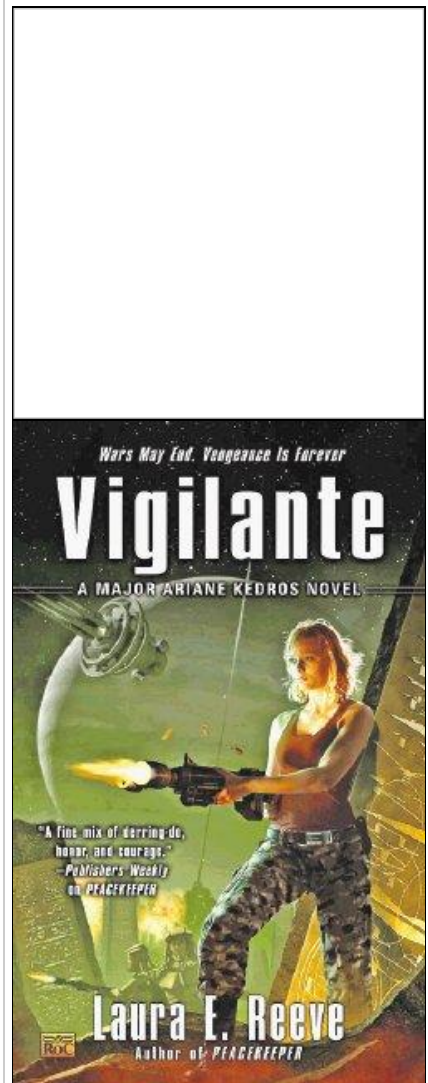
For instance, Reeve had to think of plausible reasons a civilization could develop the ability to travel faster than light in the near future. It took her about two to three years to build her science fiction world.

Reeve began working on her first book when she first got out of the Air Force in 1990, after which she put it aside for about a decade. Her first book, "Peacekeeper," was published in 2008 and her newest addition to a series of at least three novels, "Vigilante" will be out Oct. 6.

She describes her books as containing action and adventure with a bit of military flavor and said while the language in her books is clean, the technological level is geared toward adults.

Reeve will have a drawing for an advanced copy of "Vigilante" as part of a book signing at Covered Treasures Bookstore in Monument during this month's Art Hop, Sept. 17.

For more information about Reeve and her books, visit www.ancestralstars.com.



"Vigilante" is local author Laura Reeve's newest book. Courtesy graphic