


1635: Cannon Law

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Rome, 1635, and Grantville's diplomatic team, headed by Sharon Nichols, are making scant headway now it has become politically inexpedient for Pope Urban VIII to talk to them any more. Sharon doesn't mind, she has a wedding to plan. Frank Stone has moved to Rome and is attempting to bring about the revolution one pizza at a time. Cardinal Borja is gathering votes to bring the Church's reformers to a halt in their tracks, on the orders of the King of Spain. Meanwhile, trouble is brewing in the streets, shadowy agitators are stirring up trouble and Spain's armies are massed across the border in the Kingdom of Naples, Cardinal Barberini wants the pamphleteers to stop slandering him and it looks like it's going to be a long, hot summer. Except that Cardinal Borja has more ambitions than his masters in Madrid know about, and has the assistance of Spain's most notorious secret agent to bring about his sinister designs.

1635: Cannon Law Details

Date : Published September 26th 2006 by Baen (first published August 1st 2006)

ISBN : 9781416509387

Author : Eric Flint , Andrew Dennis

Format : Hardcover 420 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Alternate History, Fiction, Fantasy, Time Travel

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David says

As always, the story features strong well rounded characters and a story world that is easy to imagine. But this story feels more like the first half of a book than the fully story we usually get from Eric Flint's Ring of Fire universe. I was surprised I was at the end already because it felt like we had just reached a full realization of the problem, and the reaction phase has not yet started.

Jim says

From Publishers Weekly

Flint and Dennis's solid follow-up to *1634: The Galileo Affair* (2004), also set in Renaissance Italy, offers a deliciously Machiavellian plot. The temporally displaced modern Americans from Grantsville, W.Va., having met with a surprisingly friendly reception from Pope Urban VIII, who views with favor some of the 20th-century reforms instituted by the Holy See, run afoul of the Spanish inquisitor Cardinal Gaspar Borja y Velasco. Borja regards Urban's failure to condemn the whole lot to the stake as proof that the pope is unfit to sit on the throne of St. Peter, and believes that Spain's political and military power has earned it—and him—the right to pre-eminence. The cardinal orchestrates a campaign of dirty tricks and rabble rousing to undermine the pontiff's capable but nepotistic family. If this novel is not as rollicking as its predecessor, that may be because there really isn't anything funny about the Spanish Inquisition, Monty Python notwithstanding. (*Oct.*)

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From Booklist

Starred Review In the strong successor to *1634: The Galileo Affair* (2004), there is less theology, less humor, and far more action and bloodshed. All hell breaks loose at the behest of the insanely ambitious Cardinal Borja, who wants to extirpate American heresies and increase Spanish (and his own) control over the church. So he marches an army on Rome. In Rome are Sharon Nichols and her fiancé, the inimitable Ruy Sanchez, whose November-May romance continues to be one of the high points of this alternate-history saga; and also Frank Stone and his pregnant wife, Giovanna, trying to run a low-profile committee of correspondence. The action rises to a literally thunderous climax when Ruy and Tom Simpson (sprung from the Tower of London in a novel not yet published) rescue open-minded Pope Urban VIII from a besieged Castel Sant'Angelo. Meanwhile, Frank and Giovanna are at the mercy of the Inquisition, though Spanish outrage at the crisis Borja has created gives them breathing room, at least until the next volume. Meanwhile, this is probably the strongest book in this magnificent saga since the opening volume, *1632* (2000). *Roland Green*

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Chip Hunter says

This book picks up where *1634: The Galileo Affair* left off, with Frank and Giovanna starting up a

Committee of Correspondence and Sharon Nichols heading up the United States of Europe's embassy in Rome. The primary focus of the book is the political machinations within the Catholic church, with Spanish cardinals led by Cardinal Borja attempting to disrupt the effectiveness of the USE-friendly Pope's reign. There are also the more personal stories of Sharon and Ruy's blossoming love and wedding plans, as well as Frank's initial exploits as a tavern owner and revolutionary.

The book starts out rather slowly, not grabbing the reader's attention and not progressing towards any obvious conflict or resolution. On its own, the first half of the book was quite disappointing, I'd say a weak 3-star rating. Luckily, the second half of the book really picks up the pace and develops into a very dramatic and exciting finale. More up-timers become involved, including Tom and Rita Simpson and Sharon's father. War breaks out in Rome, finally providing some action to a series that has lacked substantial excitement in the last couple of books. Covert operations to pull allies out of the way of impending disaster, fully displaying the utility of up-time weapons, make for a great ending. The book concludes without wrapping up the situation in Rome, demanding that a sequel be published sometime soon.

Overall, better than the previous couple of books and advances the story (at least in Italy) around the Ring of Fire. Recommended for fans of the series.

Dan says

Always a joy to reread. 2018 re-read: really good - again with emphasis on 2nd string characters, yet just as good.

Luci says

This was a fun book. The only thing that gets tiresome is the near constant comments from the women regarding men and vice versa's. Some of the dialogue is stilted and there was some confusion in characters. Beyond that, the characters are fairly engaging and the plot interesting.

Djzoodude says

It was an interesting read. A little slow like The Galileo affair, decent ending. I think Flint is starting to have trouble challenging his characters though. The buildup to the ending was so great, that the resolution of conflict was almost disappointing. It seemed almost too easy, when in the buildup the events seemed to be racing far beyond control. I liked it, but not as much as some of the other books in the series. I also don't really like him taking the focus so much away from the USE. I guess there is another book on the way dealing with that, but personally I like that storyline much better. Though they do seem to have won the war now.

Nathan says

1635: Cannon Law is a thrilling read from start to finish that grips the reader in the tension of the story. The

characters are still extremely enjoyable from the charming old Catalan to Frank stone in his place. However the grand focus is on the ever changing world in the story and peoples reaction. From political intrigue in the Vatican, too Civil disorder in the streets, this tale brings a very human element to the plot. In the end it all adds to a really fun read. However I do suggest reading the Galileo affair before it barbecue the events there are important. All in all, in the end of the day this book can almost stand on its own to someone who has never read any of the 1630 series. Though it does have slow moments I think most readers would find it a favourable read and gladly add it to my own shelf.

Aaron says

Not too bad a book. I checked it out from the library but it probably isn't one I would go out of my way to buy.

Like the rest of the series it has a mix of cliché and stereotype and stock characters. They're given a pretty good treatment and the fact that it's done by a decent author and amused fans probably helps. The plot could (and does) verge on outrageous cliché. But it's redeemed by a certain tongue in cheek good humor.

It's a fun read, and surprisingly well researched, but it's not a very serious read by any measure.

John says

awesome

Debrac2014 says

Ruy and Tom were awesome! Good story!

Robert Scott says

Finished 01/12/2013. Another great story about the Embassy for the USE, The Citizens Committee, and a nutso Spanish Cardinal in Rome at the same time. The cardinal - Borja - is attempting to overthrow the papacy and declare himself or his puppet as pope. However essentially the whole scheme is overthrown by another Spaniard, the new husband of the USE ambassador.

Warren Dunham says

a fairly typical continuation in the series the book suffers from being too far from the beginning or the end. I love the concept time travelers in 17th century Europe changing things and creating an alternate history. It does put interesting things happening to interesting characters, though some like Ruy tend toward the cartoonist. Probably my favorite part is how it makes Political intrigues interesting. The series does suffer

from having multiple books running simultaneously, though.

What you want a recommendation? Start at the beginning of the series but be prepared to read the whole series or at least do a lot of research to figure out what book to read next since the numbering sequence is only vaguely helpful.

Daniel Bratell says

Italy is a mess of states, many under the control of Spain. Rome is its own though, but with a lot of unhappy Spanish cardinals after the Pope started reforming the church.

This is more or less a direct followup to 1634: The Galileo Affair with many of the same characters.

John Barclay says

I love this series. It's full of problems, but the basic fun of the idea just keeps on going. What if? That's the real fun. This one is full of Spanish and Italian doubledealing and plotting, which in a 17th C setting is only fitting.

And the characters are just fun.

Annette says

"Cannon Law" follows the adventures of Frank Stone, Ruy Sanchez, and the rest of the United States of Europe delegation to Rome as a rogue Spanish Cardinal seeks to usurp the Papal throne. This book moved faster than several in the series and had plenty of enjoyable action and character interactions mixed into the inevitable politics. Don't, of course, try to read it without the rest of the series: nearly all the characters are from former books and without the backstory it won't make much sense.
