

# REVIEWS FOR THE SAILS OF TAU CETI

## ★★★★★ **Awesome novel**

By [Lily](#) on November 28, 2016

Format: Kindle Edition | [Verified Purchase](#)

Had never heard of this author but he is such a great writer. The story is awesome and really keeps you intrigued. Highly recommended.

## ★★★★☆ **A Believable Story of Alien Invasion**

By [Alfred D. Byrd](#) on August 27, 2013

Format: Mass Market Paperback

Just as construction of the earth's first interstellar probe is nearly finished, humanity receives its first visitor from the stars. A light-sail powered craft is coming from the direction of a recent nova, Tau Ceti. Yes, hard-sf fen, Mr. McCollum does explain how Tau Ceti went nova!

When astronomers learn that the alien vessel is a decelerating generation ship, the interstellar probe is refitted for an ambassadorial mission and launched with a crew including Victoria "Tory" Bronson. A co-designer of the probe, she has a rare ability to receive direct input from computers without her becoming disoriented.

Reaching the generation ship, the earth's ambassadors grow sympathetic to its crew, the survivors of the Phelan, because of their courage in making a difficult, hazardous voyage to save a remnant of their species from destruction. The Phelan appear to the ambassadors to be gentle, peaceful, and eager to please, but are hiding a terrible secret.

This, Tory learns to her dismay when the Phelan blackmail her into being their agent. For the sake of humanity's survival, she must convince her people to grant the Phelan a homeland on the earth...

The Sails of Tau Ceti is a well worked-out story that presents the reader a plausible setting and motive for a threatened interstellar war that would be fought at sub-light speeds. The novel invites comparison with Niven and Pournelle's Footfall, though Sails is written on a more modest scale than its predecessor was. Sail's strongest points are its well worked-out setting and conflict and the internal struggle that Tory faces in being required to save humanity by appearing to betray it.

Sail's weakest point is that its writing tends in places to be dry and too technical. Also, I had a sneaking suspicion that the Phelan had failed to address a basic question: since they knew in advance that the earth is inhabited, why did they send refugees here?

Over all, however, The Sails of Tau Ceti is a fine example of that rarity, a believable story of alien invasion.

## ★★★★★ **Kept my interest**

By [Amazon Customer](#) on August 23, 2013

Format: Kindle Edition | [Verified Purchase](#)

Good ideas, and the science was true to our current level of knowledge and tec.

I hope this storyline could be continued...

## ★★★★☆ **A plausible story**

By [Colin V. Setterfield](#) on March 18, 2013

Format: Kindle Edition | [Verified Purchase](#)

Once again Michael McCollum has produced a great saga with very plausible content. His characters are believable and he has a knack of drawing the reader into the story

## ★★★★★ **Believable technology evolution**

By [SCiFi Freek](#) on December 19, 2012

Format: Kindle Edition | [Verified Purchase](#)

Michael has a way of bringing technology to the average person. He also brings the characters alive and their relationship plays a meaningful role to the plot.