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Half a decade after the Dominion War and more than a year after the rise and fall of Praetor Shinzon, the galaxy's greatest scourge returns to wreak havoc upon the Federation -- and this time its goal is nothing less than total annihilation.

Elsewhere, deep in the Gamma Quadrant, an ancient mystery is solved. One of Earth's first generation of starships, lost for centuries, has been found dead and empty on a desolate planet. But its discovery so far from home has raised disturbing questions, and the answers harken back to a struggle for survival that once tested a captain and her crew to the limits of their humanity.

From that terrifying flashpoint begins an apocalyptic odyssey that will reach across time and space to reveal the past, define the future, and show three captains -- Jean-Luc Picard of the *U.S.S. Enterprise*, TM William Riker of the *U.S.S. Titan*, and Ezri Dax of the *U.S.S Aventine* -- that some destinies are inescapable.

Gods of Night Details

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From Reader Review Gods of Night for online ebook

Alejandro says

The Destiny of the Federation begins here!

This is the first novel in a “Star Trek” book trilogy named “Destiny”

FEAR THE BORG!

The Federation has suffered more casualties from hostile action in the past five weeks than in all the previous wars of its history combined.

The Romulan War. The Cardassian War. The Dominion War. Even the Battle of Wolf 359.

None of those bloody conflicts of the Federation against opposite powers, combined, produced so many loses of lives as in the very first stage of a massive invasion of the Borg Collective.

Not only Starfleet vessels, but also whole Starbases, and even whole planets are suffering the rage of the Borg, that in an unexpected turn, instead of assimilating technology and species, they are just...

...destroying everything!

Obliterating without any single show of mercy.

Starships’ debris, Starbases’ floating pieces, dead worlds, are the only remnants in the ruthless wake of multiple Borg cubes, suddenly appearing everywhere in the Alpha and Beta Quadrants.

And they are just warming up!

FOUR STARSHIPS, FOUR DESTINIES

I'm required by regulations to remind you, Captain, that this is a really stupid thing to do.

This story is so big that four Starships, one of them even in a different time period, will be required to play pivotal roles with uncertain destinies, in a hopeless effort to avoid the extinction of the whole United Federation of Planets!

COLUMBIA – NX-02

In the middle of Twenty-Second Century...

Under command of Captain Erika Hernandez, the *Columbia* was escorting a civilian convoy of space vessels in an Alpha Quadrant sector, when it suffered an insidious attack by Romulans, forcing them to play a costly ruse, leaving it without Warp Speed and Subspace Communications, and away of common used routes.

While changes are never permanent, change is.

In the late of the Twenty-Fourth Century...

The *Columbia* is discovered, by the *USS Defiant*, in a deserted planet of the Gamma Quadrant, without any clue of how it could reach such far away position. However, its mystery will have to wait since the Dominion War is about to begin.

USS AVENTINE – NCC-82602

Under command of Captain Ezri Dax, the *Aventine* is doing an investigation about the discovery of the *Columbia*, some years ago, and while the Federation is short of vessels due the newly rising of Borg hostilities, Ezri Dax asked for some time on the *Columbia* since maybe the explanation of how that vessel was able to reach such far away place can be something useful against the Borg, but they haven't much time to perform the investigation.

Time is short, -- And the perfect is the enemy of the good.

The *Columbia* is empty, and it seems that it has been empty for a long, long time, however...

...*Aventine* crewmembers are starting to die while exploring the empty vessel.

USS TITAN – NCC-80102

Under command of Captain William T. Riker, the *Titan* is on its deep exploration mission (considered being to be too far away of Federation space to be recalled in the newly Borg invasion), when it discovered something odd...

...a whole Planetary System under some kind of cloaking.

USS ENTERPRISE – NCC-1701-E

Under command of Captain Jean-Luc Picard, the *Enterprise-E* has been the only Starfleet vessel really useful against Borg attacks, thanks to the advantage of being authorized to use the Top Secret Transphasic Torpedoes (technology from the future brought by the older Admiral Kathryn Janeway during the TV events of the *Star Trek: Voyager* finale “Endgame”), the only weapon that the Borg have been unable to be adapted against it, so far, but the Federation Council and Starfleet Command are worried that if that weapon is beginning to use widely by the whole fleet, the Borg will find a way to counter it, so, the decision is that only the *Enterprise-E* would be authorized to use that futuristic vantage.

Therefore, the rest of the fleet is falling like flies without doing much difference against the Borg raids, only a few of them have been successful against the Borg but with costly sacrifices.

This is a clash of civilizations, -- and it will end when one of us falls.

Captain Picard knows that the Federation won't be able to hold this bloody situation for much time. The Borg cubes are appearing deep in Federation territories without any early warning. The Borg are using something new to mobilize its cubes, and he had to find out what is, before it would be too late for everybody.

Denise Cameron says

If this was someone's fanfiction, I would say it's pretty good. But it's not.

The writing is problematic at parts. Most of the character interaction happens through teasing, which is boring and in some cases, odd. And then he takes two happy couples, and decides that the next logical step is babies. Fine, but both? And make one of them have very present-day Earth problems (miscarriages) with only present-day solutions? I don't remember Deanna ever even caring about having children, but now she's apparently completely unreasonable? And there could be a much more creative process here. Genetic manipulation, for one. It just feels tired, like he didn't know what to do next with a happy couple. *The Time Traveler's Wife* had the same problem.

I also really, really didn't like who he turned Dr. Beverly Crusher into. I didn't recognize her.

Zoidberg says

It's been a while since I visited the Star Trek novel universe. My biggest beef and the reason why I stopped was because at the end of every novel, it felt like there was a giant reset button that was pressed, and none of the characters would remember any of the events in the novel within the regular continuity of the series. Apparently that's been left behind, and I quite enjoy that point.

The book picks up with Captain Ezri Dax commanding her very own starship (how cute!! Last time I saw her she was frolicking around Deep Space Nine's Promenade with her boyfriend Bashir) Now she has some authority and knows how to take charge, apparently. I assumed that must have happened in some previous novel, because in the last season of Deep Space Nine she was mostly a gutless whiner (except that time she made out with mirror-universe Kira -- yowza!). Then the book jumps to Riker's ship, where him and Troi are having problems conceiving a kid, giving Troi a reason to mope around the ship and Riker an excuse to wimp out on command decisions. We also pay a visit to the Enterprise, where Picard and Crusher are going to have a kid. The big threat though, is the BORG! Yes, they're back with another badly-hatched techno scheme to ruin the Federation -- again. The Borg, the series' best villains, were overused in the days of *Voyager*, and there should be a ban placed on using them for the next few years. Oh, and there's some other captain on some old ship back in Archer's time doing some stuff, but none of that crap really matters because the Enterprise series was the reason the Star Trek franchise self-destructed.

I stopped reading at the point where I found out that Picard and Crusher were going to have a kid. I always wanted the two of them to get together during the series, but Picard with a kid?! That's way to much of a stretch for me. I closed the book up and decided maybe I should check out *New Frontier* or some other Star Trek series that doesn't involve the characters from any of the TV shows.

I had high hopes and really wanted to get back into the Star Trek novels, but alas, it's not to be.

Terence says

David Mack continues to show his strength as a ST author – fast paced adventures, good characterizations, well described space battles. The only complaint I would have in this first book of the *Star Trek Destiny* trilogy is that there’re too many *dramatis personae* – we’re following the crews of four starships, *Enterprise*, *Titan*, *Aventine* and *Columbia*. While Mack ably distinguishes most of his people, he still can’t develop them enough to make you care overmuch about them. Often he’s saved by the fact that half of the crews are already familiar to Trekkies from the TV shows and other novels.

In a personal aside, I’ve never been as interested in the post-TOS crews (Picard excepted) as with the original crew. And I’ve never liked where the canonical Star Trek went/is going. For example, Picard and Crusher get married? And they’re having a son? WTF?! (pardon my French) I know there’s supposed to be a history and a certain amount of sexual tension between the two (and Picard has lost what little family he ever had*) but Jean-Luc in a domestic setting is just *wrong*. Then there’s Riker. I never liked Riker (even after he got the beard) so his and Counselor Troi’s domestic travails don’t engage me.

However, despite what I consider flawed material, I still think Mack does a good job with it, and I can continue to recommend his work without guilt. (Though, alas, there’s no Vulcan/Klingon lesbian sex** in this trilogy.... At least not yet.)

* See the movie *ST: Generations****

** See my reviews of the *Star Trek Vanguard* series.

*** On second thought, don’t watch *Generations*, take my word that he’s lost his family. But, on third thought, *Generations* also gives us a glimpse of just how wrong a domesticated Picard is. No, on fourth thought, continue to trust me and don’t subject yourself to the movie.

Drew Widney says

Love the premise of the final showdown between the federation and the Borg. But the author just has way too many perspectives. There are way too many ships with their unique situations and each ship have large crews and it just becomes a jumbled mess. Committing to finishing the trilogy but damn, not some of Trek's best literature.

Chris says

I found this virtually unreadable.

I recently re-read The Entropy Effect, by Vonda Macintyre, which I first read around the age of 10. Now that's a pretty decent book. It's well written. The prose and dialogue are good. The characters are well rounded, whether they're original Trek characters or Macintyre's inventions - she deftly fleshes out characters like Flynn and Hunter better than Voyager managed in an entire series. You actually want to turn the page in order to find out what happens next.

Similarly, early Star Trek novelizations were by Alan Dean Foster and James Blish, both excellent writers.

So out of curiosity I dipped into contemporary Star Trek novels, and since I liked Deep Space Nine and Ezri Dax had a lot of potential, I tried out Gods of Night. The plot, for what it's worth, involves the wreck of the Columbia (from the Enterprise series), Ezri Dax, Will Riker, Captain Picard and some Borg.

Gods of Night is utter bilge. Dreadful, turgid writing. Endless dialogue between characters whose sole distinguishing features are their names. Prose that makes the eyeballs bleed. The most interesting events are told, not shown, and told very poorly at that. Moments that should be exciting struggle off the page, groaning under the weight of tedium.

I could write better fanfic than this, and I can't write for toffee. Pretty soon a computer could churn out something like this, and it still wouldn't pass the Turing test. It's quite possible there are still decent Star Trek books out there, but Gods of Night definitely isn't one of them and it certainly doesn't inspire me to seek them out: it really is unreadable.

Gary says

One of the best star trek book out there to finally find out how the borg came to be

Daniel Kukwa says

It's relentless, warp speed plotting -- aside from the Riker/Troi pregnancy issue, there isn't a lot of room for character development...and I find the Columbia crew to be rather cliched much of the time, especially the typically hard-nosed MACOs. But all that aside, this is EPIC plotting on a grand scale...and considering the juggling of characters, planets, and battles that occurs in this novel, you have to give David Mack credit for keeping all the balls in the air, and never once letting one of them fall to the ground. It's certainly a breathless beginning to the "Destiny" trilogy...let's see where it goes from here.

Stephen Osborne says

It's been a long, long time since I've read a Star Trek book, so I thought I'd just jump in and pick a spot to begin again. And it seems I chose well. The first book of the trilogy is well written and exciting, full of "character" moments as well as action. There are A LOT of characters, though. 631. I counted them. Luckily, Mack gives you tiny updates just in case you haven't read EVERY Star Trek book, or have forgotten key moments in the TV shows. And Ezri Dax has my favorite line, when told by another officer that she's, perhaps, not making the best judgement in wanting to lead a dangerous away mission. "Sam, what's the point of being a captain if I don't get to do something stupid once in a while?"

And I really didn't count all the characters. But there were 631.

James says

I wish Goodreads allowed me to give a 4-1/2 star rating. This book was almost perfect. I could not put it down and only had a few small complaints that would keep me from giving it a 5 star rating.

After reading a few of his books, I would say that Mack is one of the best Star Trek writers. He gives his stories a very human element and manages to make large casts very exciting. (I usually prefer smaller casts allowing you to focus on a few characters.)

In this book, he has an extremely large cast. Besides the Captains and crews of four starships, he also has scenes dealing with some of the other folks around the galaxy. He is telling a sweeping tale here that affects the entire Federation, so he tells you a bit about what is going on around the whole Federation.

The Borg are attacking again. Yeah, the Borg are over-used and honestly, I am sick to death of them. They haven't really been cool since "Best of Both Worlds." However, Mack does make them feel like a threat again. In fact, they feel like more of a threat even then when they were in "Best of Both Worlds." This fact almost kept me from reading the book, and did keep me from reading the TNG books that led up to this trilogy. I am just really bored of the Borg.

However, the book includes so much more. There are the personal stories as Picard deals with how the Borg affects him, Troi and Riker deal with trying to conceive a baby, Pazlar's dealing with being a low gravity person on a high gravity ship, etc., etc.. There is also the flashback tale of the USS Columbia (from the 22nd Century) making first contact with a powerful alien species. There are the mysterious deaths on the USS Aventure (Ezri Dax's ship). There is so much more than just the Borg....and it all ties together.

Speaking of Ezri, that is another thing that keeps this book from a 5 star rating. Like many folks on Goodreads, I just couldn't buy her as a Starship Captain. The last time we saw her in the show, she was still extremely unsure of herself and certainly did not seem like Captain material. Of course, she could grow, but the book never really tells us what changed her or demonstrates her as that strong of a leader.

Small complaints aside, this is a fantastic read that I couldn't put down. Then, it ends with a nice little cliffhanger. I'll be picking up book 2 as soon as I find a used copy. (I'm frugal, not cheap.) I can't wait to read the next book. 4 and a half stars!

Sarah says

"So, uh, we got this joined Trill who's a bit bungled up in the brain, ya know what I'm saying?"

"Like a bit on the neurotic side?"

"Exactly. The the funny things is, she's a counselor. On a space station."

"On a space station?"

"Yeah, that's what I'm sayin'. What um I s'posed tu do with a neurotic counselor?"

"Duh...."

::fingers snap::

"I got it! Make her a ship's captain. Make her totally unrecognizable. Problem solved. Bada-bing bada-boom."

"Ya think?"

"I ain't payin' ya to think. I'm payin' ya to write. Now shut up and churn us out some books."

Because we Trek fans are gullible enough to buy crappy books so long as it has the "Star Trek" logo on the cover.

Tyler says

I've been waiting for this day for years: finally embarking on the journey into the great unknown (for me) of Star Trek post-A Time To... fiction, really starting with the Destiny Trilogy.

This is a solid opener to the trilogy, and I'm not exactly sure what the overarching story will be, but I'm enjoying the journey so far!

Tanya Turner says

Review for the whole 'Destiny' trilogy.

I read a lot of Star Trek books and tend to rate them internally, so 5* for what I think is a good Trek novel, doesn't mean it is necessarily a good novel for anyone who isn't a fan. These three books are 1* Trek novels for a reason entirely related to the story, not the quality of the writing. I like Trek when it deals with a whole range of alien cultures, and does not put humankind at the centre of the universe. These novels are absolutely guilty of putting humanity at the centre of every problem, not just as the species resolving the issue but as the species who cause the issue, even when it originates in a different quarter of space. As even the (view spoiler) is due to human error I really can't recommend these books.

As I say, its a reason specific to my enjoyment of Trek, but it means I read these books with increasing frustration and couldn't recommend them even to another fan. This is no reflection on David Mack, whose work I have read and enjoyed in the past, but this time, it didn't work for me.

Jerry says

A different sort of space opera...but a good one. Can't wait to see where the story goes from here!

Michael says

The first in a trilogy of novels set in the post "Nemesis" "Trek" universe, "Destiny: Gods of Night" is one of the more entertaining and page-turning "Trek" novels I've read in a while. Credit a lot of that to author David Mack who in the course of the novel juggles at least four separate plot threads over several different eras of "Trek" history. If you've been wondering why the last Enterprise novel was advertised as part of the previous books in the series leading up to this, you'll find out why here.

The threat for the books is that the Borg are back and this time they're not taking any prisoners. The Enterprise is caught in a quandary--they've got a new weapon capable of taking out the Borg with one shot. But Starfleet is hesitant to use it too much for fear the Borg will adapt too quickly. As the Borg begin to send multiple ships to attack various Federation outposts and worlds, the crews of the Enterprise, the Titan and the ship commanded by newly-captained Ezri Dax must find a way to stem the tide and figure out how the Borg are so quickly infiltrating Federation space.

The novel does have one rather predictable point, related to events in the past with the starship Columbia. However, it does lead to the novel leaving off at an interesting crossroads, guaranteeing you'll come back for the second installment.
