



## A Time to Hate

*Robert Greenberger*

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Captain Jean-Luc Picard and his crew become caught in the middle of a violent outbreak of destruction between the Bader and Dorset races that have colonized the planet Delta Sigma IV as they race against time to stop the carnage and save their own lives. Original.

## A Time to Hate Details

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## From Reader Review A Time to Hate for online ebook

### Maurice Jr. says

Finally! After seven seasons and three movies, we get to see Commander Riker propose to Counselor Troi. Oh yeah, and there was also the conclusion to the Delta Sigma IV storyline as well :-).

Captain Picard and the Enterprise are doing their best to keep an entire planet from killing one another. Dr. Crusher has discovered why these once peaceful Bader and Dorset turned violent, but can she get a cure produced before it's too late?

Commander Riker and his father catch up to the first of the inhabitants to turn violent, and have to get him back to the capital so that Dr. Crusher and the Bader/Dorset doctors can study him and hopefully find a cure.

Lieutenant Vale and her security team are stretched to their limits trying to keep the peace. She has to get volunteers from the Enterprise to augment her forces and it's still not enough.

There was a lot going on in this story, and it had to be that way. I enjoyed watching the Enterprise crew claw and fight their way through yet another difficult mission as they strive to regain their good standing after the Rashanar incident. Three more books and we'll know all of what happened between the movies Insurrection and Nemesis.

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### Adam says

A Time to Give Up... almost. Perhaps the dictionary definition of *déjà vu*, the second volume in Robert Greenberger's contribution to the "A Time to" series left me in despair at the sheer amount of blatant filler and repetition spread copiously throughout the book.

The author had a solid premise in the first book - the idea that a society has been drugged to subdue their aggressive and violent tendencies is fascinating material to work with. Sadly, aside from a nice moral argument between Crusher and Picard (similar to the early TNG episode "Symbiosis"), Greenberger all but squanders the potential in favor of rote recapitulation of the same uninspired scenes over and over again.

Vast chapters sprawl out filled with Enterprise personnel trying to stem the violence on the planet and rebuild damaged infrastructure. That would be fine if these scenes actually contributed to advancing the plot, but they don't - they're just terribly repetitious. Enterprise security guards defending a hospital against a riot / Security team at a water plant / Security team at a power plant / Dr. Tropp's team rescuing an impaled Dorset woman / Kell joining an Enterprise security team at a market bazaar / Hoang repairing a power facility ... the list goes on and on and on. Uninspired and dull.

Then we get to the character of Anh Hoang. I lamented in my review for the first book that I feared her character would amount to nothing. Sadly the prediction was on the nose. It's like the author didn't know what to do with her character after introducing her... she spends time with Troi which is never followed up on; she embarks on a mission to replace a component of the warp nacelle, which is never followed up on; she embarks on a mission on the surface, realises she has unresolved anger issues, and then just... disappears. Frustrating.

And let's talk about Picard: these two volumes do a great effort at making him look utterly incompetent. I swear, he spends the whole time stood in the council chambers waiting around for decisions to be made, but doesn't want to involve himself. Awful characterisation: much like Data and Geordi, Greenberger has no idea what to do with Picard, so just leaves him where he is, doing nothing while his crew die around him protecting the planet.

Now the crux of the story. Kyle Riker. Boy, what a let down that was. After finally finding his father, Will is swiftly rewarded by being \*attacked\* by him! Say what!? Kyle's cause must be seriously important in order to justify that, right?! Wrong. So Kyle decides that he must track down the original murderer, El-Bison-El, in order to extract a cure to the planet's troubles. Yet at the same time, he's going on a crusade to stamp out violence and snap the necks of natives who set fire to schools. And yeah, that's what justifies him attacking his own son. Please.

This doesn't even begin to highlight the numerous plotholes in the Kyle Riker story...

- So Kyle tells Will that he already told Starfleet about the problems with the "cure". Yet Will continues to chastise him about making reparations for "what he's done" to the people.

- Kyle spends the whole of Book 1 on the run, avoiding the Enterprise. He smashes Will's communicator for the same reason. And then does an abrupt 180 and decides to head back to the Capital to see Captain Picard.

Oh, and Bison? The fugitive and original murderer who Kyle spends the whole of Book 1 tracking down and a good deal of Book 2 capturing and transporting to the capital? Yep, just like Hoang, he fizzles out and disappears. Talk about anticlimactic!

So with the sheer number of problems I've detailed so far, you may be wondering where this review earned 2 stars from. As much as I hated the plot, Greenberger does some really nice work with Will and Deanna's relationship. The gradual development of their romantic relationship was touching to read, and the ultimate proposal and engagement was handled just right. There's some really thoughtful character development underway in the final 40 pages or so... and while the author already has the destination written for him (in the Nemesis wedding), the journey he takes toward it is rather elegant.

Right, so, on to David Mack's two-parter. I'm quietly optimistic that he can salvage the series along with KRAD. Let's wait and see...

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### **Joshua Palmatier says**

I had major problems with *A TIME TO LOVE*, the first part of the duology (which is also part of a 9 book series chronicling the time between the movies *Insurrection* and *Nemesis*). I'm happy to say that this second part was much better, although it still had some problems.

The premise is that two rival races colonized a single planet in a surprising bout of mutual cooperation a hundred years ago, becoming the Federation's prime example of overcoming aggression and working together to achieve your goals. What they didn't realize is that a particular gas produced by a plant on the planet has been affecting both races, effectively shortening their life spans. In time, it will kill the entire population of the planet. The Federation has attempted to fix the problem, but when their test subjects return to the planet for the centennial celebration, one of them kills one of the others, the first murder on the planet in 100 years. The *Enterprise* is sent in to investigate because the aggression appears to be spreading like a disease throughout the population, riots and violence breaking out everywhere.

In the previous book, Dr. Crusher discovers that the gas that shortens the people's lifespan has also affected their brain. In effect, the entire population has been drugged into non-aggression, hence the unprecedented cooperation 100 years ago during colonization. It's also stunted their curiosity and creativity. Now, Crusher needs to find a cure, one that will return them to their natural lifespans. But what she finds will end up drugging them again into non-aggression. Do you drug an entire culture, simply to stop the violence? Or do you let them retain their true natures, even if they're intent on killing each other?

There's also a subplot between Riker and his father, along with both Riker and Deanna considering their own relationship, and Dr. Crusher considering a job offer to take over Starfleet Medical. Part of the series is supposed to explain how each character got to where they are at the beginning of the movie *Nemesis*. This is the first book in the series that really addresses those changes in a significant way (they were merely mentioned or brought up in the previous novels).

Overall, this book was better than the last because the characters were actually active, making decisions and DOING THINGS. I'd have given this higher marks if all of those decisions had been smart ones. For example, once Picard knows what's actually happened, he doesn't immediately tell the rulers of the planet. He doesn't really give a good reason for not telling them, except to say that he wants Dr. Crusher to find the cure first. But I think letting the leaders, at least, know that this is their true nature, and making them own up to it, would be more in line with what Star Trek is all about. They should know, and they should have been given a choice of whether they want to remain this way (violent) and deal with it, or whether they want Dr. Crusher's cure that will dope them up. That would have been the more interesting story/choice, in my opinion.

I did enjoy the movement forward regarding Dr. Crusher, Riker and Deanna, and Riker getting his own ship. I thought more could have been done with the plot between Riker and his dad; more time should have been spent on that.

So, in the end, more of interest in this second book in the duology than the first.

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### **rivka says**

3.5 stars

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### **Dan says**

An improvement over the previous novel, *A Time to Hate* does some much-needed character advancement, both between Will and his father, and among the rest of the crew. The overall plot with Delta Sigma IV still felt somewhat rote, but the dilemma that faced Picard added a compelling element to that story. I'm interested to see if there will be any fallout from his decision in the remaining novels in the *A Time To* series. 3.5/5.

Full review: <http://www.treklit.com/2018/12/ATtH.html>

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### **Emma says**

To be honest I read this one mainly to find out about the proposal between Troi and Riker and to see what happened between Riker and his Father. I found the rest of the plot a bit 'meh'. There was a lot of focus on secondary characters and the parts involving main characters felt a little bit rushed. Kyle dies saving Riker which whilst not completely unbelievable was a bit out of the blue and slightly more than blink and you miss it. Having said that it did kind of wrap up their relationship and whilst there were some unanswered questions it did answer the biggest one - would a certain person be willing to die for another certain person (I hope that makes sense) as surely that is the greatest measure of love there is between two people. The only other thing I'd add is that I thought the ending was a bit unnecessarily dark bearing in mind this particular book looked like it was going to end with an up feeling.

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### **Zachary says**

Very enjoyable two parter, the best of the A Time to... series so far. Highly recommended for Riker fans.

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### **Rodney says**

Not really sure I want to give it three....more like 2.5 stars. Of the series so far, this was my least favorite. It seemed to go on forever, and with the countless problems the characters faced, everything seemed to wrap up much too neatly for my tastes. This is pleasure reading for me, and I really feel like the authors forced this novel (as well as the previous one - the series works in pairs). If you're reading the series, of course, read this one, but know ahead of time that it's a space filler for the others.

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### **Daniel says**

This is part 2 of Robert Greenberger's contribution to the "A Time To" series from 2004 that fills in the gap regarding the events that take place between Insurrection and Nemesis. Technically this is the 6th book in that series but the reader can jump into books 5-6 without reading books 1-4. I want to give Robert Greenberger another chance but, with all due respect, I didn't really think these two books held my interest as much as the contributions of John Vornholt (books 1-2) or Dayton Ward & Kevin Dilmore (books 3-4). Greenberger's chapters take the Enterprise crew to a planet experiencing violent outbursts, riots really, associated with a virus that seems to be sweeping the dual species population (or is it violence associated with the cure sweeping the populous?!). I felt like a lot of the episodes (of violence) were really just cumulative; they didn't add a lot to the narrative.

The old numbered Star Trek The Next Generation Novels were fun except that the writers had to 'put the toys back in the toybox' so to speak when they were done (same for TOS and DS9). In other words, they couldn't really change the grand story arc of Star Trek the Next Generation. The later post-nemesis novels do the opposite, with grand changes: marriages, children being born, new assignments that would not have been possible to write about earlier. The latter seem so much more consequential because bigger threats are at play. In the "A Time To" series, we see a kind of hybrid between those old numbered novels and the newer post-nemesis novels. The writers get to take the 'toys out of the toybox' and . . . leave some of the toys out to play with later.

The end of "At Time To Hate" has some big story arc plot points. I'm glad to be working my way through this series precisely because I'm so invested in these characters' lives. I want to see the hills and valleys of their careers and relationships.

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### **Rebekah says**

More Star Trek fluff. This time Robert Greenberger completes his part of the story. I didn't like his dark end. He also killed a minor character that I don't think he should have, but who am I to say. He completed the work of many Star Trek fans by getting Riker and Troi engaged. That is the fun of writing in a book set in time between two events. He just has to stay within the walls of movies, but since there really isn't expected to be any more Next Gen movies anything goes. It was indeed fluff, but fun. Body count goes up for the random "red shirts." But emotional growth goes on for even some secondary folks. This one is certainly towards the end of the set, everyone is getting promotions or offers away from the ship. That "luck" of not having the crew taken apart before is mentioned and reflected upon. But the Command back in San Francisco really is what gets me. They seem so different from what I would want of them. It is like the influence of the Dominion really shook them from their stupor. It is referenced slightly in Deep Space Nine when the Admiral uses cadets to get control of Earth, but one wants to think that after that they learned their lesson. Admirals are supposed to be the best and brightest. Instead they are just bureaucrats and politicians and military folks who will do devious things and hold petty jealousy.

The greatest controversy is the cure. It works but at what cost. I don't know that I like it, but I am just a reader. I will be looking for the next book, but I might hold off for a few. I get so much Star Trek on TV that buying books doesn't make the most sense, but what wonders to find more adventures for Riker and Deanna and Picard and Data. Such great characters. Such silly fluff.

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### **Julia says**

The inhabitants of Delta Sigma IV have lost all their vaunted "unity;" they were drugged by a ubiquitous native plant and now the drug has worn off. The Federation in trying to cure the planet's very short lifespan, have unleashed this madness to populations that never needed to learn control.

Kyle Riker, who *knew* there was a problem, but didn't speak up, is found by Will and together, they set off to do good. Until Kyle is killed by a rage-filled person, just before the cure comes.

Troi asks Will to marry her, many on the ship (except the Captain) know the doctor is seriously considering heading up Starfleet Medical and Will is offered to captain his own ship.

One of the things I really like about this series of books is the attention to "minor characters." The isolated grieving young engineer Anh Hoang, whose family was killed in the Breen attacks on San Francisco. The capable young ambassador Colt Morrow who lives through his injury in the last book to help the planet come together at the end of this book.

This exchange is between Will Riker and his father:

"This has grown beyond any one man's ability to solve."

"No, son, have you forgotten one of Starfleet's most important lessons: one man can make a difference."

"But that man, in this case, may not be you."

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## **Christopher says**

A generic science fiction novel can be clinically summed up as a novel that marries a scientific or technological premise with imaginative speculation.' True words indeed, but perhaps not exactly what a science fiction novel truly is. For yes, there is the scientific or technological premise, and the speculation based on this premise in order to formulate an interesting piece of fiction, but there is also the release that people find from science fiction. It offers us a chance to expand the horizons of the mind, and challenge what we deem to be possible, and impossible. It is a book that lets our imaginations soar, and encompasses you for hours on end. And on this level, I believe that some of the best novels I have read in the science fiction genre, those that capture my imagination the most, are the novels in Pocket Books Star Trek series. Star Trek began as a TV Series in 1966, however novels quickly followed the premier of the series, and continued to be released after the series was off the air. These books offered a more intellectual look at the future than some of the other sci-fi books available at the time, and the Star Trek book series still has that wonderful quality today. A Time to Hate follows the fates two races, the Bader and the Dorset. A century ago, a long-running blood feud between the races ends when both races colonize a planet, and a naturally occurring phenomenon quells their aggressive tendencies. However, the gas itself is killing both races, and when the U.S.S Enterprise's First Officer's father introduces a treatment to help prevent millions of deaths, the treatment brings out a long-suppressed aggression in the people, and world-wide violence ensues. The story follows not only the man's personal guilt at the situation, but also his bad relationship with his son, and the efforts to save these people from what they have become. The book is well told, by an author who is not a very regular Star Trek writer, but who is well versed in the Star Trek universe and its eccentricities. A book I could not put down, despite some flaws in the authorship. A good read, for sci-fi fans, and especially for Star Trek fans, as the series that this book comes from showcases the events preceding the film Star Trek: Nemesis. A book that is not very well suited to those who do not like sci-fi, or those who have never read a sci-fi book, but a good read none-the-less!

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## **Jeffrey says**

The second book of the third two part segment in the whole 9 book series. That's a mouth full.

They sow up the story nicely and end it with a different type of story. The main storyline ends about 2/3 of the way through this book and the last 1/3 is dedicated to deepening the history and character development of Riker, Troi & how Starfleet works behind the scenes. The last chapter is short and does tie back to the main story a bit, but some people may miss the link and be confused...BUT if you are a good reader you will see the political aspect of Starfleet glaring its ugly head.

Once again, the Enterprise crew lives up to it's expectations and completes it's mission accordingly. There is death, violence, love and hard decisions. Everything you would expect from a Star Trek: The Next Generation story reminiscent of the TV series and my favorite books from the past!

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## **Jerry says**

Once again, this series delivers; can't wait to see where the story arc goes from here!

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## **Brian says**

Initially, I believed that the first book in the series was drawn out and filled with padding in order to save what small portion of the story for the second, concluding book. However, I'm disappointed to say that that was not true. This book lacked in every way that *A Time to Love* did. It followed the same exact formula that the first book did. Start a scene, talk a lot about nothing, do nothing, then quickly switch scenes in order to rehash again. This was done nearly the entire first book, and the entire second book! The only real contribution to the story comes in the last 50 pages!

So, you can literally read the first 50 pages of the first book, and then read the last 50 pages of this one, and you will have missed nothing!

There was something endearing about the way the author portrays certain characters, and I was hoping that Greenberger would latch on to that and give us something interesting to read, but there was just nothing to this book, or the last one. It felt like a paint-by-numbers piece of artwork, and I felt belittled as a reader. Almost all of the books in this series, up to now, have felt like a scam to extract more money from the Star Trek fan base, and I really don't appreciate it. *A Time to Love*, and *A Time to Hate* were just the most blatant so far.

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