



## Titan: Fortune of War

*David Mack*

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An original spin-off novel set in the popular *Star Trek: The Next Generation* universe from *New York Times* bestselling author David Mack.

*Death slumbers in the ashes of silent planets, waiting to be awakened and unleashed...*

Twenty years have passed since the interstellar scourge known as the Husnock were exterminated without warning by a being with godlike abilities. Left behind, intact but abandoned, their desolate worlds and derelict ships brim with destructive potential.

Now a discovery by a Federation cultural research team has drawn the attention of several ruthless factions. From black market smugglers to alien military forces, it seems every belligerent power in the quadrant hopes to capture the Husnock's lethal technology.

All that stands between the galaxy and those who have come to plunder the cruelest secrets of the Husnock are Admiral William Riker, Captain Christine Vale, and the crew of the *Starship Titan*.

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## Titan: Fortune of War Details

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Author : David Mack

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## From Reader Review Titan: Fortune of War for online ebook

### Aron says

As expected David Mack turned out another high quality ST story. Over the years Mack has really done a lot with the Breen & it's always fun to see what he does next. Also getting to see Riker continuing to adjust to come into his own as an Admiral was cool. The story itself was very good, it's a neat continuation of an interesting TNG episode. Highly recommend!

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### Paul Lunger says

The first standalone Titan novel in a while, David Mack's "Fortune of War", is a follow-up to TNG's "The Survivors". The basic premise around the novel at the beginning is the discovery of a way into the Husnock technology to finally learn the secrets of the race. An attack on that planet; however, reveals a revolt w/in the Nausicaans which is quickly brushed over when that group is wiped out by an attack from the Breen. It's against this backdrop that the Titan along w/ the USS Canterbury & Wasp are called into action to try to protect the Husnock technology from falling into the wrong hands & potentially causing an interstellar war.

Mack's story isn't horribly bad although at times it feels like it adds a lot of tension & action in as well as bringing in characters for no reason other than we haven't seen them in a while. Brunt, Gaila & the Pakleds are also re-introduced into this as a way to keep the Federation task force from assisting in this recovery mission. Also, the use of Thot Tren as the Breen commanding officer is more of a plot device than anything else. We, additionally, have the the issue w/ Commander Sarai & Admiral Betanvides in play along w/ Riker's inability at times to stay back from the command of the Titan & let Christine Vale do her job.

Overall, "Fortune of War" is a decent addition to the Titan novels & does allow some plot advancement which is necessary for the world of late 2386 that the novels are in. The use of the old Husnock territory & technology is also nice to see since it's something that probably could've been dealt with at some point since "The Survivors". Granted, there could be consequences from whatever the Breen did manage to hang on to which can be used down the road, but that is something only time will tell. This isn't a great novel & Mack has done better, but it does what it needs to do as we the reader await to see what happens next.

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### Kieran McAndrew says

Admiral Riker and his fleet are dispatched to locate the Husnock Empire, destroyed by a Dowd during the early years of the 'Enterprise's' mission.

The Federation are racing against the Orion Syndicate, the Breen, the Nausicaans and the Ferengi to capture weapons of unspeakable power.

A well written, fast paced novel which underpins Riker's values as an officer.

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## **J says**

*Fortune of War* is the latest novel following the continuing stories of, now-Admiral, William Riker. On the edge of explored space the ruins of a vast, powerful, and technologically dangerous civilization have been found. What comes next is a race to claim its powerful technology and industry against shadowy forces. A race where the loser could be wiped out.

I liked the motivations from each of the major players involved. Complete with how far each are willing to go and how some, confronted with the power, are willing to change, while others are not. The book shows, those who are willing to change, are able to survive and thrive, while those more rigid fail.

The alien technology, showing that it will be not just a de-stabilizing factor, but something capable of genocide becomes a crucible for the first officer. A relatively new character, that fans of existing Star Trek books have been setup to dislike due to her past choices, is ultimatley put on the spot. Will she make the same choice again? Or will she reach out to others.

Where the book failed, was consequences. Vessels are destroyed, but we feel almost nothing for them. We spent no time with their crews and barely any time even talking to, or about them despite Riker being the Admiral for the whole task force. This is supposed to show the growing dynamic between the Captain under him, Vale and himself. That she's to be in command, but it becomes almost pointless having him on board. Other existing characters like Deanna Troi, Riker's wife, are given just one scene. Despite her status as a diplomatic officer, that scene is NOT when they reach a diplomatic confrontation.

This leads to the next consequences flaw, *acts of war*. Imagine Soviet and United States ships deep in international waters, firing on each other. This would not be limited to them. This is the sort of thing that turns a cold war, into a hot one. Not enough narrative effort is placed on this. I can only hope the repercussions are visited in future novels.

All told, still a great story. Especially a good Star Trek story and doing what some of the best novels have done, picking up a small, one-off thread from an episode and fleshing it out for a novel. Letting it breathe and pickup new power.

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## **Terje Fokstuen says**

David Mack writes good Star Trek novels. *Titan: Fortune of War* is based on the ST:TNG episode "the survivors" where the Enterprise finds evidence of the disappearance of a entire race of advanced beings, the Husnock.

In this novel, a Star Trek xeno archeologist team is investigating a Husnock site, and finds something resembling a Husnock "rosetta" stone which allows them to read Husnock. A crew of Nausicaan freedom fighters (terrorists) kidnap four members of the xeno team to gain access to the Husnock's weapons systems and fabricators. From there it is a race, with many players, as to whom will ultimately controll the Husnock weapons and starships.

It's an exciting book, a speedy and well written read. The downside of the Titan series for me, is that there is a very large number of non canonical ST players and the sheer number of new beings and civilizations can

be overwhelming. That said, this is a good book, and Mack deals ably with the large cast. Highly recommended for ST fans and for fans of the ST:Titan universe.

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### **Andrew says**

Spoilers ahead - A lot happens in this book despite the fact that almost no progress was made for 20 years while the federation research team studied Husnock technology. The Pakled, Orions and Breen sweep in and figure out how to get Husnock ships and a station up and running in no time. Meanwhile the federation can't even decrypt their language after 20 years? Pretty unbelievable - I've watched tv episodes and read books where the "universal translator" started picking up the language after hearing a few sentences. Sure there's a lot of action in the book that at least makes it readable but it's far from intelligent. Way too many factions were thrown into the story - which is relatively short (279 pages). The Breen are inserted as the primary antagonists because - well just because its easy to use them as the bad guys. The crew of Titan gets extremely lucky in the last hour and then you have your all's well that ends well ending.

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### **Daniel Kukwa says**

As a balls to the wall action/adventure -- and a long-time-in-coming sequel to a TNG episode -- this certainly works, and hardly ever pauses for breath. My only issue is that I'm not enamored with much of the supporting cast; they didn't manage to grab hold of my attention, and their fairly quick disposal (and replacement by the much more formidable Breen) is a plus in my estimation. But this minor complaint aside, it certainly seems that David Mack as been on fire lately. The conclusion has me salivating for the next chapter of the Starship Titan's journey.

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### **Maurice Jr. says**

Captain Christine Vale faces the toughest challenge of her brand new command- yet another threat from Admiral Riker's past. Twenty years ago as first officer of the Enterprise, then Commander Riker encountered a powerful being calling itself a Dowd masquerading as a human named Kevin Uxbridge. A savage race called the Husnock attacked the planet where Kevin and Rishon had settled and massacred everyone living there. For love of his wife Rishon, Kevin committed genocide on the Husnock race.

The Husnock were erased from the galactic stage, but their powerful weaponry is still out there, just lying around for anyone to find and use. A Federation science team finds one of their colony worlds, but falls under attack while attempting to translate the Husnock language. Admiral Riker tasks Titan with rescuing the team and keeping Husnock weaponry out of enemy hands. Everybody from the Ferenghi to the Pakleds to the Orions is out to claim the weaponry for themselves, but a surprise player in the game proves to be the most formidable.

Captain Vale finds herself in a race against time to keep the weapons out of the wrong hands while simultaneously keeping her ship safe in the face of multiple attacks from different forces.

I enjoyed this blast from Riker's past, particularly the interplay between his recently shaken up crew. Newcomers Commander Sarai and Lieutenant Ethan Kyzak and newly promoted lieutenant commanders

Sariel Rager and Aili Lavena (and now Lieutenant Torvig) give the feel of a new crew behind Captain Vale, who is growing into her new role. Sarai was assigned to Titan as punishment for past indiscretions, and it was interesting to see her dealing with an assignment she doesn't want (she was fine where she was in Starfleet Intelligence as opposed to starship duty). I can't wait to see the next Titan book to see what happens next.

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### **Fate's Lady says**

I'm halfway and I'm bored. This is supposed to be some high stakes race to a super weapon, but I don't feel any interest or sympathy for any of the characters except maybe one of the Ferengi... but there are two of them and I can't tell them apart based just on the writing, so it makes it hard to care. Aside from just not being interested in practically anyone, there's some random side character with serious gross misogyny issues and another (or is it the same guy? See what I mean?) who tells a woman using an assistive device that she's as much an emotional cripple as a physical one (because she's his ex and he's a jackass). I'm done. This is pathetic.

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### **Dan says**

A fun adventure that uses events of the TNG series to great advantage in crafting a fascinating follow-up. Fast-paced and exciting, while at the same time featuring some great character moments and explorations of the relationships in Titan. Here's hoping we get a continuation of Star Trek: Titan someday!

Full review (video): <https://youtu.be/VH0hzDvsULQ>

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### **Tariq Mahmood says**

A great read for any Star Trek fan, a real page-turner. Though I didn't really like the end but the story right until the end kept me completely captivated. I love way various racial features are discussed with abundance, and all the fear or fight decisions taken by the Federation commanders against all odds.

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### **Martín Pérez says**

I've enjoyed David Mack's Bashir/Section 31 novels, and his wife exploration of the Breen is very interesting, but this novel didn't do the trick as a Titan book. Past Titan novels by other authors have focused on the crew and its interactions, even when there was a large-scale crisis at hand.

To me, it seems that this book treats the Titan characters, except for two or three, as mere set pieces, or extras. Furthermore, the crisis is purely military (with a small measure of science sprinkled here and there), and as such, not the most fertile Star Trek plot. It's one I could have enjoyed more if the crew had been given more importance; but an inordinate amount of pages are devoted to subplots that add nothing of real value to the novel.

There are subplots (all tied together, I must admit) featuring Ferengi, Pakled, Orion pirates, and Nausicans, that only convoluted the plot unnecessarily. Even the pages devoted to seeing how the Breen operate, a feature in Mack's other books (particularly those on the Breen homeworld) are sterile, pertaining only to their military operations, with nothing but whisps of insight into their culture.

All in all, not a bad book, but it was a slow read for me, because it was not what I want when I pick up a Star Trek: Titan novel.

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### **Ron Turner says**

Disappointing sequel to the TNG episode "The Survivors."

The Duowd was able to wipe out an entire species of fifty billion people with a single thought but there's no follow-up for that. Why didn't the Federation go back to him to ask for help with the Dominion or Borg? Where did his species come from? Are they familiar with Q?

The Husnock were described as a "hideous intelligence" but we never get a sense of what exactly that meant. Instead it's just a caper story. Nausicaans, Orions, Ferengi, Pakleds and Breen clamoring for abandoned armaments.

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### **Christopher says**

Fortune of War kicks off after the previous book with Vale, Riker and the rest of the crew of Titan embarking on a rescue mission to a Xenoarchaeological dig investigating the remains of the Husnock civilization first introduced in the ST:TNG episode The Survivors! :D This leads them into a chase that ultimately involves the Breen Ferengi and the remains of the Husnock's people! :D

Fortune of War greatly expands on the Husnoc people giving us a brief insight into how their society actually worked and much more detailed one into the remains of their technology! :D The crashed Husnoc ship reminds you of a downed Star Destroyer from its sheer size and scope! :D The book is full of mystery from start to finish! :D

One of the traits of the book as well is that you can never guess what exactly is going to happen from Bounty Hunter Brunt appearing to the Pakleds, to the greed of Gaila to the quasi honour system of Thot Tren! :D The Breen and Ferengi are up to their antics as usual though Brunt is running with a different rule book! :D The book allows Vale to shine throughout though as she repeatedly comes up with one new plan after another as she goes head to with her opponents! :D The book also uses this as Riker tries to put a fist in his mouth to avoid offering advice and this plays brilliantly with the high tension that is exhibited throughout the book! :D

The book's scope is gigantic with world building left right and centre and the battle scenes are really tense! :D The losses and damage on both sides really ramps up the tension! :D Throwing in the extensive ground combat which alternates with the ship battles works brilliantly as well and you really get a visceral sense from what is happening! :D The storming of the command centre by Saria and her 'Strike Force' is genuinely tense with you not sure from the beginning which way the story is going to go! :D This of course gives the opportunity for the characters to shine from Saria herself to Kyzak and the returning sh'Aqabaa! :D

The spy duties that Saria find herself in also interweave themselves through the events of the book and you can really feel the tension that Saria is under! :D Luckily though Riker and Vale are nobodies fools and the decision for Saria to confide in Riker and Vale gives a neat twist to her conversations with Batanides who certainly seems to be like a dig with a bone! :D

At the same time the book is full of difficult moral choices as the Husnock technology is so powerful that whoever is to get their hands on it will have a decisive power balance shift that would allow them to more greatly influence the surrounding powers! :D This does give the book a decisive chase feel to the events and this provides the pace and action for the book! :D You get the impression throughout though of our characters desperately holding on the wild ride that it is! :D Vale does the daring do with her crew in this one with Riker ironically being the calm one but the entire crew comes off brilliantly! :D The tactics employed are hard to guess much to even Riker's puzzlement but work brilliantly even with Tuvok and Lieutenant Omal look like they have been out out to dry! :D The Breen certainly escalate things in this book and you have to wonder where it is going to lead! :D But this of course enables further plot points which the book does brilliantly! :D In addition the other Starfleet ships like the Ajax and the Canterbury get their screentime as well with flesh out crews! :D

Fortune of War works brilliantly on every level with the tension and action flowing everywhere! :D It is full of world building and daring do from start to finish! :D The stakes are all there in this one and the ongoing undermining by Starfleet Intelligence of Vale and Riker gives the book the book a tone of conspiracy which set brilliantly all the battle scenes that are visceral in a nature and cunning in there tactics from start to finish! :D Fortune of war is a roller-coaster ride that sets up further plot lines and sets things up for more gaming changes adventures and is action packed throughout! :D Brilliant, highly recommend! :D Crisp high five! :D Make sure you have the next one! :D

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### **Michael says**

There is a ton of action in this one, lots of characters we have loved for years or grown to like from the Titan books, but not enough Riker. This is more a Vale as Captain story. That's fine, and the book is good as you can see from my 4 star rating, but I want more Riker and Troi.

That said, this one has the Titan fighting for its life against the overpowered Breen and a super powered race from a TNG episode with a cache of weapons and warships that the Federation somehow did not find in 20 years. Vale does an awesome job as captain in an impossible outnumbered and outmatched scenario, as we have come to love about Trek. Riker has some moments but has to come to terms with the fact that he is an admiral now, and not involved in the day to day. This means in a ship to ship fight he is supposed to take a back seat. Imagine Kirk or Picard as an extra. There you go. That's what's missing here.

The pace is high as we meet all kinds of races, Ferengi bounty hunter and Orion Syndicate ships, Nausicaans, Breen, Pakleds, and am I missing anything? Oh yeah, Section 31 sneaking around a spy on board. Well, its get or destroy the Husnock weapons cache or the whole galaxy falls to the Breen. How's that for action? And this delivers that in a big way.

(view spoiler)

Overall, a quick, fun read. More Titan adventures please.

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