



In at the Death

Harry Turtledove

Download now

Read Online ➔

In at the Death

Harry Turtledove

In at the Death Harry Turtledove

Franklin Roosevelt is the assistant secretary of defense. Thomas Dewey is running for president with a blunt-speaking Missourian named Harry Truman at his side. Britain holds onto its desperate alliance with the USA's worst enemy, while a holocaust unfolds in Texas. In Harry Turtledove's compelling, disturbing, and extraordinarily vivid reshaping of American history, a war of secession has triggered a generation of madness. The tipping point has come at last.

The third war in sixty years, yet unnamed, is a grinding, horrifying series of hostilities and atrocities between two nations sharing a continent and both calling themselves America. At the dawn of 1944, the United States has beaten back a daredevil blitzkrieg from the Confederate States—and a terrible new genie is out of history's bottle: a bomb that may destroy on a scale never imagined before. In Europe, the new weapon has shattered a stalemate between Germany, England, and Russia. When the trigger is pulled in America, nothing will be the same again.

With visionary brilliance, Harry Turtledove brings to a climactic conclusion his monumental, acclaimed drama of a nation's tragedy and the men and women who play their roles—with valor, fear, and folly—on history's greatest stage.

In at the Death Details

Date : Published July 31st 2007 by Del Rey

ISBN : 9780345492470

Author : Harry Turtledove

Format : Hardcover 609 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Alternate History, Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction

 [Download In at the Death ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online In at the Death ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online In at the Death Harry Turtledove

From Reader Review In at the Death for online ebook

John Brothers says

The early books in this series were so promising. This last one was just dreadful - ponderous and predictable and crushingly dull. I started skimming by the 1/2way point, because it was just too tiring to try to maintain any interest in the story

Michael says

After years of reading Turtledove, the time has come for me to reevaluate how I feel about his books.

I have always enjoyed Turtledove's ability to plot the movements and histories of worlds that never were. Few can do so as well as he can. Unfortunately, the rest of his books (with the exception of his single novels) follow a very repetitive and fairly predictable formula, and I for one am tired of it.

You can expect: two or three major narrative characters to die, inane dialogue (in fact the same phrases over and over), very obvious parallels to actual history, and at least once per book someone will mention what year it is - in case you forgot.

At the beginning of this series (How Few Remain, which was originally not part of a series) the patterns were far less obvious and somewhat forgivable. I suppose I've grown out of these books and as such I plan on changing my ratings for most of them. They're still enjoyable, and I can read them for the sake of finding out what happens, but they are total popcorn. Bags. and bags. and bags of popcorn.

Kate says

The awesome part of this is the alternative history idea. The author's interpretation of what the WWII era would have been like if the Confederacy was able to secede back in the 1860s... I think it's spot on, and gives a lot of food for thought about the current, *real* historical echoes of that conflict. Though I'm not a history buff, so I could be wrong... Otherwise, I'm ambivalent about the book--the characters are mostly mooks going about their mookish business and engaging each other in mookish dialogue. But then, this is pretty spot on, too. It's what tends to happen to people's self-expression when they're in the middle of a deadly, dehumanizing war. It's very believable characterization, but unfortunately this doesn't make it any more fun to read.

Caveat: this is the only book in the series that I've read. I found this final novel to be perfectly self-explanatory and sufficient, and I can't imagine what the author possibly had to add to the theme in the previous (10? 11?) novels. So I guess I'm ambivalent about the series as a whole, as well. Obviously I don't know for a fact, but I suspect that reading 10 of these in a row would get very repetitive very fast.

George Flannary says

Great book but not an ending

Great book and great series. However, it feels like there's more story. I'd love to see more. Maybe a single book, set in the 2000s to really finish it off

James says

The end of a series (a series of series, really) that covers nearly a century of an alternate history of America and the world that sprang from a change in one event during the Civil War. I found it a satisfying resolution, but I wish the author had continued it into the current era and the future. Maybe he'll decide to do that one day. As it is, this whole saga from the battle of Antietam through World War II is one I'll be reading again and again every few years.

Wayne says

The finale (so far) of Turtledove's Timeline 191 series. I think this was book 11. This book finishes the end of WWII with the defeat of the Confederate States and dealing with the aftermath of the war. Turtledove brings up lots of questions about how the world will work with an occupied CSA and multiple nations having a "superbomb". He does little to nothing to answer his own questions. He even drops little hints about what might happen a character or two and then does nothing with that information. This either means he is planning another series to continue the timeline, or he's gotten so used to writing in little chunks about each character that he doesn't know how to wrap them up give a coherent conclusion to the story.

Turtledove doesn't really delve into details of the characters' lives. This is a mainly a byproduct of how he arranges the story through lots of characters that don't interact. It gives the reader a much broader perspective of the storyline, but since they don't really interact much you lose all that character development that you get from a more traditional structure. The story is the main character here though.

Overall, I love the story and am fascinated by the alternate world view. I just find so much fault with the writing style and organization of the books that it detracts from my enjoyment. Hence 3 stars.

Tim Basuino says

Early in 2013 I was looking at Google Maps at a town called Tyler, Texas (don't ask how I wound up there), and found myself looking up information on Wikipedia (yes, I should know better, but that site often serves as a more than adequate gateway towards other information). One detail that caught my eye was that this location served as a prominent scene in an alternate history series (albeit a rather negative one). The idea of what would've happened had a few things gone differently in the Civil War, while not exactly new, is one I'd yet to see fully executed (Spike Lee did a mockumentary, "C.S.A.: The Confederate States of America" which posited that not only had the South won the war, they actually took over the rest of the US, which I do think to be more than a bit of a stretch).

Shortly thereafter I read the first of Turtledove's Southern Victory series, "How Few Remain", and two years later I've reached the conclusion of its eleven books. Without giving too much away, the series includes a second Mexican war where the South acquires a couple of provinces from Mexico (they'd also acquire Cuba, but somewhat regrettably that is in the far back seat in terms of plot development), and what one might call hybrid versions of World Wars I and II.

Overall I'd give the series four stars – certainly the idea is worth 4+ stars, while the execution might be considered 4- stars – there are 15-20 basic plotlines which get developed, some better than others. As far as "In At The Death" goes, it is somewhat predictable (a general problem when a book is advertised as 'last of a series') in its ending, but does leave the reader wanting more. To the best of my knowledge, Turtledove does not plan on continuing this series.

Reza Amiri Praramadhan says

Finally I had read all eleven books of the series! Which makes me both happy and sad at the same time. Happy, because it was a very interesting journey, following the wars between the states for 80 years, from the times of Roosevelt and Custer to LaFollette and Featherston. At last, the CSA was gone for good, although its fate under US military occupation left much to be wondered. And sad, because with heavy heart, I have to disengage the point of views characters, especially in last few chapters. If only this great, wonderful, meticulously thought series be continued to the alternative Cold War time, I would appreciate it greatly.

Dave says

OMFG... I did it. I finally completed this hideously dreadful final chapter of the Settling Accounts saga. I suppose I suffered through In at the Death out sheer mule-headed stubbornness. Canned dialogue, flat, graceless characters whom engendered a depressing lack of empathy on the part of the reader, a woefully unimaginative plot that borrowed far too heavily from real-life history with a thin veneer of cosmetic changes and of course there was the problem that persisted throughout the 4-volumes of Harry's "new" WW2; his complete lack of understanding of the economic impacts of war.

How many adjectives can I cram into a single sentence? Dull, listless, droll, insipid, infuriating, frustrating...? What was going through Harry's mind as he sat each day trying to hammer out this 4-book set? "Why did I sign that bloody contract?" Perhaps I should go back and re-read How Few Remain so I can recall the days when I actually enjoyed Harry Turtledove.

John says

This was a better book than I thought it would be. I've read a lot of Turtledove, and had decided I had enough, then I saw this in the library. Since I had read the entire series up until this, the last, book in "Settling Accounts" I thought I'd finish it up. Actually, this may be his best book. I could not stop reading.

For those who don't know, Harry Turtledove has been rewriting Herman Wouk's *The Winds of War* for decades now. He uses the same global sweep, he lets the war be the plot, and he has a huge cast of point of view characters who go through the horrors of world war. He did it first with science fiction, where an alien invasion takes place during World War II in the *Worldwar* series that starts with *In the Balance* (*Worldwar Series*, Volume 1). He's been writing an fantasy version where magic replaces technology with his *World at war* series that started with *Into the Darkness* (*World at War*, Book 1).

This book finished a World War II in an alternate history where the major fighting takes place between the Confederate States of America and the USA. The CSA is killing blacks instead of jews, the weapons have been mixed up, with the CSA getting some, but not all, of the weapons that Germany had in the real world. There are real historical figures in different roles, such as FDR as the Assistant Secretary of War mixed in with totally fictional characters. The point of view characters are fictional, but they deal with many historical ones.

The best part of the book is that it gives this version of WW II a wonderful story arc. It makes more dramatic sense than real history did. All the different threads are made to end in one dramatic, and well told moment.

A weakness is that that moment comes about 3/5th of the way through the book. The final 2/5ths is all epilogue. In a way, that's not so bad, it's the epilogue for not just the WW II story, but the WW I series and *How Few Remain* before it. Still, given the solid climax, I would have been happier with a much shorter wrap up.

One nit I have is that if one character uses a joke or saying, a few chapters later an unrelated character uses the same words. I suppose Turtledove may have done his research and these were common 1940's sayings, but they were new to me, and thus they stuck out when they were used repeatedly.

Although I was thinking I had enough of Turtledove, this book worked so well I'm afraid I'm not off the hook yet. His writing will never be pretty, but his pacing, dialog, and characters are all much improved over his earlier works. Unlike some of the follow-ons to the *Worldwar* series, the solid narrative structure makes this book a good story, not just an interesting thought experiment.

Sebastien says

This book is set in an alternate universe where the Confederacy won the Civil war. The USA and the CSA continue fighting wars. It is World War 2, and the CSA is at the end of the line. This book is excellent, but you must like reading about this kind of stuff to appreciate it.

Christopher says

Not bad...not the best in the series. I spent the second half of the book wondering what Turtledove was waiting for to end the book. As it turns out, not much...it just kind of ends.

Maybe someone else can confirm, but I'm pretty sure that this is the end of the rather massive Timeline 191series. From "How Few Remain" we've had eleven volumes?

The whole series was rather good I thought, but things become more and more forced once Turtledove had committed himself to a Second World War. The parrallels became too forced, a common problem with the alt-history genre in general. Sometimes I get the feeling the author just wanted this series to go away.

Cannonhistory Potter says

The last of an 11-book series. Wish it could have been more. It seemed that Turtledove rushed through the last book in order to get it over. The characters we've come to know deserved better. Still, as a piece of alternate history, it captures the possible as well as any "what if" series could.

Joel Flank says

Settling Accounts: In at the Death by Harry Turtledove is the conclusion of his alternate history epic WWII tale, in a world where the South won the civil war and remained a separate nation from the USA. The book not only wraps up the 4 book Settling Accounts series, but the greater series of books that started with How Few Remain and introduced this alternate timeline, making In at the Death the conclusion to an 11 book series in all. Like all of Turtledove's epic histories, this book presents events from many character's points of view, and gives a broad description of different aspects of the war, both militarily and on the home front.

Since I've reviewed the other books in the series recently, I won't go into much detail on this one specifically in terms of plot or characters, other than to say that it's just as entertaining as the rest of them, and is strongly recommended. Instead, I'll talk about how Turtledove's writing style lends itself towards easy reading, despite his books being over 600 pages for the most part. With about a dozen point of view characters, Turtledove switches the main point of view character every 5-8 pages, telling about a specific incident in their life, and then switches to another. Over the course of the book, these snippets tell the larger tale of the war as a whole. The beauty of this is that it's very easy to find time to read just one or two of these sections when you have even just 15 minutes. Most of the time, I don't sit down to read unless I have the better part of

an hour to devote to a book, but since Turtledove's books are in nice short bite sized chunks, it's easy to fit more in a typical day by reading just a few here and there in spare time, in addition to longer chunks.

I also wanted to comment on what a great job he does with the conclusion of the book. The war is won and done with about 300 pages in (2100 pages total over the 4 books.) Unlike many epic stories, Turtledove doesn't end his grand story and tack on a brief conclusion or epilogue that says everyone was happy, the end. Instead he spends the next 300 pages going into detail on how both nations, as well as the large cast of characters, deal with the aftermath of such a great conflict, and the various scars, both physical and emotional, that remain. It was very rewarding to have a chance to see how each of these characters goes on with their life, as well as get hints of how the USA and CSA's futures are likely to turn out.

Nancy says

I read this series of books not for any scintillating dialogue or nuanced characterizations. The dialogue is stilted at best and the characters are mostly one-dimensional. The books are over-long and a bit repetitive. The reason why I have read them is my fascination with the premise: how history would be different if the South had won the Civil War. Turtledove imagines a time of multiple wars between the North and South. By the time of this book's events in the mid-1940s, the two countries have lost any feeling of camaraderie and shared history that they might have had as descendants from the original United States. Instead they have grown further apart, intent on "settling accounts" for past defeats. A Hitler-like leader has gained power in the South leading to a policy of "population reduction" against the African-American population. Southerners are all blatant racists with the Northerners not much better. The war includes many atrocities against civilians on both sides leading up to the use of nuclear bombs. While I think it is useful to wonder whether such horrible things could really be done by people "like us", I did think Turtledove was too heavy-handed in his depiction of the people involved. I think this type of alternate history should give the reader people to identify with, to make us wonder "could that really happen here?" Turtledove is good at presenting the situation, but not so good at imagining how real people would respond to it. I especially question how his alternate history dealt with the deployment of nuclear bombs. Rather than horrify the populaces of both countries enough to demand peace, the first bomb in Philadelphia led to a retaliatory bomb in Virginia and then another in South Carolina. The continued desire for more and more revenge in the face of such devastation just didn't seem realistic to me. So, the saga ends with the South defeated. Its leader, Jake Featherstone is shot by a young black man. Those involved in the extermination camps are tried for crimes against humanity. While the Northern army occupies and tries to subdue the South, there are sporadic terror incidents by Southern diehards leading to mass executions by the North in retaliation. No one seems particularly interested in reconciliation. It is a pretty bleak conclusion.
