



## Cobra Alliance

*Timothy Zahn*

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When the colony worlds Adirondack and Silvern fell to the Troft forces almost without a struggle. Outnumbered and on the defensive, Earth made a desperate decision. It would attack the aliens not from space, but on the ground--with forces the Trofts did not even suspect. Thus were created the Cobras, a guerilla force whose weapons were surgically implanted, invisible to the unsuspecting eye, yet undeniably deadly. And the Moreau family were the most famous of the Cobra warriors. Long after victory over the Troft was achieved, the Cobras made common cause against their former adversaries against a new enemy. Their reward was three planets that would be a home for the Cobras, whose deadly powers made them too dangerous to feel at home on Earth.

Now, years had passed and not everyone on the Cobra worlds thought that the Cobras were worth the high cost of providing their training and maintaining their existing built-in weaponry, let alone supporting research to improve the Cobra weapons, and possibly even put an end to the negative effects of that built-in weaponry, which caused Cobras to die much too young. Many who had never known interplanetary war were convinced that the Cobras were not needed at all.

That was a grave miscalculation, because a new menace was approaching, one that even the formidable Cobra warriors might not be able to defeat...

## Cobra Alliance Details

Date : Published December 1st 2009 by Baen (first published 2009)

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Author : Timothy Zahn

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## From Reader Review Cobra Alliance for online ebook

### Ryan Scott says

Really tried to like this. I am a huge Zahn fan. But I just could not get into the story. I never really invested in the world that was built and that made it tough to read and connect. I ended up not finishing it.

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### John (JP) says

280 pages . Get this one from your library. The story is mildly interesting. Its a basic military SF book. The dialog is wooden. There is an OK storyline that sucked me in. I wish Zahn had done a better job of character development. The Qasama maybe stand ins for an Arab culture. are characterized as being paranoid and double dealing. The Cobra's technologically enhanced humans have are noble. The Troft's are the stock aliens.

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### Patrick says

Kind of disappointing considering I almost died to obtain this book. It's not quite as good as Zahn's Star Wars books or the Conqueror's series. It would probably help if you read the Cobra trilogy before this, except those books went out of print about 20 years ago. I had read the last two of that trilogy, though about 3 years ago so I wasn't all that up on who some of these characters were and what had gone on before. Considering how long it's been, maybe the publisher should have included a summary or something.

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### Alfred Hanson says

Excellent writer. Has a good tempo with great skill in developing characters and plots.

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### Lisa Hall says

The Moreau family are the most famous of the fighters known as Cobra's, an elite fighting force implanted with deadly weapons that once allowed them to keep Troft invaders at bay. With the threat to humanity diminished, the necessity of the Cobra program is brought into question.

Jasmine Jin Moreau receives an anonymous message that draws her back to her original home world of Qasama, a place where Cobras, the demon fighters, are not welcome. She thinks the message is from an old friend, one now in need of her help, and she cannot, will not, turn away from an obligation. What she finds on Qasama is more than she counted on.

This is military sci-fi. The Qasama people are poorly disguised Arabic peoples from gender roles to names and speech patterns. I might understand more of this aspect if I had read the first set of books centered on the

Cobras, although I have to say, it didn't read like I stepped into the middle of a story. This is my first Zahn novel. It didn't leave me chomping at the bit to continue on with the series, the characters were two dimensional and the detailing of the Qasaman culture I found a bit drawn out and boring, but all things considered it was a good read. I found the plot twist at the end intriguing in that it was a little on the abnormal side.

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### **John Macenulty says**

Unless you've read the previous books in the Cobra series there will be some things that escape you. However, I think that it stands well enough on its own.

I enjoyed the book. It took a little while to get going, but once it did the action was fast and furious. I'm looking forward to the next one!

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### **John says**

2016 grade B+

Series book CW1

This is an action adventure SciFi novel with some of the characters augmented to effectively low level super powers. It also has pretty good character and personality development making it a fun read. The story ends satisfactorily and can be read on its own. But it does up the next novel at the very end.

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### **D.M. Dutcher says**

Not a good continuation of the series. Jin Moreau is summoned back to Qasama mysteriously by Danlo, only to land in some serious trouble. That's really about it for the plot, and without getting into spoilers, nothing at all new has been added to the series to make you care about the book. There's only minor changes to Qasama, no real action outside of it, and it's just a collection of action scenes and the Qasamites acting paranoid.

The enemy is especially pointless, and this book is a rare misstep for Zahn. Hopefully he can change the second book into something more like the original trilogy.

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### **T.N says**

I got my first taste of Timothy Zahn through or of his Star Wars novels and haven't been disappointed with his work, The Cobra series is the same. Science Fiction at its best, believable world and intriguing characters, this is one to read if you like military sci-fi.

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## Katy says

**Book Info:** Genre: Military Science-fiction Reading Level: Adult

**Disclosure:** I received the final book in this trilogy (The Cobra War Trilogy) in exchange for an honest review from Amazon Vine; I am happy to provide an honest review of this first book in the trilogy –which I purchased for myself – as well.

**Synopsis:** Earth had won its war with the Troft because of the Cobras, a guerrilla force whose weapons were surgically implanted, invisible to the unsuspecting eye, yet undeniably deadly. The Moreau family were the most famous of the Cobra warriors, but their descendant, Jasmine “Jin” Moreau Broom, is worried about the current attitudes of the Cobra worlds and their leaders. Generations after the planets were settled, not everyone on the Cobra worlds thinks that the Cobras are worth their high cost, and favor cutting their funding.

Then a new factor is thrown into the mix. Jin receives a message, sender unknown, delivered by a Troft messenger:

*To the Demon Warrior Jasmine Jin Moreau:*

*Urgent you return at once to Qasama. Crisis situation requires your personal attention.*

Years ago, a Cobra team, including Jin, had gone to Qasama at the urging of the Troft to counter a threat to other planets, both human and Troft. Jin and her family cannot think of a reason why any Qasaman would want Jin or any other Cobra to return to their planet. Moreover, the Cobra worlds have prohibited any of their citizens from traveling to Qasama, and backed up the prohibition with stiff prison sentences.

But the possibility of danger to the Cobra worlds is too important for Jin to ignore the message. She and her son Merrick, also a Cobra, book passage on a Troft ship to Qasama. But are they really going where their help is needed — or are they walking into a trap?

**My Thoughts:** It is very obvious that there was a huge gap in the years between the last book in the first trilogy (published in 1988) and this first book in the 2nd trilogy (published in 2009). Zahn’s writing skills have obviously matured, and there is also an obvious difference in editors, as this book correctly uses “try to” rather than the colloquial “try and”. This book is very fast-paced and a fast read – I went through it in a single reading session, barely able to turn the pages quickly enough.

I had a whole long paragraph about the cover, but have decided against all that – I will just point out that the cover image is grossly inaccurate and leave it at that. However, is it too much to hope for that the cover accurately reflects the book?

But that was really the only problem I had with the book. It is a very good piece of military science-fiction and a terrific kick-off point for the Cobra War series. My reading of these books will continue with the second book in this trilogy, *Cobra Guardian*.

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## **Joe Slavinsky says**

I liken many of Timothy Zahn's books to summer blockbusters. Lots of action, explosions, suspense, and good vs. evil. Great art? No, but lots of fun, and like movie popcorn, hard to stop consuming. The latest installment(most likely a trilogy- book 2, "Cobra Guardian", is due out next month.) of his "Cobra" series, begun in the mid-1980's, involves the heroine of the last Cobra book, Jasmine "Jin" Moreau, who now has grown children of her own(all are Cobras, of course-bionic fighting machines, which are now mostly out-of-date, and unnecessary, on their home planet.), being called, with her oldest son, to the planet of their old human enemy, very mysteriously, and being there when the planet is attacked by an old alien enemy. Classic science-fiction, and hard to put down. I finished it within 48 hours. If you're into this kind of stuff, check it out.

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## **Kenneth Flusche says**

a decent war story with multiple characters written in the star wars style

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## **Troy G says**

There are problems here that weren't in the first trilogy, but let me start with the good. The world of Qsama is more detailed than ever, and seems both interesting and somewhat practical for paranoid survivalist types. The Qsamans seem to have a more consistant, and interesting culture than before. There are certain parallels to mid-eastern cultures that I never recognized before, and I was really fascinated to see that explored.

I also felt like the action sequences were nearly as good as they've ever been in any of the cobra books. We know all of the capabilities of the cobras at this point, but still action seems haven't become repeditive. I think the main credit for this is due to the changing circumstances and terrain.

Now the Bad. Jasmin is even less interesting than in the last book. I'm not sure how this is possible. She has apparently gone senial, and can no longer think deeply about anything. Her son, Merrick seems fairly immature. He has few distinguishing features despite the ability to think things through strategically, and be fairly observant.

Also, the mission is iexplicably composed on Jasmin and Merrick only. Apparently the cobra worlds have completely lost the ability to plan an exbidition, and to chose people for their talents rather than their last name. I don't get it. One of the thrills of the earlier books is the idea that different people have different specialities and depending on a mix of skills is important. That is gone completely, and it is a shame.

I recommend this book to those who loved the first 3 (like me). Everybody else should go read those.

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## **Marko says**

Before starting to read this series, I went back to the original that I had read about two and a half decades ago for a re-read. It was an enjoyable enough series, character-oriented, but very light. Also some of the themes

felt very dated (roles of genders) and Cobra lasers switched from invisible to visible between the first and second novel.

This new series is set a couple of decades later. Jin Moreau, now Moreau Broom, has married and is now the mother of two cobra sons and a non-cobra daughter. It is quickly shown that the archaic gender roles still keep women from military positions, even though, to be fair, women can have important jobs otherwise (in science and politics). The story sets off when Jin Broom receives a message calling her back to Qasama. She breaks the Cobra Worlds laws to do so, and soon finds that a lot has changed (again) on the alien planet.

The series is called *Cobra War* so things quickly escalate and Jin Broom finds herself and her son on a war-torn planet facing dangers together and separately.

A decent read, overall, but nothing very special. Zahn's writing is better, but the story is as light as the original series. His original *Star Wars* trilogy and the *Conquerors' Trilogy* are superior to this in many ways.

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### **Arjen Schwarz says**

With this book Zahn returns once again to his world of Cobra's, elite soldiers with modified bodies, who were granted their own worlds after their purpose in war had been served. I looked forward to this book, as I liked the original *Cobra* series, as well as most of Zahn's other work, but somehow everything felt a bit rushed in this book. Hopefully this will improve in the rest of the series. All in all, it was still a nice simple read.

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