



## Tunnel Through the Stars

*John Vornholt*

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## **Tunnel Through the Stars** John Vornholt

From the Gamma Quadrant they came, hordes of merciless Jem'Hadar soldiers commanded by the shape-changing Founders, who seek to conquer both the United Federation of Planets and the Klingon™ Empire. Now that the Dominion has joined forces with the Cardassians, and claimed "Deep Space Nine™" as their prize, Starfleet is running out of time. As a secret military project nears completion, the destiny of the entire Alpha Quadrant depends on the courage of a few.

In the Federation's time of greatest peril, as the "Starship Enterprise™" readies itself for battle, Captain Jean-Luc Picard leads a desperate mission of espionage deep into the heart of the hostile Cardassian Empire. Unless they can prevent the Dominion from creating an artificial wormhole, hordes of fresh Jem'Hadar warriors and Changelings will pour into the Alpha Quadrant, dooming the Federation to unconditional surrender. But there may be a traitor along on the mission and Picard finds he cannot trust even his closest allies.

## **Tunnel Through the Stars Details**

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Author : John Vornholt

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## From Reader Review Tunnel Through the Stars for online ebook

### **Beth says**

This is book three of The Dominion War. It finishes up the story started in book one. Really they are one novel, divided.

The Enterprise learns that the Dominion is building an artificial wormhole, somewhere in Cardassian space. The war is going very badly and if the Dominion can easily bring in reinforcements, the Federation is doomed.

So Picard, La Forge, and company must penetrate deep into enemy territory disguised as Bajoran traders. Needless to say, it isn't easy.

This book has a good plot and some quite imaginative moments that set it above the normal Star Trek novel.

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### **Steve says**

I quite enjoyed this sequel to Behind Enemy Lines. It picks up right where the previous book finished. I wasn't sure about some of the plot devices used in the first half of the book, but they all come together in the climax for a gripping read. I would have loved to have seen these two books as a two part episode of TNG ...

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### **Michael T Bradley says**

Overall I dug this little tale of 'what was the Enterprise crew during the Dominion War?' My biggest issue with it is that the Data subplot (he gets left on an alien planet w/a malfunctioning shuttle) just goes nowhere for far too long (I honestly don't even remember how it got resolved), but everything else felt fitting, from Riker dealing with a PTSD war veteran via his penis to a surgically altered Picard serving under Ro Laren.

The POW escapees are an interesting bunch, and I especially liked the unjoined Trill scientist collaborator who thinks everyone else is a moron because 'wars come and go, but scientific discoveries are always correct.' A slightly unique twist on the Oppenheimer naivete that led to the atomic bomb. It was nice to see someone who was, in essence, pro-Dominion for reasons other than 'boo, hiss' or political.

Since DS9 is kind of the center of the Dominion War, it must have been difficult trying to figure out what to have the Enterprise doing that wasn't just pchew pchew, and I think having Picard & everyone involved in his plot going up against a second wormhole that the Dominion was building worked. It had a real sense of urgency, much bigger than a mere firefight could have accomplished, while not overshadowing what was going on with DS9. Good choice there.

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### **Kaotic says**

Now this is what I was looking for. A powerful story against a powerful enemy, against all odds, with excitement I haven't already seen.

You know all those memes that say something to the tune of "there isn't enough pages left for all that needs to happen?" I felt that way by the end of this, but it somehow managed to pull it off.

Excellent story.

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### **Michael White says**

This was a great conclusion to the Next Generation portion of this series. It had great action all the way thru the book. Honestly there is a weird side story starting about the 25% mark to the 50% mark. It just felt like the author was trying to extend the book.....maybe I am wrong. But once we got back to the main story it was nail biting all the way to the end. The fate of the Galaxy rested with Captain Jean Luc Picard and his ragtag crew of rescued prisoners, civilians and spies!

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### **Amanda says**

[the Changeling didn't destroy the ship and instead just murdered rандос. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Craig says**

Not as good as his first but still a decent little novel. Once you get past the disappointment of not reading about the Enterprise in action during the Dominion War you can appreciate the story for what it is. A few new interesting characters (plus a nod to The Shining (Captain Jack Torrance anyone?)) add to the mix which puts regulars on the back burner which is too bad. However, I found this story had to strive to be original enough and I don't want to spoil anything so I will leave it at that. I was hoping for a bit more but Vornholts books are definitely the stronger half of the Dominion War series.

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### **Christopher Lutz says**

Closer to three and a half stars, Tunnel Through the Stars was a good enough tale of the Dominion War, but it was frustrating having the Enterprise sitting out 99% of the story at a Starbase. The reason I read both parts of this story was to see the Enterprise and her crew on the front lines fighting the Dominion. The sabotage mission behind enemy lines was well written and all, just not what I was hoping for with this TNG story.

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### **Joshua Palmatier says**

This is the second half of the *Enterprise*'s escapades during the Dominion War, not told or shown during Deep Space Nine's run. Basically, Picard hears a rumor that the Dominion is building a wormhole in

Cardassian space and with the help of Ro, who's Maquis friends have been displaced and killed by the Cardassians and their Dominion allies, they infiltrate Cardassian space to verify the rumor and, if they can, destroy the wormhole before it can be activated. In the first book, they discover that the rumor is true and manage to help save some of the Federation prisoners being forced to work on completing the wormhole as slave labor. They've retreated to the Badlands in order to figure out how to either disable or destroy the wormhole before it can be completed.

And that's where this second book picks up. Picard and crew begin formulating a plan, but sabotage forces them to consider the possibility that they have a traitor on board. It also forces them to fight for survival in the Badlands, where they discover some long abandoned ships. Once they've retrieved food and water (and discovered the secret of the ships) they turn their attention back to the wormhole and come up with a plan to at least hurt the progress on building the wormhole, in the hopes of giving the Federation enough time to destroy it before it can be used. The only problem is, it's a suicide mission, since the traitor in their midst has destroyed their ability to contact the *Enterprise* to ask for help.

This was a good follow-through with what was built up in the first book. In fact, I enjoyed this book more than the first, which felt kind of rambling in places. This one was much more focused, and adding the traitor and the fight to survive even before they can consider how to disable the wormhole was well done. My only real complaint was that the ship's ability to get as close as they got to the wormhole pushed the wall of believability. And then that wall crumbled when the traitor notifies the Dominion of their position and only one Dominion ship is sent to find them. Once that ship is destroyed, there isn't a second attempt made to locate them and plans progress after that without the Dominion continuing the search or even reacting to the destruction of the one ship. So there were some credibility problems with the main plot toward the end of the book, when the action kicks into high gear. But this is Star Trek, and there are often parts of plots where the bad guys should have reacted in more intelligent ways, so most readers will forgive all of this and just enjoy the story. And I did enjoy the story. The main action at the end, once their final plans are put into motion, is great.

So, an enjoyable addition to the Star Trek universe and a great additional facet to the Dominion War we saw being played out on Deep Space Nine.

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### **Jerry says**

This one had its moments, but I had trouble following parts of it. Maybe I should have read this series in rapid succession.

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### **Jason Vargo says**

Focusing on Picard and his rag tag crew, *Tunnel Through the Stars* plays like a less interesting version of DS9's own "The Adversary." The problem here, by and large, is the supporting characters don't get any development to speak of. Plus, the plot devices seem to be just that: obstacles for the crew to overcome instead of being natural to the story.

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## Tammy says

Picard, Geordi, Ro Laren, and a ragtag bunch of escapees from a Dominion work camp work to destroy an artificial wormhole before it goes live and the invasion from the Gamma quadrant begins.

I read the first two books many years ago, so I didn't remember the context for the book. As a result, it was a bit confusing at the onset. The plot was pretty good though.

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## Nathan says

This is a review of both halves of the TNG Dominion War duology, since they're basically one novel split in two.

**The context:** This story takes place between *First Contact* and *Insurrection*, simultaneously with the first few episodes (or more precisely probably episodes 3 or so through 6) of *Deep Space Nine*'s sixth season. I think it's the first major TNG story post-*First Contact*. The next TNG Dominion War novel will be *The Battle of Betazed*, which takes place roughly a year after this; in the meantime the crew of the *Enterprise* will have a Data mystery, adventures with the X-Men and Q, and the Dominion War comic *The Gorn Crisis*. This duology also features recurring character Ro Laren and characters from the TNG episode "Lower Decks."

**The content:** I haven't read *Star Trek* novels in probably close to 20 years. But I've been rewatching DS9 over the last year and my inner continuity nerd wanted to flesh out that crisis. So I checked out the DS9 novel *Hollow Men* and the *Tales of the Dominion War* anthology, and then took a look to see what the TNG crew had been doing during the war.

John Vornholt seemed like a great fit for this project. Author of acclaimed early TNG novels like *Masks*, he had also previously tackled the Maquis in *Antimatter* and even Maquis Ro (sort of) in *Rogue Saucer*. So a TNG Dominion War story seemed right up his alley.

Unfortunately, this is terribly disappointing. First, it's one novel's worth of plot bloated into two novels, with lots of repetitive filler. Nearly half of it has nothing to do with the Dominion War at all, consisting of side quests to give the characters something to do. It's also barely a TNG story. The *Enterprise* is out of commission for virtually the whole thing, with most of the characters barely there. It's essentially a Picard, Ro, and Sam Lavelle adventure, which is fine, but not really enough of an event to justify a duology or to sell the Dominion War concept in prose, which is I think a terrible missed opportunity for Pocket's *Star Trek* line. It's also fairly poorly written, the prose nothing to write home about, and the characters mostly rather thin. And it's uncomfortable the extent to which Vornholt constantly sexualizes nearly every female character.

This book is not without value if read more to flesh out the fictional conflict than for the quality of the novel itself. It does a better job illustrating just how poorly the war was going at that point than DS9 really managed to do with its victories nearly every episode, and it does show that the war was bigger than just the battles for DS9, and that the Dominion had other things going on. Unfortunately some of the Dominion's actions don't seem quite to fit with its characterization in the show, but nothing too egregious there.

Overall it's difficult to recommend this duology to any but the most die-hard fans or to continuity nerds like me.

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### **Mikael Kuoppala says**

The story moves forward very fluidly and has some really good points to make. It also uses some of our favorite supporting characters well and manages to rise above its rather action adventure premise with meaningful prose.

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### **David says**

A step up from book 1 of the series. My main problem is that I actually enjoyed the "side quests" the crew went on, but I felt like so little of the book actually dealt with the Dominion War. The side plot with Riker was almost completely written out. The Ro/Lavelle romance seemed very forced. The ending was decently written at least.

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