



Star Trek: Vanguard #3: Reap the Whirlwind

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The mystery of the Taurus Reach is about to be revealed. Ancient secrets lie on the fourth planet of the Jinoteur system, and three great rivals are fighting to control it. The Federation and the Klingon Empire want to wield its power; the Tholian Assembly wants to bury it.

But the threat stirring on that distant world is more dangerous than they realize. The Shedai, who ruled the Taurus Reach aeons ago, have risen from their ages of deathlike slumber -- to gather, marshal their strength, and take their revenge.

To keep Jinoteur from falling into enemy hands, the crews of Starbase Vanguard and the "U.S.S. Sagittarius" must risk everything: friends...loved ones...their own lives. But the sacrifices they make may prove too terrible for them to bear.

Star Trek: Vanguard #3: Reap the Whirlwind Details

Date : Published May 22nd 2007 by Pocket Books/Star Trek (first published 2007)

ISBN :

Author : David Mack

Format : Kindle Edition 468 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Star Trek, Science Fiction, Fiction

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From Reader Review Star Trek: Vanguard #3: Reap the Whirlwind for online ebook

M.R. Bowers says

An excellent conclusion to the first act of VANGUARD, this exciting novel brings the events set up in books 1 and 2 to a satisfying climax, while setting up plenty of conflict and mystery for the second half of the series.

Alex says

The more books by David Mack I read, the more I believe that he is the number one Star Trek writer out there at the moment. Having written one of the most meaningful stories of the Star Trek Universe (the Destiny trilogy) and having made contributions to numerous other Star Trek series, he is, in my opinion, the author who manages to best capture the Star Trek atmosphere. When reading his books I am totally immersed in the story and location. Totally involved in the character progression.

Reap the Whirlwind is again one of those books. Having written the opening book of the Vanguard series (Harbinger), David Mack returns with the third book. And what a book it is. Packed with action, exploration, character development. The way he portrayed the Shedai race reminded me of the Caeliar in Destiny. In his skilful hands the Shedai became more than an instrument of destruction carrying the plot forward, they became a collective character in the story, as they should have been.

Reaching the end of the book left me with a feeling that this was initially intended to be a trilogy with Reap the Whirlwind as the conclusion. I truly hope that the decision to continue the series beyond this book does not end up hurting the series as a whole and that the following books manage to at least maintain the bar set by David Mack in this one.

Joe says

I just finished reading Reap the Whirlwind, the third book in the Star Trek Series Vanguard. I know, it's not current news and the book is seven years old now, but I just read it and I think it's worth sharing.

Vanguard focuses on events surrounding the Taurus Reach, a mostly unexplored region of space between the borders of the Federation, the Klingon Empire, and the Tholian Assembly. The series is named for Starbase 47, Vanguard, where a lot of the story takes place. The Federation moved into the Taurus Reach in order to study the Taurus Meta-Genome, an incredibly complex genetic structure that seems to hold the key to much more than a specie's genetic material. The Klingon's are trying to discover what the Federation is after and the Tholians are trying very hard to keep both parties out. The reasons why become clear when the Shedai, an ancient collection of beings that can shed their physical bodies and have godlike powers, come back from their eons long self-induced hibernation and try to use the Tholians as the slaves they once were inside the Shedais' machines.

Reap the Whirlwind continues the plot lines set down in the previous two books and has the Federation

making it to the Jinoteur system, the seeming source of the Shedais' power. The middle of the book is full of explosive action and I found it difficult to stop reading at that point. There is great character development in this story, and the story and characters are pretty deep for a Star Trek novel. This is certainly a long way from the original Star Trek books. It has a good mix of action, political intrigue, legal drama, and real stories of human interaction. By the end of part two, the story seems to be done. The third part, while very interesting, feels like an extended epilogue. Each of the chapters wraps up the hanging plot lines, of which there are many. Some of these later chapters leave obvious places for the fourth book in the series to pick up, while others neatly tie up a sub plot. Reap the Whirlwind nicely wraps up the first story arc, while setting the series up for a refreshing new start.

I get that people usually write about new or upcoming releases, and this book is pretty old, but I really enjoyed reading it. Being a few years old doesn't mean a book is worthless, or that everyone that would enjoy it has read it, so I hope a few people out there are inspired to start reading the Vanguard series. It is a very well written set of books with a very deep set of plot lines. If you've never read a Star Trek book before, this would be a great place to start. It is separate from the events in the main novel arcs and the TV series, and it would be great on its own, even if you took all the Star Trek jargon out of it.

Find the rest of my reviews at [Tavern at the End of the Universe](#)

Nicky2910 says

Star Trek: Vanguard: Reap the Whirlwind by David Mack I think what bothered me about the Vanguard-series up to that point was the moral ambiguity by the SF-characters. T'Pol and Reyes' actions against Pennington were just despicable. There's no other word for it, even if they might have been warranted by the situation/orders/whatever. And of course, the willful ruination of a person happens in reality "for the greater good", but that's why I read Star Trek because I kind of like to have the illusion that society can grow above all those petty, immoral decisions (not withstanding that DS9 already started to darken that illusion by Section 31 or even Sisko's actions). So I really appreciated the show conscience on Reyes' part especially, but also that this show of conscience - not in the least caused by the terrible choice he had to make surrounding Gamma Tauri IV - had consequences for him in return. I enjoyed the events on Jinoteur (even though Sagittarius' crew is a bit... quirky for me. There are only so many one-liners I can stand.) very much, especially now in retrospect after having read Open Secrets. Who's really the bad guy among the Shedai? What's the Apostate's agenda? I thought it very interesting that SF is viewing the Apostate as some kind of good guy, whereas for the Tholians (Nesrene) he's the absolute evil as he was the one to enslave them. Again, at least that's my impression from Open Secrets. Overall, I felt as though the plotthreads start coming together. With Marcus' appearance it becomes clearer what the meta-genome is about. The mythical Shedai come out from under the shadows, the race for mastery of their technology between the Klingons and the Federation is on (with contributions from other races), and the main SF-protagonists so far (Reyes and T'Pol) were given a heart and a conscience fighting their own demons - literally and figuratively. Great book - definitely the turning point in this to me so far lackluster series (when I first read it, not when I went back to the opening books - what a change in impression a few more details can make).

John R. Goyer says

Pretty much everything I could ask for in a great sci-fi book - big ideas, interesting characters, a satisfying

series of storylines, some of which have been resolved in this book, some continue, some have just been introduced - a wonderful sense of humanity and character development - even though this is volume 3 of 9, I already feel that I've been paid back for my reading with the adventures so far, and the revelations of the origin of Taurus Reach. This is going to be a hard volume to follow - highly recommended!

Gustavo says

In this book, several open story threads introduced in the first and second volume finally collapse and get resolved. It might not be the resolution you were hoping for but for me it made it a far more interesting read than the previous book of the series.

It was really good to see a supporting cast as Quin take a more frontline role, and the way that made him evolve was great.

Several other characters went through very defining moments in this book, so this makes it a must read, as it changes the status quo quite greatly.

Patrick says

Big story

This story was relentless, never letting you catch your breath. A real page turner. Best of the series so far.

Aron says

Outstanding & best so far of the Vanguard series!

Michael Mullin says

Really good. Hope the next one is just as good

Terry says

A Good Read

Vanguard #3 is another good effort. David is one of my favorite authors. Looking forward to Vanguard #4. A court martial to conduct.

David King says

“Reap The Whirlwind” by David Mack is the 3rd novel in the Star Trek Vanguard series and it really highlights how these novels are getting better and better. The novel is full of engaging philosophical and moral dilemmas set amongst a thoroughly engrossing and enjoyable space adventure. Simply put, I believe this novel and the series in general is proving to be Star Trek at its very best.

The story itself picks up several weeks after the events of the previous novel, “Summon The Thunder”. The ancient and powerful alien race known as The Shedai continue to awaken throughout the Taurus Reach and are continuing to threaten the various Federation colonies that have spread across the region. The crew of Starbase 47 and its various support ships continue to try and protect these colonies from both the Shedai and the Klingons with whom tensions have continued to rise. However, trying to keep the information on the Shedai a secret is proving a strain, especially when one of the leaders of these new colonies turns out to be Commodore Reyes’ ex-wife.

Mack has really ratcheted up the tension in this book which helps to turn the book into a addictive page turner as the reader. This tension is expertly released via various exciting action sequences that don’t pull any punches as the body count continues to rise due to the dangers of the Taurus Reach. All of this is supported by some really wonderful characters that continue to grow as they face various challenges, both personally as an individual and professionally as a member of Starfleet etc. I now really feel for these characters and can’t help but feel for them as they are forced to face the wide ranging consequences that have resulted from their actions in both this and previous books.

What I also have enjoyed about the book is that Mack has continued to try and give the reader differing viewpoints to that of our usual Federation heroes. We get to see things from the view of the Klingons, Tholians and now even the Shedai themselves which provides so many interesting layers to the story. Seeing things from the Shedai’s position in particular was a clever move as it manages to give this potentially super powerful enemy a real face that the reader can try and understand and opens up future avenues to explore in greater detail as the series progresses.

I have finally come to the conclusion that none of the Vanguard novels are going to have any real standalone stories that would make me recommend the book as an individual read. Yes, there are two superbly enjoyable central plots to this novel, the first being around the colony being set up by Commodore Reyes wife and the scouting mission being undertaken by the USS Sagittarius but neither of them would mean much to a reader who doesn’t know the overall storyline. Basically, if you haven’t read the previous book in the series and/or don’t plan to read the next ones then I wouldn’t waste your time picking this novel up.

Overall, this is another fun and entertaining book in the Vanguard series which now has me well and truly hooked. If you have enjoyed the previous books then you are really going to be thrilled by this book.

Terence says

Reap the Whirlwind is the third book in the *Vanguard* series of “Star Trek” novels.

For those who may have missed earlier reviews of the previous novels: Vanguard is a Federation starbase in the Taurus Reach, a region of space between the UFP, the Klingons and the Tholians. Several years before the opening of the initial volume – Harbinger Star Trek Vanguard 1 – Starfleet discovered what it calls the meta-genome, clear evidence of an incredibly advanced race that had once dominated the region. Under cover of colonization and exploration efforts in the region, the crew of Vanguard attempts to unravel the meta-genome’s mysteries before the “bad” guys can get their hands on them. (Here, we must have faith that the Federation will use the knowledge with wisdom.) Unfortunately, Starfleet’s interest in the region draws the attention it wished to avoid from both the Klingons (who are there, initially, because they have a general policy of interfering with the Federation when they can) and the Tholians (who have a history with the original inhabitants of the region, the Shedai, they are desperate not to reveal).

Reap the Whirlwind is well titled as a number of galactic-level and personal tragedies are played out, not least of which is Diego Reyes’ (commodore of Vanguard) decision to leak Starfleet secrets and face court martial when his decisions and Starfleet’s policy result in the death of an innocent Federation colony. (It gets a bit melodramatic and maybe over-the-top to have the governor of the colony be Reyes’ ex-wife, who he still carries a torch for, but it’s not too excessive.)

As with the first two books in the series, this is pretty good “Star Trek.” Mack again shows his versatility as an author. His action scenes crackle and are well paced, though nothing as good as the Tholian ambush of the *Bombay* in *Harbinger*. And that skill continues with the novel’s down times – they’re important to the story and they don’t overstay their welcome. The chief weakness of the novel is that for too much of it the Federation et al. are on the sidelines, watching two factions of the Shedai vie for dominance and trying to avoid becoming collateral damage. On the plus side, Mack contrives to neutralize the overwhelming superiority of the aliens, paving the way for making the characters the focus of subsequent novels.

The series continues to lack a strong emotional connection for me. No character has really connected. For which I blame the number of characters; there are too many foci and little time for measured character development. Too often, Mack and his collaborators rely upon telling us something has changed rather than following through with it in the story. I’m still following the series more for the solid story-telling in a milieu I like than for any other reason.

Two final observations:

(1) Mack continues to enjoy slipping in references not just to past and future developments in the ST universe but also pays homage to other SF icons. In RTW, his target (at least the one I kept picking up on) is the movie “Aliens.” Some of the dialog is lifted directly from the movie. (Though not my favorite line when Burke complains that destroying the colony will cost a hefty sum and Ripley says, “They can bill me!”)

(2) There’s also a nice scene where Mack captures why the Federation is the “good” guy and preferable to the Klingons, regardless of how “cool” and “honorable” Worf is: A group of Tholians have been captured and are being tortured by the Shedai. A Federation officer convinces the rebel Shedai to free them because it’s the right thing to do despite Tholia’s hostility to the Federation and even though it’s unlikely the Tholians would be so magnanimous were the situations reversed.

It’s nice to see that optimistic side of the future that TOS captured better than any of its children – We can be better people than we are now.

PS - There's a handy mini-encyclopedia of characters in the back of this book but be warned - it contains spoilers. Don't peruse it till you've finished the novel.

Adam says

Easily the best yet of this spectacular series.

Andrew Maddox says

Well... What a ride.

After reading the first two Vanguard novels I came away feeling very underwhelmed. The plot was intriguing and the characters had promise but there was far too much set up, too many characters to keep up with and too much padding.

This story changed everything. The plot was thrilling and kept me hooked throughout with lots of twists and turns that had me saying to myself "just one more chapter" despite the fact it was 2 in the morning. The characters whilst still too many to keep track of in some respects were far more fleshed out and I felt for them and their plights, especially Reyes and surprisingly Quinn and Pennington.

The story as a whole mostly wrapped up a lot of the plot points raised in the first two books whilst setting up new mysteries and story lines that will presumably fuel the other 5 novels left in the series.

To sum up, in my review of book 2 I said this would only really appeal to hard core Trek fans but I take that back. This is a thrilling Sci-Fi read that almost transcends its Star Trek roots and I can't wait to read book 4 :)

Danie says

It's sort of weird when you get near the end of a story and realize that there's nearly another whole book to be read. Not a bad thing exactly, but it was a bit distracting, because after about page 351 the story truly seemed concluded to me, and concluded well. But, you read what is on the page and so I kept going and it was a good little extra novella after the first part, though not as very exciting as the first part of the book. Mack is a very good author when it comes to weaving all these new characters (and life forms) with the established canon of Star Trek (of which there seemed to be more in this book than the previous two).

On the whole I thought it was the best book of these three Vanguard books that I've read so far. A lot of questions that the first two books posed were answered, but of course, new questions were asked as well as new problems and situations cropped up so that the series wouldn't die off.
