

Ship of the Line

Diane Carey

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"Ship Of The Line" tells the story of the first voyage of the "U.S.S Enterprise(TM) " NCi1701-E, under the command of Morgan Bateson. Captain Bateson, a man from the 23rd century now living in the 24th, sees what no one else can see: that the Klingon Empire is building its forces and preparing to strike against the Federation. Seizing his one chance, Bateson takes the "U.S.S. Enterprise" on a mission to counter the Klingon threat, only to be thwarted by his enemy, a Klingon who has nursed a grudge against Bateson for decades. Standing in the way of Bateson's scheme and the Klingons' plan is Captain Jean-Luc Picard who, faced with the toughest decision of his career, must choose whether to take back command of the "U.S.S Enterprise" or let the torch pass to yet another next generation!

Ship of the Line Details


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Author : Diane Carey

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From Reader Review Ship of the Line for online ebook

Tony says

Battle scenes were written excellently. It was gripping and engaging. The story over all was a good ride, but the ending didn't feel like it worked. Everything seemed to move quickly and left a few story lines open or were glossed over.

Barry Groman says

Mediocre writing and a worthless plot with no payoff. The stakes were high...until they weren't.

Dan says

For the most part, I was disappointed in Ship of the Line. As a sequel to one of my favorite episodes, it fails on nearly every level. There were interesting aspects to Captain Bateson's story, but for the sheer amount of Trek lore that the author gets wrong, and how much of it just doesn't fit with Star Trek, I'm afraid I have to give poor marks to this novel. It pains me to do so, as I really wanted to like this one, but unfortunately it was not to be.

By the way, for a much better (in my opinion) follow-up to "Cause and Effect" and the crew of the Bozeman, check out Christopher L. Bennett's Department of Temporal Investigations: Watching the Clock.

Full review: <https://www.treklit.com/2019/01/SotL....>

Denise Link says

meh. A convoluted jumble that tries to connect multiple plot lines from different versions and eras. doesn't really hold together. I kept waiting to care about one or more of the plot lines...didn't happen.

Rena Sherwood says

Takes itself WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY too seriously. The characters from **Star Trek: The Next Generation** are unrecognizable here. There's way too much of the author showing off her knowledge of naval history -- not enough Star Trek.

Congrats to Diane Carey for sucking all of the joy out of **Star Trek: The Next Generation**

Laurie Kazmierczak says

Enjoyed this trip down memory lane with a look into how Captain Morgan Batesman adjusted to his jump into the future from one of my favorite Next Gen episodes. While Diane Carey certainly knows her Trek, she does jump around a bit with the plots and scenes and vessels. This is a must read for any die hard fan and I am surprised it took me this long to download it!

Richard Grebenc says

This book takes up where we left off with the STNG episode "Cause and Effect." What happens to the Bozeman and her crew ninety years into the future? Diane Carey provides an entertaining look at her vision of this. Not only that, but she cleverly works in Captain Kirk and a couple of TOS episodes as well. She even provides some finality to a different STNG episode as part of this adventure. All of this serves to provide the reader with her own insights on the characters of Picard, Riker, and Kirk in particular.

This is an imaginative read and a real page turner filled with much excitement and adventure. If there is any down side, it is that the author seems to take too many pains to describe the thinking/emotions of the characters in virtually every piece of dialogue. This can be distracting at times, but not enough to reduce the rating.

STNG fans will love this book.

Dustin says

In the TNG episode "Cause and Effect" the Enterprise barely avoids a catastrophic impact with the USS Bozeman, commanded by Captain Bateson (as played by Kelsey Grammer.) In "Ship of the Line" Diane Carey follows up on that brief cameo with a novel length Down Periscope/Next-Gen crossover starring Captain Bateson (as played by Lt. Cmdr. Thomas 'Tom' Dodge (as played by Kelsey Grammer.)) Only it's not nearly as fun as that description implies.

He's a captain who drinks rum on the bridge, argues with people, and would probably smoke cigars if the author thought she could get sneak it in among all the love for the coast guard she's worked into the story. The dialogue feels, at its best, off, and at its worst the characterizations feel completely weird. There's a part where Picard is feeling mopey because of the loss of the Ent-D and Riker gets him to man up for his *big secret mission* by watching a couple of episodes of the Original Series on the holodeck. This does the trick and he's ready to face the b-plot of revisiting the TNG episode where he was tortured. I would call it inconsequential but the A-plot is no better, with an ancient Klingon out for revenge against Bateson.

Even on the scale of Star Trek tie-in fiction this is a piece of crap.

Matt Randall says

While she doesn't write much Trek these days, Diane Carey used to be one of the top TOS authors. She really gets the Kirk/Spock/McCoy dynamic, and she writes the characters exactly as they should be written. However, while any TOS novel with her name on the cover is pretty much a guaranteed good read, her first and only (I believe) Next Gen novel is just not so good. She doesn't get the TNG cast dynamic that well, and the plot itself is just meh.

Aricia Gavriel says

Hmm. I've read and enjoyed Carey in the past, but on so many levels this one didn't work for me. I realize any review is entirely subjective -- but after spending some considerable time on Goodreads lately, one can't help but notice that the vaster majority of reviews posted here are extremely subjective, which means it's kosher to go with the flow. So here goes.

When I read a Trek novel, I want to read a Trek novel. When I want to read a sea story about salty seadogs on tallships, I pick up Alexander Kent or C.S. Forrester -- a tale of Jack Aubrey, perhaps. And I don't think the blend of the two fiction streams works. Carey clearly wanted to write about the US Coast Guard off the New England shores, but (educated guess) what she knew she could sell was a Trek novel. So she overlaid nineteenth century maritime lingo -- and characters that would be more at home in Moby Dick -- atop the ST universe. And it doesn't work, any more than it would work if a writer took language and characters from the curricule racing scene, circa 1820, and laid them over today's Formula One racing world. The graft is ... awkward.

Red flags fluttered up the mast before the half-title page, where Carey mentions that all quotes are taken from Forrester's Hornblower books. O...kay. Fair enough. ST is known, onscreen, to occasionally hark back to the days of iron men in wooden ships. The problem, Carey did it to much, too often, in the opening chapters. I found it rubbing me the wrong way, which put me in an unreceptive state of mind for what followed --

Starfleet officers who slug neat rum on the bridge, on duty?? Captain Spock accepting a shot of this rocket fuel -- on duty?! Referring constantly to a military ship's First Officer as the 'first mate,' when this is a merchant marine term, and semi-slang into the bargain? Before page 20, AG wasn't a happy camper. The character of Capt. Morgan Bateson is drawn from a ST:TNG episode, so pivoting a novel around him is doable to a degree. How well it works depends on how effectively the writer "sells" the idea. If I'm going to spend the first 20% of a Trek novel reading about the author's own characters almost to the exclusion of the characters I love from the shows, this author has to make me like those people, care about them; and Carey didn't. In fact, I found myself being annoyed by Bateson and his crew. The portrayal of the Klingon contingent is another sore spot. To be sure, Kingons are damned hard to write credibly, but Carey's Klingons are caricatures, cartoons.

Part Two begins with a forward skip in time, when Bateson runs into Picard and his team, and I find myself with more problems. The characterizations are "off" by a country mile ... Picard doesn't speak that way. The only way to recognize Riker is by the name tag. About here, I started to speed-read, which is always a bad sign.

The plot skips forward yet again, to the time after the Enterprise-D went to her death, and before the launch of Enterprise-E. Here, we find the Starfleet brass-hats making decisions so loopy, I can't suspend my disbelief any longer. I won't get into plot spoilers, because it'll blow the rest of the book for you, but...

It's a quick read, thank gods. Lumpy, incredibly self-indulgent, with poor characterization throughout, iffy dialog, and a plotline that's visibly contrived. Bottom line: Carey should have written a book about the US Coast Guard off the shores of New England, sold that, then written another Trek book on an entirely different subject. She'd probably have come up with two decent books instead of a hodgepodge that was impossible to enjoy, at least for me.

Alas, AG's rating: 2 stars at best, and if I'm feeling uncharitable, 1. Urk.

Jonathan S. Harbour says

Dreadful nonsense with terribly cliched Klingon motivations and unlikely (read: no SoD) events involving deus ex machina time travel. I don't think I've ever read a Trek book quite this bad before, was surprised, because I know I've read Diane Carey before. What is this rubbish, anyway? I regret buying the hardcover and hanging onto it for so many years before reading it. Really just a throw-away story that should have been rejected by the publisher.

Angela says

Odd one this, for the first 40 pages its an old trek story! When the Enterprise crew finally turn up, its not for long. Picard does get some nice scenes, even the ones on the holodeck with Kirk. It just feels very disjointed, like the author is happier with classic trek.

Daniel Kukwa says

Too obsessed with the traumas of the captain of the Bozeman (at the expense of the Enterprise crew), too mired in (incorrect) continuity, and too self-important. It tries to reach the level of Diane Carey's previous masterpiece, "Best Destiny"...and it doesn't come close.

Nathaniel Irvin says

I couldn't even get through this book. It was just so depressing. Everyone was cranky and at each other's throats the whole time; sometimes it barely even felt like Star Trek. Conflict is the essence of story-telling of course, but this was relentless. It made all the characters unlikable, including ones that I've loved since I was a child.

It's especially disappointing because the premise is a great one - it takes some rich left-over threads from the series and spins a new yarn from them. It just wasn't any good.

Mikael Kuoppala says

An underwhelming book that handles its themes in simplifying and rather silly ways. Very much different and a lot weaker than what Trek literature usually has to offer.
