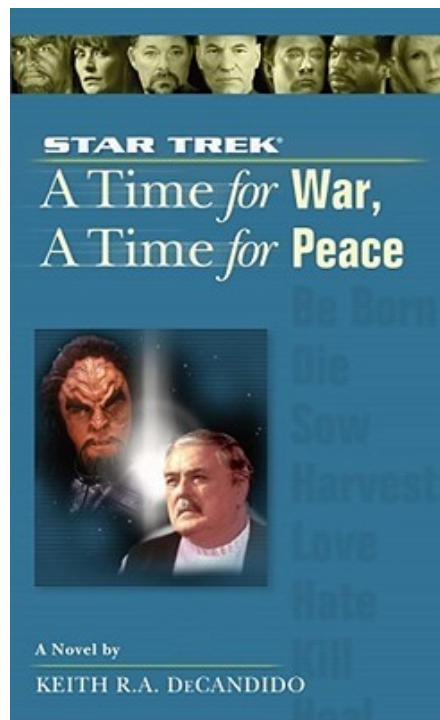




A Time for War, A Time for Peace

Keith R.A. DeCandido

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On the cusp of their epic battle with Shinzon, many of Captain Jean-Luc Picard's long-time crew were heading for new assignments and new challenges. Among the changes were William Riker's promotion to captain and his new command, Riker's marriage to Counselor Deanna Troi, and Dr. Beverly Crusher's new career at Starfleet Medical. But the story of what set them on a path away from the "Starship Enterprise™" has never been told.

UNTIL NOW.

Following the scandalous Tezwa affair, the Federation president's resignation forces an election, with the future of the United Federation of Planets to be determined by who emerges victorious from a hotly contested vote. But it is the fate of the entire galaxy that may actually be decided on Qo'noS, as the Federation embassy is seized by terrorists whose actions expose intrigue reaching the highest levels of Klingon government -- and it will take all of Ambassador Worf's skills to keep the fragile Federation-Klingon alliance from collapsing. And while this potential intergalactic chaos looms, Commander Riker finds his plans for command and marriage soured by a brutal, high-level inspection of the ship from which the crew may not escape unscathed....

The epic miniseries comes to a shocking conclusion -- one that will leave the "Star Trek" universe changed forever

A Time for War, A Time for Peace Details

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From Reader Review A Time for War, A Time for Peace for online ebook

Kai Knetsch says

This was a good filler type book. Not too much happened. There was an attack on the Federation Embassy, a new president was elected, and the crew was under investigation. But it doesn't dwell that much on the action, it kind of introduces it and then says two weeks later this was the outcome. But it did a great job of developing the characters and explaining what happens next to old characters. There were SO many references to TV episodes, movies, older star trek books, previous A Time To books and even comics. I liked the Acknowledgments section because he lists all the previous works he referenced. It also helped explain the continuity discrepancies from *Nemesis*. It was well told. I just wish there was a little more focus on the action. The first two books are still my favorite of the series.

Joshua Palmatier says

This is the last book in the *A Time To . . .* series, which explains how the crew of the *Enterprise* finds themselves in the situation at the beginning of the movie **Nemesis**. Crusher has moved on to head Starfleet Medical. Riker and Troi are getting married, with both moving to Riker's new command of the *Titan*. Data doesn't have his emotion chip, and the ship has an extensive new crew.

In this last book, the *Enterprise* has just resolved the explosive political situation at the planet of Tezwa, which was armed illegally by the Federation during the Dominion War as a last ditch defense. But that defense violated the Khitomer Accords with the Klingons, and if the Klingons find out, there could be a devastating war between the two. That initial war has been averted by Picard and crew, but the threat continues, since those within the government are aware of what has happened and why the president and his chief of staff really resigned. As the *Enterprise* begins a grueling evaluation organized by someone intending to take down Picard and his crew, the Federation is in the midst of electing a new president. At the same time, turmoil erupts in the Klingon realm as a terrorist group takes over the Federation Embassy. Now, it's up to Worf and Picard to stabilize the Klingon home world while keeping them from finding out about what really happened at Tezwa.

Honestly, the real heart of this series was in the previous two books written by David Mack. That's where the series peaked, with the drama that unfolded at Tezwa. That was the high point, with the six books before that bringing Picard and his crew under suspicion and a critical eye, Tezwa being the final redemption. This last book, written by one of my favorite Star Trek authors, is more of a transition from that high point to the set-up at the beginning of the movie **Nemesis**. It has its own internal plot--the political situation on Qo'noS and the very real threat of the Klingons discovering what happened at Tezwa--and that internal plot is entertaining, but mostly it's a transition book and "breather" before the movie. As usual, it was well written and I was completely engaged. In fact, I felt a pang of regret at the end as the *Enterprise* crew made that inevitable shift where their lives separated and diverged. In particular, I love how the relationship between Picard and Crusher was carried out. Riker's wedding planning was fun, along with the great use of the poker games to introduce us to some of the new crew and bring them into the fold.

Overall, I thought it was a great ending to the nine-book series. And it made me want to rewatch the movie.

Crystal Bensley says

Really great wrap up before Nemesis! Also nice prequel to Articles of the Federation.

Tyler says

This is really an excellent Star Trek novel, kicking off post-Nemesis Trek. I'm venturing into unknown territory here, having read no Trek novels beyond this point. I'm so ready!

Sandra says

Enjoyed the whole series!

Julia says

Quick list of some of what goes on in this complex novel: The Federation embassy on Qo'nos is taken hostage, all but Worf, who frees them all, with Alexander's help.

There's an election for the next Federation President and the election is only three weeks long. Voting, though, in the spread out Federation, takes a week. (The folksy governor of Cestus III is elected – she likes baseball.) The Enterprise has an inspection. They pass it with flying colors, even though all the inspectors are out to get the senior staff.

Kahless has been replaced with a hologram. Turns out, he did it, he was tired of being a figurehead, Klingon society doesn't need him anymore.

Worf goes back to Starfleet, in part because he got the codes, and Alexander succeeds him as ambassador. Troi and Riker get married, the Reman situation happens from the movie "Nemesis," Data dies and—who knows? This whole series of the "A Time to" books is a year in the life of the Enterprise. It was written to explain how and why characters at Troi and Riker's wedding are there.

Wesley is still a Traveler, but he came to wedding naked, as that's how the guests dress for Betazoid weddings. But this is their wedding on Earth. The only clothes the replicator could make and be beamed down to him now was a lieutenant's uniform. He can be anywhere instantaneously across the galaxy, change his shape, but can't make himself clothed when he should be?

Worf is in a Starfleet uniform, when the end of DS9 made him ambassador.

Jesse Lehrer says

A decent wrap up to the series, it had the necessary emotional manipulation at the end that just made me feel like I was watching the end of TNG all over again - siiiiigh :*(

It sort of dragged a little bit but because it was tying together loose ends and going over the series, it worked.

Overall the series is OK. Not sure why I've seen people online applauding it so much...I guess it's just because Star Trek novels are generally so bad. You will almost certainly not enjoy this series if you're not a Star Trek fan. The most enjoyable moments are when the characters and plot are true to the Star Trek world (especially TNG). Unfortunately a lot of the series doesn't really capture it and reads the author's politics into the actions of the people. While they include the secret shadow organization behind Star Fleet/The Federation...the authors never really explain anything about them and just use them as a plot device.

I just have a problem with it overall because the series is kind of a 'corruptifying' of Federation ideals due to all the chaos of the Dominion war. While this is a believable premise...it could have been done a lot better.

Matt says

The final book of the series wraps everything up nicely but I felt it lacked a good plot and climax. It was almost a epilogue to the whole series in book form. I still enjoyed reading it though.

Rosemary says

This is the final book in the series that covers the gap between the films *Insurrection* and *Nemesis*.

I was, overall, disappointed in the book. While it effectively ties up all the loose ends from the six previous books, it is a bit too pat, and the story line itself is not very engaging. The one "action" plot line, which involved lots of Klingons, I might add, was...dull. (How, I wonder, can scenes that involve Klingons using weapons be *dull*? Yet, here it has been achieved. Impressive.) The Federation presidential election line was...politics as usual. And the Starfleet suspense line (with the gratuitous presence of Adm. Montgomery Scott) was...*yawn.* Even the Klingon politics, and the appearances by Martok, failed to engage. I can almost hear my mental warp engine gearing up to power, and then winding down pathetically.

Oh, well. Perhaps my problem is that it is too much character and talking, and not enough phasers and bat'leths.

Eileen says

I knew nothing about this series. I just bought this book from Keith at our local comic con. I enjoyed it anyway - there was plenty of context to figure things out. Really good portrayal of dirty politics in paradise (the Federation may be basically a utopia but people are still people) and the perpetually strained alliance with the Klingons. I've read the Destiny trilogy and it was enjoyed getting Bacco's backstory.

Adam says

The final chapter of the "A Time To" series is perhaps the smoothest of them all and, refreshingly, least dependent on an overly burdensome quotient of high-octane action.

While the author plunges us into an unexpected hostage situation at the Federation Embassy on Qo'noS, this only serves to frame the larger endgame in the novel: the election of a new Federation President. Worf gets to let out of some of his "aggressive tendencies" once again as he must single-handedly take back the Embassy from Klahb, a resistance group who oppose the alliance with the Federation and claim that Emperor Kahless has been replaced by a holographic replica. The embassy siege scenes are a great deal of fun to read, and seeing Worf take on a John McClane/Jack Bauer role as he picked off the rebels one-by-one was enormously entertaining. We're also introduced to a mature Alexander Rozhenko, who skillfully manipulates the rebels into turning against each other. This is the beginning of a rather satisfying arc for a character who was often mishandled in the TV series.

Meanwhile, Picard and his senior staff are forced to endure a full starship inspection on the Enterprise, as hinted at in previous novels in the series. Disturbed that the inspection team consists of personalities none too fond of the Enterprise, Scotty pulls a few strings to be included on the detail so he can balance the books and reunite with his old friends who rescued him from the Jenolen. In reality, Scotty is written into the novel solely to serve as counsel to Geordi who must decide whether or not he's going to accept the position of First Officer under Riker on the Titan. The scenes between the two engineers are well pitched, and true to both characters' distinct personalities. That being said, his addiction comes off as slightly superfluous and somewhat contrived. I feel that a well crafted conversation between Data and Geordi would have been more effective for this particular plot point.

The inspection itself was somewhat standard fare, although I enjoyed seeing the return of Sabin Genestra - the Betazoid former aide to Admiral Satie (TNG: "The Drumhead") - and how he managed to ruffle his fair share of feathers yet again. Toby Russell's role as medical inspector was a nice cameo, continuing the animosity between her and Crusher first seen in "Ethics". Rather than risk a clichéd copy of Admiral Satie heading up the inspection, the author's addition of new character Captain Go was quite refreshing: Despite Picard's fears of biased negativity toward him and the crew, the outcome is both pleasant and courteous.

I could perhaps have done without the extended storyline of Kahless and his holographic replacement. It all felt rather silly ("Today's a good day to paint"?!) and didn't gel with the otherwise superb pacing of the novel. Plus, we're left with the obvious questions regarding the origin of the copied 29th century holoemitter... just where did Kahless' "discreet friends" obtain the device from?

Yet all of these plot points merely serve as decoration to the main party piece: the Federation Presidency elections. The contenders couldn't be more different; Nan Bacco is the current governor of Cestus III and responsible for opening relationships with both the Gorn and the Metrons, while Fel Pagro is a Federation Special Emissary to the Ktarians. The latter has few redeeming qualities, and we're led to gaining a pretty immediate dislike for the character on account of his hawkish stance towards the Klingon Empire. Bacco, on the other hand, is just so much fun to read. She has the homespun country charm of Dr. McCoy mixed in with a sardonic dry wit and a self-deprecating streak which all combines to produce some wonderful dialogue. The campaign and subsequent inauguration are threaded throughout the book and despite a few missteps (I wasn't overly fond of Admiral Upton revealing the Tezwan intelligence on account of his libido), provided a consistent source of momentum for the book and a much-needed break from the endless violence and death that has plagued the series up to this point.

DeCandido excels at character work throughout this opus, leaving me with no doubts that the crew are absolutely believable and convincing in their dialogue and actions. The warmth and sense of family that came to define the TNG crew oozes off the page, especially toward the end of the novel as events move to coincide with the Nemesis wedding. Speaking of which, Riker's "making history" speech in Alaska was beautiful, and all the more poignant given our knowledge of what transpires later in the movie. I could have done without Wesley's appearance and the groan-inducing scenes as Picard orders his lieutenant's dress uniform. Still, this is a minor quibble in an otherwise flawless act. Perhaps most notable is the repositioning of Worf's character, as he comes full circle in a meaningful and noble way; this was no easy task, but

DeCandido pulls it off with flair and it's very satisfying to read.

The author provides sufficient nods to previous installments in the series to tie all 9 books nicely together, although coherence and continuity between the volumes was never a primary objective. Sadly, I'm left with the same conclusions as many after struggling through this collection - the first 6 books can easily be skipped in favor of the last 3. Indeed, the high quality of Mack and DeCandido's offerings quite effortlessly outshines the volumes that preceded them.

Some final points:

- * The reappearance of Councillor Kopek was great. I'm glad we got to see the impact of the events of the previous two books on Worf's relationship with Kopek - in fact, I'd rather have seen his role made even bigger in favor of the Kahless story strand.

- * The political maneuvering between Abrik and Esperanza was so delicious to read, and a welcome callback to the types of backstage dealings we saw orchestrated by Kai Winn in so much of DS9.

- * Damn, I really want to like Amanda Vale. I do. But there's still something missing for me. Perhaps she's just a bit too eager to please, a bit too one-dimensionally heroic? Time will tell. But despite a lot of focus (especially in this and the past 2 books), I remain unconvinced.

I'd originally rated this 3 stars, but the delightful characterization of the crew and welcome introduction of Nan Bacco edges this up to 4. A great read - and recommended without reservation.

Maurice Jr. says

I enjoyed this Epilogue to the previous cluster of two-parters in the A Time To series. After Tezwa, the Enterprise crew must face an ever more frightening task: an inspection by Starfleet. Of the four inspectors, only Scotty has any warm feelings towards the Enterprise crew. He asked onto the inspection team because the other three members all had axes to grind with members of the crew for different reasons. I was amused to see Dr. Toby Russell from the TV episode where Worf was paralyzed and needed an experimental treatment to regain the use of his legs. Dr. Crusher couldn't stand her, and yet Admiral Yakamura chose her to oversee the medical part of the inspection.

Ambassador Worf is forced to return to a life of action when Klingon radicals overtake the Federation embassy on Ko'nos. His one-man guerilla campaign frees all the hostages- and has Worf considering a more permanent return to his former duties.

With Federation President Min Zife removed from office, the race is on between Cestus III governor Nan Bacco and Special Emissary Fel Pagro to succeed him. Pagro seems determined to piss off the Klingons, which would send the Federation to war- one just prevented by the Enterprise's actions on Tezwa.

I enjoyed seeing the Enterprise folks not having to face life and death after the previous four two parters put them through the wringer. Small touches such as Christine Vale being promoted to Lieutenant Commander and Ensign Anh Hoang and Lieutenant Aaron Studdard enjoying a romantic moment after getting together during the Delta Sigma IV mission made this book work for me as well. I'm looking forward to what comes next, particularly seeing Captain Riker and Commander Troi start their new life on the Titan.

rivka says

The rating is for this book alone; the review is both for the book and the rest of the series.

As the wrap-up for the series, as well as lead-in for several others, this book is excellent. But it needs a Note about when exactly it takes place, largely because the earlier books in the series were so inconsistent about their chronology. Relative to each other, and relative to other events in ST history, such as the recent war.

Unfortunately, while this one and the 2 preceding it (see this book's endnotes for why) show DeCandido's expertise at tying things together, the earlier 6 are sorely lacking in that department. Overall, the series barely gets 3 stars, partly because of those confusions, and partly because each of the pairs would have been better as a single novel, with the excess edited out. So instead of 4 quite good books, we got 8 mediocre ones. This, the single one not stretched out to 2, is the best in many ways. Tightness of narrative is one of them.

Travis says

Great conclusion to the story arc

A great conclusion to the 9-Book "A Time..." series. Fills the space between Star Trek: Insurrection and Star Trek: Nemesis in the timeline. Sets the ground for the Titan books and future TNG novels.

Stephanie says

This is the last in a series all with A Time.. in the title, and the only one written by Keith. Interestingly it is also set just prior to the other eBook – Star Trek: Articles of the Federation also by Keith. This book deals with many issues but the main thread is the resignation and subsequent election of a new Federation president. In Articles the election is over and the new president is finding out what the job will be like.

Mixed in is a terror attack by Klingon's at the Federation embassy on Qo'noS, an inspection of the Enterprise stacked with people full of enmity toward key members of the crew, and some revelations about Kahless that could dissolve the fragile truce between the Klingons and the Federation. What makes this story great is how Keith ties it all together without insulting our intelligence.

As I read this, I realized reading Star Trek novels is like going to a dinner party with old friends; you know so much about them already – their likes, dislikes, relationships and histories, but invariably you find out some new tidbit each time you get together with them.

We all know and love these characters yet each author manages to bring out more by telling us something we did not know. It also results in a fast paced and succinct story, since character development and world building can be kept to a minimum.

I am looking forward to reading several of the S.C.E. series that I have on my pda. If you like Star Trek then read this book
