



The Jackal's Trick

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Continuing the milestone 50th anniversary celebration of Star Trek—an epic new trilogy that stretches from the events of The Original Series movie *The Search for Spock* to *The Next Generation*!

The Klingon-Federation alliance is in peril as never before. Lord Korgh has seized control of the House of Krige, executing a plot one hundred years in the making. The Klingon cult known as the Unsung rampages across the stars, striking from the shadows in their cloaked Birds-of-Prey. And the mysterious figure known as Buxtus Cross launches a scheme that will transform the Klingon Empire forever.

Into danger flies Admiral William T. Riker and the USS *Titan*, charged with protecting the peace forged nearly a century before during the Khitomer Accords. Aided by Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the USS *Enterprise*, Riker and his officers scour the stars, seeking to find the Unsung and uncover the truth behind the conspiracy before time runs out.

Yet even as Commander Worf departs on a deeply personal mission of honor, hidden sinister forces seek to turn the crisis to their advantage. And the conspirators' plans threaten to spiral out of control, jeopardizing the very empire they aspire to rule.

The Jackal's Trick Details

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From Reader Review The Jackal's Trick for online ebook

Jeremy Bonnette says

This was a great second entry with plenty of action and excitement. I loved the twists toward the end that will certainly set up a wild finish in Book 3. It's too bad we can't have a movie version. I suppose I'll just have to settle for letting it play out on the movie screen in my head. :)

4.4 out of 5

Laura says

A sci-fi adventure that includes a tale of vengeance one-hundred years in the making, Star Trek Prey is an epic original tale that includes many favorite Star Trek characters. The Jackal's Trick is the second book in this series, and it starts right where Book 1, Hell's Heart left off.

To be honest, the story is quite detailed and I find it hard to do it justice, especially as it is in the second book in the series. In general, a young lieutenant of Krige, (Klingon Kirk killed at the end of Star Trek III) Korgh, spent 100 years plotting his revenge and how to take over the house of Krige. Using rogue Klingons who were kicked out of the empire, now called the Unsung, Korgh was able to mastermind his takeover. But there are other players involved including Worf who is on a mission to avenge the assassination of Kahless, and Admiral Riker and crew who are trying to protect all participants in a peace conference. Will the Unsung continue to follow their leader? Will the tricksters involved get their due or host the biggest con in the galaxy?

The Jackal's Trick was an action packed book. I'll admit I thought the storyline was all tied up at one point and thought, how could there be a third novel, only to have the storyline really explode on me and surprise me in the direction it turned. I loved books that can continually surprise me! I also loved that so many characters of Star Trek are involved including Tuvok from Voyager. I love all of the different threads of this story. I'm actually almost finished with Book 3 and I can't wait to see how it ends!

Robert Petkoff is the perfect narrator for this audiobook. He does amazing voice acting for all of the different characters that makes this a very enjoyable audiobook to listen to – especially for a lifelong fan of Star Trek like myself.

Overall Star Trek Prey: The Jackal's Trick (Book 2) is an enthralling adventure story that continues the journey started in Hell's Heart. It perfectly captures the Star Trek world and characters with a fantastic voice narrator. I highly recommend this audiobook!

This review was originally posted on my blog at: <http://lauragerold.blogspot.com/2017/...>

Christopher Backa says

Really enjoyed the audiobook. The story is engaging and takes from the Trek movies and some plot points from an episode on TNG. Can't wait to read the conclusion

Zachary says

This was so much fun to read. It feels like a complete celebration of the 50th anniversary of Trek, with plot lines and elements coming from TOS, TNG, DS9, Voyager and Enterprise, along with the accompanying movies.

No this isn't fine literature, but for a quick 4 hour read there is nothing quite as enjoyable as a jaunt in the Trek universe. This trilogy so far really feels like the celebration on Trek 50th anniversary that the series deserved, and it certainly incorporates more factors from more sources in the canon than the Legacy series that also came out last year.

Can't wait to power through Hall of Heroes!

Mrklingon says

Perfect.

That is, Miller did a perfect job blending TOS/TNG and film Trek into a well paced story. Enough twists and turns to keep the action moving and unpredictable. And the story builds to the right kind of cliffhanger that I'm eager to get my hands on the conclusion.

With the massive legacy of Trek - from TV to Film to books - there is a lot to keep track of. I love the books, but there are so many that I have yet to read, and sometimes the current books assume you know more than I do - Miller (and I'll guess his editors) handle this well. I knew enough and the exposition covered the extras so well I never had a problem understanding the story.

The story moves well, and has plenty of settings (Titan, Enterprise, the Unsung, Qo'noS, and more) - this kept things interesting and complex. A very good Trek indeed!

Daniel Kukwa says

It starts off very slowly, and I was beginning to worry about how this story's end game was going to play out. Then I reached the halfway point and all hell broke loose. A disastrous battle, two surprising revelations, one triumphant cliffhanger...and one reader's exhausted adrenal gland. Book two of "Prey" manages (thankfully) to finish at the same strong level as book one. Don't let the sedate opening lead you down the garden path...

Stephen says

The Star Trek: Prey trilogy got off to a great start with Hell's Heart and with book two, the story just gets better and better. The Jackal's Trick continues to follow the hunt for the discommended radical Klingons

known as the Unsung. Worf, Tuvok, Geordi and Riker step up to the task as they deal with Korgh's political plays, surprise attacks from the Phantom Wing, and the mysterious Object Thirteen. Yet it's the villains of the story that really steal the limelight as they're given equal measures of attention. The Jackal's Trick dives into their motivations and schemes, the twist and turns of their many layered plots, and flashbacks that further flesh out their histories. With no shortage of interesting characters all bound together in a web of shifting intrigue, this book delivers on all fronts.

For those who haven't read book 1, Hell's Heart, stop now as you won't want this series spoiled for you. It's suffice to say book 2 is just as good as the first and definitely worth your time and investment to check out. There's great characters, a deeply intricate and rewarding plot, action and surprise. The Klingons get tons of attention as the story is set in Klingon space, visits several Klingon worlds, and stars several prominent Klingon characters. But it's the details that really make the story interesting, and that's where the spoilers come into play. Last warning, as now we're going to dig in deeper.

In Hell's Heart, we discovered who Korgh was and who he is striving to be. In The Jackal's Trick, we find out more about Korgh's past, his plans, and his ultimate end game. Yet at the end of the first book, we were introduced to another character deeply involved in Korgh's plot. Buxtus Cross, the Betazoid trickster, plays a major role in book two as we learn how he came to be involved in this whole mess. We get to see his interactions with his crew, his plan for Kahless, and the motivations that drive him. This in turn introduces us to Shift, his apprentice, and the crew of Object Thirteen aka Blackstone and the mechanisms that make their magic possible.

Like the previous book, there are some flashbacks in this story, however the focus is very much on The Next Generation. We get a glimpse of Cross' past, another look back for Korgh, and a little adventure that Tuvok was involved in many years ago that ties into the story. In fact Tuvok pops up a lot in this book as his past run-ins play into the hunt for the Unsung and Object Thirteen's mysterious technology. There's even a cameo by Sulo. Aside from them, a lot of the focus remains on the villains, Worf, Riker, Geordi and various members of Titan. Picard and the Enterprise are in the book, but they don't get a lot of page time. Instead the attention stays on the others and it works out well.

With all the great characters and elements running rampant through this story, the real heart of the book is the balance between all the story threads. On one hand you have Cross being fully developed as a character. On the other, you have Korgh who has already been developed, and who is now running full steam with the scheme he has unleashed. Then there's Tuvok and Geordi who are trying to find a way to track cloaked ships with advanced technology while also finding a way to counter their enemy's advantages. Riker is up against the wall trying to salvage a peace treaty while fighting the Unsung threat, and Worf is on a mission to restore honor to a fallen comrade which leads him once again behind enemy lines. Valandris is still struggling with her own desires, and this time around we find out about Zokar who gets his own little subplot. There are others, some of them pleasant surprises, and some of them big twists. They all come together seamlessly, building upon each other, weaving in and out, and forming one cohesive story that continually builds interest without ever losing steam. It's an impressive feat.

With one more book to go, The Jackal's Trick sets up the trilogy for a grand finale. What will happen to Korgh's grand Klingon scheme? How will the other players in the story contribute and complicate the machinations of this grizzled protege of Lord Krue? What will become of Worf and the Unsung? In fact, how will the entire Klingon Empire come out of this mess? There's a lot of great questions, and so far the trilogy has made it a blast seeing the plotlines and characters clash against each other. For keeping the pace going full throttle with even more surprises and rewards, I give The Jackal's Trick a five out of five.

Stefanie says

2 stars

Idk, it was boring and I just didn't care.

Tad says

The Jackal's Trick is the middle book in the Prey trilogy set in the Star Trek Universe. The book picks up shortly after the events at the end of the first book, Hell's Heart. Korgh continues to sow discord that threatens the century long peace between the Federation and the Klingon Empire after the Khitomer Accords. Korgh's influence in the Empire grows as the Unsung and their shadow wing of Birds of Prey ships continue to wreak havoc and disrupt peace talks aimed at creation of a safe corridor of space for travel by numerous races.

Admiral William Riker works at maintaining the fragile peace while his flagship, along with the Enterprise and Captain Picard continue to hunt the Unsung as well as whoever is behind them. Meanwhile, Worf is once again isolated and outnumbered as he takes on a mission that has become deeply personal for him.

This second book explores more of the history of Cross, the Krueger impersonator who is key to Korgh's schemes. The plight of the unsung and the role of discommendation in general in Klingon society is an interesting subtext to the events in this book and this series. The role of honor among Klingons is well known, but the implications of the Klingon treatment of those judged without honor is explored more fully here.

John Jackson Miller has a firm grasp on the characters in the Star Trek Universe. He delivers an exciting book with great action scenes and a riveting conspiracy. Hidden agendas and secret plans spice up the action. More favorite characters, such as Tuvok, pop up in this book both in aid of unraveling the current conspiracy as well as to provide insight into past events that have helped shape the present. Miller does a great job of interspersing outstanding action scenes in amongst a fascinating conspiracy and characters who are not always what they appear to be. This book is a blast and I can't wait to see how the series concludes.

Robert Petkoff's narration is once again amazing. He voices a large cast that includes humans, Klingons, and various other alien races. His pace complements the story and underscores the action. He manages to draw you into the story without ever distracting from it. An outstanding performance. Highly recommended.

I was fortunate to receive a copy of this book from the publisher.

Robert D says

This is the second book in a series utilizing the broad canvas of the Star Trek universe, set in the 'current-time line' of the Star Trek novels, and the story itself is a broad canvas. That said the concept is to explore part of the Klingon culture and still create a story using standard Star Trek characters. Because of the way it is built, the story/chapters jump between events in the Klingon universe, some crossover between the Enterprise-E, the Enterprise-A, and Titan. Mostly this novel will utilize the Titan and the story of the

Klingons.

The tale is really trying to the story of a group of discommended Klingons, and of one Klingon's hatred of the Federation. The plot of Korgh is gaining traction and he has managed to create much dissension with the Kitohmer Accords. Because of the way it is set up though it often seems disjointed.

Paul Lunger says

The middle book of John Jackson Miller's "Prey" trilogy, "The Jackal's Trick", picks up after the events in "Hell's Heart" with another brief history lesson for we the reader as we go back to the events after "Devil's Due" involving Buxton Cross's initial introduction to Gaw & the crew of the Blackstone. From there, the events of H'atorian conference are explained as we the reader also get a better understanding of what specifically Cross is up to as well as a better idea of what Korgh's role will be in this as well as Kahless. Miller takes us across a series of events in this book that show just how far the Unsung will go to get their revenge & also just how much power exists in illusion. Every step of the way in this engrossing book we the reader find ourselves understanding just how powerful beliefs can be & also how fragile alliances are in this part of 2386. Both the crews of the Enterprise & Titan are put to good use as well as members of the Unsung aboard the Phantom Wing. There's also a rather fun interlude back to Tuvok's time about Excelsior which helps the plot along & allows a brief reintroduction of Curzon Dax as well. The book itself has several climactic moments which lead up to a cliffhanger ending which I'll be curious to see how things wrap up in the finale.

Matthew Greig says

Very Enjoyable

A very good story and very well written. He really has captured the essence of so many beloved Star Trek characters and seamlessly integrated them with so many new and compelling ones.

Justin says

I'm a fan of Star Trek novels and content. This is one of the best Star Trek series I've read. Book 2, The Jackal's Trick is a wonderful addition to this series. I love the story and the twists and turns. Each twist is interesting and useful, not just a way to prolong the story. I can't wait for Book 3.

Andy says

This is bubble gum, but it's better than average Trek stuff. The audiobook narrator is pretty amazing at impersonating assorted voices from TNG and Voyager.

Abhinav says

You can read the full review over at my blog:

<https://shadowhawksshade.wordpress.co...>

The period from 2016-2017 has been a banner year for the Star Trek franchise. A new Kelvin-verse (aka Abramsverse) movie, a new Star Trek show, new comics, and even two new book trilogies that celebrated fifty years of the franchise. The first of the latter, the Legacies trilogy that charted some of the adventures of Commander Una of Starfleet, was an enjoyable series that went to some of the roots of the franchise and delivered a great outing for one of the best female characters of the franchise. The trilogy wasn't as great as I'd hoped, but it was a good read nonetheless, especially if one wanted to "get back" into the swing of things as I did.

Which is where John Jackson Miller's Prey trilogy comes in. Written as a bridge between the movie The Search For Spock and the second TV series The Next Generation while bringing it all into the modern era, it is a grand adventure of that typifies the franchise, a grand tale spanning dozens of characters across many different eras and ships as they all come together for a greater whole. It was a blast to read this one, an excellent political thriller and military adventure that you don't get to read often enough in the franchise.

It all starts when the dead Klingon warrior from The Search For Spock, Commander Kruege, is seemingly resurrected and embarks on a mission to regain the lost prestige of House Kruege even as he does his damnable best to destroy the peace between the Federation and the Klingon Empire. John Jackson Miller absolutely has his work cut out for him with this new epic, and he doesn't disappoint with the execution. This is a story that has several excellent twists as we delve deeper into the mystery of how Kruege survived, what he means to do to takeover the Klingon Empire, and how the valiant heroes from the USS Enterprise and the USS Titan intend to stop him. For the peace that has existed between the Federation and the Klingon Empire since the Khitomer Accords almost a century ago is a fragile thing and the merest destabilization of that peace means doom for the rest of the Alpha Quadrant.

What I absolutely loved about this trilogy was that John drew on characters not just from the Federation or the Klingon Empire but well beyond that as well. And even then, we have such a wide range of characters to read about, whether as villains or as heroes. John has always been a solid hand at integrating existing lore with new concepts, and Prey is certainly no different. Alongside the greats such as Commander Worf, Captain Picard, Admiral Riker, Chancellor Martok, Emperor Kahless and others, we have a host of new characters who take us on a journey across the Alpha Quadrant. We meet several other species as well, such as the Orions, the Kinshaya, the Breen and many others. Prey is a veritable treasure trove in that regard, and I'm still astounded that John managed to give everyone equal time and weight throughout the trilogy. The scope of it, whether temporal or contemporary, is just astounding.

At times the trilogy reads like a heist, sometimes like a con-job, sometimes like a political thriller and at other times it has a really strong martial tone with some excellent space battles. Amidst all of this, what John manages to achieve is something remarkable. The way the trilogy is written, I would love for there to be an honest and detailed adaptation for television. He touches on so much of what defines Star Trek as a franchise and as a concept in itself. The relationship between the Federation and the Klingon Empire is at the height of what makes the franchise so unique and through his incredible plotting, he effectively redefines what that means and brings it forward for a modern audience. The Klingons have a great depth of character to them as a race and it is on full display here, the good and the bad alike in all its glory.

Certainly, we see a lot of the Klingon culture through the eyes of Martok, Worf, Kahless, Kruge, Odrok, Valandris and others. There's so much to explore in their culture, and John presents many of these different facets to the reader, right down to the very end. By that point, we learn so much of the hidden shame of the Klingons as well, and see how the many changes over the years, particularly the reign of Emperor Kahless has changed them, and how the return of Kruge and his efforts once again redefine the Empire with respect to its relationships with the other races of the Alpha Quadrant and even within between the different Houses.
