



## Infinity's Prism

*William Leisner, Christopher L. Bennett, James Swallow*

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It's been said that for any event, there are an infinite number of possible outcomes. Our choices determine which outcome will follow, and therefore all possibilities that could happen do happen across countless alternate realities. In these divergent realms, known history is bent, like white light through a prism -- broken into a boundless spectrum of what-might-have-beens. But in those myriad universes, what might have been...is what actually happened.

**A LESS PERFECT UNION:** More than a hundred yeas after the Terra Prime movement achieved its dream of an isolated Earth, humanity is once again at a fork in the river of history...and the path it follows may ultimately be determined by the voice of a single individual: the sole surviving crewmember of the first *Starship Enterprise*.

**PLACES OF EXILE:** Midway through *Voyager's* journey across the galaxy, Captain Kathryn Janeway and Commander Chakotay must choose whether to brave a deadly war zone or abandon their quest for home. But an attack by Species 8472 cripples the ship, and the stranded crew must make new choices that will reshape their destinies...and that of the Delta Quadrant itself.

**SEEDS OF DISSENT:** Khan victorious! Almost four centuries after conquering their world, genetically enhanced humans dominate a ruthless interstellar empire. But the warship *Defiance*, under its augmented commander, Princeps Julian Bashir, makes a discovery that could shake the pillars of his proud civilization: an ancient sleeper ship from Earth named the *Botany Bay*.

## Infinity's Prism Details

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## From Reader Review Infinity's Prism for online ebook

### **Joe Pranaitis says**

I enjoyed all three stories within this volume and would like to see a continuation of all three of them from the Unification of Vulcan and Romulus and the inclusion of Earth into the Intersteller Coalition to the Delta Coalition's introduction into the United Federation of Planets post Dominion War to the rebellion within the Khan ruled universe and how they could topple it. Needless to say this was a very good read but I would like to see these stories continued.

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### **Crystal Bensley says**

Absolutely loved the second and third stories set in Voyager and DS9 shows. First one was ok. Love the Myriad Universe concept too.

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### **Joy says**

I love "what if" stories. This set of short stories was a great idea. It differs from the "mirror universe" because it explored what would happen if different events in Star Trek history were tweaked. There are three stories in this volume.

"A Less Than Perfect Union"--What if the attack by Terra Prime on Earth hadn't been stopped by the Enterprise. In this universe, humans have shunned the rest of the aliens, including Vulcans, and gone it on their own. Captain Pike and his first officer, James Kirk are out patrolling in the new Enterprise, Kirk still bitter about the death of his wife Carol at the hands of Vulcans. Now times are changing, and some people on Earth are thinking about joining the rest of the universe again and they are looking to T'Pol, the last member of the original Enterprise for guidance.

"Places of Exile"--What if Voyager hadn't made it through the attack on Species 8472 and had been stranded in the Delta Quadrant. New alliances are formed with the Vostigye which some crew members accept but others don't.

"Seeds of Dissent"--What if Khan had won the Eugenics Wars. What if most humans were genetically enhanced. Captain Julian Bashir leads a ship of genetically enhanced humans and alien slaves around the galaxy, stamping out any signs of dissent. Then, they find a ship of humans from before Eugenics called the Botany Bay and things begin to change.

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### **Mark says**

I don't know why, but I'm a sucker for a good alternate universe story. This might stem from my enjoyment of alternate history, with its speculation of what might have happened and what those differences reveal about people. But this isn't limited to fictional speculations about history, as I get no less pleasure from

alternate spins on fictional universes such as that of Gene Roddenberry's much-loved creation.

And this book just hit the spot in that respect. The first of what was a three-book series, it offers three novellas that take the Star Trek canon and spin it off in radical directions. The three are:

**"A Less Perfect Union" by William Leisner** — Premised on a different outcome to the events of the season four *Star Trek: Enterprise* episode "Terra Prime," it has a more isolationist Earth reconsidering its rejection of joining the alliance of interstellar species (known here as the "Coalition"). It features a lot of characters from the very start of the original series, including a xenophobic James T. Kirk. The name-checking was a little exhausting, but never overdone and was part of the enjoyment of the story.

**"Places of Exile" by Christopher L. Bennett** — This one is most closely tied to its source material. Premised on a slightly different ending to the season three finale "Scorpion, Part I," a slightly more cautious approach to the war between the Borg and Species 8472 soon forces the *Voyager* crew to adopt a very different mission from the one they had been on since their relocation to the Delta Quadrant. This was the one that, based on the description, I was least looking forward to reading, yet (possibly because of my lower expectations) I enjoyed it the most.

**"Seeds of Dissent" by James Swallow** — Remember Khan Noonien Singh? Imagine what would have happened had he triumphed on Earth and what would have followed over the course of the following three centuries. In some ways it's the most radical departure of the trio, which made it the most entertaining of the three (albeit with a *major* caveat).

All three novellas represent radical departures from the events of their source material, which gives their authors latitude to tell very different stories. Yet what makes it work is the authors' verisimilitude to the characters from the original shows. All three authors  *nail* their depiction of characters that have been so well established over the years, sometimes across multiple shows. Combined with the freshness of the plots, the three stories make for a stimulatingly different yet still faithful departure from the canon that fans of the original series can enjoy.

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### **Leif Paulson says**

Overall, an ok book. It's always fascinating to discover the events of alternate realities and to learn where they diverged with our so-called normal universe. There are 3 short stories in this book.

The first story shows what would've happened had humanity not developed a "federation" with aliens. There's still a Starfleet with an overall peaceful mission, but there are a few subtle differences. For anyone who is a fan of classic Star Trek, consider this a treat.

The second story is a Voyager episode where Capt. Janeway and crew never negotiated with the Borg regarding a solution to their threat. Here, Voyager finds a planet to settle and the crew lead different lives throughout the region. While Capt. Janeway obsesses with getting home, she might not be too far away.

Lastly, the third story shows the events if Khan!!!!!! would've conquered Earth with his genetic soldiers. Humans have become ruthless in the galaxy, enslaving any alien species. One such human, Julian Bashir, discovers the gravest threat to their empire, humans without any genetic enhancements from the past.

Overall, a decent book. Parts could've been wrapped up better, but a good escapist read.

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### **Jeffrey says**

Well, the first story was ok... it lost some interest and character development wasn't great. I remember and enjoy the original series and it does link nicely with Enterprise, however it just didn't carry the plot well. (TOS time period)

The second story was alright as well. However, at times it was too convoluted and probably spread over too long a period of time. Kes was dealt with in too saintly of a way. She had faults and we saw them constantly throughout the series. Some of the portrayals, even given their hardships, were not very realistic. (Voyager time period)

The final story was the best in my opinion. I liked the Augments story and the way it linked up with TOS history. The fact that Bashir was used made sense and connected well. The pace was also good.

Lets be honest, none of these stories are what I'd call high art. In fact, these were bathroom stories... yep, the book was kept on the cabinet beside my toilet. However, they were mostly entertaining.

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### **Kim says**

I enjoyed *Places of Exile* the most, I think. Voyager's confrontation with the Borg was one of the ship's most pivotal moments, and could easily have gone in so many different ways. The author really nailed Janeway's personality, her drive and determination to finish her mission, her unease at doing anything that would detract from said mission, and her fierce protectiveness of her crew.

Ultimately, the book was rather interesting, playing on some of the most fascinating moments of *Star Trek* lore.

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### **Matthew Kresal says**

“What if?” stories have always found an audience. It can be too tempting to imagine worlds where Hitler won World War II or JFK wasn't assassinated. The stories in the first volume of *Star Trek Myriad Universes* takes the “what if?” notion and alter the various shows and events in them in a strong launch for the series.

The first novella, *A Less Perfect Union*, is set in the Original Series era where the events of the Enterprise episode *Terra Prime* instead led to Earth returning to isolationism and the steps taken a century later to bring Earth into the Coalition Of Planets. A lot of characters from that series make appearances from Christopher Pike and Kirk as well as the original Enterprise's last surviving crew member T'Pol and the characterizations throughout are strong (though for some reason I kept imagining the cast from the 2009 reboot instead of the original TV cast). Overall, it's a strong story with plenty of twists (especially one that pays off one of the more interesting casting of the same actor in multiple roles in the Original Series), tension and action.

The middle story, *Places Of Exile*, features an alternative time-line where Voyager ends up stranded in the

Delta Quadrant. Not being a Voyager fan myself, this was the story I enjoyed least out of the volume and the fact that it was also the longest of the three by some pages probably didn't help matters either. A decent story though, if perhaps a bit too long.

The final story, Seeds Of Dissent, picks up one of the more intriguing Trek "what if?" premises: what if Khan had won the Eugenics Wars? The story itself though is set more than three hundred years later when the Defiance, captained by Julian Bashir, stumbles across the Botany Bay in a fascinating reversal of the Original Series episode "Space Seed". The story makes good use of several characters from Deep Space Nine (which though I'm not a big fan of it I found them engaging here) as well as characters introduced in the two excellent Eugenics Wars novels by Greg Cox that I read last summer. While it is the shortest of the three, it moves along at a fast pace and builds to an excellent ending that makes the reader yearn to know what happens next.

Overall, the first *Myriad Universes* is a strong collection of three Trek themed "what if?" stories. While I found that the enjoyment of the individual stories was somewhat dependent on how much I liked the series it was taking off from (and I therefore suspect that might be the case for others as well), if you're a Trek fan I strongly recommend this. It's just too intriguing to ignore.

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### **Stephen says**

What if....Khan won the Eugenics Wars? What if....Earth had succumbed to fear after the Xindi attack, and withdrawn from the Coalition of Planets and exploring the final frontier? And what if -- and this is a big one -- what if Harry Kim was promoted to lieutenant? Such are the stories, the three novellas, comprising *ST: Myriad Universes*, volume one. Three Treklit veterans have produced here a collection of stories that have old heroes and villains -- Kirk, Dukat, KHAAAAAAAAN! -- playing very different roles. An unexpected discovery for me, I couldn't stop reading it.

William Leisner's "A Less Perfect Union" starts us off with an alternate Babel conference, featuring a xenophobic James Kirk who serves the United Earth ship Enterprise, under the command of an aging Christopher Pike. Although Earth succumbed to xenophobic politics following the conclusion of the Xindi war, withdrawing from the proto-Federation, after a century of isolation some on Earth are interested in restoring relations with the Vulcans and Andorians. Unfortunately, their spokesperson -- T'Pol, who remembers the hopeful days of Archer's Enterprise -- is kidnapped by a Romulan impersonating Ambassador Sarek, with the unwitting help of Jim Kirk. Leiser almost rivals Greg Cox for subtle allusions to parts of the Trek verse, including Trek literature. This was a strong start to the book, with the hilarious sight of Doctor McCoy urging Jim not to be so defensively racist about Vulcans.

In Christopher Bennett's "Places of Exile", we see a Voyager too shattered by its first encounter with Species 8472 to continue pressing on towards the Alpha Quadrant, choosing instead to temporarily settle among the residents and officers of a space station-based civilization. Bennett brings his customary science strengths to the table here, and they serve him and the reader well when he begins exploring fluidic space. Janeway and Chakotay's enthusiasm for making a home in the Delta Quadrant vary widely: Janeway's intention of returning to the Federation never wavers, and she is concerned that her crew might lose its identity. But it is Federation ideals that move Janeway and the other to work with refugees of the Borg-8472 war, creating a nascent coalition that works to find a way, martial or scientific, to end the brewing catastrophe. Another interesting aspect of this story is the expansion of the Doctor, who becomes a dispersed intelligence controlling medical droids throughout the Coalition's stations and ships. Although Bennett kills off Tuvok

and Paris, Harry Kim finally gets a love life and a promotion. (Was it worth it, Harry?)

"Seeds of Dissent", authored by James Swallow, visits a very different 24th century, one in which Khan Noonien Singh won the Eugenics Wars and created a human empire nearly engulfing the Alpha Quadrant. The discovery of an ancient human freighter -- the Botany Bay -- sparks problems for the Children of Khan, however. The freighter contains the last survivors of unmodified humanity, and their memory banks contain records of the atrocities committed during Khan's rise to power -- and challenging a history of Khan that sees him personally doing everything from being the first to step foot on Mars to breaking the lightspeed barrier. Although this story features an amusingly perverse pairing of Kira and Dukat (rebel lovers), it's mostly a generic rebels vs the Empire story. The augmented humans aren't even interesting: they're big and can survive in space for a few moments, but nothing of their society is revealed beyond a lot of Roman-derived titles. The ending was a little different than expected, however.

Of the three, I regard Bennett's as the strongest. Swallow's had the most interesting premise, but its development wasn't nearly as imaginative as it could have been. This book is first in a trilogy of alt-tales, but the others don't seem particularly interesting -- with one exception, of Soong-type androids becoming pervasive in the Federation. As usual, Bennett posts annotations for his story.

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### **Alicea says**

A Less Perfect Union by William Leisner explores a world where Christopher Pike remains the captain of the Enterprise while James T. Kirk is at his side as First Officer. Where's Spock? Well, Vulcans are not a member of the Federation of Planets...in fact, Earth is at odds with the Vulcans due to an incident many years earlier which devastated San Francisco. Kirk has his own bone to pick with the Vulcan people and it all comes to a head when the Enterprise picks up T'Pol for a diplomatic mission to try to repair relations with their alien neighbors. Stranger still, McCoy has joined the crew and he and Kirk immediately butt heads over what McCoy perceives is Kirk's racist feelings toward the Vulcans. Of course, longtime fans of TOS will find this humorously ironic. It's politically and racially charged with tons of action just like all the great Trek episodes. 9/10

Maybe my favorite of the entire lot was Places of Exile by Christopher L. Bennett. I've never seen any episodes of Voyager (I know, I know) so I found this one extremely easy to accept as canon. I guess it might have been harder if you already knew the "real" events of this universe. For those unfamiliar, the crew of Voyager is stranded in the Delta Quadrant and are trying to find their way back to planet Earth while navigating the unknown (and dangerous) stretch of space in-between. In this version, their ship is crippled and they must make an emergency landing on a planet where they are essentially refugees forced to make new lives for themselves. It delves into how each member of the crew reacts to the knowledge that they will most likely never reach their homes in their lifetimes. I love character studies so this one was right up my alley. 10/10

What would happen if Khan had actually succeeded in his quest to rule Earth and create a dominant race of superhumans? Well, Seeds of Dissent by James Swallow has a truly terrifying answer. After Khan's victory, augmented humans become the norm and Khan is viewed as a deity. Princeps Julian Bashir (from Deep Space Nine) is in command of the Defiant and he comes across a most unusual ship named Botany Bay. (If you're a Trekkie, then you most certainly heard ominous music playing just then.) When fictionalized history clashes with the harsh truth of reality the world crafted under Khan's descendants begins to fragment. (This book was the push I needed to continue my Trek tutelage by beginning DS9 by the way.) 9/10

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### **Phillip says**

I'm usually not a fan of alternate universes stories (which is pretty much most fanfic), but these three stories were awesome. There was a lot of technobabble in the second one, but there is something for every Trekkie in these stories. Definite recommend!

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### **Marchel says**

Hasil beli dengan alasan utama: itu judulnya tentang STAR TREK.  
Pas baca, ..... \*.\*" aaa pusing.

Mungkin karena saya bacanya tersendat-sendat, alias tidak langsung dibaca hingga tamat.

Tetap saja kerinduan saya terhadap dunia starship, pasher, senjata photon, transponder, Vulcan, Klingon, dan Enterprise, terobati sudah.

Jadi sekarang pertanyaannya adalah: adakah yang berniat menjual buku lanjutan dari serial ini ???

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### **Erica says**

When I first heard about these *Myriad Universes* novels I **loved** the whole idea of it. What would have happened if...? is a question that has intrigued me and got me thinking more times than I could even remember. Both regarding my own life, life in general and Star Trek. It's just one of those things that gets me going. And, having finished this book, I can say that I'm not disappointed. I give this book as a whole 3 1/2 stars.

It will, however, be a whole lot easier to review the three different stories in this book individually. So that's what I'll do.

#### **A Less Perfect Union** (TOS/ENT) 3 stars

This story started off good enough. I really liked the premise of a **xenophobic Earth** and getting to explore what that would have been like. Here we have a TOS crew, serving under Captain Christopher Pike, that isn't quite the way that we're used to seeing them. Their lives, not to mention their *view* of life, turned out very differently. The Federation, obviously, didn't come to be. Earth is closed off, and in a desert an old T'Pol is living isolated from other people - the only non human on the planet after having chosen to stay there to be with Trip about a 100 years earlier.

*What's the difference between judging a whole group of people because of the color of their skin, and judging them because of the planet they come from?*

The story then goes on about the prospect of change and acceptance of other species. It was an interesting read. But even though I liked the story, I did feel it to be somewhat slow (for lack of a better word) at times. I

guess I would have wanted more to happen, or to have been drawn in to the story a little bit more.

### Places of Exile (VOY) 4 1/2 stars

This story started off with a bang right about the time when Janeway considered making an alliance with the Borg. So, there I was, thrown right into a storyline that I *loved* and getting to know what might have happened if that alliance never came to be, if Voyager instead were crippled from an attack by Species 8472 and couldn't continue their journey towards Earth...

Do I even have to mention that **I loved this story**? And not just because of it being about Voyager and involving so many of the interesting species from the Delta Quadrant that we got to know during the series run. But also because it's really well written by Christopher L. Bennett. The world building and the character development is really good. *I mean, come on, Harry Kim even gets to be something more than an Ensign!* But, all jokes aside, I really loved this. The world and the people that the crew ended up with made for a great story. Just the idea of Voyager not continuing on their journey makes for a lot of interesting issues in itself. How the crew copes, if they really will manage to make a life for themselves so far from home, if Janeway will ever let go of accepting this etc.

I would even go so far as to saying that I gladly could have read a whole trilogy just based on this story, just so that I could dive deeper into it and get even more out of it. Let's just say that the book was *very* hard to put down during this story. :)

### Seeds of Dissent (DS9) 3 1/2 stars

This last story was a pretty dark one. Just imagine Khan getting his way and humanity is shaped off of this several hundreds of years later enslaving and conquering other species that are not as enhanced and worthy as they are. I really liked getting to see where this was going, though. And it didn't hurt having Julian Bashir in the lead and the Botany Bay sleeper ship showing up from before Khan had risen to power...

What was especially interesting was the idea of how a dictatorship is seen differently from different points of view. How it's all about getting the people to believe the lies and how you can end up fighting for something that wasn't what you thought it was. I really enjoyed seeing the characters develop, and to see the history explained both as it was thought to have been and how it actually was.

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### **Joseph Barnes says**

It's been said that for any event, there are an infinite number of possible outcomes. Our choices determine which outcome will follow, and therefore all possibilities that could happen do happen across countless alternate realities. In these divergent realms, known history is bent, like white light through a prism -- broken into a boundless spectrum of what-might-have-beens. But in those myriad universes, what might have been...is what actually happened.

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I Love "Alternate Timeline" Stories! Fantastic Book! Interesting tales. If your a Star Trek Fan you will like this book!

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### **Andrew Riley says**

Lets face it, if you're looking for a great novel to stimulate your mind and expand your horizons you're in the wrong place. As with all tv and movie tie-ins the Star Trek books are light hearted distractions not the heights of modern literature.

Infinity's Prism offers three "What If's" set in the Star Trek Universe. Three very different types of what if too.

A LESS PERFECT UNION, breaks from the Trek narrative in Archer's time, but is set in Kirk's. Many recognisable characters from TOS are found here illustrating how culture strongly affects individuals.

PLACES OF EXILE, is a Voyager story. The plot follows directly on from the break point during the Species 8472/Borg conflict. This offering gives us the standard characters that change only with the ongoing plot, showing how big a difference a single change can make.

SEEDS OF DISSENT is set in the DS9 time frame, the break point being Khan Noonien Singh winning the Eugenics war on Earth. The characters here are mostly name touch points, the human counterparts being unrecognisable in terms of personality or indeed physical appearance.

I enjoyed all the stories, they're interesting looks into other types of future, the first and last could have been non-Star Trek stories, but they would have needed longer to set them up. Playing on the differences makes it quick and easy to understand the new timeline. None of them have any link to the "real" Trek universe and they don't link to each other.

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