



Seize the Fire

Michael A. Martin

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Shortly after revealing its union with the Federation's newest adversary—a coalition of galactic powers known as the Typhon Pact—the Gorn Hegemony suffers an ecological disaster that destroys the hatchery world of their critically important warrior caste. Fortunately, the Gorn had already been investigating traces of an ancient but powerful “quick terraforming” technology left behind by a long-vanished civilization. This technology, should it prove controllable, promises to restore their delicate biological and social status quo. But when a Gorn soldier prepares to use the technology to reshape the planet Hranrar into a new warrior-caste spawning ground, threatening to extinguish the native Hranrarii, he draws the unwanted attention of a mad Gorn trooper determined to bring the military caste into dominance.

Meanwhile, as the *U.S.S. Titan* embarks upon a search for this potent technology in the hope of using it to heal the wounds the Federation sustained during the recent Borg crisis, Captain Riker must balance his responsibility for his crew's safety against the welfare of the Hranrarii and his duty to the Prime Directive. With a menacing Typhon Pact fleet nipping at his heels, Riker must not only stop the Gorn warriors but also plumb the secrets of an ancient terraforming artifact. But of everyone serving aboard *Titan*, Commander Tuvok may be the only one who understands how dangerous such planet-altering technology can be, even when used with the best of intentions. . . .

Seize the Fire Details

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From Reader Review Seize the Fire for online ebook

Jeff says

Sieze the Fire was a much more enjoyable read than the previous title in the series, *Rough Beasts of Burden*, mainly because the well-known characters from the TV and Movie series are true to form, while characters created for the paperback series have interest and hold our sympathies. (I haven't read the first installment of the Typhon Pact series, *Zero Sum Game*, so can't make a comparison.)

Each title in the series involves one civilization of the recently formed Typhon Pact (see *Star Trek: Destiny*), a loose confederation of long-time adversaries of the Federation: The Gorn, the Breen, The Romulans, The Tzenkethi, and Tholians. *Sieze the Fire* brings us into close contact with the lizard like Gorn, first seen in the original Star Trek episode "Arena," and their complex, caste-dominated, hegemonic culture and admirably fleshed out here. We are also introduced to the inscrutable, zen-like, amphiboid Hranrarii.

The plot and action are standard seat-of-the-pants, damn-lucky, escape-with-seconds-to-spare, standard, Star Trek fare. Not exceptional, but certainly enjoyable.

The ending is an abrupt cliff-hanger. Whether this story line continues in *Star Trek: Titan #11* or *Star Trek: Typhon Pact #5 (Paths of Disharmony)* will require the reader to boldly go on reading where ever the publishing leads.

Ceremony says

i like reading about the gorn ! pretty interesting !

Scott Williams says

I generally like Martin's storytelling. I think he does a good job of setting the scene. It's mostly thanks to Martin that we have such a strong sense of what the USS Titan is like. In this book, Martin does a good job of tying together diverse bits of Trek arcana to create a cohesive look at Gorn society.

I'm not keen on the characterization of Christine Vale. I get that she's a substitute for young Riker and she's supposed to be energetic, and more into actions than words but she's a bit much. She's always got something sarcastic to say and she's also racist (not always out loud but often in her thoughts) which makes her seem more like a 21st century human than a 24th century Starfleet officer.

Daniel says

Like the previous Typhon Pact novel, this one focuses on interactions with one pact member species. In this case the Gorn. In "Seize the Fire" the crew of the Titan or "Tie-Tan" continues the exploration of space in the wake of the major events of *Star Trek: Destiny*. What the crew discovers could represent the salvation of

devastated Federation worlds, or a weapon of mass destruction. Side Note: Readers are strongly encouraged to watch Star Trek II and III to gain an understanding of the Genesis device before reading. This device is now in the hands of the Gorn who are threatening to remake a world with a population already on it. What ensues is Titan crew members trying not to provoke the Typhon Pact member, while finding ways to take down the device, should that fail, they want to catalog the planet below so they aren't forgotten. Throughout the book, there are undercurrents of both Starfleet and the Gorn trying to overcome their prejudices of one another, on both a political and biological level. This is a good book, it shows more of a species that has proven elusive when it comes to significant screen time while examining Titan's interactions with them. I do wish, however, that Tuvok's and White-Blue's interactions with the "Genesis" device was better covered.

Sharon says

This is the second book in the Typhon Pact series which continues to deal with the aftermath of the events that unfolded in the Destiny Trilogy.

The main events take place on the Titan. For those not 'in the know' Riker has finally been given command of his own ship. Deanna is with him and so is Tuvok whom we know from Star Trek Voyager. Titan is most known for being a multi-species crew. Here we find members of all the Federation worlds serving on board. The Titan is also the focus of a separate line of novels so if you really really like Riker there is a lot more material about him out there.

In this story, we deal with another member of the Typhon Pact, the Gorn. The worlds of the Alpha Quadrant have suffered great losses. The Gorn, like many other species, have specific needs to ensure that their population reaches a stable level and so are on the hunt for 'nursery' worlds. The Titan is in the same area and conflicts arise. We learn a lot more about the Gorn and their civilization.

This book walked a fine line between boring but held my interest just enough for me to keep going. The Gorn World building didn't interest me and I never cared for Riker as a character in the TV shows so I admit I had that prejudice going in but I somehow managed to finish it even though it took several weeks to finish it instead of several days.

Crystal Bensley says

All the Gorn names made this slow going and it was longer than necessary I feel but still an interesting Titan story.

Graeme Skinner says

Was a good book but not great. Some of the plot lines were a little slow. I found the trip to the planet practically pointless and the Pact's fleet just warping in at the time Titan was ready to leave was too predictable.. made for easy reading at the poolside though.

Ps - Those Gorn names were annoying difficult to read so I ended up making up my own interpretations of them!

Angela says

The crew of the Titan go up against the Gorn. While investigating new systems they find evidence of an old advanced civilisation who could terraform. The Gorn have found the technology and want to use it. This is quite a good look at the Gorn civilisation, and makes them more than just warriors. It looks at prejudice, and how to over come it by shared experiences. Surprisingly Tuvok is not one of the main characters here, despite being on the cover, he is the tactical officer and does play a part but not the main one. A very good read.

Rob says

Not finished this book yet but I really like the insight into the Gorn Hegemony.

I think the author does a great job of challenging our definition of racial tolerance. Even tho in the 24th century, humans seem to have accepted each other and for the most part other humanoids, we still have a ways to go with respect to more alien races. A really good comparison to our current global problem of social and racial tolerance, reflecting the core values of Star Trek itself.

I like the story line too with no win scenario - almost. I think the Titan could have just destroyed the planet terraforming technology and warped the heck out of there without any concern for violating the prime directive. Based on my understanding, you cant interfere with a pre-warp civilization but at the same time, I don't think it prevents you from protecting it against a space faring race with warp technology. If they were threatened by another race in the same planetary system without warp capability that would be hands off - but I am no Federation Lawyer. I think the real issue would just be pissing off the Gorn and starting a war but this doesnt seem to be their main concern.

Also, since the the Titan crew discover anti-matter power on the planet they decide this is the same as warp capable - I think this is technologically incorrect in the Star Trek universe. Anti-matter power is not the same as a warp core. Warp engines warp space using a gravitational field. I think this is a totally different technology than an anti-matter reactor. Maybe the two technologies are integral but not really the same.

Anyway, I am really enjoying this book.

Jeffrey Debris says

After reading and enjoying the first part of the Typhon Pact series, I had high hopes for the next instalment in the series. The story takes place at about the same time as the first book, but with a completely different set of characters. This time William Riker and Tuvok are the main characters, or at least, that's what we are led to believe judging from the cover of the book.

The main theme of the book is an interesting one. If you had a machine capable of both creating and destroying life on a planet, would you use it? Add to this a race desperate to replace a lost world and a planet full of unaware aliens who might lose their home to a mad lizard humanoid and you've got all the ingredients

needed for an intriguing story.

My main reason for giving this book a three star reason is that towards the end, there were a couple of things I had great trouble believing. Without spoiling the story, I believe a certain Vulcan was put in the story with the sole purpose of creating a slightly cheap solution to one of the biggest problems in the book.

Another thing that got slightly on my nerve was the lack of consistency when switching between locations. Usually, at the start of a new passage the name of the location would appear, but there were a lot of times when this wasn't the case and it took me a while to figure out where this scene was taking place. If you're going to use locations at the start of a passage, then use them consistently, would be my advice.

Overall, I would recommend this book to anyone who loves Star Trek and especially William Riker and Deanna Troi. The book is full of recognizable scenes with both of these characters. If you're not into Star Trek, you'd better avoid this book.

Elizabeth Perez says

This one actually started off strong. I was never a huge Riker fan but he actually came off likeable to me, the characters and relationships worked, and it was a great story line. I really liked how the Gorn perceived humanoids, lost of great observations and antidotes. It was traditional 'time is running out' trek, which I like.

But then the book took a turn...

Really it started off over written. I didn't mind that too much but then it just got worse. It's so frustrating that this book could have been so much more if it just had been edited more.

Despite my low-ish rating I'd recommend it. Just go in knowing it is slow in many places and then fast in others but in extremes.

Brian says

I was lukewarm about this one. I was excited to see the Gorn in a modern Trek story, but they ended up feeling a bit cartoonish. I know that's kinda unavoidable when we're talking about giant lizard people, but I feel like you can work with that to at least make it a bit less ridiculous. Though I did like the nice little touches about how they perceived mammalian races.

My other big criticism is that this really needed a better editor. There were parts of the story that REALLY dragged on and were hard to get through, and others that went by at warp speed. Also -10 style points for the "I'm getting too old for this" cliche. But there were good moments, too - the climax of the story was neat. But even there, I wanted to know more about what Brahma-Shiva was thinking during those events.

Jarezal says

Con el inicio de la saga del Typhon Pact es hora de visitar aquellas razas de Star Trek que no han tenido

demasiado protagonismo en las series. Si en *Zero Sum Game* le tocaba el turno a los Breen, en *Seize the Fire* son los Gorn los invitados especiales.

Los Gorn únicamente han tenido protagonismo en un capítulo de las cinco series, en el mítico Arena allá en el lejano 1967 durante la primera temporada de la serie original. No sería hasta 2005 donde volverían a aparecer, casi como un cameo, en el episodio del universo espejo de Enterprise.

En *Seize the Fire* nos adentramos un poco más en esta especie organizada en castas y donde cada una de ellas no sólo tiene habilidades sino también apariencia física diferente, supongo que para justificar el cambio estético entre ENT y TOS. Pese a ello, no se profundiza mucho en estas divisiones resultando en estereotipos como militares matones y técnicos (“empollones”) sometidos. Por otro lado, no me acaba de encajar el problema que desencadena toda la historia. Por muy específicas que sean las necesidades de los huevos de los guerreros, no pueden ser tan diferentes al del resto de huevos de las castas *de la misma especie*.

Además, pese a que el libro es uno de los más largos de la colección, se dejan demasiadas tramas sin abordar. Tuvok aparece en la portada junto a Riker y se supone que su subtrama tendría peso en la historia por ello. Sin embargo, todo su conflicto interno con las tecnologías terraformadoras tipo Génesis se pasa por encima. Resulta más sangrante que haya resoluciones a un par de tramas que ocurran fuera de cámara. Toda la escena entre Tuvok y Brahma-Shiva y toda la argumentación final de Riker con los abogados Gorn no la vemos.

Al final te queda la sensación de que aquellas situaciones que eran difíciles de narrar para el autor se ignoran y las solventa diciendo después que todo ha ido bien.

Finalmente sobre la IA terraformadora, ¿para qué introducirla en la historia si no dejas al lector verla interactuar en ningún momento con los personajes? Acabas pensando que su único objetivo es disponer de un *deus ex machina* para poder cortar comunicaciones y desactivar transportes según lo necesite la trama.

Nathan says

I was really hoping to like this book, unfortunately I just couldn't do it.

Overall it had an interesting premise, however with the authors the writing style I had difficulty keeping track of the two Gorn factions - becoming confused between the two and their animosity despite having agreeing goals. The author also overzealously used "interference" which clears, comes back, and clears again more times than the Patriots throw interceptions; all to move the book forward. All of these are compounded by the unrealistic behaviors of the Herrari and Gorn. Too many times in the book things just had to go right, or actions that didn't make sense/out of character had to occur in order to progress and every time I cringed.

I'm going to continue with the series, as they are written by different authors, and I loved the first in the series, but this one had too many problems to be enjoyable.

Jenny says

Meh. I didn't hate it, but this book left a lot to be desired. In terms of world-building, Michael Martin is no

David R. George. I've enjoyed the Typhon Pact series so far because it's given a window into species that have been under-used in Trek, but here the Gorn just felt cartoony. The Tuvok story felt very underdeveloped to me and the way most of the familiar Titan characters were written felt laboured and... off. I didn't really understand the ending; is this story going to be continued later in the Typhon Pact series? Or in a Titan novel? I dunno. Anyway, I only recommend this title for those who are completists (as I am) for the current post-series timeline.
