



January 2013

Thanks for reading this edition of *New Frontier*. The USS Bortas is a sci-fi fan club based in the Champaign-Urbana area of East Central Illinois. We meet the third Saturday of each month at 2 PM. We meet in a member's home, or in a park, or at a restaurant, or at Barnes and Noble Bookstore. To find out where we are meeting on any given month, please call our Captain, Allen Glenn at (217) 649-6718, or visit our newly updated website at www.ussbortas.net. Our website will give you lots of information about who we are and what we do! We would love to have you join us. We have a lot of fun and also do many activities for charity. So come on board!

Fleet Captain Shirley Kolb, Chief of Communications and Newsletter Editor, USS Bortas

Bortas Headlines

USS Bortas Has Great Success with Gift Wrapping

USS Bortas Has One of its Most Successful Charity Events

The 225th from the USS Bortas Wins Strike Group of the Year from Starfleet

Shane Russell to be Roasted at Annual Roast in April

In this issue

Review of *Grimm* by Daniel Kolb

Star Trek Movie News and Upcoming Star Trek Fiction

Some fun Christmas puzzles

USS Bortas News

By Fleet Captain Shirley Kolb

The Bortas has had a busy year, with many fun and successful events.

In April we held our annual Roast. Sara Glenn was this year's roastee. The Roast was held at the Village Inn in Urbana. Since I could not attend, and I was one of the roasters, the Roast was continued at our May meeting. Sara chose XO Shane Russell to be the next Roastee. (If we can ever get him to come down from the Quad Cities ...)

On June 30th we held a Sector Summit and Cookout at Crestwood Park in St. Joseph. We had great food and a really wonderful Region 12 cake. We had guests from the Region and very good attendance from our crew.

On October 27th we had a very successful food drive for the Rantoul Food Bank. The food drive was held at the County Market in Rantoul. We filled two and a half cars and also got over \$40 in cash. Another food drive is being planned at the same location.

In November we had our annual bonfire and hot dog roast at my home in Monticello. The weather cooperated and we had a nice fire and a good time.

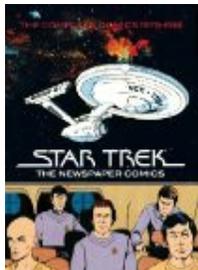
On December 1st we had our annual Thanksgiving meal at Captain and Sara Glenn's home in St. Joseph. Delicious food!

Over Black Friday weekend and the three days before Christmas, we participated in Gift Wrapping at Barnes and Noble again. Final tip totals are not in yet, but we had a lot of fun.

Upcoming events include our Christmas in January party at my home in Monticello and another food drive.

We gained several new members this year. Welcome to John and Christel Cornwell, and the following correspondence members: David Hollifield. Gary Tiny Wayne Hollifield, Gary Hollifield Sr., Donna Hollifield, and Kevin Cozart,

Star Trek Book News by Shirley Kolb



There is a new book called Star Trek: The Newspaper Comics. Apparently from 1979 to 1981, there was a daily comic strip that appeared in newspapers around the country. IDW has compiled these into a coffee-table type hard-cover book. The reviews say that it is like watching the series – very good story lines, like on the Original Series. Unfortunately the book currently costs \$49.99. However, there have already been some sales on Amazon and at barnesandnoble.com. This is one I would really like to get my hands on. I did hold it in my hands briefly at B & N, but over \$50 is out of my price range!

Here is a short review from the Amazon site by a person with the initials DPK:

While Star Trek comics - good and bad - have been around nearly as long as the show itself, I never knew there had been a newspaper strip until I read about this collection that was released earlier this month. The reasons the strip is less well-known than it should be are detailed in the book, which is itself a case study of how this kind of archival material should be presented. The key thing is of course the strips themselves, and they're terrific. More so than any other Star Trek comic (and most of the novels) I've read, they genuinely capture the feel of the show and the characters we love. Not only are the stories themselves strong, you can practically hear the voice of Shatner and all the other stars when you read the dialogue.

This is Volume 1 so I assume more volumes are to follow.

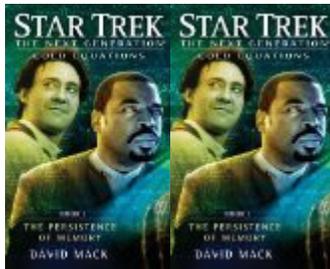
There are several Star Trek novels that are either recently released or will be released soon. Titles and short descriptions follow. Descriptions come from amazon.com



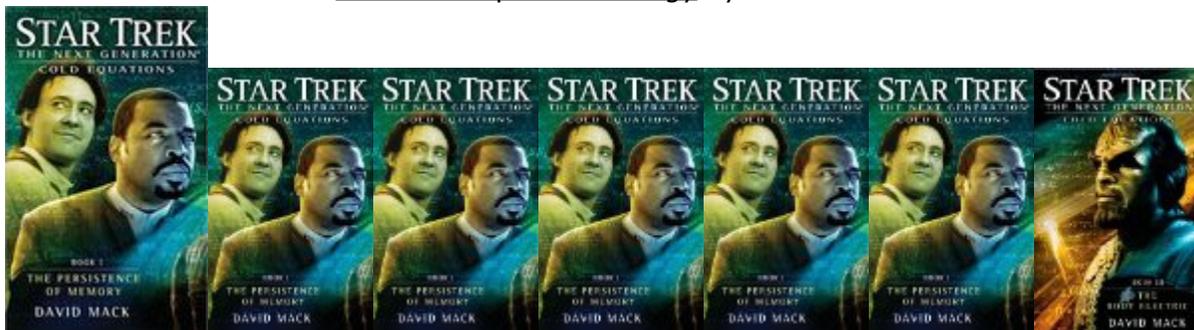
Star Trek Typhon Pact: Brinkmanship by Una McCormack

The Venette Convention has always remained independent, but it is about to become the flashpoint for a tense military standoff between the two power blocs now dominating interstellar space—the United Federation of Planets and the recently formed Typhon Pact. The Venetan government turns to the Typhon Pact’s Tzenkethi Coalition for protection in the new order, and has agreed to allow three of their supply bases for Tzenkethi use. But these bases—if militarized—would put Tzenkethi weapons unacceptably close to Federation, Cardassian, and Ferengi space. While Captain Ezri Dax and the crew of the *U.S.S. Aventine* are sent to investigate exactly what is happening at one of the Venette bases, Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the *U.S.S. Enterprise* are assigned to a diplomatic mission sent to the Venette homeworld in order to broker a mutually acceptable resolution. But the Cardassian delegates don’t seem particularly keen on using diplomacy to resolve the situation, which soon spirals out of control toward all-out war. . . .

Note: I have read this book. I thought it was pretty good but not great. I didn’t really like the ending. Also I have trouble still with thinking of Ezri Dax as being the Captain of her own ship. I know that is the direction the novels have gone but that doesn’t mean I think it was a great idea.



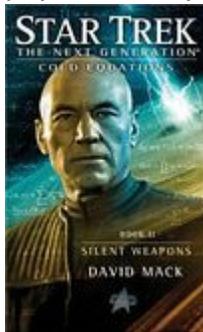
TNG Cold Equations Trilogy by David Mack





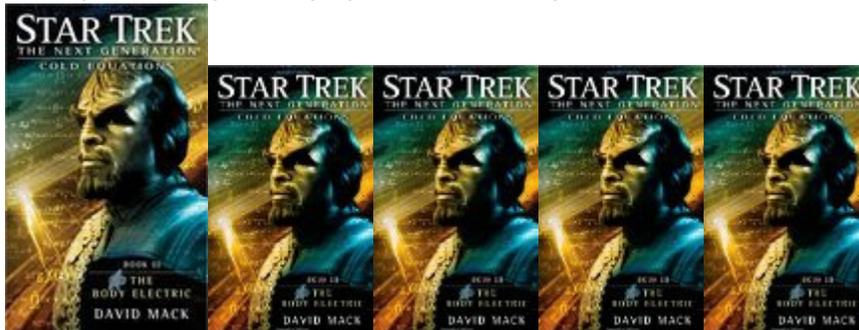
Book 1 The Persistence of Memory **A BRAZEN HEIST**

Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the *Enterprise* crew race to find out who has stolen Data's android brother B-4—and for what sinister purpose. **A BROKEN PROMISE** One desperate father risks all for the son he abandoned forty years ago—but is he ready to pay the price for redemption? **A DARING MISSION** Against overwhelming odds, and with time running out, Commander Worf has only one chance to avert a disaster. But how high a price will he pay for victory?



Book 2 Silent Weapons

Three years after the disastrous final Borg Invasion, a bitter cold war against the Typhon Pact has pushed Starfleet's resources to the breaking point. Now the rise of a dangerous new technology threatens to destroy the Federation from within. Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the *Enterprise* crew answer a distress call, only to become targets in a deadly game of deception. To protect a vital diplomatic mission, they must find a way to identify the spies hiding in their midst, before it's too late. But Worf soon realizes the crew's every move has been predicted: Someone is using them as pawns. And the closer they get to exposing their enemy, the deeper they spiral into its trap....



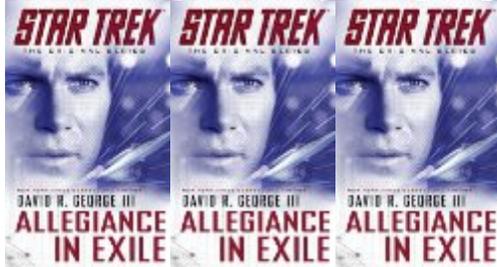
Book 3 The Body Electric

AT THE CENTER OF THE GALAXY . . . A planet-sized Machine of terrifying power and unfathomable purpose hurls entire star systems into a supermassive black hole. Wesley Crusher, now a full-fledged Traveler, knows the Machine must be stopped . . . but he has no idea how. Wesley must enlist the aid of Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the *Enterprise* crew, who also fail to halt the unstoppable alien juggernaut's destructive labors. But they soon divine the Machine's true purpose—a purpose that threatens to exterminate all life in the

Milky Way Galaxy. With time running out, Picard realizes he knows of only one person who might be able to stop the Machine in time to avert a galactic catastrophe—if only he had any idea how to find him. . . .

Note: I don't usually buy Next Gen books but these looked interesting. So far I own the first one but I haven't read it yet. I will let you know how it is.

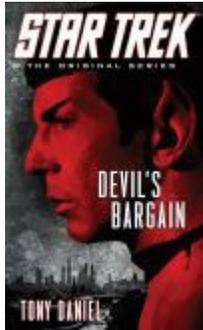
The following are four upcoming Original Series books.



Allegiance in Exile by David R. George III (Jan. 29th)

A beautiful green world, rich in fertile soil and temperate climate . . . a textbook Class-M planet that should be teeming with life. Scans show no life-signs, but there are refined metals, including those associated with a space-faring race . . . and a lone city. But where are all of the inhabitants? Captain James T. Kirk leads a landing party from the *U.S.S. Enterprise*, hoping to get some answers.

The away team discovers a city in ruins, covered by dust, utterly bereft of life. Tricorder readings indicate that this is no ancient metropolis—it has been deserted only for a year. And just beyond the citadel lies what appears to be an ancient spaceport . . . a graveyard of ships that have clearly been sabotaged. With these ruins too far from either the Klingon or the Romulan Empires, the *Enterprise* crew can only wonder: Who could have done this? And could this unnamed threat now pose an imminent danger to the Federation?



Devil's Bargain by Tony Daniel (Feb. 26th)

An all-new Original Series adventure about a Federation mining colony on the verge of destruction and the unlikely solution that could save them from extinction.

Captain James T. Kirk and the crew of the *Enterprise* are sent to evacuate the Federation mining colony Vesbius, a frontier settlement that is on the brink of an extinction-level event, threatening the lives of all the colonists and the disruption of ore production vital to Starfleet. However, the colonists refuse to abandon this settlement, not wanting to leave their claims. It is after these irrational decisions that Spock suggests that perhaps an unexpected ally could aid the colony and help complete the mission....

The Weight of Worlds by Greg Cox (Mar. 29th) (no cover available yet)

Kirk, Spock, and Sulu must protect the remote Federation colony of Ephrata from the dreaded Coven—beings from another galaxy who are seeking starships much like the *Enterprise* to spread from world to world, opening gateways between dimensions to

eventually conquer the entire Federation.

The Folded World by Jeff Marriotte (April 30th) (no cover available yet)

En route to a diplomatic mission, the *Enterprise* receives a distress call from the USS *McRaven*. As the *Enterprise* approaches the area where the *McRaven* appears to be, the crew encounters an anomaly unlike anything they've ever experienced. Space itself seems inconsistent—warping, changing appearance. But during the brief periods of calm, they locate the *McRaven*—along with other ships of various origins, all tightly surrounding and being held in place by an enormous unidentified vessel....

Note: It is likely I will eventually purchase these books. I usually read all of the Original Series books.

Star Trek Movie News

Paramount has released the official synopsis of the new Star Trek movie, “Star Trek Into Darkness”, scheduled for release May 17th. Here it is:

“When the crew of the *Enterprise* is called back home, they find an unstoppable force of terror from within their own organization has detonated the fleet and everything it stands for, leaving our world in a state of crisis.

With a personal score to settle, Captain Kirk leads a manhunt to a war-zone world to capture a one man weapon of mass destruction. As our heroes are propelled into an epic chess game of life and death, love will be challenged, friendships torn apart, and sacrifices must be made for the only family Kirk has left: his crew.”

The villain will be played by Benedict Cumberbatch. Speculation was that he was playing Gary Mitchell,(from the episode “Where No Man Has Gone Before”) but the character’s name in the movie is John Harrison. This is not a name familiar in Trek lore. So I guess he will be a surprise. A name that **is** familiar to the Trek faithful is Carol Marcus, and she will be played by Alice Eve. Carol Marcus, as most of you remember, was a scientist and one of Kirk’s loves, and the mother of his son David in “Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan”. We will have to wait to see what their relationship is in the relaunched timeline.

Another change from previous movies is that there is no colon and also no number. It’s just “Star Trek Into Darkness.”

The trailer is up at youtube, and is also being shown at many movies. A nine-minute extended version was shown at IMAX theatres with “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey”.

Television Review: Grimm

by: Daniel Kolb

NBC’s *Grimm* is a quirky mixture of a police procedural and a fantasy inspired by Grimms’ Fairy Tales.

The premise of the show is that Nick Burkhardt(David Giuntoli), a Homicide Detective for the Portland Police Bureau discovers that he comes from a special family line that allows him to “see things for what they truly are.” These people are called Grimms and are responsible for looking after human interests in an ancient struggle with the animalistic Wesen (German for “creature”)

The problem is that Wesen look like ordinary humans to just about everyone else, but when they are angry or upset they undergo a transformation into their true form that only a Grimm can see. Nick learns about this legacy from his aunt and he later inherits a trailer full of medieval weapons, potions, and poisons, as well as detailed accounts of different types of Wesen encounters his ancestors faced.

But Nick soon discovers that not all Wesen are evil. When searching for a missing girl he meets a Wesen who is a *Blutbad*. This werewolf like creature named Monroe (Silas Weir Mitchell) is part of a reformed sect of his kind called the *Wider Blutbad*, and uses his enhanced senses to help find the missing girl.

Through his unique friendship with Monroe, Nick learns more about the different types of Wesen and about the Grimms mysterious past.

Nick must also balance his strange circumstance with being a police detective, and his ongoing relationship with his veterinarian girlfriend Juliette (Bitsie Tulloch).

Grimm's episodes range from a procedural "monster of the week" format prominent in Season 1 to more character driven story arcs in Season 2. Every episode also fleshes out more detail about the mythos and history of the *Grimm* universe, including revealing more information about the history of the Wesen and the Grimms and their culture.

One thing that helps keep track of the various Wesen is an interactive journal on the show's website that gives data and drawings of each creature that has been shown and referenced on the show. This is helpful for both people who are new to the show and regular viewers.

On a personal note I do enjoy this show even though it is very different than most shows.

Its weaknesses include the fact that the CGI monsters take some time to get used to at first. The acting and the pacing of the episodes can sometimes be very uneven, and finally there are often continuity problems and plot holes especially in the "monster of the week" episodes.

But if taken with a grain of salt, *Grimm* is the type of show that rewards by being very fun and surprisingly endearing at times given its subject matter.

The greatest strength of the show is that it is extremely weird. That may sound incongruous but in this case it really is true. The strange hybrid nature of the show is what allows it to veer off and really surprise the viewer.

Another great part of the show is Monroe's character portrayed by Silas Weir Mitchell. Monroe despite basically being a werewolf is surprisingly very laid back and has a very dry sense of humor. He is fond of fixing watches, old German camera equipment, giving away Halloween candy, and excessive and elaborate lawn decorations. This when juxtaposed with the strength and ferocity he possesses as a *Blutbad* makes for a very memorable character.

Finally the show always seems to have the perfect balance of not taking itself too seriously, but at the same time allowing enemies to come off as menacing threats in legitimately creepy places. *Grimm* does a good job of being more fun than grim.

Some Fun Christmas Puzzles

I know, I know, it's January. Christmas is over. But wait! We have a Christmas in January party!

So I decided to share a couple of puzzles with you. The first one I had a lot of fun with on our trip to NY for Christmas with our families. That one is from davidjeremiah.org/site/advent. The second one is from Turning Point Magazine, Dec. 2012.

Christmas Song Scramble

1. rglaghWnOnHds vAHe I e eH ae
2. waI Ag aeyAnMr n
3. TIDeH k lchsea
4. yomtoTnehn w FasnS
5. TM ee n ah TOnl ntuoIt oGil
6. aH ghnsH r regAlTenkaSild e
7. aSoIe hiiiaCldUngM tnp et C mr
8. lIegJlseB ni
9. T Jy dooWlrT eho
10. C femellih A YhOut Fola
11. OeLelieotf f nmBTh hthe wIO
12. itthSeilNn g
13. Freht o T Nlise
14. hCiasW esthtrim
15. Irao'm emrhBllHs FsiC t eo
16. ivTmw Ofh Dsly sesaeCatr
17. Tih e KgnesrWe
18. sr A y oehs uiiaYMWtrme srhCW
19. t haC? WsllIdsh ii T h
20. aDetWh ao H ?rruaoe IY H
21. lsh B fOlleore TaC
22. oBrre ettD ymLmiu
23. lsBvrlS ilee
24. Holyh Ni Otgh
25. Hegd eii RIS

Answers on 2nd to the last page

Christmas Hymn Synonyms

These Christmas carols have been run through the Complicate-O-Matic and have come out as synonyms of their original titles. Exercise your left-brain and make the titles of these carols right!

1. Diminutive male child performing with a musical percussion instrument
2. May the Supreme Being make you mighty and great, males of good standing
3. A state of happiness and great delight in the direction of the earth and its inhabitants
4. Proceed to announce at the zenith of the naturally elevated surface of earth

5. The object approached in the midst of the unobscured middle of the night
6. Are you perceiving by the ear that which I am listening to?
7. Celestial messengers of God whose sound all of us recognize from a place of considerable extent and reach upwards
8. The normative plural of I desire for the one being addressed a winter holiday of cheerfulness and gaiety
9. A nocturnal period of darkness without sound

Answers on the 2nd to last page.

Answers to Christmas Song Scramble

1. Angels We Have Heard On High
2. Away In A Manger
3. Deck The Halls
4. Frosty the Snowman
5. Go Tell It On The Mountain
6. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
7. It Came Upon The Midnight Clear
8. Jingle Bells
9. Joy To The World
10. Oh Come All Ye Faithful
11. Oh Little Town Of Bethlehem
12. Silent Night
13. The First Noel
14. White Christmas
15. I'll Be Home For Christmas
16. Twelve Days Of Christmas
17. We Three Kings
18. We Wish You A Merry Christmas
19. What Child Is This?
20. Do You Hear What I Hear?
21. Carol of the Bells
22. Little Drummer Boy
23. Silver Bells

24. Oh Holy Night

25. Sleigh Ride

Answers to Christmas Hymns Synonyms

1. The Little Drummer Boy
2. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
3. Joy to the World
4. Go Tell It on the Mountain
5. It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
6. Do You Hear What I Hear?
7. Angels We Have Heard On High
8. We Wish You a Merry Christmas
9. Silent Night

USS BortaS, the Science Fiction Fan Club With a Heart, based in Urbana, Illinois. No infringement upon copyrighted materials contained herein is intended. Previous events that the USS BortaS has participated in include: Fundraisers for the American Red Cross, East Central Illinois Foodbank, Crisis Nursery, and the Champaign Fire Dept.; “Klingons for Literacy: in Rantoul and Danville; Champaign Park District’s “A Day at the Park”; Taste of Champaign-Urbana; Light the Night fundraiser for the Leukemia-Lymphoma Association; 3 fundraisers for individuals with cancer or other serious medical conditions; Security for the Rantoul Air Show and for Chambacon and other Sci-Fi Conventions. To contact us visit our website at www.ussbortas.net or call our Captain Allen Glenn at 217-649-6718. Meetings are the third Saturday of each month at various locations in the area. The USS BortaS is a member of Starfleet – The International Star Trek Fan Association.

