



# Destroyer

*Joshua Dalzelle*

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**Destroyer** Joshua Dalzelle

A relentless enemy...

An old wolf's last hunt...

The future of two species hanging in the balance...

The Darshik war machine is flagging, but the war is far from over. Even as an exhausted Federation military tenses up for a counterattack after repelling the last Darshik invasion, reports are coming in of a new, more powerful class of ship that's striking deep into Terran space.

Captain Jackson Wolfe has been given the fleet's newest, most advanced destroyer and tasked with eliminating this new threat before it can claim any more human lives. What he finds, however, is immeasurably more dangerous than just some new class of starship ... it's a horror that could lead to the destruction of both their species if it isn't stopped.

Destroyer is the third book in the Expansion Wars Trilogy and part of the #1 bestselling Black Fleet Saga.

## Destroyer Details

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Author : Joshua Dalzelle

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## From Reader Review Destroyer for online ebook

### Mike Giles says

Great three part series that really tied the events of the first series together. Fast read and I enjoy that the military stuff is based on something like the real world. Also the physics of space travel are accurate enough. With engagements taking hours instead of minutes.

If you enjoy Military Sci-Fi, this is a great choice.

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### Trevor says

The conclusion to the expansion wars trilogy, see's Jackson Wolfe taking on the Darshik ship codenamed Spector. In a battle of wits, Spector always seems to be one step ahead, leading to the final showdown. Wolfe is a very good character and this is a fitting end to his storyline, the story moves at a nice pace and although Wolfe is the lead, the series always develops new characters.

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### Shawn says

Certainly a good book and a good series, but I found I didn't enjoy this one as much as the others. Some of the political intrigue in the beginning seemed like filler. Old characters were re-introduced with not much to do. Other things were just needlessly confusing. For example, Wolf's mission was on, and then it was off, but then it was on, and then it was off. I had trouble keeping track of whether it was on or off and why and if it really mattered, as the status of the mission didn't seem to change Wolf's actions other than some personal reflection and contemplation about being the type of person who ingores orders. The story comes together in the end, but seemed to have quite a few tangents.

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### Igor Lazarchuk says

#### **Fell flat, and rushed.**

A disappointing end to a series that started out ok, but didnt quite match up to the previous trilogies and fell flat. It was all over the place with scenes and characters . And for some reason I noticed this trend through out the trilogies the better the ship Jackson had the worse his performance as a captain was. He over performed when he had BJ destroyer and the carrier. I think he had a out as much kills in the carrier in the last book as he did in the destroyer in the fights. And underperformed in the new top of the line ships.

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### Paul says

#### **Too Many Faceless Villains**

Throughout this trilogy, the protagonists are well written and I enjoyed the main characters. I cared about the

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captain and thought he really improvised some great strategies. The author never loses track of war in space constrained by the limits of light speed.

What I didn't like was...well, just don't expect any fleshing out of the alien enemies. Never once described in any detail. Even when they sent assault troops to the surface of a planet they invaded. Just the broadest description of suited beings. Headshot knocking helmets off all over the place, gas escaping, but never a look as to what's inside. You hear about the motivations of this rogue alien terrorist only second hand. He/she/its race, the race they splintered off of, their society, never described. What the symbols on the rogue faction's ships meant, why they looked unfinished, never more than speculated at. I kept reading the books in the trilogy hoping for explanations. But in the words of the Dread Pirate Wesley, "Get used to being disappointed."

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### **Matthew Cunnington says**

Another great addition to the universe and a great end to the series. Although I can't wait for more I will be sad to see some of the major characters take a backseat. I have grown attached but I'm eager to find new friends with the next trilogy! Keep writing Joshua, and I'll keep reading!

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### **Jason says**

Jackson Wolfe has again survived, pulling off yet another miracle, although he wouldn't have done so without the help of Captain Wright, landing troops onto the surface of the planet that the Darshik had blockaded, and in the process, breaking the blockade. However, the battle has uncovered an even more dangerous foe, a ship with the ability to jump in system, with possible cloaking technology, incredible firepower and manoeuvrability. The ship, designated as 'Spectre' is a renegade Darshik captain, and he appears to be one step ahead of the crew at every opportunity, taking out research stations, manufacturing and other vital resources that they cannot afford to lose.

With no other options left, and before they can be stopped by a weak government, Wolfe is unleashed with the newest class of Destroyer to seek and destroy this threat permanently.

This is a brilliant story, of a Captain, returning to the chair of a Warship, surrounded by crew that are not just loyal to him, but idolise him. Wolfe has grown so much through these stories, from the alcoholic misfit old Captain, bitter at his career and life, and distrusted and hated. Now he is the hero of Starfleet, revered amongst his peers, and thought of as one of their best strategical and tactical hopes against the enemy.

One of the reasons that make Dalzelle's books such a standout in this genre is his grasp and use of concepts such as orbital mechanics, astrophysics, starship combat and the list goes on. He uses these concepts to bring his stories to life, but give the reader the feeling that they are actually immersed in a real-time simulation, sitting with the crew as they have to wait the hours to drop down or climb up the well of a star-system, move to a hyperspace point etc, giving his books such a feel of realism, but not bogging them down in pages and pages of explanations so that the reader wants to throw themselves out the nearest airlock.

The combination of exceptional characters and a skilful use of realism, added to an outstanding storyline, makes this one of the best reads in the genre.

Destroyer is the culmination of not just the Expansion War Trilogy, but also the Black Fleet Trilogy, showing us how far Wolfe and Wright have developed in their careers, from the grumpy old drunk on the outer rim and the eager young officer, too eager to please and too shiny around the edges, as they are now, 2 of the finest Officers in the fleet with more combat experience than the rest of the fleet combined. The other character that has grown, and continues to grow on you (kind of like mould in a bathroom sink), is Pike. Pike's character is still one of the best in this book, not just for his antics and amusing commentary, but the way he shows that no government or military can operate without an efficient spy organisation. His character

provided some unique story arcs, but also gave some interesting side views into what might happen behind closed doors.

This is another outstanding Sci-Fi thriller, and I can only hope that Dalzelle will continue to develop the series and give us another trilogy. This is a must read for any fan of Sci-Fi – Dalzelle is just brilliant.

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### **Lloyd Melnick says**

I loved the series and highly recommend it to anyone who likes space combat. I read a lot of these type of books but this was particularly well written and had some interesting plot twists. It was not nearly as predictable as some other similar series, where the third book was pretty much the same as the first. Anxious for Dalzelle's next trilogy in the series.

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### **Robert Konka says**

#### **Not quite the end**

As usual the characters were individually driven but held on to their working relationship with each other. In a way I am sorry to see the loss of such strong characters, but I am looking forward to seeing what the new story line will entail.

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### **Bill says**

#### **Twists Turns Intrigue**

I liked this third book as much as the first, and that is saying quite a bit. I liked the direction, the plot twists and the feel of the book and the directions Josh took us.

In my mind I picture Wolfe played by Sam Elliott. A random thought but if you read this series I think you will see what I mean.

Looking forward to the next one.

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### **Fred Hughes says**

Another brilliant story in this saga against an opponent they can't see.

Space battles. Heroics. LOTS of action. Book 3 of a trilogy and all books in the series well worth the read.

Highly recommended author and series

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## **Shane says**

Four and a half stars. It is a rare thing in this age of independent authors cranking out trilogy after trilogy, or endless series of books to find a third book on a trilogy that can stand on its own. Is the story better for having read the first two books, definitely, but you don't need to have read them to understand and enjoy what is going on.

Dalzelle does a terrific job of filling in details from the earlier portions of the storyline without going into pages of repetition. It seems this has become a lost art with today's authors.

The story is a good blend of drama and action. There is development of the existing characters and new characters to fill out the "next generation". Old enemies become new again and the fields of battle (both literal and political) change drastically. A great finish to the career of Captain Jackson Wolfe.

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## **Vince Adornato says**

### **A great ending to the series**

Sometimes, when authors decide to produce a trilogy, they cut corners, usually padding out subsequent books, or trimming plot lines to spread out the story. And typically one of the books is weaker than the other two. I was gladdened to see none of that here. Each book stood on its own, with very interesting plots & characters. Nice job.

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## **Michael says**

Please note this is the third book of an offshoot of the author's Black Fleet trilogy. You will need to have read that trilogy in order first, then the first title of this offshoot series, or the characters and background won't make much sense to you.

This installment of the series continues the story of Captain Wolfe, Celeste Wright, Agent Pike and others and I enjoyed it. Without having a spoiler, if you enjoyed the Black Fleet series I am sure you will enjoy this one, also. While this is the final installment of this trilogy, the door was left open to continue the story of the characters in another series: if it happens, I would read it. I read this with my Kindle Unlimited subscription vs. paying the full price of \$3.99 and certainly received more than \$3.99 worth of entertainment value.

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## **Mark Goletto says**

### **Well done, Josh**

As I had mentioned earlier, my first introduction to Dalzell was Omega Rising. With that series Joshua became one of my favorite authors. On a whim, because how much I liked Jason Burke, I decided to read the Black Fleet. I was kind of disappointed with book 4 but it turned out better than I thought it would and I finished the 3rd trilogy. Really enjoyed it. Now I'm trying to decide if I want to read the rest of the books because I think I'd miss Jackson Wolf too much, but damn, Josh tells such a good tale that I doubt I'll be

able to resist. Anyway I need something to read while waiting fo Jason and his son to show back up. Good job Josh

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