



The Forgotten War

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The legendary Starfleet Captain Lucien Murat, a contemporary of Christopher Pike, disappeared during a battle with the alien Tarn. Now, generations later, Captain Picard is conducting delicate diplomatic negotiations with the Tarn when the "Starship Enterprise(TM) " discovers the descendants of Murat and his crew stranded on a desolate planet, still fighting a war that ended decades ago. The human castaways face destruction, but more than these precious lives are at stake. Unless Picard can find a solution, a lost hero's legacy may ignite a new era of interstellar war!

The Forgotten War Details

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From Reader Review *The Forgotten War* for online ebook

Craig says

This one really surprised me as I had just finished the Double Helix series and it was just pleasant to have a self-contained story for once. This felt very much like a missing episode from the 5th or 6th season (though I think the author's 200 year timeline was a little off - research people!). I liked the characters they introduced and the conflict that they had to deal with was interesting and felt very Trek-like in nature. I also enjoyed the ending so that was a highlight as well. I was tempted to give it 5 stars but I just couldn't so I'd probably rate it a 4.5 or 4.75 as the timeline thing at the beginning was annoying to me but if you can get past that there's a good Trek book here.

Phillip says

There was a lot of Picard speechifying, so this automatically got 4 stars. It was a great story, with some odd mistypes (calling Worf a "Commander" during the NCC-1701-D era?) and some slight mischaracterizations (Picard calling anyone "son"). But, despite some slight stumbles, it's a good Star Trek: TNG book. Nice ending.

Bev says

Over 200 years before Captain Picard's time, Starfleet Captain Lucien Murat, legendary Starfleet officer and contemporary of Christopher Pike, disappeared during the war with reptilian alien species, the Tarn. A cease-fire was called long since, but it is an uneasy peace that exists between the Tarn and the Federation. In the effort to speed diplomatic negotiations, Picard takes on Commander Karish of the Tarn as an exchange officer. While Karish is aboard, the Enterprise discovers descendants of both Murat and his crew as well as survivors from a Tarn ship on a planet in the No-Entry Zone between Federation and Tarn space. These castaways are still fighting the battle begun two centuries ago...and the Tarn have just perfected fission bombs. Unless Picard can convince both sides that the war is over, the humans will face certain destruction. Officials from both sides have forbidden Picard and his Tarn counterpart Admiral Jord from assisting their own people. Picard must devise a clever plan that will both conform to his orders and yet save the survivors from both sides. If he can't, the war with the Tarn may spread once again into space.

The Forgotten War (STNG #57) by William R. Forstchen is a decent Trek novel. It offers commentary on the reasons for war and the results of an ongoing battle between two enemies who are equally matched and are neither prepared to look for an alternate solution to the generations of bloodshed. Trek has always examined huge social and historical issues of just this nature, so Forstchen sticks to canon in that way. There are small indicators that he doesn't quite have his characters down, however. Phrasing that just doesn't ring true for Picard. Referring to Riker as "Will" in about 90% of the situations--it should generally be Riker when narrating and unless in relaxed circumstances his colleagues should call him "Number One" (the captain) or "Commander." Small quibbles--but details do matter. And...as another Goodreads reviewer (Jimyanni) noted--this race is awful reminiscent of the Gorn. If there had been such a big conflict with the Tarn (another lizard-like race) during the time of Pike (not so very long before Kirk), then you would, indeed, expect that it might have been mentioned. Again--small quibble. Overall--a good read. Quick-paced

and full of action. I do like how Picard and Admiral Jord work together to get their respective peoples to stand down from a final battle that will surely destroy all those on the planet.

First posted on my blog My Reader's Block. Please request permission before reposting. Thanks.

Jerry says

I tried reading this twice, and couldn't get into it either time.

Adam says

Surprisingly enjoyable, with a level of grittiness and realism not usually seen in a Star Trek book.

The Enterprise is visiting the Tarn system in an attempt to normalise relations after a war 200 years ago plunged both powers into a stalemate. After discovering descendants of that war from both sides, Picard, Riker and the crew must strive to stop the conflict being reignited.

Author William Forstchen has crafted a thoroughly enjoyable read in "The Forgotten War", with a healthy balance of Star Trek optimism mixed in with the grittiness of a brutal centuries old conflict. Picard's role as mediator here is not enviable, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading through his internal struggle to tow the line. There are no immediately obvious solutions here: both Tarn and Federation descendants are intent on destroying each other, and any interference from the Enterprise would have a very real impact on present-day Tarn/Federation relations.

The alien nature of the Tarn speaks to humanity's aversion to reptiles, and reminded me very much of the hostile Xindi Reptilians from Star Trek: Enterprise (this book was written before that series, also explaining the conflicts with the 22nd century timeline established on screen). While Tarn representative Harna Karish's presence was transparently suspicious from the start, his arc from unwilling ambassador to blood-thirsty fighter was entirely believable. Here is a character who longed for war and was looking for any excuse to slay some humans. Contrast this with Admiral Garu Jord, introduced later in the book. He's far more amenable to peace yet simultaneously pragmatic about the difficulties involved obtaining it. Forstchen could have easily made the Tarn a two-dimensional alien threat, but instead we get these layers of character nuance and complexity which make The Forgotten War all the more rich and immersive.

Riker's interaction with the human descents on Torgu-Va is also well written. These are a generation who have been "bred for war", and as result have buried so much of what makes us human. There's a level of grittiness here which resonates with us in the 21st century on account of our exposure to wars' effects on humanity in modern-day conflicts. The big reveal late in the book about who is pulling Lysander Murat's strings works. Just. Normally cryostasis storylines would have me frowning about their convenience, but I wasn't too annoyed this time around. The conflict between Picard and Murat is great fun to read, although I'd have perhaps not made Picard such a kowtowel on his first encounter with the Commodore.

The solution is imaginative and satisfactory, if a little quick. So much of the book drips with rich prose about the brutality of an endless war, so when things cease so suddenly it left me rather jarred. That suddenness chips away at a fifth star for this book, alongside the inclusion of the rather unsympathetic character Dr.

Janice Eardman. Knowledgeable fans will always have issues when a principal character's backstory is modified to support a storyline. We're lead to believe that Eardman was a huge part of Riker's life before the Enterprise. Then again, with early Riker's womenising tendencies, it may be believable. Still, I can't say I warmed to her (especially with her chafing against Picard later in the book - something which went unchallenged).

A firm four stars. And a pleasant surprise!

Angela says

A decent story. The Enterprise is having an office exchange program with a previously hostile reptile race. They find an old battle site, and then discover a war on the planet nearby. The Federation and the Reptile people have been at war for 200 years on the planet and they are not going to stop now. Some very good characters especially the Reptile Admiral. Picard is also well done too. A good read.

Jimyanni says

A bit weak for a four-star rating, this book was just a tad too good for a three star rating. It is an interesting look at the likely results of a war between two implacable enemies, with both sides equally advanced technologically and neither side able to get enough of an edge to win conclusively. The book is well-written in terms of technical merit and well-edited in terms of avoiding the typos and other similar errors all too common in mass-market paperbacks, and it has good characterizations and good pacing.

One minor quibble is that it postulates a war in the "past history" of the Federation that clearly never happened in the "canonical" Star Trek universe, (surely, if there had been even a semi-major conflict early in the history of the Federation that involved a species of sentient lizards as the opposition, it would have been mentioned long since -- during the episode "Arena", in which Kirk and the original Enterprise run afoul of a similar alien race, the Gorn, if at no other time) so obviously, this book is an "alternate timeline" story, even if neither the author nor the editors and publisher are aware of that fact. That quibble, plus a sincere doubt that Picard's solution to the problem would have worked (can't say more without offering up a spoiler) are enough to drop the rating a point, and the sub-plot between Riker and his old flame seemed rather superfluous and irrelevant, but not quite enough to justify the loss of a second star.

Cary Spratt says

3.5 stars. I enjoyed this one more than I initially expected to. Some nicely surprising twists and Picard's final solution was great. The transporter acting up could have been an annoyingly cliched plot device but fortunately was not.

Ceejay says

If you miss the TV shows, read the books! This is another excellent entry in the Star Trek: The Next

Generation series. How does one end war? Read about Picard's answer to this question.

Anja Braun says

I loved the ending..

K says

Excellent, well written, TNG novel. The Forgotten War reminds me of stories you hear about people who were still fighting for what they thought was WW2, when in fact the war was over. In my opinion, Forstchen did a great job capturing the characters behaviors, such as Worf's sense of honor or Data's corrective nature on misspoken/no entirely correct facts (200 years ago vs 204 years, 30 days, 5 hours, 3 minutes, and 11 seconds ago).
