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New Frontiers (Expansion Wars Trilogy, Book 1)



Synopsis

The Black Fleet story continues... The Phage War had been a devastating conflict for the Terran Confederacy. Even with the destruction of their terrifying, implacable foe, humanity is still reeling. Political alliances are crumbling and their mighty fleet is in tatters. There is nothing to celebrate, even after such a complete victory. They soon learn that there are other stellar neighbors ... and they've been watching the conflict with great interest. One species comes with an offer of friendship and alliance, but humanity is weary and distrustful, their only interactions with aliens having resulted in the near-eradication of their kind. Before the ashes of war have been fully swept away Captain Celesta Wright is dispatched to the Frontier with a small taskforce to investigate a mysterious signal while the Confederacy struggles to hold itself together. A partnership with this new species could help accelerate the recovery effort, but is the offer too good to be true? Can humanity risk another fight with an advanced alien species right on the heels of the bloodiest war that had ever been waged? *New Frontiers* is the first book of the *Expansion Wars Trilogy*, an all new adventure in the Black Fleet universe.

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Customer Reviews

Dalzelle had a lot to live up to with this series after the exceptional quality of the initial series – The Black Fleet Trilogy™, with each of the books in that series being brilliant in their own right. Warship was outstanding and is still one of my favourite books for its gritty realism and depiction of combat in space and the terror of facing off against an unknown enemy of such incredible power. There are many stories about ragtag crews and grizzled Captains, but none like Warship. As such, there were high expectations for New Frontiers, especially as Captain Wolfe would not be at the helm. Dalzelle does not disappoint. This is a fascinating awakening for the Human race of this particular Universe™ that have just come to realise that they are not only NOT ALONE™ after their horrific war with the Phage, but that there are many other species out there. More to the point, they are about to learn that they are a lot closer to several of them than they thought. A lot of the main characters from the original series are back, Capt Wright is back, along with her bridge crew, Admiral Marcum and most of his staff, and it wouldn't be right without Pike (easily one of my favourite characters) and his President. The Human Collective is still reeling from the impact of the last series, the loss of Haven, and the collapse of the Fleet Structure that stood for all that time. Without giving away spoilers, this book is a wonderful exploration of not only how the political scene unfolds around these events, but also how things unfold around the discovery of new alien races, and the impact on a fragile humanity, fleet and political system, still recovering from the Phage war.

I am reading a lot of Joshua Dalzelle's books lately. He's got this Omega Force series that I've been working on and I'm up to the fifth book in that series. Here he starts a new series slightly based on another of his trilogies, The Black Fleet Trilogy. This one starts after the Phage War we read about in that other series I mentioned. Some of the same characters are in this new series, and some with greatly expanded roles. I like it when authors carry over characters from one set of books to another. It sure saves time in character building if the characters were built correctly the first time. In this series, Senior Captain Celesta Wright, the former XO for Senior Captain Jackson Wolfe, is now commanding the Icarus, a Star-wolf class destroyer. While Captain Wolfe actually saved the human civilization by defeating the Phage hive-mind, he also lost his ship, the TCS Ares and was subsequently honored, and then retired. He had enough of the Confederation politics trying to micromanage starships that were so far away it wasn't possible to carry on a decent conversation. Some, including Chief of Staff Admiral Marcum wasn't sad to see Wolfe gone. Now they were trying to do the same thing to Senior Captain Wright. So, this book is about

Senior Captain Wright and the Icarus. Something shows up in the same system as were the Phage War started and the Icarus is sent to investigate. What they find is almost impossible to believe. Unfortunately, they don't get to marvel at their discovery for very long because the Darshik make their presence know in a very bad way. So now it appears that humanity just got out of one devastating war and are right back in another with an enemy they know very little about.

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