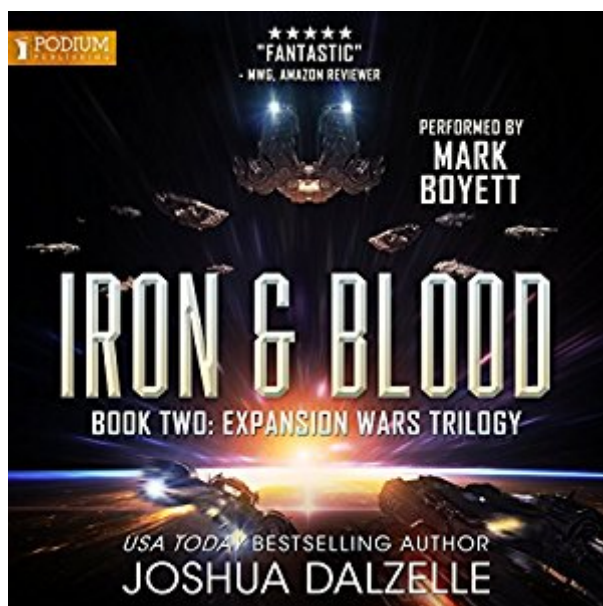


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Iron & Blood: The Expansion Wars Trilogy, Book 2



Synopsis

The Black Fleet Saga continues.... A human planet has been invaded. The enigmatic Darshik have landed troops on a frontier world and have begun subduing major cities even as their blockade repels all attempts by the fledgling United Terran Federation to mount a counteroffensive. The Federation's military command is desperate, and with their fleet still in tatters, they make a last-ditch effort to free the planet: They pull Captain Jackson Wolfe out of retirement and put him in command of a ship they hope can get past the defending armada and provide support to the beleaguered Marines and civilians fighting on the surface of the contested world. There is no reasoning with this enemy. If the Terran Federation wants their planet back, they will have to pay the price. *Iron & Blood* is the second book of the Expansion Wars Trilogy and the fifth book of the Black Fleet Saga.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Well Joshua Dalzelle has not let me down with this latest installment in his Expansion Wars Trilogy. I enjoy his talent for never losing track of the time factor that would be present in space combat due to the enormous distances and yet not trying to fill that time with story in order to make it seem more real. That would leave me yawning and looking for another author. In this installment Dalzelle expands his area of operations to include some land battles also. I hope to see him keep going along this line since he has shown that he can weave the two simultaneous environments together to give the reader a better overall picture of what is taking place on the grand scale rather than leaving them wondering how one bears upon the other. If you are looking for a story that delves so

very deep into character development that you are privy to most of the hidden fears and nuances that each of us carry around then don't buy this book. This is military fiction that keeps you involved and entertained. In my opinion Joshua Dalzelle has more than hit his stride and my only regret would be if he suddenly hit a road block to his writing as happened to George R.R. Martin. I will be ready to order when the next volume in this trilogy becomes available.

Just finished the latest book set in the Black Fleet universe: Iron and Blood (Expansion Wars, Book 2) and I thoroughly enjoyed it, as I have the other books in the series. Dalzelle writes well, his plot-lines are well thought out and I love his characters, particularly Jackson Wolfe, Celesta Wright and of course resident spy/agent and sometime aide to President Wellington, Pike. This time Dalzelle doubles down on the action, following the Marine campaign on the planet Juwel and the fleet battles between Starfleet and the Darshik (the bad aliens in this current series). Thrown into the mix (and to make life difficult for our favourite Captains Wolfe and Wright) is an unknown stealth ship and cowardly captains whose ineffective leadership are bound to cost the unnecessary loss of life. There is some intriguing revelations around the Ushin and Darshik (these are the two alien species who have caused trouble for the Terran Federation) that was certainly a surprise. Overall, Iron and Blood was worth the read - it had plenty of action, great character and plot development and was just all round entertaining. Can hardly wait for the next book which is due out later in the year :)

For his "twilight cruise" before retirement, Phage War hero Jackson Wolfe is assigned as program manager for a major space intelligence development project. After a sudden attack by renegade aliens he is returned to active duty as captain of the TFS Aludra Star to deliver reinforcing troops and supplies to the Juwel world. When his escorting destroyers transition to a far different orbital position, Wolfe and the TFS Aludra Star are forced to develop new tactics "on-the-fly". The unexpected appearance of the TFS Icarus, commanded by Wolfe's former executive officer, Celesta Wright proves to be a blessing, but will it be enough to salvage the mission.

Outstanding read! I kept reading other books and then coming back to Iron & Blood just trying to stretch it out a little longer. Captain Wolfe is one of my favorite characters in Space Opera. Just the right combination of humility and self confidence combined with the ability to put himself into the mind of his opponents makes Jackson Wolfe the leader the Federation needs even though Admiral Marcum hates him. When the Darshik attack Marcum realizes he needs Wolfe and drags him out of

retirement. Even put in command of an outdated assault carrier, Wolfe shines.

This book started out with missing sections because I did not read the first book in the series but as I read the missing sections fell into place thru the authors skill at story telling and what started as a major handicap at the sudden did not matter due to the flow of the story being so smooth that the action and enjoyment were one and the same making this a really good book that makes me want to go back and read the first book and not really wanting to wait for the next book in the series. Weather you have read the first book or not this book is one you will enjoy reading again well worth the time you will invest in reading.

Although I did enjoy this book and the universe that Joshua's built up, i feel like this book could have packed a much harder punch. I loved the fact that he plugged some grunts into the mix, but, and I say this as probably his biggest OMega Force fan, the action sequences were a bit bland and the arc goes pretty much nowhere. Ship battles were good (not nearly as high-adrenaline as others in the series), character development was pretty good, plot was mostly predictable. I understand that the survival of the species doesn't always have to be on the line, but Omega Force does a much better job of transmitting high stakes on a smaller scale. Still, the writing is crisp, the characters are real, and the overall storyline is enticing. Read it, but do it with the knowledge that Mr. Dalzelle has written far cooler books.

Slightly altered writing style, this book is again a masterpiece of sci-fi, just like the four books of the Black Fleet universe. This is the story of a single campaign told from several viewpoints that creates a balanced mix of space action and ground pounding. Favourite characters Wolf and Wright keep doing what they do best...The storytelling is superb, with great dialogues and three dimensional characters. I bought it, read it, and can't find wait for the next one to come out.

Just finished reading this chapter of the series and I must admit that I loved it. The author seems to have taken some notes from other popular series in the genre which is a good thing. He also seems to be refining his skill as well. Editing was a little weak and deserved more passes or a more thorough check but didn't actually impact my enjoyment of the book. Also, I loved the new more "personal war" aspect of the book and all I could think of was Picard and his "she's a predator" line.

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