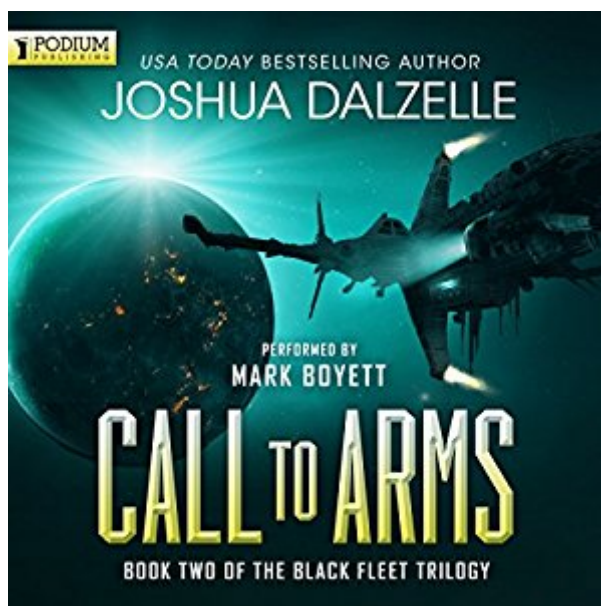


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Call To Arms: Black Fleet Trilogy, Book 2



Synopsis

From Joshua Dalzelle comes the follow-up to the number-one best seller *Warship*. Captain Jackson Wolfe survived the initial incursion of a vicious alien species into human space...barely. He had assumed the juggernaut that had devastated three Terran systems was the herald for a full invasion, but for the last few years it has been eerily quiet along the Frontier. Jackson now struggles to convince the Confederate leadership the threat is still imminent and needs to be taken seriously. While powerful factions make backroom deals, he is desperate to find irrefutable proof that the invaders are coming, and if humanity expects to survive they must marshal their forces and make a stand before it's too late.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Call to Arms was a pure, unadulterated pleasure to read - it has lots of action; self-serving politicians out to save their own skin while a handful of men and women protect human worlds; great characters - probably one of my favourite characters is CIS operative Pike who always turns up in the most unexpected places; aliens that are adaptive and seemingly so powerful that readers will wonder if humanity will ever defeat them and an interesting setting where the action and drama plays out. Senior Captain Jackson Wolfe, now in charge of a squadron of five advanced Confederacy ships, finds himself not only trying to rally the various Confederacy Fleets, but increasingly caught up in the dodgy politics of the Confederacy. Just when humanity needs to pull together, two powerful human groups (New America and Brittania) decide to withdraw their fleets

from the Terran Confederacy Starfleet, leaving Jackson with very limited resources to fight the Phage. I highly recommend this series.

I was a bit hesitant when it came to this book due to the book blurb which seemed to incline that Wolfe was going to spend a good chunk of the book with political haggling in order to be able to handle the threat coming the way of the humanity. Luckily this was not the case. There was a good bunch of political stupidity but the majority of the book was devoted to better things. The familiar characters are back and are as likable as before. Of course there are a bunch of not so likable characters as well. I do still like the space action which is better than in a lot of books that I have read. I honestly do not understand why there seems to be a slouch of bad reviews (on Goodreads) on this particular book since to me it is more or less a logical continuation of the first one. Yes, the ending did throw in quite a bit of a twist but, come one, it was a wee bit surprising and had an interesting twist to it, but it was not really that unexpected not that outrageous. Actually, I quite liked the ending. I do dislike the reviews that just post a silly picture with now explanation whatsoever as to why the book was bad though. That is not a review so why bother? Anyway, I quite liked this book. It is good military science fiction as well as space opera. I could be without a lot of the political nonsense but then I have a particular distaste for that so my view on that is probably not aligning with everyone's. Still I would say that it is a pretty good, not too heavy adventure story.

Every once in a while, I run into a military science fiction series that I just can't put down. Fortunately for me, the books in the series have already been published and I'm late to the original release. But, that's oh so great for me in that I can get all the books in the series read one after the other. I love doing that and that's exactly what I'm doing with this Black Fleet Trilogy. I have never read a Joshua Dalzelle book, but that's about to change. I'm now aware of his Omega series and I'll definitely be checking it out and soon. If you remember the latter part of the first book, Captain Jackson Wolfe (man, why couldn't I have been given a name like that?) is being his normal disbelieving self as he's recovering from his last battle with the Phage Alpha. If you remember in the last book, he has just rammed the Blue Jacket into a huge hole blown out of the Alpha ship near Xa'in. Of course that took care of both ships and save the planet, for the time-being. Believe it or not, he survived that smash-up although he was certain it

wasn't going to be the last thing he ever did. The Command module he was in, was blasted clear to the final explosion and then tracked down by the recovery teams. Captain Wolfe spent two months in the hospital understanding that he lost a good part of one leg and maybe his career. Then, the most satisfying thing happened. The CIS came in and arrested Admiral Alyson Winters during the hearing for both Captain Wolfe and Commander Wright. She was sure she had them and was going to drum both out of the service. Except she now finds herself in prison! Very satisfying. Captain Wolfe is now a Senior Captain. He was going to be promoted to Admiral, but couldn't stand the thought of being behind a desk, so he fought vigorously to have that not happen. He then was given a brand new ship with the most advanced capabilities ever produced by the Tsuyo Corporation. He also found that he was now in command of five Wolfe-class starship, the Black Fleet, Ninth Squadron! So, he immediately takes his squadron back into the fight. He's back a Xi'an where he finds the Phage has completely taken over the planet and is now producing more Alphas. Two Alphas are arising from the surface of Xi'an. He knows that his squadron will be tested to the limit, but they must destroy these two Alphas before they can begin destroying other planets in human space. And, that's about what happens all during this book. Captain Wolfe and his new ship, the Ares, find themselves constantly going into battle. He also lost his XO, Commander Wright, who is now in command of one of the new starships, the Icarus. Starship officers that have battle experience are few and far between, so she had to go command her own ship and now was the time. This book also reveals a lot of political back-fighting between the politicians on Haven and the rest of the Confederacy. Most of the Alliances that make up the Confederacy have decided they do not want to fight in this war. They haven't been at war in over 200 years and they are not threatened now, so they're not willing to give up their respective fleets that have habitually protected their Alliances. And, then Captain Wolfe finds out that he's been abandoned by his own Chief of Staff and the President of the Confederation. There is so much going on in this book. But, it is very exciting. I could hardly put the books down. I think you'll find them just as good. So far, the author hasn't left anything hanging and what should happen, does eventually happen. Still, Captain Wolfe and his squadron of 5 new starships can hardly defeat the entire Phage armada, ok can they?

Before you begin this book, please make sure you read the first book in the series titled "Warship" or this one might not make too much sense as it is the

second book in the series. The author picks up right where he left off with the aging space ship, the humans continue to try and understand the alien attack, internal politics, and he continues to get you into the minds of his characters that makes you feel like you are right in the middle of the action. Similar to the first novel, I appreciate how the futuristic technology isn't described in a way to overwhelm you the average Joe can wrap his arms around it. If you enjoyed the first book in the series I believe you will enjoy this one more. Now, I'm off to read the third book in the series...

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