



## Summon the Thunder

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In the aftermath of 'Harbinger', Commodore Diego Reyes commands Vanguard while waging an intensely personal struggle; tasked to uncover the true significance of the Taurus Reach while simultaneously concealing that mission from his fellow officers - and even his closest friends.

## Summon the Thunder Details

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## From Reader Review Summon the Thunder for online ebook

### C.T. Phipps says

SUMMON THE THUNDER is okay. I enjoyed it but I can't say I quite got the meal I was looking for out of this volume. Weirdly, I think it may have to do with the fact I was eager to get back into the character journeys of the vividly realized cast from HARBINGER but instead got a focus on the plot. The characters, however amusing Quinn and Pennington kidnapping a mob accountant may be, didn't seem to progress much in the story.

It says something I was more interested in the relationship of a Romulan commander and her subordinate than I was in the explosion of a planet midway through the book. Really, the best part of the book was the Romulan and Ambassadorial sections that seemed the most removed from the main cast. We get some information about the Tholians, the big threat, and some more but it does seem to be not as much happened character wise as I'd hoped.

Still, I'm not turned off the series either.

6.5/10

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### Shannon Appelcline says

I found the first book in this series slow, and I was able to excuse that under the theory that it was setting things up. Unfortunately that slowness (and some continued setup, as we get fully introduced to the crew of the *Endeavor*) continues here. There are a few great action bits, and there are some nice character bits, but overall this book drags -- especially in the chapters dedicated to the various alien races rather than to the Federation & related people that we're actually coming to care about.

As before, I'm intrigued by the setup, but another book like this one will put me off the series.

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### John R. Goyer says

The second volume is as enjoyable and well written as the first. I'm enjoying the journey of this story very much, I'm just hoping that by the end, the secret of Taurus Reach will be worthy. Great characters and storyline so far.

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### Gustavo says

While continuing the main story and doing good development on it. I think this books centers too much on overexposition and lessens the mistery.

It also has some deep incursions into repetitive instances of inner thoughts, and while the repetition works to a certain extent, it could have been done with far less instances with the same or greater effect.

It also leaves suggested but unresolved what is perhaps one of the perhaps more pivotal points in star trek. This might be the place where the klingons get romulan technology, or it might not be. But it's completely unresolved. And while there are better cliffhangers open, some things you just don't play with.

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### **Richard Harrison says**

Took me a bit of time to get into this one after a very large gap since reading Harbinger but really got caught up in it towards the end. Hope I can get around to book three a lot quicker.

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### **Victor says**

This is the first Star Trek book penned by Dayton Ward and Kevin Dilmore that I have read, and if I finish out this series it won't be the last. Since this is the second in a seven book series, it would be misguided to expect any large conclusions. The mystery, intrigue, and military maneuvers in the Taurus Reach is merely expanded, rather than explained. As a continuation of the series it succeeds on numerous levels. It is a solid representation of the Star Trek franchise, focusing more on diplomatic tensions and character development rather than gratuitous space battles. Most of the strong sections of the book focused on the diplomatic alien character Jetanien, one of my favorite characters from this series. However, this was a relatively small part of the book. There are numerous characters working undercover as Starfleet officers, yet their motives remain relatively obscured. Unfortunately, their poorly defined (or poorly remembered) motives make their sections dull. The payoffs won't come for a while, and following the character as they subvert orders and relay information to an undetermined goal is uninteresting.

I'm not sure whether this is a good or bad thing, but I did not notice a difference in tone or writing style with the passing of the torch to the Ward and Dilmore pair. David Mack could have written this, for all I know. All in all this was a quick reading, relatively interesting continuation of a very promising series. I'm hoping things will begin to coalesce the further I get into the series.

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### **Terence says**

This second volume in the *Vanguard* series is not written by David Mack, and Dayton Ward and Kevin Dilmore aren't quite as good authors. It's not a night-and-day difference in style or execution but Harbinger Star Trek Vanguard 1 is the better book.

Biggest highlight:

\* The authors do a good job of showing the difference between how the Klingons react to the Shedai Wanderer and the Federation's response. They have no problems bombarding planets with photon torpedoes but the Federation's attempt to understand what's happening reaps greater rewards in the end.

Less good things:

\* Why is it that in these shared-world series, it seems authors feel compelled to include every character or race introduced in other books. I noticed this during my *Star Wars* novel phase - Every book had to include every character from the original films, no matter how much of a stretch required. Here, we get a Romulan ship investigating the Reach. Now, I love the Romulans ("Balance of Terror" is in my top 5 TOS episodes) but there's no reason for their presence here.

\* There's an ill-considered attempt at humor when Quinn and Pennington are sent to pick up one of Ganz's operatives who has a pet alien named "Sniffy" - do I need to elaborate?

\* While the attempt to create a truly alien race in the Tholians continues apace, I wish that all their names didn't end in "-ene." It's nearly as bad, of course, with Vulcans or the other races.

\* Out of nowhere we find that T'Prynn knows Sandesjo is a Klingon spy and, beyond that, we find that Sandesjo is working as a double agent. Huh? When did this happen? And from a narrative point of view, there's absolutely no tension anymore about Sandesjo's role in the Federation embassy or the threat of discovery.

\* What's worse? The Vulcan/Klingon lesbian sex is only implied in this installment :-)

I'm still not particularly interested in any of the characters but the storyline and the writing continue to be good enough that I want to reach closure with the series. Mack is the author of the third book - *Reap the Whirlwind Star Trek Vanguard 3* - and that's in the mail and I have the last two books out from the library so my desires should be fulfilled relatively soon.

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### **Jimyanni says**

I thoroughly enjoyed the first book of this series; I suppose, to be consistent with what I've done in the past, I ought to dock it one star for not having a major plotline that actually begins and ends in the same book, but rather just being a continuation of all subplots without any real closure. But somehow, in this case, that didn't seem to be a problem; I'm not sure why, but I suppose it's because, while no subplot actually concluded, they were all left at reasonable break points. In any case, the book was well-written; an enjoyable read with excellent characterizations, good pacing and interesting plot twists. I'll definitely be continuing with this series.

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### **David King says**

"Summon The Thunder" by Dayton Ward & Kevin Dilmore is the 2nd novel in the Star Trek: Vanguard series and follows on directly from its predecessor novel, "Harbinger". With the main characters already established, the two authors have been able to write a story which concentrates on trying to unlock some of the mysteries of the Taurus Reach alongside further development of the characters.

Basically, following the destruction of a colony and starship the federation has uncovered another alien complex on a frozen world and is beginning a new investigation. Unfortunately they appear to activate an ancient defence system which almost results in the destruction of another Starfleet vessel. However, it isn't just the Federation that is suffering losses in the Taurus Reach with the Klingons also under attack from an unknown aggressor which leads to further tensions between them and the Tholians who appear to know more than they are letting on. And so, Commodore Reyes must try and work this tense political situation whilst

also trying to keep the Federation's own secrets regarding their reasons for being in the Taurus Reach.

The book is quite action driven, with a pretty high body count which provides a real sense of danger. But the authors still managed to mix in elements of political subterfuge, espionage, moral choices and scientific research to give the book a feeling that is reminiscent of the original series which loved to throw in action and multiple redshirt deaths between the scientific discussions, diplomatic conundrums and moral dilemmas. I think the authors managed to create a decent blend here and I did enjoy all elements of the story.

Due to the large amount of characters present the book does jump around a lot but as I already knew who the characters were I found it easy enough to follow. In addition, the further development introduced in this novel enabled me to get a better understanding of all the characters and appreciate their various individual perks and nuances. An advantage I did note in regards to the reader already knowing the characters is that it enabled the author to spend more time really exploring the Taurus reach, with us getting a chance to see things from a Klingon, Romulan and Shedai perspective. It gave the book a much wider perspective and I think it benefits hugely from this.

I did have one issue with the book and is the lack of a structured standalone plot which was something I also noted in "Harbinger". This book is all about continuing the main story arc without giving the reader something they can appreciate on its own merits. Personally, I can't imagine someone reading this book and enjoying it unless they have read "Harbinger" and are also planning on reading the next novel "Reap The Whirlwind". Basically, in my opinion it just doesn't provide enough entertainment on a standalone level.

Overall, I do think that "Summon The Thunder" is a decent sequel to "Harbinger" which further develops both the characters and the mystery of the Taurus Reach in an enjoyable manner. The characters in particular really come into their own and there is some good exposure given to the other species such as the Klingons which is useful as it offsets the lack of a definitive standalone plot within the novel. Simply put, if you enjoyed "Harbinger" then I suspect you will enjoy this novel even more.

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## **G.K. Hunter says**

What Ward and Dayton do best is move an intricate plot forward with continuous interpersonal conflicts in an unfolding mystery about a newly discovered alien race. It's what I like most about Star Trek; the discovery of new life forms and civilizations. But I have a problem with this story. I don't care enough about any of the characters that Mack (in the first book) and Ward (in this book) have crafted to feel much of anything when they die or lose someone they care about. The authors hop around a lot, creating quirky characters that gradually push a lumbering series of side stories, yet I never really get to know them.

Now that I've finished books 1 and 2 of the series, I am asking myself the following: Where the heck did Spock and Kirk go? (they had cameos in the first book and disappear in the second book). Will I read the next book in this Vanguard series?

Even in Game of Thrones, which has a massive amount of characters, I feel something for Tyrion, Arya, John Snow, and the Mother of Dragons, even though I struggle to keep track of all the extra characters and sub-plots. With the first 2 books in the Vanguard series, the characters are a little wooden to me and the jokes are predictable. They seem more like vehicles to push along the interests of their species rather than breathing, bleeding beings. I do see Ward and Mack as talented writers who had a hand in shaping the greater story arc of Vanguard (greater emphasis on Mack as he oversaw nearly all of the series). I also understand the desire of an author to craft their own characters and the thrill to be the ones to expand the Star

Trek universe. But I think the story could have been more engaging to me if either Spock or Kirk were given significant parts in this space opera since none of the new characters seemed to grab me. In Book 1, the brief interplay of Spock and T'Pol as two Vulcans could have gone a long way. Kirk lacked action in the first book, but he could have livened up the slow parts with some gutsy Kirk-ness in this second book. This might have given more runway to the other characters to deepen in their development. The story line was interesting enough for me to wish that these things could have happened. But 800+ pages later (Books 1 & 2), I'm not sure I will get to the next Vanguard books. Too many great series out there in the Sci Fi and Fantasy realms. If anyone has read book 3, please comment your thoughts below.

Pick up this book if you are a Trekkie that is not attached to seeing established characters from the Trek backbone and just want an intriguing mystery about different species on the edge of war.

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### **Aron says**

Even though it took me over a month to read it, it wasn't due lack of quality, I just couldn't find the time. But I thought it was a great follow to Harbinger, not as good as Harbinger but still a solid entry. The Sheldai scenes & the character building was great. I think the overall Vanguard story is awesome, it's a little unpredictable as it seems the traditional Star Trek rules don't apply, people die regardless of rank or status,...fixin to jump right into Reap the Whirlwind! Loving this Vanguard series!

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### **Alex says**

Dayton Ward does his best David Mack impression and the results are entertaining and enjoyable. The humour and variety don't quite hit the spot quite as well but we get plenty of setup here and the Vanguard series wheels keep spinning along quite nicely. I'm continuing to enjoy the vast range of characters, the overt liberalness that tinges this particular Star Trek, the classic warmongering (and the Romulans make their entrance in a sneaky fashion this time around) and the pure - albeit generic - space operaness of it all. It's a lot of fun, though perhaps difficult to recommend beyond the pure entertainment value.

I did, also, enjoy the little nod to the lack of Klingon makeup in TOS explaining it away as a bastard race, lacking the honour of the classic klingon - indeed, the Klingons on the show are particularly masochistic.

Not a whiff of Kirk makes me sad, though.

If you enjoyed Harbinger, there's no reason you wouldn't enjoy this continuation since the quality doesn't dip. Be aware that it's a little thin on the ground story-wise though, I think David Mack probably wanted to keep the big moments in the series for himself.

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### **M.R. Bowers says**

Rough.

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## **Éric Kasprak says**

I guess slow burn would be the best way to describe this book (series). The writing is good, you don't really feel the change of author and the multiple story arcs are evolving nicely. I'm still having problem with the lack of action in the series (so far), but I think Star Trek as always been more about human drama than action. The multiple stories are all interesting and the main mystery is well presented and preserved. When I'm in the right mood to read a slow moving novel, I go to this series and enjoy the familiar Star Trek setting and great plot.

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## **Bryan Williams says**

The second installment in the Vanguard series certainly moves the story along, but the grasp of the "Vanguard universe" is lost of this set of authors. David Mack is the "mack daddy" of Vanguard, having been the author the publisher approached to bring this series to life. He commands the knowledge of the settings and the characters better than anyone else. While it is definitely worth your while to read "Summon the Thunder" to move the story along, don't expect it to be as much of a page-turner as the first book.

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