



Disavowed

David Mack

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Amoral, shrouded in secrecy, and answerable to no one, Section 31 is the mysterious covert operations division of Starfleet, a rogue shadow group committed to safeguarding the Federation at any cost.

Doctor Julian Bashir sacrificed his career for a chance to infiltrate Section 31 and destroy it from within. Now it's asking him to help it stop the Breen from stealing a dangerous new technology from the Mirror Universe - one that could give the Breen control over the galaxy.

It's a mission Bashir can't refuse - but is it really the shot he's been waiting for? Or is it a trap from which even his genetically enhanced intellect can't escape?

Disavowed Details

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From Reader Review Disavowed for online ebook

Nimrodds says

????

Oren Karayoff says

Awesome book by David Mack. One of the things I have always been interested in within the Star Trek universe was the Borg and Section 31. I found this title simply browsing Amazon and saw it was held in high regard and proceeded to make the purchase. After reading it I immediately purchased book #2 in the series "Control" - you must read both. Excellent mix of suspense, thrill and action along with the enigmatic story line of Section 31. It brought back a lot of memories from DS9 as most of the characters are from that series including my favorite - Elim Garak. You will not be disappointed by your purchase of this book and the second one in the series to follow.

Dan says

Another incredible tale from David Mack, telling a story that incorporated many of my favorite elements from recent Trek lit: Julian Bashir, the Mirror Universe Galactic Commonwealth, action, suspense, and superb writing that compelled me to blast through this novel in two evenings.

With only one novel left before the end of the year, I can see that I will have my work cut out for me in naming the best Star Trek novel of 2014. The writers seem to have been pulling out all of the stops this year, and I'm having trouble choosing a clear front runner. One thing is apparent, however: Section 31: Disavowed is certainly in contention! I am also very much looking forward to Section 31: Control, hinted at in the final pages of this novel.

Full review: <http://treklit.blogspot.com/2014/11/d...>

Jason says

Excellent book and great story line. Can't wait to read the next one.

Stephen says

Disavowed is the brilliant result of multiple spy plots intersecting one another, bringing together the standard and 'mirror' universes. Following *Rise like Lions*, a political entity much like the Federation has established itself, and is strengthened by a hidden organization called Memory Omega. Established by Emperor Spock to conceal itself and to become a galactic puppetmaster, Memory Omega functioned rather like Hari Seldon

intended the Second Foundation to function in his attempt to shorten the galactic dark age and create a second Republic. Because of Omega, the nascent Commonwealth has tremendous weapons at its disposal -- weapons the Breen of the standard universe have caught wind of, and are planning a covert invasion of the mirror universe in order to steal. Section 31, the amoral organization which pledges itself to protect the Federation without sanction or oversight, which previously nearly effected genocide by turning Constable Odo into a Typhoid Marry, is intent on preventing the Breen from gaining this kind of advantage -- and to help scotch the Breen's plan, they are putting Julian Bashir -- who is helping them only because of the threat the Breen might pose with these weapons -- into play. But there's always another level of conspiracy, and before this one runs its course we'll see a Dominion invasion of the mirror Alpha Quadrant, a beloved character on trial, and a faction who are even better at pulling strings than Section 31. This is, in short, a very cool book.

Many years ago one of Trek lit's best miniseries hit the shelves: Section 31, telling stories of that very interesting organization as it acted in TOS, TNG, DS9, and VOY; I was very glad to see their return, especially under the able pen of David Mack. Mack here writes a sequel to both *Rise like Lions* and *The Fall* series, bringing two universes together, and allows us to spend time with a lot of beloved characters who are long gone in the standard universe, but still active in the mirror. People like Weyoun, that merry villain, and Eddington -- a rebel in one universe, an admired head of state here. And not to mention Saavik, whether you're imagining her as Kirstie Alley or Robin Curtis. We get glimpses of some of Section 31's toys, there are the expected allusions ("Not good enough, damn it, not good enough! -- thank you, Captain Picard), and a fair bit of comedy to balance out what is one edge of the seat moment after another. Bashir, for instance, is entering Section 31's service as a double agent; he intends to work for them only to bring them down, and so does his girlfriend. When she 'seduces' him into joining 31, however, members of 31 are in fact observing them and mocking their poor acting skills...even the Vulcan. Why 31 is still using Bashir and Sarina Douglas is one of the wheels-within-wheels ops that won't be unveiled until the end. We also receive regular insights into the Breen and into the mirror-Dominion, who are..very much the same, but different in an important way.

This is a thoroughly gripping tale, and I'm looking forward to the sequel, *Control*.

Maurice Jr. says

I was not disappointed by this one. After having sacrificed his Starfleet career to provide Andor with a cure for their reproductive crisis, Dr. Julian Bashir and Sarina Douglas found themselves living on Andor with no real purpose. Douglas resigned her Starfleet commission to be with Bashir, and they were at loose ends until Section 31 came calling again.

The mysterious Vulcan L'Haan approached them with a mission they could hardly resist and that they were uniquely equipped to handle. After the Enterprise stopped their first attempt, the Breen were again trying to steal technology from the mirror universe to gain ascendancy in the Typhon Pact. Bashir and Douglas had infiltrated the Breen before and survived, which made them ideal to join an elite team sent across the dimensions to stop the Breen at all costs. While they believed in the mission, Bashir and Douglas were determined to take down Section 31 from the inside for the good of the Federation.

I enjoyed seeing the Breen at it again, seeing Bashir and Douglas on another adventure together and getting a look at the "jaunt ships" the Breen wanted to steal. We also got to see an alternate Enterprise crew. I found it particularly interesting that Picard was, of course, the captain, but his first officer was Commander K'ehleyr

(yes, that K'ehleyr!) and his security chief was Lieutenant Commander Deanna Troi.

The book was fast paced, with multiple layers. Section 31 with its two traitors, the Breen trying yet again to steal tech to better themselves and the alternate Enterprise caught in the middle of the intrigue.

I am eagerly awaiting the next appearance of Section 31.

Crystal Bensley says

A good thriller set mostly in the Mirror Universe.

John R. Goyer says

A hard book to rate. I enjoyed it - very much. However there were several things that annoyed or at least bothered me a bit. First, can anyone write a star trek book without mentioning transparent aluminum a dozen times? no exaggeration... it's not that clever... neither is the repeated use of the phrase "annular force field" referring to the force keeping people from moving which being transported. Copy and paste? maybe - do a better job editing. The story was good while being somewhat more complicated than I would like - modifying unknown engine designs to fold dimensional space, and move between different universes - that kind of thing. And... our two main characters are set upon taking down Section 31, which appears to me to be the same "sister" organization in another universe from Memory Omega which turns out to be the "good guy" and an organization which they want to help - huh? Confusing motivations. Maybe clearer to those who are more familiar with the Trek universes and backstories.

Daniel says

As with most of the Star Trek Deep Space Nine relaunch novels, this one follows the story set up in the previous series of books, "The Fall." Disavowed finds our protagonists Julian and Serena continuing to take down Section 31 from within on behalf of Starfleet Intelligence. Julian and Serena accept a mission from Section 31 to stop the Breen from crossing into a parallel universe to steal artificial wormhole technology. Naturally, everything doesn't go according to plan with themselves caught in a test of wills between the mirror universe's Commonwealth and the Dominion.

After reading this book, I want to read the "Mirror Universe" series of books to see how the Commonwealth came into being. I'm fascinated with Memory Omega. References to this universe are not found in any of the relaunch novels and the last television watchers saw of it in the 24th century was with Deep Space Nine and the Terran Rebellion. I enjoyed the book and it was refreshing to see Julian and Serena playing spy again after their trip into Breen space in an earlier novel. The mirror universe's version of the Dominion is a bit jarring, this one is also devoted to order, but order through law not driven by fear of "Solids." The law MUST be obeyed no matter what. If it isn't, order is imposed in an even more ruthless fashion than what the "Prime" universe's Dominion is known for.

J says

Section 31: Disavowed combines the adrenaline and action of a spy movie with the sci-fi and characters of Star Trek. Dr. Julian Bashir has been branded a traitor to the Federation, giving up everything to do the right thing. Now he's drawn into a world of people who have no qualms about innocents and who always view the ends justify any means.

The book was engaging, and very well paced. As each situation ebbs a new one begins to flow. I had a really hard time putting it down and finished in record time. Bashir is written well making a callback to the character of the show, willing to dip his toe in the spy game, but also uncompromising about innocent lives.

Unfortunately the callouts to a mirror universe that only back in DS9 was a band of Rebels but now has a perfect government, perfect technology and perfect Dominion. All a little too perfect. I've since learned there is an entire series I should read, separate from Section 31 to explain all this, but perhaps a little more of a primer could have been added to the prose.

All-in-all a fun read and definitely whets the appetite for more.

Paul Lunger says

In "Disavowed", David Mack returns us back to our first Section 31 novel written under this series title since 2001. In this installment, Sarina Douglas enlists Julian Bashir to help out Section 31 as they partake on a mission to the mirror universe to stop the Breen from taking a jaunt ship which is powered with a wormhole drive. Bashir initially resists her overtures, but when she reveals she's working for them he agrees. Once in the mirror universe, we the reader find the new Galactic Commonwealth about to engage into negotiations with this version of the Dominion on Bajor. When Bashir's existence is revealed to the Dominion they risk war to put him on trial for the murder of Odo when he & Kira first crossed into the mirror universe. Mack's story is a fast paced story w/ a lot of plot twists that involve how Bashir & Douglas are working to destroy Section 31 from within & also how the agency really wants them out of the way no matter the cost. The use of the Breen is nice as well as a parallel to a story that is itself a causality loop involving time travel.

With this our first trip to the mirror universe since "Rise Like Lions", "Disavowed" does a nice job of following up those events as well as continuing Bashir's story which left off in "A Ceremony of Losses". Granted we the reader get a lot of information on the mirror universe as well as what Section 31 is capable of Mack keeps all of the moving parts of this story moving in a way that make perfect sense. It's also nice to see the mirror counterparts of the Eris, Weyoun, the female founder, & Taran'atar which reminds we the reader of how enjoyable the trips to this universe have been. With an ending that leaves us with a chance to do far more than before, I as a reader look forward to our next Section 31 adventure & also hope that at some point down the road we get a chance again to venture into the mirror universe.

Alejandro says

It's not easy to be Bashir

People sleep peacefully in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf.

- George Orwell, from his novel "1984".

You won't find this quote on this novel, but while reading it, that was something that came up to my mind, since it's an excellent way to illustrate that paradox which is the "Section 31" and realizing that it's not so easy to understand if the Federation will be better without them than with them, not matter how questionable, from a honorable point of view, their methods can be seen.

OFFICER, DOCTOR, EXPLORER, SPY

Dr. Julian Bashir has played many roles along his life. He graduated from Starfleet Academy as an officer but also as a medical doctor, and he always wanted to be an explorer living in the middle of the final frontier, but lately it seems that a passion of his youth, of playing secret spies, now it's a dangerous reality from the one he seems unable to escape.

Recently, Bashir left his career in Starfleet in order to hear his own conscience, and in that way being able to save an entire civilization. Thanks to Bashir, now the Andorian race has a future again and the peril of an imminent extinction due a genetic disease that was making them unable to reproduce and having new offsprings.

However, this noble cause put him in prison due having to access to top classified information to get the enough necessary data to get a final cure. Fate helped a bit, and how he is a free man again, however, without a career, his own medical degree isn't recognized and none prospect to carry on.

You can't please everyone.

He is not alone at least, since his girlfriend, Sarina Douglas quit (officially) to Starfleet and she is living with him now on Andor.

Bashir met the quite secretive organization "Section 31" years ago, when there was still functional, the original station *Deep Space 9*, when Bashir knew that "Section 31" is an organization without supervision with the goal of to protect the Federation from any foreign or domestic enemy using any kind of action to obtain their goals.

Bashir, also met the unpredictable "Mirror Universe" and he barely escaped from it.

And the threads of fate is biding Bashir in a dangerous situation involving both experiences. Since "Section 31" is calling again to Bashir, asking for his cooperation in a secret mission to go over to the "Mirror Universe" to stop a Breen operation with the goal of hijacking a certain class of starship with a type of drive engine with capabilities that it can change totally the balance of power in the "normal" universe.

MULTIVERSE... THE REAL FINAL FRONTIER

In the original series of *Star Trek*, there was an episode titled "Mirror, Mirror" where Captain Kirk, McCoy, Scotty and Uhura, due a transporter accident, found that there was an entire parallel universe where there are evil counterparts of the people and instead a benevolent Federation, there was a tyrannical Terran Empire.

This dangerous but nevertheless cool universe was visited again in a fantastic novel titled *Dark Mirror* by Diane Duane. However, it was considered "non-canonical" after that the "Mirror Universe" was used again but on the TV series *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, along with a really cool two-parter story on the TV series *Star Trek: Enterprise*. And even the "Mirror Universe" was pivotal again in the novels written by William Shatner, and moreover, now we have an entire "good" parallel universe thanks to the films directed by JJ Abrams.

No one can save us from ourselves.

So, technically, nothing is "non-canonical" ever again. Since if we have two "good" universes in *Star Trek*, and even the novels by Shatner are managed in a concept called "Shatnerverse" where Captain Kirk returned from the death, but it's tactically non mentioned in any other line of novels, so, voilà! Meet the Multiverse!!!

Now, we can easily say that there are at least three "Mirror Universes": One, the one presented in TV episodes and "Re-Launch" novels; Two, the one of the novel *Dark Mirror*; and Three, the one in the "Shatnerverse" novels. And like three "Good" universes: One, the "original" one from TV series and spin-offs, along with the "original" movies; Two, the one from the "Shatnerverse"; and Three, the one presented in the movies of JJ Abrams.

But hey!, if you ask to Director Saavik from "Memory Omega", I am sure that she can show you **A LOT MORE** of alternate universes, so, now the Multiverse is the real final frontier!

THAT DANGEROUS SIX-SIDE CHESS GAME!!!

This story by David Mack is a carefully planned tale which Mack has been planting "seeds" in several of his previous novels, mainly on the trilogy of *Star Trek: The Next Generation: Cold Equations, Mirror Universe: Rise Like Lions, Typhon Pact: Zero Sum Game* and *The Fall: A Ceremony of Losses*, but you can find many other tiny seeds, here and there, in many other of his *Star Trek* novels. I felt like a couple of odd situations in the logic of the story but they can be spoilers, so I won't elaborate on them. However, it's undeniable the big scope of the story and how impressive is the way as David Mack has been able to create his "own" space opera inside of the franchise of *Star Trek*.

Never trust someone else to do your own work for you.

But if you haven't read all those novels that I mentioned above, don't worry, since David Mack will tell you the basics of what you need to know, about previous events, during the current narrative of the book.

This story is like dangerous "six-side chess game" where every faction is playing its own agenda but all roads lead to same point... The Bajoran wormhole in the "Mirror Universe".

The Galactic Commonwealth (the current "equivalent" in the "Mirror Universe" to the known United Federation of Planets in the "original" universe, but different to the former Terran Empire, they are more benevolent and restraint in actions), the Dominion from the "Mirror Universe", the Breen commandos from the "original" universe, the team of "Section 31" from the "original" universe, and as if all that wasn't enough, you have an odd couple of spies: a female Cardassian, and a male Klingon, both from the "Mirror Universe" waiting the right time to play their move.

And Bashir? He is a pawn in this dangerous "six-side chess game" where his only presence in the board is

making even more volatile the game, not matter if he wants it or not.

ONE MAN CAN PROVOKE A WHOLE WAR?

Julian Bashir accepted to go into the "Mirror Universe" to stop a potential threat to the whole Federation, but it seems that maybe he will be pivotal to provoke a whole war in the "Mirror Universe".

One could question how one single man can be key to a whole war.

But if you know something in history, you may know that World War I started with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria.

So, one single death indeed can lead to millions of deceases.

EVIL VS. AMBIVALENCE

Evil is something easy to understand, it's something easy to know what to expect...

...but ambivalence? Anything can happens!!!

If you thought that the "Mirror Universe" was dangerous when it's was visible just an evil counterpart of the "original" universe, now they are supposedly benevolent, but also now they have more technology that the Federation or any other faction in the "original" universe ever dream of...

...what can you really expect that it will be their next move?...

...no one can really know, and that's something really fearsome!

Daniel Kukwa says

"Star Trek" goes James Bond...and in a manner I wasn't quite expecting. A mirror universe sub-plot shoves its way to the centre stage and anchors itself into the Trekverse in a surprising manner. It's a bit whiplash-inducing at times, and there's a strange quick dispensing with of Bashir's once-touted court martial...but it's certainly never boring, and never uninteresting. The final chapter in particular is pure SPECTRE.

Jenny says

By the end of the DS9 series I was so over the Mirror Universe. I think I've tried to read one of the MU books they've put out over the years but couldn't deal with it. So, when I started reading Disavowed and saw it involved tripping through the looking glass, I was very wary. I was pleasantly rewarded, though! Turns out the Federation equivalent ("Galactic Commonwealth") in the MU has its shit together and the camp level has been dialed way down.

The Sarina/Julian relationship has never been my fave, but I appreciated how the Section 31 watchers saw right through their play-acting (a nice piece of writing on David Mack's part, I was like, "This is terrible. Do they honestly expect a team of super spies to believe this?" And then it was quickly revealed that no, the super spies do NOT believe this).

It was sooo freaky/cool when (view spoiler)

Christopher says

Disavowed sees the return of Section 31 as Agent Cole turns up an Bashir and Serena on Andor! :D This of course of leads to Bashir and Serena being dragged into this! :D This of course leads to double dealing on both sides as Bashir and Serena are trying to infiltrate the agency in order to bring the down! :D This leads to both sides playing the game of pretending that the other side doesn't know that they know! :D This leads to the humour that is present in the book in that Bashir and Sarina's house is clearly bugged so they play up to it! :D Cole and Co's reviewing this footage will have you ribs breaking! :D

At the same time though as Section 31's plot to ostensibly stop the Breen from capturing mirror universe technology develops the skulduggery level continues to reach even more levels! :D Bashir and Serena manage to recruit the aid of the Commonwealth in trapping Section 31 at their own game! :D This is handled with aplomb and will have you cheering away as the are totally outflanked! :D At the same time we get to see more character building with Bashir and Sarina as the adjust to no longer being in Starfleet which really shows what they desire the most and in a way that the plot can develop! :D This goes true for the other characters like Cole, Saavik, L'Haan, Thot Trom etc! :D Disavowed really manages to show us the characters POV's and to show at the same time new plot points and weaving the those threads between each other! :D The action comes thick and fast with the Breen repeatedly taking over the Shi'Kahr to Bashir and Sarina taking the fight to them! :D

The scenes all are tense and you really do not know how they are going to go! :D This really makes the book unpredictable and you will be surprised by what the book throws at you and this in perfect keeping with Section 31! :D At the same time there are ship battles and confrontations aplenty that are set on an epic scale and really make you feel that you are there! :D It is all done on an epic vast area full of grand standing and interactions of great powers and Disavowed really pull no punches in what it put up there! :D

On top of the Breen attempted heist we also have the Dominion of the Mirror Universe who are subtly different than what we would expect! :D Bashir's trial and the subsequent revelation of the Founders motivations in this universe is brilliantly handled and a real eye-opener! :D At the same time this really sets things up for later novel! :D

Disavowed really swirls everything around with the hoping to and fro between the universe's but at the same time this allows for great plot lines that you will not see coming! :D For example Bashir's reaction to Saavik's dealing with Cole is brilliant and rib hurting and also raises intriguing possibilities! :D We also get to see the Mirror Universe and the regular one really starting to co-operate again setting up more plot points and Bashir and Sarina leave! :D The Section 31 is still afoot throughout with Sarina and Bashir having no choice but having to push forward so this set things up for the next book! :D The books temporal trickery and the dawning comprehension of Thot Trom that he is in a self fulfilling temporal loop is cleverly done like the rest of the book and will have you cheering! :D

Disavowed is full of character development, world building and hoping, plot points that you will not see coming and skulduggery! :D Disavowed takes a studied at competing forces and brilliantly pulls it off in a book that will keep you up late and is action packed! :D Go and get and try to have the next book as you will want to find out what is next! :D
