

# Yet Another BattleTech Reading List

## Index

Introduction (You can skip this this.) .....	1
Pre-Succession Wars .....	2
Succession Wars Era .....	2
Clan Invasion Era (3050-3060ish) .....	3
FedCom Civil War Era (3060ish-3067) .....	4
Word of Blake Jihad (3067-3081) .....	4
Dark Age Era (3130-3150) .....	5
ilClan Era (3151-) .....	6
Anthologies .....	6
Interesting reads outside this Humble Bundle .....	6

## Introduction

(You can skip this this.)

I started my journey into BattleTech universe 30 years ago with [Lethal Heritage](#). I found the book in a news stand on the train station and recognized that it has something to do with this PC game “MechWarrior”, which we played a lot. This led to playing the BattleTech tabletop with my friends and from there we escalated to ShadowRun and all the other RPG stuff.

So long story short: Thanks to BattleTech, I’m a nerd now ;)

During the 1990s my teenage self has read all the BattleTech books available. Which in today’s terms (back then, there were no eras): Succession War era till end of the Clan Invasion era.

We stopped playing the tabletop regularly, when Clan-Tech hit the tables.

So, when we do get the old Unseens out for a few rounds of mayhem on hex-map, we stick to 3025-Tech. Therefore, I am missing the last 20 years of the BattleTech timeline.

Which is why I started the project to (re-)read ~~all~~ the most important or interesting BattleTech books and created this reading list to have any chance to navigate the uncountable amount of BattleTech stories out there.

To get started, this reading recommendation is based on the **Humble Bundle: BattleTech Fiction Collection April 2024** and the recommendation of [Battletech Essential & Suggested Reading List : u/Insaniac99 \(reddit.com\)](#). Anything in *cursive* are the original comments from Insaniac99.

It will be updated while I’m going thru all the books. The red bar shows my current progress.

# Pre-Succession Wars



**I have not read Pre-Succession Wars books yet.**

I want to read them after the Clan Invasion story arc and will add a recommendation later, after which book/story arc these books should be read.

**Note:** These are usually best read **AFTER** hitting the section of the story where you know what they are talking about.

1. [Founding of the Clans Trilogy](#) – 2784-2815
  - Fall From Glory
  - Visions of Rebirth
  - Land of Dreams
2. [Betrayal of Ideals – 2821-2840](#)  
>which concerns the fate of the Not-Named Clan

## Succession Wars Era

3. **The Grey Death Trilogy – 3024-3028**  
>Traditional the recommended start into the Battletech universe  
It offers the viewpoint of a small mercenary unit and a small peek into the overall scheming.
  1. [Decision at Thunder Rift](#)
  2. [Mercenary's Star](#)
  3. [The Price of Glory](#)
4. **[The Warrior Trilogy](#) – 3022-3029**  
> Good Trilogy into the scheming of the great houses and the 4<sup>th</sup> Succession War.  
I would recommend as a start, if you're more into nations-vs-nations, instead of small unit tactics.
  1. Warrior: En Garde
  2. Warrior: Riposte
  3. Warrior: Coupé
5. **[Wolves on the Border](#) – 3021-3028**  
>How the beef between Draconis Combine and the Wolf Dragoons started.
6. **[Heir to the Dragon](#) – 3004-3040**  
>The story of Theodor Kurita and how he took over the Draconis Combine.

## Clan Invasion Era (3050-3060ish)

7. [The Blood of Kerensky Trilogy](#) – 3049-3052  
>Start of the Clan Invasion.
  1. Lethal Heritage
  2. Blood Legacy
  3. Lost Destiny
8. [The Legend of the Jade Phoenix Trilogy](#) – 3030-3050  
>*If you're into the Clans*. Learn about the culture and laws of Clan Jade Falcon ...and how to break them.
  1. Way of the Clans
  2. Bloodname
  3. Falcon Guard
9. [Wolf Pack](#) – 3053-3055  
>*Conclusion/continuation of "Wolves on the border" and "Heir to the Dragon"*.
10. [Ideal War](#) – 3054-3055  
>Highly Recommended: A story on the Marik-side and completely different from other BT books, as it has a Vietnam War/Apocalypse Now-vibe.  
I recommend reading it at this point, to have a little break, before we go into all the FedCom drama.



**Skip 11-14, if you want to continue with the Clan Invasion story arc.**

These books focus on the beginning of the FedCom civil war. If do like political drama and scheming: Read on!

11. [Natural Selection](#) – 3054-3055  
>Kell Hounds and Clan Wolf hunting "Clan Pirates". Oh, and the start of the FedCom civil war.
12. [Assumption of Risk](#) – 3055-3056  
>*Continuation of the story arc(s) from Natural Selection*, but with more Kai Allard-Liao on Solaris VII. Has major plot points relevant to events in upcoming novels and civil war plot lines.
13. **Black Thorns novels** – 3054-3057  
> Not recommended: But can act as a quick breather, before we go on with the FedCom drama. It's "The Grey Death Trilogy we have at home", but set during the Clan Invasion era. Can be skipped, as it does not forward the overall story arc and is a bit boring.
  1. [Main Event](#)
  2. [D.R.T](#)
14. **The "2<sup>nd</sup> Grey Death Trilogy"** – 3056-3058  
>Deep dive into the start of the Civil War with focus onto Skye March. Also, the story focuses more on Alex Carlyle, the son of Grayson.
  1. [Blood of Heroes](#)
  2. [Tactics of Duty](#)
  3. [Operation Excalibur](#)

**--- Current reading progress. Will update rest of the list, when I get there. ---**

15. **Camacho's Caballeros trilogy** – 3034-3058  
> Just started this trilogy. Sounds like fun to read.
  1. [Close Quarters](#)
  2. [Hearts of Chaos](#)
  3. [Black Dragon](#)

16. [I am Jade Falcon](#) – 3057  
> Continuation from the Legend of the Jade Phoenix Trilogy
17. **Companion books to “I Am Jade Falcon” – 3057-3058**  
> Not sure what companion books are. Will have to read these.
  - [Bred For War](#)
  - [Malicious Intent](#)
18. [Star Lord](#) – 3057
19. **Northwind Highlanders books – 3057-3058**  
> Note sure, if they should be read together.
  1. [Highlander Gambit](#) – 3057-3058
  2. [Impetus of War](#) – 3058
20. [Double Blind](#) – 3058
21. [Binding Force](#) – 3058
22. [Twilight of the Clans](#) – 3052-3062
  - 1) Exodus Road
  - 2) Grave Covenant
  - 3) The Hunters
  - 4) Freebirth
  - 5) Sword and Fire
  - 6) Shadows of War
  - 7) Prince of Havoc
  - 8) Falcon Rising
23. [The Capellan Solution](#) – 3060-3062
  - 1) Threads of Ambition
  - 2) The Killing Fields
24. [Dagger Point](#) – 3061-3062
25. [Illusions of Victory](#) – 3062

## FedCom Civil War Era (3060ish-3067)

26. Flashpoint
27. Measure of a Hero     Blaine Lee Pardoe
28. Path of Glory     Randall N. Bills
29. Test of Vengeance     Bryan Nystul
30. Patriots and Tyrants
31. Storms of Fate
32. Operation Audacity     Blaine Lee Pardoe
33. Endgame

## Word of Blake Jihad (3067-3081)

34. Embers of War (3066-3077)
35. Isle of the Blessed (3071-3073)
36. Icons of War (3071-3147 – *Clan focused: Wars of Reaving*)

## Dark Age Era (3130-3150)

37. Ghost War Michael A. Stackpole
38. A Call to Arms Loren L. Coleman
39. The Ruins of Power Robert E. Vardeman
40. Proving Grounds Trilogy -
  - > *Some major problems lore-wise, but also establish a ton of important characters*
  - 1) A Silence in the Heavens
  - 2) Truth and Shadows
  - 3) Service for the Dead
41. By Temptations and by War Loren L. Coleman
42. Fortress of Lies
43. Flight of the Falcon
44. Blood of the Isle
45. The Scorpion Jar
46. Target of Opportunity
47. Sword of Sedition
  - > *You might be able to dive in at this point instead of the earlier novels for the Dark Age*
48. Fortress Republic
49. Principles of Desolation
50. Surrender Your Dreams
51. Masters of War
52. A Rending of Falcons
53. Pandora's Gambit
54. Fire At Will
55. The Last Charge
56. To Ride the Chimera
57. A Bonfire of Worlds --
  - > *It ends up being the book that takes the setting from To Ride the Chimera to the ilClan lead-up. Like Heir to the Dragon, it covers a long period of time and is not just a smooth narrative of a focused event. This leads right into the intro fiction of Field Manual: 3145*
58. Children of Kerensky
  - > *Another Heir to the Dragon style novel that follows characters over a long period.*
59. Splinter of Hope/The Anvil
  - > *Might want to read Era Report 3145 first, though, as some time passes between A Bonfire of Worlds and these stories*
60. Redemption Rift
61. Rock of the Republic
  - > *Mostly fleshes out what we see in Shattered Fortress. Including important Fidelis stuff.*
62. Hunting Season

## ilClan Era (3151-)

- 63. Hour of the Wolf
- 64. (not DA) Forever Faithful
  - > *Set in the 3060's, but is really best read after reading the Dark Age era, or at least getting as far as Surrender Your Dreams*
- 65. Redemption Rites
- 66. A Question of Survival

## Anthologies

(no reading order)

- No Greater Honor (The Complete Eridani Light Horse Chronicles – all eras), edited by John Helfers and Philip A. Lee
- BattleCorps Anthologies
  - Front Lines (BattleCorps Anthology, Volume 6), edited by Jason Schmetzer and Philip A. Lee
  - Kill Zone (BattleCorps Anthology, Volume 7), edited by Philip A. Lee
  - Slack Tide (A BattleCorps Anthology), edited by Jason Schmetzer and Philip A. Lee
- Marauder by Lance Scarinci – Stories about the Black Marauder (3073-3080?)
- Fox Tales by Bryan Young – The story of the mercenary unit Fox Patrol (3143-3148?)

## Interesting reads outside this Humble Bundle

- [List of original German BattleTech novels | BattleTechWiki \(sarna.net\)](#)
  - >Non-canon, because they were released in Germany first.
- Jihad Hot Spots
  - >Stories and game material related to Word of Blake Jihad.
    1. [Blake Ascending - BattleTechWiki \(sarna.net\)](#)
    2. [Jihad Hot Spots: 3072 - BattleTechWiki \(sarna.net\)](#)
    3. [Jihad Hot Spots: 3076 - BattleTechWiki \(sarna.net\)](#)
    4. [Jihad Hot Spots: Terra - BattleTechWiki \(sarna.net\)](#)
    5. [Jihad: Final Reckoning - BattleTechWiki \(sarna.net\)](#)
- Interesting BattleCorps Anthologies
  - [Fire for Effect - BattleTechWiki \(sarna.net\)](#)
    - >mostly Jihad related stories
  - [Legacy - BattleTechWiki \(sarna.net\)](#) - 2779-3090
    - > 13 short stories following one Grasshopper 'Mech from
- Far Country
  - >Real aliens in BattleTech. Timeline is not relevant, as it is situated outside of the Inner Sphere.)