



Star Trek Log One

Alan Dean Foster

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The first in a series of Star Trek: The Animated Series adaptations. Published by Ballantine Books in June 1974. Including adaptations for:

- Beyond The Farthest Star (Kirk's crew come across an ancient derelict vessel, but something is still living inside it.)
- Yesteryear (Spock travels back in time to prevent his own demise during his youth on Vulcan.)
- One Of Our Planets is Missing (The Enterprise crew learns that a massive, planet-destroying cloud has entered Federation space.)

Star Trek Log One Details

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From Reader Review Star Trek Log One for online ebook

Dan Quigley says

This first entry of the Star Trek Log series is based on a 30-minute cartoon show that was broadcast Saturday mornings in the early 1970s. Alan Dean Foster did the novelizations of the shows, three novellas to a Log. The three novellas in this first of the series were three of the better episodes. I therefore rate this book a solid three stars. The stories are well told by Foster. Nevertheless, the plots are derivative of episodes that were in the Original Series, and thus not particularly original or surprising.

The first story, titled "Beyond the Farthest Star", is based on a script by Samuel A. Peeples. It has very little action for the entire first two thirds of the story, which makes for a long slog of 45 pages. Then, some action finally takes place, but it seems forced and the menace is childish, not convincing. Still, the Star Trek crew acts in a way that is consistent with their show characters, and there is some suspense.

The best story of this volume is the second because it builds on one of the best stories of the original series, "The City on the Edge of Forever". Titled "Yesteryear" and based on a script by D.C. Fontana, Spock must journey back through time to save a timeline. We get a neat insight on Spock's childhood. The only flaw in the story is its self-contradictory treatment of the time paradoxes it creates. These are never satisfactorily resolved.

The weakest story is the third, and perhaps that is why it's also the shortest. The story is titled "One of Our Planets is Missing", based on a Marc Daniels screenplay. A destructive, enormous cloud is headed for a planet of 82 million people in order to destroy (or eat) it. Only the Enterprise stands in the way. I can't place it, but I know I've already seen this episode elsewhere in the series as a sub-plot. It's a mildly entertaining story.

It is easy to see why this first Log is the highest rated of the series. It is based on some of the strongest scripts produced for the entire cartoon series.

Morbus Iff says

The Animated Series was a lot better than most would believe.

Janice Bolick says

Years ago, most likely in the 1980s.

Baal Of says

I first read this book sometime in grade school. After that, I collected most of the other Star Trek Logs, but never read them. After carrying them around through college, and then several moves in my adult life, I

gradually lost them, mostly through poor storage conditions. Through the great paperbackswap.com site, I've now got the whole series again, and I'm actually going to read them all.

Reading this first volume took me right back to what I loved about the original series, so my 4 stars is colored by a lot of nostalgia. The character interactions are a continuation of those on the TV show. The adventures play out in the same way, with a mix of swagger from Kirk, puzzle solving from Spock, snark from McCoy, and the expected competence from the rest of the crew, and always with a backbone of humanistic philosophy. One of the great things about Star Trek was the fact that the Enterprise crew always attempt to solve problems without resorting to violence until the last possible moment, and even then, always looking for a peaceful way out; this series continues that trend.

On the negative side, Alan Dean Foster isn't the greatest writer. He's competent, but occasionally drops the awkward metaphor, or throws in an entirely superfluous thought bubble from one of the characters. He also puts in a couple unnecessary mentions of religious activity on the part of crew members, the kind of thing that would have just been blissfully absent in the original series. The final story suffers a bit from the magic solution to a problem in the form of the Vulcan mind-meld, one of my least favorite Star Trek tropes that takes things out of science fiction and into fantasy. Other than those fairly minor gripes, I enjoyed reading this volume again, and getting to live in the original Star Trek universe again, for a brief moment.

Mike O'Brien says

Every few years or so I have a period of Star Trek obsession. This time it was brought on by watching the excellent web series "Star Trek Continues" after I had seen all six episodes, I wanted to read. So I turned to Alan Dean Foster's surprisingly excellent Log series. It is surprisingly excellent because the stories are taken from the 1970s Animated Series of Star Trek. But Foster is a master of retelling science fiction from television and film. Amongst other things he has produced novelisations of Alien and Star Wars. His secret is to enhance and embellish the stories, providing insight and detail which is perfectly true to the world he is talking about, and makes his work greater than its source material.

This is particularly true of the Star Trek Logs. Whilst some care went into the scripting and concepts of the television series, there was no getting away from the fact that they were basically kids' cartoons. Foster raises them above that level and as stories to read, I believe that they are better than those written by James Blish from the scripts of the original series.

The first and last of the three tales in Log One see Kirk and co facing threats from two different and strange cloud like life forms. But it is the central tale that is the best of the three, featuring a visit to Harlan Ellison's City on the Edge of Forever, with Spock travelling back through time to meet his own parents and himself as a boy. Fascinating.

Jon Mohning says

One of the books I love to re-read!

Matt says

Star Trek: Log One by Alan Dean Foster features three short stories adapted from "the best episodes" Star Trek: The Animated Series (TAS). The three episodes are in order "Beyond the Farthest Star", "Yesteryear",

and "One of Our Planets is Missing" which correspond with the first three episodes of TAS which makes one think they just adapted all the stories of TAS into books to make money, but that is another discussion all together. The three stories are loosely connected as Foster presents them as a sequence of events transcribed from the Captain Logs of James T. Kirk, even though they are connected I feel its best to give a brief review of each story.

"Beyond the Farthest Star"- The longest story of the trio, it is also the slowest to develop. The Enterprise gets caught in the pull of an uncharted black hole and barely are able to get into orbit when they encounter an dead alien vessel that has been in orbit for 3 million years. Kirk, Spock, McCoy, and Scotty decide to explore the vessel and realize that it had been taken over by a malevolent energy being that transports over to the Enterprise when the four return then takes over the ship. The standard crew versus creature-taken-over the ship trope then follows. (2.5/5 stars)

"Yesteryear"- Whether all of TAS is considered canon or not, it seems this episode is considered canon. The Enterprise returns to the Time Planet and the Guardian of Forever with several historians. Kirk and Spock accompany one of the historians through the Guardian, but when they return no one recognizes Spock especially the Andorian first officer and Kirk's apparent best friend. After examining the evidence it is deduced that Spock used the Guardian to return to Vulcan when he was seven and saved his younger self, posing as his cousin Selek. A fair amount of the episode takes place on Vulcan following Spock and his younger self, giving insight into Spock's childhood along with Vulcan culture and philosophy. This story is worth the buying the book alone. (5/5 stars)

"One of Our Planets is Missing"- Standard Enterprise encountering large space creature trope. Well-written, but heavy handed with Vulcan telepathy as a deus-ex-machina. (3/5 stars).

While the quality of the stories range from meh to great and some typos that should have been corrected during editing are present, Star Trek: Log One shows the continuing adventures of the original U.S.S. Enterprise and its crew. If you're new or long-time fan of the original television show I would recommend getting your hands on this book, especially for the story "Yesteryear".

Tracy Brammer says

Loved the cartoon series!

Stormcrow says

I'm really not sure what possessed me to grab this from my shelf, but I'm enjoying jumping around and reading new books and then finding old books I've had forever, but never read. This obviously falls in the latter category.

At the moment, the Star Trek Animated Series is on Netflix so I enjoyed reading a story and then watching it. In some areas, it's almost amazing how much Foster adds. In "Yesteryear", we get a long prologue of events before the point of entry in the actual episode. Many of the additional scenes and insights are welcome, but occasionally they do feel out of character.

Also of interest is the continuity. Until recently, most TV shows were stand alone episodes without ever referencing what came before. But Foster constantly alludes to the story before it, which in many ways is way ahead of its time.

I enjoyed "Yesteryear," but the other two stories were just okay. It was also interesting to read them first, imagine the scenes and then have those images obliterated by what's in the actual episode. Despite the limited animation, I am enjoying the episodes and their look. Of course, no adaptation can ever live up to one's imagination.

I would probably rate this a 2.5, but alas, I'll bump it up to three. Unfortunately, I wasn't hooked enough to continue with the next in the series. The next few volumes will have to continue sitting on my shelf for the time being.

Read Ng says

This is a collection of three story adaptations of episodes from the Star Trek animated series. All of these tales are pretty short reads. I recall seeing these episodes on the air many years ago.

The stories are very true to what you would expect for the time they were written. Stories ran shorter than a regular episode, in keeping with a shorter time slot. Of all the tales, I appreciated yesteryear the most. Who doesn't like a good story centered around Spock and the Guardian of Forever? I would rate Yesteryear 4 stars and the collection as a whole 3 stars.

Rob says

I don't know how the 'Dean' did it, but he made these thirty-minute animated scripts every bit as satisfying as James Blish's transformation of the original series.

Crystal Bensley says

Cool collection of TAS stories.

Roger says

Don't know why, but this was hard to get into, for me. I was enjoying it by the end though. This first Log book include three novelettes which are adaptations of episodes of the animated version of Star Trek, new adventures (in the early 1970s) of the original series. Most of the original cast is included, except Checkov. I've seen most episodes of the animated series (long ago) and enjoyed them; if you're a fan of the original series, you'll probably enjoy these new adventures, as good as the average original episodes.

Jerry says

These episodes must have worked better in animated form than in prose.

Tracy Poff says

After (finally!) finishing the tenth in James Blish's series of adaptations, we come to June 1974, and the publication of Alan Dean Foster's *Star Trek Log One*. This volume adapts the first three episodes of *Star Trek: The Animated Series*, "Beyond the Farthest Star", "Yesteryear", and "One of Our Planets Is Missing".

Like Blish's *Star Trek* series, Foster's *Star Trek Log* series adapts television episodes. There, though, the similarities end. Blish adapted hour-long episodes into roughly twenty-five page short stories. Foster adapts half-hour episodes into (in this book) roughly sixty-page short stories. And oh, but the extra pages are well-used.

I hate to be too hard on Blish, but reading his adaptations is very like reading scripts re-arranged as prose. Plenty of dialogue, some stage directions, and a bit of description to set the scene. But unless Kirk says it out loud, we have no idea what he's thinking, and twenty-five pages is too short for the narrator to spend any time musing on events, either.

By contrast, Foster adapts much shorter episodes into much longer stories, so he can take time to comment and expand on events, to give things some flavor, and to let us know how the characters are affected. It's interesting and, after reading ten volumes of Blish's spartan prose, refreshing.

Since I reviewed each of the stories in this book, the whole review is very long. I'm cutting to the conclusion, here, for brevity. Read the complete review on my blog.

A digression, here, on the subject of *The Animated Series*.

In my experience, *TAS* has not got a very good reputation--which is perhaps a recent development, as it was fairly well received when originally aired. I can understand some reasons why: like *TOS*, the stories can be far less serious than those told in later *Trek*, and it suffered from some very subpar animation, from time to time.

For the first point, however, *TAS* is, after all, intended as a direct followup to *TOS*--essentially a fourth season. That it has a similar style is no flaw. As to the second: putting aside quality, the use of animation allowed the *Enterprise* to have regular alien crew members (other than Spock, of course) and to accomplish any desired effects without blowing a whole season's budget. If you ask me, it's better to suffer some low-quality animation than the sameness in a Federation crew.

Back to the book, then.

One thing to note about these adaptations is that Foster ties the stories together chronologically. The first story begins as they are on their way to the Time Planet, the second takes place there, and the third begins

two days after they leave. It doesn't really impact the plot--a few minor references to the previous events aside--but it does provide a good sense of continuity. Here, it feels like the *Enterprise* really is out and about, encountering danger after danger, where in the television series the events felt much more isolated. It's a nice touch.

Star Trek Log One is a worthwhile read, particularly if you find the animation in *The Animated Series* offputting. No need to miss out on good stories on account of poor presentation! "Yesteryear" is a great character-focused story, bookended by two rather average adventures. All three are quite readable, though, and the book is worth it for "Yesteryear" alone.
