

Enemy Unseen

V.E. Mitchell , David Stern (Editor)

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Enemy Unseen Transporting a diplomatic party is nothing new for Captain James T. Kirk and the crew of the "Enterprise(TM) " -- but this particular mission promises trouble from the start.

For one thing, the wife of the Federation ambassador on this trip is an old flame of Kirk's -- she's determined to see that they resume their romance where they left off. Of course, when another ambassador presents Kirk with three of his wives, finding time for the first romance, let alone any of his other duties, is going to prove nearly impossible.

When a diplomatic attache is murdered, and the prime suspect is one of his crewmembers, Kirk begins to wish that Starfleet Command would consider using some other Starship to ferry diplomatic personnel....

Enemy Unseen Details


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From Reader Review Enemy Unseen for online ebook

Mike Crate says

A routine assignment to ferry diplomats and to prepare the field for discussions between two worlds over the disposition of a third seems to be an opportunity for the crew to take it easy but things rarely turn out well especially when the senior diplomat is married to a woman who Kirk had a relationship with in the past and was manipulative and dangerous maybe if proof could have been found at the time treasonous. Spock has taken a busmans holiday and two new crew members are onboard for the journey and it's all the new faces which complicate matters when the negotiations falter and a spy/assassin has come onboard.

Enemy Unseen worked well as a story of Kirk and the Enterprise in their second five year mission, the lack of Spock was an interesting choice but did allow the introduction of an old friend of Kirk who was shortly to move onto a new ship and a Deltan science officer who I would certainly liked to have read more of. The Deltan element of the story was fascinating, we've never gotten a huge amount of information about the race barring the minor TMP element and one of two novels but I did like the chemistry between the half Deltan officer, her mother and the science officer which fueled part of the narrative. The complex social aspect of the alien race did show some of the complexities of understanding another's worldview and the spy's ability was unexpected but very effective as was the Deltan fly in the ointment which added suspense and drama to the story.

Overall an entertaining ship bound mission of the Enterprise, some good additional characters and a solid story.

Peregrine 12 says

Fun, if you're a trekkie. Based on one of the original episodes, I think.

Ibis3 says

I was rather turned off by the sexism (women treated as objects, not only by the aliens but by the crew--including Bones teasing Kirk about his being saddled with a few wives given to him as gifts), as well as sexual assault (by another woman on Kirk) and (basically) domestic assault (that woman on her adult child) treated as not crimes. Not as problematic, but annoying nonetheless, was the ubiquitous bad mood of the main characters: for example, even when unwarranted, Kirk is described over and over as "scowling". This doesn't seem at all in character for him. He's usually much more good humoured and wry when confronted with things he doesn't care for.

However, it was a good mystery (in the sense that it kept me reading to find out the solution), and the plot holes and other nonsense weren't too bad for a Trek novel. As well, I liked the supporting characters so there was that going for it.

Bookworm Amir says

James T. Kirk and the crew of the Enterprise were assigned to transport a diplomatic party which revealed trouble from the start. The Federation Ambassador, Montoya, his wife was an old flame of Kirk's and she's determined that they resume their romance where they left off. The ambassador Klee has his own speaker, t'Stor, which speaks for Klee. It is said then that Klee's youngest wife has become ill. Moreover, Klee has three wives and unfortunately two of them are being poisoned by eating poisoned food by a spy on the food dispenser. Mysteriously, an unknown figure orders that the speed and the course of the ship to be changed, and a freaky accident was created by this impostor. Captain Kirk must stop this ruthless assassin. And Kirk begins to wish that Starfleet Command would consider other star-ships to ferry diplomatic personnel.

Stephen Fender says

With a novel of this design, you need Spock there. Simply providing a "computer" that acts like Spock is not the same thing. The minor characters are not as well rounded as I would have liked, and Kirk's love interest comes across as more of a slut than a "jaded" woman from his past. I really didn't care for the 'breasts' or 'thighs' or cleavage-esq comments in the book, as it took away from the overall story. Had this been made into a show/movie, I'm sure fans would be screaming at their TVs with words like "Come on, Kirk! You're smarter than that! Put 2 and 2 together already!"

Daniel Kukwa says

One of those solid, engrossing Star Trek novels that manages to (1) remind you why you are a fan of this wonderful show, and (2) irritate you, because it represents a post-Motion Picture series of adventures that SHOULD have been televised!

Surreysmum says

[These notes were made in 1990:]. Obviously an expansion on the ideas presented in the original episode (something about Babel) where a diplomatic party on board the Enterprise is shocked by a murder. In this case, a junior Vulcan officer (Tenaïda) and the woman he is attached to - Janara - who turns out to be a powerful telepath - are the scapegoats. There are complications provided by Janara's mother, a harpy who is a former flame of Kirk's, and an ambassador who, in order to satisfy his own culture's notions of honour, presents 3 of his wives to Kirk. (Only the comedic possibilities of this situation are explored!) Quite a good little actioner.

Mikael Kuoppala says

"Enemy Unseen" is an average and insignificant read through and through. The novel does have some potential for being a decent SF thriller, but instead it stumbles on endless clichés and predictabilities in the plot. Also, the story doesn't seem to advance past the introduction and that really hurts a book with not enough nuance to keep things interesting as the plot is taking a break. I found myself constantly getting a little frustrated when I was sure some major twist in the storyline was lurking right around the corner, but

instead there was just more stalling that eventually didn't help the novel grow.

When an uneventful bulk of a mystery tale is combined to the most predictable and hurriedly constructed ending, you get a novel which offers some interesting parts, is a nice, quick read with a good use of some original characters and a poor use of others. Readable, but it offers nothing significant.
