



The Shocks of Adversity

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Located far beyond the boundaries of explored space, the Goeg Domain is a political union of dozens of planets and races. When the U.S.S. Enterprise arrives in its territory to investigate an interstellar phenomenon, Commander Laspas of the Domain Defense Corps is at first guarded, then fascinated to discover the existence of an alliance of worlds much like his own, and finds a kindred spirit in Captain James T. Kirk. And when the Enterprise is attacked by the Domain's enemies, crippling the starship's warp capability and leaving its crew facing the prospect of a slow, months-long journey home, the Goeg leader volunteers the help of his own ship, offering to combine the resources of both vessels to bring the Enterprise to a nearby Domain facility to make the necessary repairs.

But what at first seems to be an act of peace and friendship soon turns out to be a devil's bargain, as Kirk and the Enterprise crew learn that there are perhaps more differences than similarities between the Federation and the Domain. When the Goeg's adversaries strike again, the Enterprise is drawn deeper and inexorably into the conflict, and Kirk begins to realize that they may have allied themselves with the wrong side....

The Shocks of Adversity Details

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From Reader Review The Shocks of Adversity for online ebook

Rick Davis says

Yes, I realize that I am giving 5 stars to a Star Trek novel. Yes, I realize that it's not a great classic of Western literature. But judging it for what it is, this book is pretty great.

Most Star Trek novels (of which I'm a fan, by the way) run the gamut from standard fanfic quality to um...slightly better-written fanfic quality. Many of the Trek novels mischaracterize the regular cast and/or introduce newly minted Mary Sue characters who then become the protagonists in place of our beloved Kirk, Spock, McCoy, et al. This is the first Trek novel I've read that I think *absolutely* captures the characters of the original and feels like it could really be an original series episode. The numerous references to TOS episodes for the fans is fun as well.

Sean O'Hara says

I really wish Paramount would hire some of the Trek novel writers for the next movie instead of the idiots who gave us red matter and white Khan. In their hands Trek has devolved into Star Wars style action sequences interspersed with "drama" on the level of Tom Corbett: Space Cadet. At least the novel writers understand that Trek is supposed to be science fiction instead of blow 'em up action.

Shocks of Adversity is a great case in point. We begin with the Enterprise investigating a stellar anomaly far beyond Federation borders. After an accident leaves them stranded a hundred light years from the nearest Starbase, Captain Kirk accepts help from some passing aliens. At first they appear to be part of a multi-species civilization not unlike the Federation, but as the two crews work together we come to see that the alien culture is based upon authoritarianism and racism. But given the Prime Directive and their need for the alien's help, can the Enterprise crew do anything to help the oppressed crew of the other ship?

First contact! Suspense! Culture clash! Boldly going! This is what Star Trek's supposed to be, not pasty ass British dudes stealing jobs from Indian actors and crashing space ships into cities.

Ray says

I've never read many of the galaxy of authorized Trek novelizations. This one came as a birthday gift from a co-worker who's friends with the author, a former Rochesterian. Set in the time of The Original Series and with references that place it clearly in the Shatniverse (and relatively early in it, at that- Chekhov is on board, but most past references are to Season 1 events), it works the Kirk Worthy Adversary trope quite nicely, adding a newly found parallel to the Federation and Starfleet of unclear intentions and with decent suspense about whether they are good, bad or really bad.

Most of the on-Enterprise action centers on the standard cast- no real Mary Sues or Marty Stus to distract, and, yes, redshirts beam down with Our Heroes and one of THEM is the one to get shot at- but Leisner does well with the seven major cast members (including a nice job with Chapel) and plays them off well against their Domain counterparts.

Yes, those are our ambiguous new friends or adversaries- a bit distracting of a name to those who know the Dominion from the Federation's future- and their parallels to Kirk, Spock, McCoy and Scott get the most development and draw the most compare/contrast ops. The Domain is also a mixed-alien organization, and all of these species are new to us; I'd have probably made their descriptions more specific and recurring, but in the end the contents of all their characters came out well enough to overcome any shortfall in visualizing them.

One of the most interesting (to me) things Leisner says is what he doesn't say. Early on, he makes a reference to Gary Mitchell, Kirk's former crewmate and even older friend who died alongside the future film embodiment of Hot Lips Houlihan in the NBC-aired premiere of the series, "Where No Man Has Gone Before." It got me thinking that nothing in canon beyond that episode has ever really mined the depths of that earlier friendship (though I'm sure plenty of slash has;). One wonders whether JJ Abrams could make something out of that character in a future voyage of the reboot.

Kristina Brown says

I really enjoyed the character analysis in this story. The comparison with personnel from the Domain Defense Corps helps to showcase aspects of personality.

Paul Lunger says

William Leisner's "The Shocks of Adversity" is one of the better offerings lately in the Star Trek: The Original series fiction with a book that holds not only true to the roots of the series, but also one that fits perfectly in with the timeline. The Enterprise 100 light years from Federation space enters the Nystrom Anomaly in order to explore a star system that appears to be hidden from view. On that away mission, Kirk & company are ambushed by officers from the Goeg Domain which is a similar organization to the Federation who has mistaken them for their enemies the Taarpi. The interaction both on the planet and in space essentially renders the Enterprise inoperable for weeks & forces Kirk to make a decision to either work with the Commander Laspas & the Goeg or risk a 4 month journey to Starbase 43. That decision to help though forces crews of the both the Enterprise and the 814 (Laspas's ship) to work together & to be able to understand 2 very different cultures with very different ways of doing things amongst which is the numerical coding system used by the Goeg.

Leisner's story is well done & the development of the Domain is perhaps the best done for a new race in a while. The conflicts within the Domain, the Enterprise & the Taarpi are also developed well enough to make this believable & very much appropriate for this timeframe. The characters themselves are well developed as well & even with kind of an unusual ending to this book, Leisner writes a book that gives us room to revisit the region again & also something to smile about in a part of the Star Trek fiction that has been plagued by mediocrity at times lately.

Marisa says

This book really does put the Sci-fi and futuristic language in Star Trek. The beginning was a little difficult to get through but once you reach chapter two it all starts to smooth out. It's an interesting blend of the newer

Star Trek character types as well as the original series character types. A very believable tale that I would not doubt happened to our favorite Enterprise crew. I give this a four stars for a great plot that really has you wondering who the good guys are and where is that line between democracy or dictatorships. I recommend this one, it's a real quick read maybe a day or two.

Nancy Spencer says

I love all of the Star Trek books. This one held up. Excellent books.

Andrew Beet says

i love books like this where the enterprise are slap bang in the middle of two alien races which is what happens in this book. as the enterprise is heavily damaged as their capability to go to warp is virtually destroyed. The Goeg Domain offer to help them but then Captain Kirk finds out they are at war with a species called the taarpi. and as with Star Trek Captain Kirk trusts the Goeg to repair the enterprise but to his dismay he finds out that the real enemy are the Goeg. what i liked about the book is that you the reader trust the Goeg as well but then Kirk thinks, Hang on we've allied ourselves with the wrong species we should have allied ourselves with the tarrpi. The Goeg turn out to be the enemy. as i say i do like these kind of star trek novels where you have the moral dilemma as in the crew figuring out who they should help out and who they shouldn't.

Dawn says

One of the better TOS novels out there. It has conflict, an excellent and relevant plot, plot twists and references to past episodes ("Immunity Syndrome" and "The Apple" to name a few). The main and secondary characters get their spot in the limelight as well as inclusion of at least two characters from the animated series (Arex and M'Ress). It is also interesting to see how their Goeg Domain counterparts provide a contrast to the Enterprise crew. While tackling themes such as prejudice the author clearly demonstrates the importance of not condemning the whole based on the actions of a few. This book would've indeed resonated well as an episode or movie for audiences in the 60s as well as today.

Daniela Walch says

Dieser Roman hat mir sehr gefallen. Es geht um Freundschaft, um Vertrauen, um das Kennenlernen neuer Kulturen. Die neuen Individuen sind mir total ans Herz gewachsen.

Ausführliche Rezension wie immer auf meinem Blog unter <http://buchvogel.blogspot.de/2017/03/...>

Lily says

I thought this story reminded me of the spirit to which some of the best Star Trek episodes were based. The idea to encounter new life forms and engage them is what I enjoy most about ST. Also the crew working together then things don't go well at all. I think that Mr. Leisner did a great job of creating a story that has plenty of twists and turns. The Enterprise is in deep trouble and Kirk has to rely on a newly discovered race of beings to help him. We learn a bit about how they run their ship, their conflict with another race.

It's about who can you trust, and of course risk. Cause we all know risk is their business ;)

I recommend this book to any Trekkie who loves a sense of adventure and angst

Clayton says

Sometimes the original crew novels miss the mark in capturing the lightening that made TOS so enjoyable. The dialogue seems off or the characterizations seem heavy handed. Not this time. William Leisner nailed it. I enjoyed the interstellar political cold war between the crew of the Enterprise and the Goeg Domain. Tons of fun.

Chas says

The Enterprise encounters a race called the Goeg and their Domain vessel when Kirk and the crew find themselves with a crippled ship. A somewhat grudging kinship is formed between the two crews as Kirk is forced to rely upon the Goeg to convey the Enterprise to a distant repair base. Not a bad story, though things get slow at exactly the wrong time. The ending redeems this loss of momentum, sort of. The book could have used some better editing to tighten up these slack parts, but the basic overall feel is one of pretty solid "Trek".

Nicky2910 says

Star Trek: The Original Series: The Shocks of Adversity by William Leisner Now, this is what I want to read in a ST novel.

While exploring an unknown region of space, Enterprise gets caught in a conflict between the Goeg Domain and an apparent resistance group called the Tarpi. The ship is badly damaged, going to warp impossible, an repairs would take months. The commander of the Domain vessel, Laspas, offers help in piggy-packing Enterprise to one of their repair facilities. Kirk, who begins a tentative friendship with Laspas, accepts even though that means transferring control over his ship to the Goeg.

On their journey the Enterprise crew learn about the Goeg Domain which also consists of multiple species, but where the Goeg rule with authority and take what they want. So is the case when the ships happen across a destroyed civilian transport, and go on the hunt for the apparent Tarpi perpetrators - using Enterprise's photon torpedoes without consulting Kirk first.

First of all, there's the world building that's engaging and - in good ST-tradition - quite reflective of the modern political landscape. We have liberal and exploring Enterprise on the one hand, on the other an imperialistic and authoritative Goeg Domain. Practically everything's different, command style, the way orders are given, whether there's any input from the lower ranks allowed etc. But there's also the way bridges are built. Not only the literal one linking Enterprise to the Domain ship, but interpersonal relationships despite the cultural differences. A special kudos goes out for the physical descriptions of the different species which reflect their position within the Goeg society - nicely done.

Kirk finds much in common with Laspas whom he sees as a kindred spirit and with whom he can discuss the demands of being in command... one of them being at the end of the chain and therefore being removed from everyone else on board. Spock on the other hand struggles with Kirk's decision to trust Laspas - and he himself gets much consideration because he's an alien on a human ship, different (and sometimes being doubted) but still with the same rights and possibilities of advancement. Something other species on ships of the Goeg Domain can't say for themselves. And McCoy (and Chapel) befriend the doctor of the Domain ship who at first saves one of the Enterprise's crewman, but later on displays deplorable ethics against a presumed Tarpi terrorist.

Ultimately this is a novel about trust, about looking beyond orders, and about growth as a person and as a species. And I think if the Goeg authorities hadn't been as obviously paranoid to order the annihilation of an entire planet just because of a few harbouring the Tarpi, the seeds the interaction with the Enterprise crew has sown wouldn't have grown as quickly in the end. The ending of this novel remains quite open - we have one ship and one crew openly resisting the authorities, another one at least pondering their orders. But then, revolutions have to start small. I'd certainly love to see what happens next. So, how about a novel where Kirk and the Enterprise return to the Goeg Domain? What will they find then? But I guess, that's up to everyone's imagination.

It's absolutely to Leisner's credit that he (mostly) manages to introduce the Goeg Domain and its attitudes without at the same time judging them. Getting to know the people first before delving further into Goeg society certainly helped establish them as 3-dimensional characters who have dreams and hopes much reminiscent of our own and just had the bad luck of being born and growing up on the wrong side of the fence.

I highly recommend this novel. It's thought-provoking and character-driven, and will keep you engaged from page one to the finish line. Well done.

William Knowles says

Good read

This story had lots of good twists and turns. I think it was the first time I have read this author, I will look for other books by him.
