



The Starlight Crystal

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It is 200 years in the future. Paige Christian, 18, has been given the chance to join the crew of the Traveler--a special spaceship/time capsule designed to circle the solar system and study the changes on earth throughout two centuries. But an awful thing happens to the earth--and the Traveler.

The Starlight Crystal Details

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Author : Christopher Pike

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From Reader Review The Starlight Crystal for online ebook

PurplyCookie says

It is two hundred years in the future and 18 year old Paige Christian has been given a chance to join the crew of the Traveler, a special spaceship designed to circle the solar system at near light speed. One day aboard the Traveler is equal to ten years on Earth. It is a time capsule as well as a spaceship whose purpose is to study the changes on earth throughout two centuries, and then return home.

Something awful happens to the ship and the Earth and the years pass, billions of them, and still Paige Christian lives, and remembers all those she left behind.

One of Pike's best points is his adeptness at building characters, and making you fall in love with them. Paige's strength and courage, Tem's wit and persistence, the relationship between Paige and her father... all memorable. At times, admittedly, the story might get a bit confusing but in the end, everything falls into place and you'll realize the brilliance behind Pike's plot.

I just love the melancholy that simmers within every page until the very end. Still there is so much hope embedded in this story, along with a very philosophical approach to life. The thought of life living itself on and on again is scary, although fascinating.

This book is strictly not a "science fiction" tale--it's a spiritual journey, told through the medium of science fiction. This is one of the best explanations I've seen of the Buddhist/Hindu goal of spiritual enlightenment.

"I will never forget you."

"Never is a long time."

"Not for us."

Pike's "**The Starlight Crystal**" gives the feeling that there's something more out there for us. That our concept of life as we know it becomes even that much more complex and gratifying. But I think that it was Paige's undying love for Tem that really gets to me. She created her whole life, and our entire universe based of that love. She opposed all odds, and had to go on to fulfill a destiny that no one person could ever imagine possible.

Book Details:

Title The Starlight Crystal

Author Christopher Pike

Reviewed By Purplycookie

Karanveer says

One of the most thought provoking and imaginative books which I read as a teenager. It has the optimum combination of science fiction and romance.

Don't remember much of it, but it was one of those books which you know you really like, and have no idea why.

Zehra says

No. NO!!!! Paige, you little @#&%!!!! Who do you think you are, offing the entire frickin' human race???? You deserve to be boiled in oil. Murderer!!!! die die DIE!!!!

Yes, this is a rant. I'm sorry, I just can't help taking Paige's betrayal personally. I mean, really, the girl was responsible for wiping out our ENTIRE race!!!! That's not something to be taken lightly. And she thinks we'll remember her as the worst murderer of all?? well, what else should we call her?? She is what she is. TRAITOR!!!! AARRGGHHH!!!!

Oh and lets not forget her justification. Why does she do all these heinous crimes?? Because she has no choice. To quote the Creation "There is no free will. There is only the appearance of free will". Bah!!! To hell with the effing Creation!!!! They (it?) call themselves love?? Hah!! Yeah, right. Had they even an ounce of love, they would have tried to stop the destruction of one of the more sentient races. Love, my foot.

When I try to sum up my feelings about this book of "Love", only 1 word comes to mind. Can you guess what it is? Yes, that's right. Hate.

Melissa says

I love Christopher Pike. I have been reading his books since I was 11 or 12 and I am almost 30 now. His books are amazing, filled with colorful characters, unique settings and amazing stories. And The Starlight Crystal is no exception.

It's probably my most favorite Pike book and it's one of his least well-known. The story is not a typical Pike story and the blurb on the back does not do it justice. Nor does the cover.

Paige Christian is an 18 year old girl who has just fallen in love for the first time. The problem is that Paige is leaving for an expedition with her father in about a week. To the passengers of the ship, only a year will have passed as they travel, but on earth, 200 years will have passed and Paige's love, Tem, will be gone. Paige and Tem vow to love each other forever, but how can their love truly last when Tem will be gone so quickly?

This book is truly a work of art. I cried when I read this book and I felt Paige's pain. If you have ever been desperately in love, then you will understand the feelings conveyed in this story.

This may be a Young Adult book, but I think anyone would enjoy this novel, so steal from your kids for a few hours or days, and get to meet Christopher Pike through one of his greatest novels.

Clinton says

I will do this man a disservice or..maybe just not be entirely fair by not copying what I say for all of his other books. So far, I come away with the same gratitude that I was able to purchase his books and read them. I simply love them.

What else can I say about Mr. Christopher Pike that hasn't already been said? Each novel that I've read, I've been so enticed by (to say the very least). He creates wonderful characters, a thrilling and creative story while not getting overly complicated with it as well, and definitely has his twists and turns throughout the novel(s).

Growing up, I wasn't much of a book reader. Fortunately since I've hit my 20s, I've started diving into novels even more so and Christopher Pike is leading the way like he's Michael Jordan back in his prime. I've read Sati, The Starlight Crystal, and The Season of Passage and I plan on purchasing all of his other novels. I have already made it a goal for myself to read all of his novels because I simply love the man and the universe he creates for us.

Don't even get me started on his philosophical/spiritual views as well. He doesn't necessarily stuff it down your throat. Not really ever, but there are beautiful, wonderful, and sometimes haunting meanings behind some of his writings. I would love to see more individuals give this man a legitimate shot. Open up your mind. Dive into his worlds. You will not regret it.

Erin ? *Proud Book Hoarder* says

I'm usually such a Christopher Pike fanatic - this year I have an evil plan to read books by him I haven't yet, and re-read books by him I have but never reviewed.

It's all laid out obsessively so, which is how I usually am with most books. I have to say this first book of the year, though - The Starlight Crystal - it and I didn't have chemistry or sync.

He writes well, of course, as he always does, but here there was a stroke of melodrama behind some of the dialogue and emotions. He doesn't typically focus on love stories of this nature, so perhaps it's that emo-ish yearning that seeks out, even though nothing he'd write could ever be called straight out "emo."

This science fiction tale was as complex as anything else he comes with (how CAN he think of these things??), but while his mysteries and thrillers and drama pieces leave me mesmerized in their complexities, this one left me in the dust when the ship set sail.

My mind just doesn't think this way; sad but true. I followed it awhile but I started getting bored. I could see the cleverness, but I didn't like the result either way. Inconsequential, all is love, time ultimately rules all, creation will end and begin and blah... The character ultimately has to do some pretty crappy stuff too, betrayals of friends and loves, all because of the way it's ultimately supposed to be, some higher realization stuff mantra that looks toward the goal of what will ultimately be rather than what IS now.

Lots of people feel the love for this story, so it may not be something you need to write off if you personally

want to try Pike's work - personally I recommend his other complex works. He's always been a heavy science-fiction writer, and it's inevitable I'd find something by him that wouldn't work well with me. No biggie, I'll keep reading and re-reading the others.

Oh, and by the way, that cheesy "one liner" pops up again later - and actually has plot relevancy!

"I'm Paige."

He was serious, for once. "Are you the first page, or the last?"

Amanda says

An old favorite. Makes me cry every time!

Dichotomy Girl says

I don't remember Christopher Pike sucking this bad. In fact, I remember him being a guilty pleasure read as a teenager. I guess it's good to know that my reading tastes have matured so well.

I found this book pretty stupid. In fact, I only finished reading it because it was so short and I was kind of hoping that there would be some grand epiphany at the end and suddenly everything would make sense.

Rachel says

I will love this book until the end of Creation and then back to the beginning and then...wait, huh?

Glynnis says

Christopher Pike is a King.

I have said this "ironically" in the past before, but I have had a crazy year, and returning to these favorites (thank you Megan and Rachel) helped me get through it.

Thank you, CP!

Emairelhd Earheart says

This is my favorite book ever, I read it in the late 90's and have read it many many times since then. I have gone through at least 4 copies of the book, 2 that I loaned to friends who fell in love with it also so I gave it to them and one copy I actually wore ragged until I had to buy a new one. There seems to be two types of people who read this book, you either think its weird and no big thing - or you are absolutely stunningly

amazed at how well planned and developed and freaking brilliant this "young adult" novel is. Seriously, read it.

Marcy Jo says

Heaven only knows how many times I've read this book, though the last time was well over a decade ago. I remembered how much I loved this book, but I had forgotten how utterly depressing it is. Reading it was like reading 200 pages of chapter three of New Moon, gut wrenching pain. Except this is worse, because there isn't just a metaphorical death to deal with, it is total loss.

I had also forgotten that this was the period in Pike's writing career where he went off into eastern philosophy as the hinging plot line of every book. "We are the creation, you are the creation, giving up your desires is the only way to become the creation..." Laced between the pain was the mystic stuff.

Ironically, I still love it. Maybe not as much as I did when I was..say...twelve, but the fact that I loved it then makes it more special now. :D

Sophie says

There was a time when this was my favorite book in the world. I reread it so many times I lost count. It was EPIC! With ALIENS and TIME TRAVEL (SORT OF) and SPACE and DEATH and LOVE and CLONING! I think this is where I learned about relativity. Thanks again Christopher Pike.

Michelle says

I had read The Starlight Crystal when I was twelve and my curiosity in Cosmology and Physics was only just budding, it helped to put a more personal spin on the same topics I was reading from Hawking and Greene. This book is perfect for young adults who are tired of the same "Romantic Fantasy" or for the nerdy little girl who wants to read about a deeper love than teen vampires. To my younger self this book had a great influence in my personal ideology: We are all microscopic in the eyes of the universe but our choices have the power to shape it. Of course The Starlight Crystal takes this a bit literal but it was a fun, thought provoking and accurate read. I only wish I still had my copy.

Noel says

I have read this book four times and I still adore it. If you like your sci-fi mixed with Eastern philosophy and epic multi-world, multi-lifetime heroes like in the Matrix trilogy, definitely check this out. Don't be put off by the fact that it's marketed as a cheesy teen horror novel- that couldn't be further from what it is.

My review from my book journal when I was 12 (I was an aspiring book review columnist):

"Pike's best book, full of wonder, grief, inevitability, and once started, will draw you to it like a magnet until you finish. Absolutely one of the best books I have ever read in my whole life. The philosophy is a bit overwhelming, but true and real.

The week before Paige Christian is to go into the time capsule/spaceship *The Traveler*, she meets a boy and falls in love with him. But it can't last, because every day on the *Traveler* equals one year on Earth! So knowing that when she comes back, he will be dead, Paige leaves. The first months are ok, but full of terrible grief. Then things happen that challenge the laws of time itself...and change the future forever!"

Jenny says

3.5 stars. TeenCreeps podcast brought me here and despite it losing some of my interest towards the last third of the book, this was a conceptually fascinating premise with pretty good writing. Lots of philosophy and depth to the plot, but the characters needed a bit more fleshing out early on in the book.

Laura says

I read the crap out of Pike when I was a kid. It was like the graduation from Boxcar Children and Goosebumps = Sweet Valley and Christopher Pike. And now, when I think back on his books, THIS is the one that easily stood the most remembered in my head. I was glued to the concepts of time, space, and free will that this book touched on. And of course it had to have the drama, teenage love story. But still, you couldn't pull me away from *Starlight Crystal* and a couple years later listening to Savage Garden's *To the Moon and Back* totally reminded me of this book.

Cheyenne Kai says

The *Starlight Crystal* is a very thought-provoking novel, and perhaps - as I went into it blind - one of the strangest books I have ever read.

Although it is relatively short, it packs a lot in. Description was sacrificed, but I still adored the tone and style of this book.

Even though the characters were easy to imagine and create a bond with, the insta-love was a little bit of an issue. As most of the book focuses on Paige Christian wanting to get back to Tem, I think the gravity of their love could have been heightened with more development of their relationship before she goes on her journey. With that said however, there are plenty of scenes which allow the reader to feel how deep her bond to Tem is despite their short encounter. Due to this, the urge to see them together is raised as the novel goes on.

Despite Christina's situation, she is an easy character to connect with. Pike's use of time is fascinating, frightening, and brilliant, making the beginning of the book at times depressing with the thought of what she is going through, and what she will go through. However, by the end of the book, there is a shift, and it is realised that this is a more uplifting read. It reminds us what we should appreciate, what we should be thankful for, how we should treat others, and that what counts is what we do with the journey towards our destination.

Overall, I found this is a very philosophical, engaging book with an interesting main character and a fascinating scenario. At times, it feels like it is an epic, 1000-page book in disguise of a novella. It's certainly one of those books which you think about long after you put it down.

Sylvie says

Teen Creeps made me read this! I missed reading this when I was a kid but I know I would have LOVED it. As an adult, it feels a little rushed, especially the romance (it is short AF after all), but I have to give Pike tons of credit for taking on such an ambitious idea and getting it done in like 200 pages. If this was written in 2018 it'd probably be a trilogy with 1000000000000% more internal monologue and hand wringing, so I'll take the short version any day.

Isabelle says

Remains my favorite Christopher Pike story to date. The concepts are perhaps a little too deep - a blend of science fiction, mysticism and spirituality - to fully be given justice in a YA novel. Nonetheless, the idea of a young woman who travels to the end of the Universe and the end of Time itself and lives through two Creations - I have never read anything that comes close to such a stirring love story. For at the heart of it, the book is a story of love (as all Pike's books are) - and no silly teenage romance, but a love that literally transcends time, space, and existence. The Creation is Love. Pike draws from many traditions and weaves them together beautifully: non-attachment, martyrdom, reincarnation, the God within. This is a thinker's tale, a romantic's tale: and I mean Romanticism in its full scope. This story is the Universe's love letter to itself.
