



Mutiny on the Enterprise

Robert E. Vardeman

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Mutiny on the Enterprise Details

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From Reader Review Mutiny on the Enterprise for online ebook

TK421 says

#startrek I love it when principles of leadership are learned in unexpected places!

David Merrill says

This wasn't the most original plot line. It was also dated and the thing that stood out the most is the writer referring to Mr. Sulu as an oriental. I guess that terminology was still, at least, partially acceptable in 1983. Today it pulls you right out of the story, makes you stop reading and start writing on Goodreads. At least it did that to me.

Fortunately, I'm not reading this book for it's originality or political correctness. I'm reading it to get me back to reading books. Since my diagnosis with PTSD and anxiety, I just haven't had the attention span to pull off reading a book. It has been really frustrating because I used to read at least a book a week. I have been able to listen to some audio books, but it's not the same. So, Star Trek, with its familiar cast of characters seemed a good place to start. The ground work is already done.

I'm in the last couple of chapters and I've found what seems like a mistake. I know there were episodes where the Enterprise came under fire and the landing party couldn't beam back up because they couldn't lower the shields to use the transporter. Well, in the second to last chapter the enterprise comes under fire while Kirk, Spock, Uhura and McCoy are off ship. There's a gap and the next thing you know they're all heading for the bridge to handle the situation. I'm not buying it and that convenient gap in the text tells me the author didn't know what to do with it either. I decided to take a star away for this and lower it to 2 and then, in retrospect 3 was probably too high to begin with. This is probably the worst of the Trek novels I've read.

Joel says

I liked the planet they got stranded near. There could've been an entire book about that place.

Mike McDevitt says

Forgettable, unpalatable, non-Mike-canonical.

The explanation for everyone being out of character is exhaustion, since they just finished enduring Vardeman's other story: 'The Klingon Gambit'

His crew trapped in a roofless wooden pen- Kirk doesn't even TRY the transporter before the phasers? Spock's FIRST attempt at communication with the unknown is now the private and dangerous mind meld?

McCoy is so tired he thinks spoiling for a fist fight with Spock makes sense?

The villain Lorelei, Speaker of Hyla, vocally forces the crew into pacifism so intense several of them let themselves be eaten by plants. Having escaped her, Kirk sics her on the local yokels to enforce peace. OUR HERO, ladies and gentlemen!

Finally, the useless Federation Ambassadors. Tantrum-throwing Tellarite, TOTALLY MUTE plant man, and their fashion plate apologist. I hate to say their deaths were only to be expected. Did they get their Ambassador status by collecting cereal box tops?

Mike Crate says

The Enterprise is assigned a time sensitive mission to transport a diplomatic party to mediate a treaty between two worlds on the verge of war and being encouraged by Romulan encroachment into the area. The ship however is in desperate need of maintenance and almost immediately the safety of the ship and the demands of the mission conflict. On their journey they rescue a female alien from a ship adrift and she seems to have a strange and compelling effect on all the crew and as the Enterprise deteriorates the rumblings of a mutiny begin.

Mutiny on the Enterprise finished strong unfortunately I really didn't enjoy the first three quarters of the story thanks to not really buying into the Enterprise being assigned this long term mission when she was obviously not up to the task and how naive the command staff were when the issues with crew moral and competence arise. I did really like the world and it's population the Enterprise discovered on its journey and that in itself could have sustained a novel but that wasn't its role in this story.

Oleta Blaylock says

I have read a number of reviews for this book and I have to agree with most that this book is missing something. Lorelei is part of the problem. I don't think a rational pacifist would allow anyone to be killed just to get their way. I know that most pacifist would die before killing anyone. The other problem is that the characters aren't acting like themselves. Most don't speak the way they have in the series or any of the books I have read. It is like they all had their personalities altered. Scotty is the only one that really continues to speak in his scottish burr. The book just doesn't seem to hold true to what the series was all about. I hate giving any book only two stars and I tried hard to find enough in this story to give it three it just wasn't there.

Ute says

My, that was bad. Could have been a nice piece about the consequences of extreme pacifism (but you could do that with the Vulcans anytime), but deteriorated fast into a nonsensical mess on all fronts.

Jerry says

Enjoyable, but not all that great.

David King says

“Mutiny on the Enterprise” by Robert E. Vardeman is one of the early Star Trek Original Series novels published by Pocket Books. The story follows the Enterprise which is sent on a mission to deliver a diplomatic team in the hope of halting hostilities between two worlds despite being long overdue a break for some maintenance actions. However, when Kirk rescues a stranded space-traveller called Lorelei on the way, he gets more than he bargained for as she appears to cast a spell of pacifism over the crew, risking both the mission and Kirk’s control of the Enterprise.

As with Vardeman’s other early Trek novel, “The Klingon Gambit” this book really wasn’t one of my favourites. Basically, the main characters don’t feel right and the story is at times overly complicated with far too much going on. The only passing marks the novel gets is that the premise of the story itself is quite interesting and Vardeman’s writing is acceptable enough but this wasn’t enough to make this an enjoyable read.

Another issue I had with the story is the way in which Lorelei is attempting to stop the Enterprise’s mission on the premise of pacifism. In my head, it was quite clear that if the Enterprise did not get involved there would be a war so whilst I appreciate there was the chance that violence could result from the Enterprise getting involved; it seemed there was more chance of this happening if the mission was abandoned. Therefore, sabotaging the mission to me was a form of passive aggression and therefore not pacifist.

Overall, this is a rather weak Star Trek novel which an interesting premise which is badly executed in a clumsy and overly contrived way. I would only recommend this novel for those of you out there like me who want to read every Trek novel.

Arlomisty says

Great Star Trek book!

Killarney Traynor says

The Enterprise, long over-due for repair and relaxation, is unexpectedly sent on a mission to the fringe of the Federation world to deliver a diplomat intent on halting hostilities in two far worlds and preventing a Romulan take-over. Not only is the Enterprise under-powered and over-strained, but the diplomat's abrasive manner lends serious doubts to the efficacy of his mission. Things turn dangerous when Kirk rescues a stranded space-traveler - a woman who casts a curious spell of pacifism over his crew. Suddenly, Kirk is facing not only Romulans and hostile natives - but his own mutinous crew!

Mutiny on the Enterprise is a good, solid addition to Star Trek. The characters are well portrayed, the pacing is good, and the story line feels like an episode for the original series. I loved the fact that, though Captain Kirk is never really fooled by the woman he's taken on board, he is nevertheless susceptible to her powers of argument - a touch of smart humanity that more careless writers wouldn't add.

The only draw back (which isn't really a negative, so much as an observation) is that the author doesn't do much more with the story than present it. This is a fun adventure and not much more. The Star Trek morality-play hallmark is missing - or perhaps I just missed it. (Totally possible - I was overly charmed by the single-entity planet that Kirk and loyal crew are marooned on.)

Summary: A good entry into the Star Trek series, with the cast and crew well represented. This book won't rock your world, but it's an enjoyable way to get your weekly Trek fix.

Character ratings: All As and Bs.

Daniel Kukwa says

Oh dear...what happened to the Robert Vardeman who wrote the enjoyable TOS novel "The Klingon Gambit"? The regular characters feel very off compared to their usual selves, the plot takes a very strange detour halfway through, and there's a rather big white arrow pointing at the direction of the novel's climax. "Mutiny on the Enterprise" earns its second star for having an intriguing premise, and my curiosity as to the fate of its antagonist...but reading this short novel felt too much like hard work.

Mark says

One of the most prevalent tropes of the Star Trek franchise is the disruptive effect of the outsider to the smoothly-functioning operations of the U.S.S. *Enterprise*. The ship picks up a person or small group of people, these people introduce some foreign values to the crew, and then a few leaders (usually, but not always the captain) address the disruption caused and reassert Starfleet order. It's a recurrent trope in part because of its versatility and the number of variations possible, but that doesn't make it any less of a trope.

It's no surprise that the trope would appear eventually in a Star Trek novel, and Robert Vardeman's book seems to be the first employment of it in print. Yet for the first use in a novel with all of the greater possibilities the medium entails, his use of it is surprisingly unimaginative. Picking up after the events of his previous contribution to the series, *The Klingon Gambit*, Kirk and company are assigned to transport a small team of ambassadors to a system where two planets are on the verge of conflict. Along the way they rescue Lorelai, a woman of an unknown species from her disabled craft. Once on board her pacifist philosophy and powers of persuasion quickly sow dissent among the crew. Though Kirk and Spock attempt to battle her influence, they soon find their mission in jeopardy in the face of the resistance of the crew, who are following Lorelai's siren song (get it?) instead of the orders of their superiors.

It's fair to note that just because a trope isn't terrible just because it's a trope, and the subsequent use of it in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Star Trek: Enterprise*, and other franchise media demonstrate some of the creative possibilities still possible with it. This is why Vardeman's novel is so disappointing; rather than take it in rich new directions possible thanks to the freedom inherent in a novel, he prefers to deliver instead what could have been just another warmed-over episode of the original series. There is little development of the plot and even less of the characters, as Vardeman relies upon the work of the series and what limited effort he put into his previous contribution to coast through. Even his main antagonist is defined more by her powers rather than any inherent motivation beyond "It's her job," and her employment in the story's resolution is predictable from the moment her abilities are defined. To be fair it's an improvement over his

previous novel, but that reflects more the very low bar set by his earlier effort than a dramatic improvement in quality between the two books. Perhaps a subsequent novel would have been even better, but I can't say that I'm regretting that he never wrote another one for the franchise.

Bert says

Crapola. Though I did quite like the pacifist female alien Lorelei, who I obvs imagined as looking like Lorelei from Gilmore Girls. I felt let down by Chekov's dialogue not having w's instead of v's to make it sound more authentically Russian. Overall, I'll definitely be reading more Star Trek novels, though I'm not proud of it, and I might even try some of those Murder, She Wrote novels because I say YES to life.

David says

The Enterprise is assigned to take ambassadors to negotiate a peace between two warring planets threatened by the Romulans. En route, they rescue a woman who believes in peace at all costs. She is able to strongly influence the crew to follow her -- to the point that they refuse to follow Captain Kirk's orders and strand him on an alien world where all life acts strangely in concert. The alien world was an interesting science fictional concept. The plot has interesting echoes of "Mutiny on the Bounty." The woman, Lorelei, in this 1983 Star Trek novel almost anticipates the Sybok character from 1989's Star Trek V: The Final Frontier. All in all, this was a fun read.
