



Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home

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Admiral James T. Kirk is charged by the Klingon Empire for the commandeering of a Klingon starship. The Federation honors the Klingon demands for extradition, and Kirk and the crew of the Starship Enterprise are drawn back to Earth.

But their trip is interrupted by the appearance of a mysterious, all-powerful alien space probe. Suddenly, Kirk, Spock, McCoy and the rest of the crew must journey back through time to twentieth-century Earth to solve the mystery of the probe.

Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home Details

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From Reader Review Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home for online ebook

Elizabeth Nelson says

Everything joyous about the movie is turned up to eleven here, and everyone was perfectly in character (even Bones and Spock, who were out of character for Plot Related Reasons, kept their essential characteristics). I laughed and cried a lot on public transportation, which is the major indicator of a really good book for me.

Daniel Kukwa says

The most disappointing of Ms. McIntyre's Star Trek movie novelizations. She's obviously losing interest by this point, and you can see it in her inability to have as much fun with the plot and the character material as the film's actors and director. This was a light, comedic & triumphant movie...but Ms. McIntyre seems determined to downplay everything and not join in with the fun. Boo!

Paxton Holley says

Novelization of the movie. Read for our drilldown on the movie.

Jane says

Up until The Fellowship of the Ring came along, Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home was my favorite and most watched movie. I had a chance to pick up a copy of the novelization of the script and decided to read it.

Although I enjoyed it, it's not nearly as good as the movie. I'm guessing it was based on the script, not the actual final movie, and there are a fair amount of differences. It did explain some things. For example, in the book Scotty knows the guy at the Plexiglass company invented transparent aluminum, so he's not worried about altering the timeline. However, we still didn't get an explanation of how exactly Sulu talked that pilot into loaning him his helicopter!

The thing I liked least about the book is that the space probe is actually intentionally trying to get rid of life on Earth so it can start over. In the movie the space probe has no harmful intentions. Also, poor Chekov doesn't get to say his greatest line, one of the greatest lines in all of Star Trek: "nu-cle-ar wessels!"

In any event, reading the book prompted me to watch this great movie for the 100th (or so) time. Glad I read it, won't be keeping it.

Chad says

An entertaining novelization - although I'm sure it helps if you are already a fan of the film. The book doesn't

really add much to the story but to be fair, I never really felt like there was anything that needed to be added. Growing up without a television in the house, these books were largely how I ingested Star Trek as a kid so they hold a special place for me. Even this far down the line, I'm still able to enjoy them.

Indika De Silva says

Star Trek IV - The Voyage Home is my favorite Star Trek movie to date. So naturally I read the book with much enthusiasm and interest. Ms Vonda N. McIntyre has done justice to the story.

I enjoyed the flow of the story, the additional plots that was not found in the movie and the sense humor that is visible throughout the book.

Corie Holland says

As fun as the movie was, this was even more enjoyable!

Jerry says

Can a book be better than the movie it's based on? In this case...yes.

Mike Crate says

Spock has been taken back to Vulcan to have his Katra returned to where it belongs and Kirk and the crew are preparing to return to Earth in their captured Bird of Prey to face charges. During the return trip subspace is flooded with numerous signals and noise, do not return to Earth save yourselves. Of course Kirk is not going to sit back and watch the fireworks and when Spock identifies the mysterious signal being aimed at Earth from a huge construct in orbit Kirk grasps at the slim chance that time travel could provide a solution to saving the planet one more time. They slingshot around the sun and find themselves in San Fransico of 1996 and surprisingly they don't look totally out of place:) We then get a clean action/drama which fully exploits the comedic opportunities for the fish out of water as well as the ongoing dynamic between the crew with spice added thanks to Spock (and McCoy) slowly recovering themselves. The novel of course as with many novelisations builds upon the theatrical narrative added more detail to scenes and characters. We didn't really need to know so much about the refuse collector and the writing of his novel but it added so much to the basic premise. I also preferred the novel clearly stating that the inventor of transparent aluminium was the character who got access to the formula rather than Scotty being more vague when arguing for the transaction with McCoy.

The Voyage Home is in many ways the most popular Star Trek movie due to it's more encompassing nature, the movie brought people to the cinema who were never before that interested in Trek or scifi in general. That said for the same reason the movie does split the hardcore fanbase so the novelisation will probably do the same yet I think the added content moves the story more into scifi then environmental and maybe hits the target more often for those who prefer Trek to be made in a certain way.

Dale says

Published in 1986 by Simon & Schuster

Read by Leonard Nimoy and George Takei

Duration: 90 minutes

I picked this audiobook up at a clearance book sale in the "who's going to want this stuff?" section. Mostly, it was serious junk. Educational software that only operates on Apple IIe, VHS copies of movies that I've never heard of starring some guy that was on some TV show that I barely remember and DVDs of some pastor's sermons on any number of topics (still in the plastic!). And, suddenly, I find a memory from my high school and college years - a genuine Star Trek audiobook from 1986!...on audiocassette! And...narrated by George Takei and Leonard Nimoy! So, I scuttle out of there like I've found a gold bar and pop it in car's cassette player - one of the advantages of having a 12 year old car is that it has a multimedia (CD and cassette) stereo system.

Back in the day, audiobooks were almost always abridged, sometimes criminally. This 274 book is abridged to a mere 90 minutes. To be honest, if it weren't for my faded memories of the movie, I don't even know if there is enough plot here to tell the story.

But, I enjoyed it immensely...

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S. J. says

3.5-4 Stars

The Gush

I was not prepared to like this novel. I'm not a particular fan of the movie, it's ok but I felt it went against rules set out in the show and was basically a mess. A fun mess but a mess. Then I started reading the book and I was hooked. You don't even reach the beginning of the movie until 20 pages in because they are wrapping up stuff from the last movie and dealing with the aftermath of the fal-tor-pan (because duh, of course there would be consequences!). It goes on to discuss why McCoy acts slightly off in this movie and why Spock does as well (though one can guess, having it in black and white helps). We get a better understanding of the Probe and why it's attacking the earth. We learn more about Gillian; I might actually come kinda close to buying taking her with them. We get the cut scene of Sulu meeting his great-great-great grandfather and we better understand Chekov's situation on the ship as well as get to see Kirk lay some Vulcan smack down on the doctor! Why was that not in the movie?! We are even given a hint of why Kirk might have been open to the idea of taking Gillian with them, even though I continue to maintain that it was the dumbest thing he ever did (and we are talking about the guy who agreed to Kal-if-fee without knowing what it was!). My favorite parts had to be the looks into Sarek's mind - his reasons, motives, and thoughts during all of these. Most one can infer from Mark Leonard's wonderful performance but it is nice to have it confirmed. All in all, a great book that explains (EXPLAIN MOVIE, EXPLAIN) what it is going on and really helps one's understanding.

The Rant

Ahem...TIME TRAVEL WAS ALWAYS SHOWN TO BE NOTHING BUT A BAD IDEA IN THE SERIES! WHAT THE HECK IS THIS? WHY THE HECK DO THEY CONSIDER TAKING A PERSON OUTSIDE OF THEIR TIME AND MESSING UP THE TIMELINE A GOOD IDEA? THE WHOLE PREMISE IS STUPID!

Ahem, now that that's off my chest, let me say I don't mind the whole whale thing. I think it's a great idea, mankind condemning itself unknowingly and going back in an attempt to repopulate (within in reason). However, the crew makes so many amateur mistakes that they don't make in the tv show when they were younger and less experienced? Don't make no sense. They make at least three major changes to the timeline and don't bat an eye. You can't tell me that's not against the Prime Directive, among other things. As a movie, it's enjoyable; as a part of the Star Trek canon, it's a mess.

Conclusion

If you've watched the movie, I would read this book. Like the other adaptations of the movies, this novel answers a lot of questions one is left with as well as being a very enjoyable read.

Elizabeth Johnson says

I happened to find this book at a thrift store for 25 cents, along with three other book-adaptations of the first three (original) Star Trek movies. This particular one happens to be my favorite, and the book did not disappoint! In fact, it gave a lot of helpful background on the travelling probe, answered some lingering questions I had about Saavik, gave further explanation about Spock and McCoy's recovery from fal-tor-pan, and stayed true to the classic lines from the various San Francisco scenes (although sadly, it did not include Chekov's line about "nuclear wes-sels"). I'm not sure I'd say this particular book was better than the movie, but it was definitely just as good!

Rob says

This was a rare example of a book not being as good as the movie. The story is still good, and there were a few characters they explored better but overall I wish they had doubled the length and made it as good as it could be, it felt abridged. This was still a good read.

Lois says

Just too short or abridged in the audiobook - but it got all of the major points of the movie in, so that's something. Loved George Takei's narration, with the little bit of Leonard Nimoy's for good measure.

Gerd says

It's Star Trek and it's a time travel story.

The first means that as a reader you have to put up with all those small inconsistencies in the STU that I never really got, like how these fantastic space travel speeds are supposed to work out - and how they keep from accidental time travel if all it takes is speed.

The other means, looking for too much story logic is futile.

This said, I have my little niggles with the book, like a printers(?) error that turned Khan Singh into Khan Kingh, that hurts even a only casual fan like me.

The other is, on one hand this story, unlike ST1, shows a awareness for the earlier Trek adventures (Christine Keeler's episode) but then the Star Trek crew that spend so much time in the late sixties already, shows themselves to be clueless in the face of technology less than thirty years evolved; not that I didn't enjoy the comedy, it just makes you wonder.

But I've always been a huge fan of ST's time travel adventures, the serious ones like "City on the edge of forever" as much as the comedic ones like "Assignment: Earth". And as such the book has to offer a lot of entertainment. What's more Vonda's novel adds some more depth and little details to the story beyond what the movie offered, in short it works exactly as a good movie adaptation should.

Though, here there lies one further of my minor complaints with the novel: while I enjoyed to see more of the reasons behind the wanderer's actions, I felt that she describes him as too human and shows him much to concerned with wiping out the remaining life on Earth, sanitizing it for a start over, when it shouldn't be giving this any more thought than we do when wiping out some bacteria culture.
