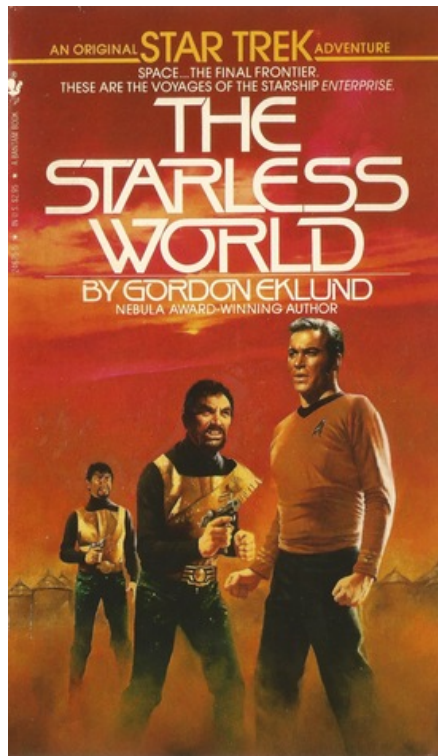




The Starless World

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Captain Kirk and the crew of the *Enterprise* become captives in a fool's paradise whose strange inhabitants are more than willing to face the judgment of their angry god--a black hole. Reissue.

The Starless World Details

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From Reader Review The Starless World for online ebook

Ippino says

Primo romanzo di Star Trek TOS che leggo.

Carino, una lettura veloce senza troppe pretese; buono per passare qualche ora con le atmosfere della serie tv. Sicuramente meglio dei fumetti di TOS della Gold Key.

Charles says

It was OK. I enjoyed it for the Kirk/Spock ect. connection but as a story it lacked some fire. I don't think the visualization of the Dyson sphere was handled well. For example, the sphere apparently contains all the material of a whole solar system and yet the characters clearly "see" the curve of the sphere on the inside. If it were that large, I don't think you'd see the curve at all. I didn't get a sense that Spock was quite himself, although the Kirk character and Uhuru seemed well handled.

James Sorensen says

Number 8 of the Bantam published Star trek books. Not the best. The crew of the Star Ship Enterprise are exploring the Galactic Core when they receive a distress call from a long missing space ship. Upon answering the call the Enterprise finds itself being pulled towards the surface of a huge artificial construct due to a powerful gravitational pull.

The crew has found a Dyson Sphere; an incredibly large artificial world built around an internal sun. Kirk and some of his crew must find their way inside and find a way to break free of the Sphere before the Enterprise is pulled into the surface and is destroyed. Inside they find a simple people that worships the sun and are willing to do all that their God requires, but their God is leading them to destruction in the form of a black hole. The biggest question is where did the Dyson Sphere come from. An interesting book but not the best.

Fratrem Ozomahtli says

A rather fun read that plays more on Star Trek's history of asking philosophical questions rather than a lot more of the action driven novels in some of the spin off series like New Frontier or SCE. The cover art is a tad bit misleading as the Klingons are more of an accessory to the story rather than the main focus. For fans of Spock, this is a must read.

David Palazzolo says

I am enjoying this one better than I did James Blish's "Spock Must Die," though it still has it's problems. The interactions between the Enterprise crewmembers are rather dull, the natives of the Dyson sphere are uninteresting, and the Klingons are mere annoyances rather than a looming threat. The lead villain seems to be the mysterious Ay-Nab, who is apparently the personification of the white dwarf star at the center of the sphere, and who also tends to remind me a little of Apollo from "Who Mourns For Adonis."

The thing that stands out is the exploration of Uhura's childhood and family life in Africa. At first this seems to be a little unnecessary, but Eklund manages to connect it to the plot fairly well.

Surreysmum says

[These notes were made in 1989:]. The Enterprise investigates a peculiar planet-sphere which entirely surrounds its sun. The inhabitants are few, and there is a mysterious race of "strangers" who make their appearance only when the artificial satellites of the sun create a local "night." There is much talk of a god called Ay-nab, but it is only towards the end that Kirk and his crew realize that it is the sun who is the god - Eklund tries to leave the theological question open (is it a god or a superior being) but fails to realize that in ST terminology they are the same thing. The conclusion is as usual heavy on moral idealism - Ay-Nab spares the Enterprise, the intruding Klingon ship, and the one inhabitant who has fallen for JTK - because the affection, love and positiveness of Kirk and his girlfriend persuade him [Him?:] out of his negative view of human life-forms. (Temporarily - AyNab then proceeds to take the whole planet-sun into a black hole). Not badly written, but nothing very special here.

Jesse A says

This one wasn't anything special. Kinda drug in places. 2.5 stars

Randy says

Eklund's second. Again, oh for those days when already established writers tried their hand at TOS.

John says

Though unworthy of being considered "canon," THE STARLESS WORLD does just enough right to capture some of that old-timey STAR TREK TOS magic. Yes, it's all pretty silly and by-the-numbers, but my inner twelve-year-old couldn't help but eat it up. Still, I have several complaints. At one point, Kirk pointlessly antagonizes a group of Klingons by claiming to wish them dead. Only by divine intervention (literally) does he manage to avoid being murdered on the spot. Such comments are especially strange, considering he later goes out of his way to save the Klingons' lives.

Another thing that annoyed me was Kirk's security detail. I actually laughed out loud when Kirk scouted a dangerous area before signaling his security team that it was safe to enter. Um, isn't that a little backwards?

(In another scene, a prisoner is able to escape because the security team is playing cards with their backs turned.) This book makes lots of lame excuses for why Kirk needs to constantly put himself in danger rather than rely on other members of his crew, but, heck, that's STAR TREK for you.

Kirk's effectiveness at using a stick to fight off a large bear wins him the undying love of the only young female living on the entire "starless world," but, unfortunately, her resemblance to an Ewok precludes anything in the way of mutual romance. Poor Uhura has it particularly rough. Not only does she get part of her soul devoured, she also runs into her long-lost father--a plot twist so unlikely, the book doesn't even attempt to explain it.

Mikael Kuoppala says

Sociological Star Trek from the 70's, analytical and original. Utilizing the endlessly fascinating sci-fi concept of a Dyson Sphere, "The Starless World" offers smart and plausible speculation on the function of an imagined society with good plotting and solid storytelling.

Devero says

Una storia di Star Trek, fuori canone, ok, ma è sempre una storia di Star Trek.

Eklund onestamente ha scritto di meglio, ma nel complesso la caratterizzazione dei personaggi è abbastanza azzeccata e l'idea di fondo abbastanza in linea. La resa complessiva però non è eccellente, e alcuni punti deboli della trama si fanno sentire.

Charles says

While traveling through space, the Enterprise encounters a Federation shuttlecraft from the USS Rickover, lost more than 20 years earlier. Contact is made, and the single occupant identifies himself as Jesus Christ. His real name is Thomas Clayton, a Star Fleet Academy classmate of Captain Kirk's. Clayton was expelled for cheating, having been turned in by Kirk.

An exterior force then takes over the Enterprise, drawing it to a Dyson sphere constructed around a central star. The Enterprise enters the sphere and discovers that a Klingon warship has also been captured. All weapons have been disabled, so conflict is avoided. Despite the enormous size of the sphere and the large amount of vegetation, there is only a very small colony of intelligent humanoids. Contact is made when one of the humanoids is attacked by a large bear-like creature and Kirk beats it off with a stick.

The rescued creature is female and immediately wants Kirk to become her husband. Of course that is not possible and the Enterprise crew immediately attempts to learn about the forces that took control of the Enterprise. That force was the star itself, which somehow has reached the status of a god. Like the gods in Earth mythology, it is a demanding god, feeding on the soul energy of humanoids. It has survived by occasionally capturing ships passing nearby, one of which was the Rickover. Once the god has consumed a certain amount of soul energy from a humanoid, they enter a living dead state not unlike that of the vampire. Extremely powerful, they only come out at night and can barely communicate. Eventually, Kirk and company communicate with the god and it frees them before the sphere plunges into a black hole.

This is not a good story, I found it disjointed and the premises are weakly delivered. There is no explanation as to why the god must feed on the soul energy of humanoids and the presence of the Klingon ship and crew is largely unnecessary. The character of Thomas Clayton is also generally forgotten after the first part of the book, and there is no explanation regarding the builders of the sphere. I have read over a hundred of the Star

Trek novels and I consider this one of the worst.

This review appears on Amazon

Brian says

This book was entertaining in the same way that a bad movie entertains. The antagonist's appearance made me roll my eyes, and the Klingons were more of an amusing distraction than any sort of plot point.

The environment was quite original, considering it was published in 1978. However, it might not seem so in retrospect, considering there was a TNG episode with some parts of the story, and one of the movies with aspects of the other part.

A guilty pleasure, and a short read. So, it never got the chance to get drawn out and lose its flavor. If this book was 250-300 pages, it simply would not have worked.

Daniel Kukwa says

A surprisingly compact, surprisingly intense, surprisingly philosophical "Star Trek" story that manages to be enormously epic yet wonderfully intimate. The climax is a bit (well, more than a bit) rushed, but it's a minor irritant in an otherwise satisfying adventure.

Mike McDevitt says

I'm obsessed with Star Trek once more, and I'm trying to establish my sense of personal canonicity. Does this story, in a word, COUNT?

Unfairly, since it's not on TV, Paramount's canon says NO. (Somehow televised always means GOOD.)

Also unfairly, (in this case) I also say no.

A Dyson Sphere is cool, and this one has the virtue of being the first one in Trek. Yonada is a similar idea, but they can't all be Ringworld, can they? The sun Ay-nab is another crazy god/computer as usual. It shouldn't have become a trope that fast!

The inhabitants are dull furries. An albino chimp-girl wants Kirk for her husband. Sweet Christmas!

Spoilers, obviously.

I DID get spooked at the notion that Uhura's father, long thought dead in space, is now some kind of tunnel dwelling zombie. That's genuinely horrible, although it's VERY unclear if he was literally there or some illusion.

Mostly: it's o.k.
