



The Star Trek: Voyager: Farther Shore

Christie Golden

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When an unstoppable Borg plague breaks out upon Earth, blame quickly falls on the newly returned crew of the *Starship Voyager*™. Did Kathryn Janeway and the others unknowingly carry this insidious infection back with them? Many in Starfleet think so, and Seven of Nine, in particular, falls under a cloud of suspicion. Now, with a little help from the *Starship Enterprise*™, Admiral Janeway must reunite her crew in a desperate, last-ditch attempt to discover the true source of the contagion and save Earth itself from total assimilation into a voracious new Borg Collective.

But time is running out.

Has *Voyager* come home only to witness humanity's end?

The Star Trek: Voyager: Farther Shore Details

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Sarah Minnear says

The final season of Voyager ended a little too abruptly for me. I loved all the story lines in the last few seasons and the characters had a lot going for them. But, the final two parter, while it got the Voyager crew back to the Alpha Quadrant, didn't quite tie up all the loose ends. Specifically, regarding the anxiety held by the doctor, the members of the maquis, and seven of nine about returning to the Alpha Quadrant. And, while it makes sense for Star Trek, a show about boldly exploring, to end when the exploration is finished, sometimes the characters arcs don't get a real sense of closure.

Christie Golden brilliantly weaves these characters into the post-war world that the plot of Deep Space Nine created. And, it gives Voyager more of an ending than the series did. The characters have to struggle to adapt to this new world, which gives them more depth and a sense of finality for their arcs.

I really only have two critiques. One is that "The Farther Shore" and "Homecoming" shouldn't have been split into two books. They don't tell different stories and they're not that long. The only other thing is that B'lanna's arc feels superfluous to the rest of the action. All the pov character's chapters lead to the same place and build tension, but she's on a different planet doing her own thing.

Nonetheless, I really enjoyed the Klingon elements and I couldn't put this one down. It gave me a real ending to Voyager that I was happy with.

Cateline says

We just finished bingeing on the ST Voyager series, so I had to read the 2 follow up books chronicling the events following their return to Earth. They delivered great storylines well within the plot and character parameters of the series.

I'm an old time, staunch fan of Star Trek, and if you are as well you'll enjoy these books.

rivka says

[Seven and Chakotay married and happy (hide spoiler)]

Michelle says

I was pretty neutral about the first book and I was hoping that this one would improve. Sadly it went in the wrong direction. By the time I was done I was pretty disappointed in this entire series. Many of the crew hardly get any scenes, instead Libby Webber and a kidnapped starfleet officer get more time than they do. Again the multiple plot lines result in a lack of cohesion. B'lanna's storyline is not really resolved and I found myself thinking what was the point of this again and why was it so urgent? For the other two major

plotlines, the doctor and the borg plague, there were major developments that just fell out of the sky. (view spoiler) Instead of feeling like a clever idea it just felt cobbled together to make the story work.

Alyson says

Such a let down from the first book. I really enjoyed "Homecoming", though it was far from perfect. This one was so disappointing because it lost most of the fun of the first in the series. I very rarely enjoy it when the bad guy's POV is given so much page-time, and this is no exception. This book also went from giving us the POVs of a few non-Voyager crew, to far too many, all jumbled together in one messy, lazy attempt at writing.

The plot was unbelievably predictable (more so, even, than most franchise continuing Sci-Fi books). There was not a single thing that happened in this book that I did not see coming almost from the very beginning of chapter 1.

I also despise it when an author takes over a well-established franchise and characters, and then proceeds to undo or ignore things that she maybe didn't like from the TV show or previous novels. I won't do spoilers here, but you get the distinct impression that there were certain aspects of the Series Finale that she was working hard to undermine. If you agree to continue the story, you should actually do so in all aspects of all the characters; if you run out of time, simply don't mention everything, but do not go out of your way to negate certain events from the well-liked TV show.

Tsana Dolichva says

Star Trek Voyager: The Farther Shore by Christie Golden is the direct sequel to Homecoming, and together the two books form a duology. They are more like one longer book that was split in two, however, and neither of them stand alone. This review contains spoilers for Homecoming, and probably some for The Farther Shore, too, but I will put those under a spoiler shield thingy unless they are very minor.

This book made me pretty angry. There were two main elements which led to this. First, the prologue and a bunch of out-take type scenes in Homecoming featured extensive violent and sexual child abuse over many years of the victim's life. I had no idea where those scenes were going in the first book, so I largely filed them away in the "will probably be relevant later" draw. In The Farther Shore their purpose was revealed: the child abuse existed to motive the villain being a villain. There are so many things wrong with this, I don't even know where to start. Let's start with the obvious that most victims of domestic violence don't go on to pursue world domination. Also, while domestic violence is endemic in our society, it really seems like the sort of thing the Star Trek future should have largely dealt with and mostly eliminated. Certainly, I find it implausible that it continued for her entire childhood without the future having given her mother the tools to get herself and the child out of the situation. But more importantly, the whole being repeatedly raped as a child making someone a villain and turning into a literal monster is a very damaging trope. I was very annoyed to find it a pivotal plot element.

The other thing that really annoyed me was a bit of a spoiler, so it is under a spoiler shield.
(view spoiler)

Overall, there were minimal redeeming plot qualities but the rest of the book wasn't terrible. The hologram revolt sort of fizzled out and the Borg threat was, predictably, stopped by our main characters. The characterisation was all right, but the characters weren't exactly put in optimal situations. Even the well-meaning but mislead character who kept standing in their way had an unsatisfactory about-turn. Libby, a new character who I liked in the first book, still played a pivotal role but did not get enough page time in the resolution. B'Ellana's story line was completely separate from the main elements of the plot. Although it wasn't bad, it really could have been removed without ruining anything. The only relevant part was that she was off elsewhere while Tom was with the other main characters. I assume it's purpose was to set up some future book, but, well, meh.

I have been a bit harsh, though. The first part of The Farther Shore wasn't too bad. Aside from the specific things I singled out above, only the ending was a bit disappointing. On the other hand, from about half-way through my desire to get through it so I could write an angry review, which I have now done, started to outweigh my desire to find out what happened next. The latter, however, is why I didn't just put it down. (Also because it's not that long.)

I don't particularly recommend this book to anyone. Which is unfortunate, because the previous book wasn't bad, but definitely doesn't stand alone. Part of me wants to know more of what happens to these characters, but I think it will be a while before I pick up another Voyager book, alas. (But my TBR rejoices at not having the competition.)

2.5 / 5 stars

You can read more of my reviews on my blog.

Erica says

This book is more of a **3 ½ stars** for me. I think it's a really good book. It's full of suspense and a lot of exiting things going on, we have the characters we know and love from Voyager with Christie Golden doing an amazing job with the writing of them *and then we also have the fact that some things in my opinion felt a little bit over the top.*

To me this book felt a little like Star Trek meets a political action thriller with elements you might expect to have seen in perhaps Alias (*I loved that TV series, by the way*). There's the Borg threat that started to form in the previous book, and then there's Starfleet Intelligence with a secret spy and then we also have the former crew of Voyager sneaking around trying to save the day when everyone else is just blind to what really needs to be done. **It was an exiting premise, albeit maybe not the most common one within Trek.**

But I did like this, though. It kept me in my seat trying to figure out what was going on. And when I thought I had it, and that I knew who the woman we've read small glimpses about since the first book was and what her agenda was, I found out I was only partly right in my assumptions. *I didn't quite see what was really coming, and I'm not kidding when I say that the truth shocked me in such a way so that I was literally sitting with my mouth hanging open in utter disbelief.* (view spoiler) I would say that this was what might have been, to me, a little bit too much to take in. Maybe. Perhaps. Maybe some of you get my drift here...

I did like having Data, the android from TNG, as part of the story. I like him a lot. And since I thought

about him and his previous situation, in regard to the Doctor having rights even though he is a hologram, it felt even more rewarding to have him on board. *And he's funny, too.*

The Doctor appeared, and his face took on a soft expression. "My old stomping ground," he said fondly, as he looked around sickbay.

Data opened his mouth to inquire if the Doctor actually strode with deliberately heavy footfalls in his sickbay, then thought better of the question.

Although being a very serious and thrilling feeling kind of book, **I laughed several times through it.** *In between the shocks and my mouth falling down to the floor, of course.* Maybe this wasn't supposed to be funny even, but I still laughed. *Out loud.* Just listen to this part of a conversation between Janeway and Chakotay...

"Miss your chicks?"

She stared at him. "I beg your pardon?"

He smiled. "On Voyager, you often struck me like a mother hen protecting her chicks. They've grown up and, to use an old cliché, flown the coop."

She finished setting the table and he lit the candles. "Of course I miss my chicks," she said.

Before I finish this review I also want to say that I just liked the sub story with B'Elanna more and more in this book. **I really feel that her experience here added to her as a character, and I really like that.**

And the ending, *the last few pages*, that was just pure **perfection** to me. *I just had to get that in here somewhere, too.*

Adam says

This book was not any better than the first. Christie Golden should be ashamed of herself. Such fanfic panderings.

The B'elanna story was outstanding through. It had so little to do with the rest of the plot that it could have and should have stood by itself. B'elanna and her mom: 5 stars. The rest of the book: 1 star.

Spencer Bounds says

You really know how to make someone look forward to the next book, Christie. Thank you.

Rose says

I really liked the first book in this series; this one, alas, didn't quite stick the landing for me. It took me awhile to figure out exactly why, too, but I think it boils down to the fact that this was an enjoyable sci-fi book, and even an enjoyable Trek book -- but it was not a very enjoyable *Voyager* book, because much of the Voyager crew is hardly in it.

Which is a shame, because Golden's got a great ear for the Voyager crew characters and how they talk. In a world where tie-in novels often don't quite fully capture the characters' voices, this one had every character sounding wholly themselves. (This is particularly fun with the Doctor and Tom Paris, who have their own particular styles and cadences.) But that made it all the more frustrating to have two of our three main plotlines being headed up by non-Voyager characters.

Not that I didn't like the non-Voyager characters! Both Libby (who is from the original show, albeit only one episode) and Aiden Fletcher were fine viewpoint characters; I also liked the new Trill doctor a good bit, which is fortunate since we spend a lot of time with him. The main plot itself, of the Borg virus, was also quite a neat idea, to put it mildly.

But speaking of plot: I think there either needed to be a third book, or some plotlines needed to be snipped. The hologram uprising was kind of shunted to one side -- and this after a rather horrifying sequence in the holodeck with Fletcher that didn't feel like Trek at all. (Speaking of that scene: I didn't quite buy how quickly (view spoiler)).

The hologram uprising wasn't the only plotline to feel a bit short-shrifted. (view spoiler)

... I'm being pretty critical here, and it probably sounds like I hardly liked this book at all. Not true; as a general read, it's probably more like three and a half stars. As a Voyager read, though, we're closer to two and a half. I love this crew so much, and I want so much to spend more time with them. There were some pretty neat ideas in this story, but the endings happened too fast. Character arcs had to resolve too quickly to wrap them up, and they needed more time to breathe. I still enjoyed much of the read; I just wish some things had been given more time -- and more Voyager crew to experience them.

Kimberly says

I found this book only marginally better than the first in the series, but still found the story rather unbelievable (even for the Star Trek universe). I wouldn't recommend it unless you're a die-hard Voyager fan (which I am), and even then I'd give a warning.

Heather Mac says

UGH.

Jimmy says

Star Trek Voyager was my personal favorite series out of all of them, and I found both Part 1 and 2 of Homecoming to be the perfect ending to a less than perfect ending.

All your favorite characters are back (at least the ones that made it to Earth), plus a few more faces, make an appearance in this installment to Star Trek Voyager. A Borg virus is wreaking havoc on Earth, and only Janeway and her crew can save the day. Sound familiar? This would have made an excellent bonus 2-parter episode after the series ended, but obviously it's a little too late to do that (unless they make digital representations of these actors...now that would be something).

The plot moves along at a steady pace, although some characters' stories are a little less interesting. The B-story of this episode was B'Elanna doing some sort of journey in order to apparently finish off the Barge of the Dead episode from the series. In a sense, I guess it sort of redeems one of my least liked episodes, but only just barely. However, the connection of B'Elanna's story with the rest of the book is entirely lacking, and while this might work on tv, I would have liked to see a more cohesive connection in book format. The characters really lack any development, but that's okay because you literally have seven years worth of development. Right now, you just want to go on an adventure with them.

A fun read for any fan of Star Trek and, specifically, Star Trek Voyager.

Gilliam says

In the end there is just too much competition for space to allow all three story lines: the Borg Virus, B'Lanna's Challenge and the Holo Rebellion, to develop and resolve themselves satisfactorily (like so many Berman era Trek episodes).

I'm still at a loss to understand why B'Lanna's wholly unrelated story line playing Clan of the Cave Bear on Boreth with her Mommy Dearest is even included here (*let it be know I've never been able to take TNG era Klingons and their angsty Stone-Age cultural ethos the least bit serious.*) when those pages could have been better served expanding upon the Brenna Covington character and thus avoiding her fate as yet another two-bit B-movie Trek villain bent on world domination who is readily dispatched in a hasty action-oriented climax.

The Holo Rebellion presented the more interesting story possibilities but is the least developed and most mishandled by Golden.

In the author's favor, however, is her ability to realize the Voyager crew in print as they came to be known on television.

Nate Morse says

One of my literary pet peeves is when a character has an internal monolog describing all their hopes, dreams, fears and/or how exactly they committed a crime. This book seemed like it had a page limit and the only way to conclude the book in time was to just infodump.

And what the hell was this whole hologram uprising thing? Half the book was dedicated to this plot and nothing comes of it.

The only way this is getting 2 stars is because I like Star Trek.
