



Chrysalis

David Niall Wilson

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When the sensors of the "U.S.S. Voyager" detect abundant plant life on an unexplored planet, Captain Janeway leads an Away Team in search of fresh food supplies. They find lavish gardens inhabited by an enigmatic alien race that holds the gardens sacred. The fragrant blossoms are beautiful, enticing -- and far more dangerous than they appear. One by one, the Away Team begins to fall into deep comas from which they cannot be revived. Unwilling to spread the affliction to "Voyager," the Away Team is trapped on the planet until a cure can be found, but their investigation is perceived as desecration by the devout worshippers of the gardens. Pursued by a fanatical mob, slowly succumbing to the insidious effect of the blossoms, Janeway faces either a violent death -- or an endless sleep.

Chrysalis Details

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Chris says

This was just meh. The title kind of gave it away, the whole time I was just waiting for the butterfly aliens to hatch forth. It is such a solid example of me as a reader just being on the lookout, with a decent idea of what I would get ahead of time. It didn't do much to make it intriguing or great, and so it just gets an average mark. It is average and completely worthy of being skipped or skimmed.

Elizabeth Perez says

So Voyager has to get supplies and lands on a planet with some strange readings.

Normally I don't care for the 'slow burn' type of star trek books but this one was pretty good because I got to learn more about the whole cast. I especially loved where Paris goes with his thoughts, he was just very relatable. Neelix was actually important and valued to some degree in this one, I wish I saw that more on the show.

If there are any cons I think it's just that the book was kind of slow and the aliens could be a little more interesting.

I also felt like there were some thought-provoking allegories in this book, and a few other 'read between the lines' moments that made the book that much more unique.

I would recommend this too anyone that doesn't mind a book that isn't too fast paced because this one really does slow down.

Angela says

Voyager needs food again, this is a common problem in the novels. They land on a planet with a religious group who are very strong in their beliefs. The plot really didn't do much for me, it was very predictable. The characterisations were ok, there was just not enough page turning moments for me. An ok read.

K says

3.5/5

Sharon says

Once again this book takes place during the early seasons of Voyager. I think this takes place sometime after Parturition.

Once again the Crew is in need of food and stops at a likely looking planet. It is lush and full of edible plants. I will give the writer credit for at least giving the reader strong hints that this planet is 'not what it seems' instead of surprising us with seemingly nice aliens who turn out to be evil. Neelix has heard rumors and old stories about it but dismissed them. Guess what? The rumors are true.

I will also give the writer credit for NOT falling into that other overused trope 'Paris gets involved with an alien woman' although as a sort of substitute he does spend most of the book with Kes but not to worry, as I said this apparently takes place after Parturition. They are on a rescue mission.

Each character gets a fair amount of 'focus'. Neelix's moments get tiring because all he does is worry about Kes and demand to be sent to the planet surface when there is no need for him to be there.

If I had any criticism it would be that too much time is spent from the alien's point of view delving into their philosophy of life and their religion. It really didn't add to the plot and some of the story 'back tracks' and the character moments overlap each other. It would have been better to just have kept it moving forward.

Fairly well written and not a bad read.

Craig says

This book was very difficult to get through. It was boring and the moments of tension were lost in confusion of what exactly was going on plus getting events replayed over and over from everyone's perspectives. I wanted to punch Neelix in the face as he was whining his whole way through the book over Kes. The characters were on point but it was just such a dumb story I didn't even care. I think the conflict of two different belief systems would have been something that would have fit better in the Deep Space Nine than Voyager so that didn't work either.

Patrick Satta says

This was the first Star Trek novel I ever read. It was terrible. I can even remember that character names were spelled wrong. It seemed like fan fiction with names changed to avoid copyright infringement.

Sean Randall says

Voyager novels, especially those going off the Bible, have had some grammar issues. But this, penned by an otherwise successful writer, seems disproportionately awful. I probably should have stopped to find specific issue, but it was just yucky.

Jimyanni says

A reasonably interesting, well-written Star Trek book, this story's pacing was just a touch off. It seemed to me that it peaked a bit too soon, with the last 40 pages or so something of an anticlimax, if not uninteresting. It had an interesting basic concept, the conflict between the "religious beliefs" of alien species, and the

misunderstandings that can occur when they come into conflict, and this concept was handled pretty well. My head tells me that I should give this story a fourth star; reading over what I've said, this sounds like a four-star review and I can't honestly say why it doesn't rate that highly, but I just didn't enjoy it enough to rate it that highly.

Anne Thorpe says

Not bad, characters pretty good story is interesting.

Adam says

A poor Star Trek book.

I had a few problems with this book.

Firstly, the premise is that *Voyager* needs food, again. This seems to be the idea in many of the *voyager* novels and it is not exactly a riveting plot idea.

Secondly, the book is only 279 pages, however in my opinion the book was at least 50 pages too long. I found a lot of chapters quite boring and it took a lot of willpower to continue reading this book.

Third, shut up Neelix. My god, he was never this annoying.

Fourth, I just didn't like the main theme of the book. Some fantastic Star Trek episodes and novels have involved religion, beliefs and cultures but I just didn't like this one. Snooze fest. It is a shame because when Janeway found the ruins I thought, eight, here we go! They have found an interesting discovery! Nope, not this time.

Onto the next novel! Hopefully *Voyager* is fully stocked.

Anja Braun says

He still worried more about the affairs of others, & their opinions than he did about the state of his own spirit
pg. 150

"Would it not be arrogant of U to believe your own to be the only possibility in the universe?"Tuvok to Ban
pg.214

Joshua Palmatier says

Continuing my attempt to catch up on all of the Star Trek books I've bought but haven't gotten around to yet, just finished **Chrysalis**. The basic premise is that *Voyager* is low on food and stops at a very earth-like

planet to scrounge for some food. An away team beams down to the lush gardens riddled with ancient ruins after scanning the planet and finding no life--at least not what we expect as life. There is some kind of energy reading that comes across as a life-force, but it permeates the entire planet and wreaks havoc with Federation technology. Once they've beamed down, the locals make themselves known but seem very friendly. But then a member of the away team collapses for no apparent reason and things start to go wrong from there.

Overall, the book was OK. The beginning was a little slow, and there was far too much time spent on repeating things we already knew and expounding on some philosophical ideas. Also, some "insights" into the characters were thrown in here and there and really didn't have anything to do with the main plot and didn't spring from that main plot much either. Character development should come FROM the plot, not just be thrown in for filler, and that's what these felt like. Initially, I was ready to write this one off completely about halfway through.

But the real heart of the novel doesn't come until toward the end of the book, and it's much more of an idea than it is anything about *Voyager* or its crew. The central idea could have been set in nearly any other SF&F universe, not just Star Trek. But the idea was good enough to elevate this book above a write-off. I won't spoil the idea here, but know that the book doesn't really become interesting until the last half/third of the novel.

Mikael Kuoppala says

A clever, psychedelic and surprising book with a truly nice, culturally relativistic angle.
