



Savage Trade

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An upcoming Star Trek TOS novel, expected to be released in February, 2015.

The USS Enterprise under the command of Captain James T. Kirk is en route to the extreme edge of the Alpha Quadrant, and to a region known as the Vara Nebula. Its mission: to investigate why science outpost Zeta Gibraltar is not answering all Federation hailing messages. When the Enterprise arrives, a scan shows no life forms in the science station. Kirk leads a landing party and quickly discovers the reason for the strange silence—signs of a violent firefight are everywhere. Zeta Gibraltar has been completely raided. Yet there are no bodies and the entire roster of station personnel is missing...

Savage Trade Details

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Author : Tony Daniel

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From Reader Review Savage Trade for online ebook

Lynda says

good until the end

Major spoiler, if buying dont read! I couldn't decide or two stars are three stars. So, I would've given 4-5 up till the last few chapters, and then just on those, I would've given a 1 (cause you can't give a zero).

I really enjoyed the book until they brought in a third antagonist. The first, the pirates, never resolved, the second and third, the rock creatures and the other entity, didn't add any value to the book. I saw this going so many places, and instead, it went nowhere. What an opportunity for the Pirates to be using space and time travel. It's like it starts great, the story was interesting, you were thinking all these different plots, then they totally drop the Pirates, bring in a second and third antagonist, never finish anything about the Pirates or give explanations, and then get all cryptic with the two other antagonists.

the last couple of chapters I couldn't wait to finish just so I could finish it. I know sometimes Star Trek storyline can get a little weird. But this just went nowhere. And the description of the battle was just creepy.

Jimyanni says

This book was an interesting and well-written read, an extrapolation on the episode "The Savage Curtain". And if I absolutely, positively disbelieve the solution to a major crisis in the plot, well, just because I found it impossible to suspend disbelief doesn't mean that every reader will have that problem. In any case, that only dropped it from a five-star rating to a four-star one; the book was good enough in general to survive the flaw.

Casey says

Savage Trade is a sequel to The Savage Curtain, a season three episodes about the Excalbians. In that episode, the Excalbians, giant sentient rocks, try to get the Enterprise crew to participate in a deadly game of good vs. evil, all so the Excalbians can understand the concepts. The Excalbians morph into famous historical figures, so in the episode there's Abraham Lincoln and Genghis Khan, etc.

In Savage Trade, Excalbians are found as captives on a pirate ship by the L'rah'hane. Lo and behold, they're all in human form as different historical figures. George Washington is the most prominent character, and it's a bit silly at times.

The Excalbians appear to have changed their tune, and want to seek asylum in the Federation. Valek, a diplomat from Vulcan under the mentorship of Sarek, is sent to understand the Excalbians and make a decision. Kirk and co attempt to understand the Excalbians and search for clues regarding the missing Hadrian empire, as the L'rah'hane ship the Excalbians were on was of Hadrian make.

I never got the original series' fixation on historical figures and American history plots - probably more of budget issues of what was on-set at the studio. At first I wasn't too interested in the story, but as it progressed, it reads very much like an original series episode.

The writing style is simplistic. Kirk has his typical thoughts which are eyerolling, but Savage Trade stays

very true to the character. Kirk was always a cheeseball.

I tried my best not to visualize the Excalbians in rock form from the tv episode. Really creepy looking!

McCoy is barely featured at all. He has a small romance plot that doesn't contribute to anything. Uhura doesn't have much focus either. Sulu and Chekhov have their adventure that is separate, and I enjoyed their parts the best. Valek's brother was lab partner to Spock as children, so there's some background him on.

There is a big space battle at the end, and a more dangerous enemy. The events happens mostly through the perspective of Kirk. If you're looking for something to relive the original series, Savage Trade does well. That isn't saying this book is a piece of masterful literature, but then the writing of the original series wasn't consistent.

Eric Cone says

This was a terrific TOS novel! The title should have given me a hint - as to the story, but it never even occurred to me. Kirk and crew are sent to investigate an outpost at Zeta Gibraltar; it's been awfully quiet there and Starfleet wants to know the cause. So begins this tale, which is a delight; Tony Daniel has hit another home run, as far as I'm concerned.

As with Devil's Bargain, Tony revisits characters from the Enterprise and TOS's storied past, shedding new light on a formidable alien species, while leaving me slack-jawed with his whimsical brand of storytelling. I was like: "Oh, hell yeah! Cool!"

It's clear that Tony knows his Star Trek and I found it easy to find myself sitting on the bridge, witnessing the events of this great adventure, while getting a great education. Spock's childhood plays a big role in the narrative and there's even some great referencing from other Star Trek escapades. Kirk (for once) finds that romance may not be advisable with the current situation; but that's not saying, that there aren't fires burning elsewhere on the ship. Ahem...

Great pacing, lots of good humor and action - I find that it's difficult for me to review Savage Trade without giving it away; but I think you'll have a rip-roaring good time, as I did. Do yourself a favor and get this book; then prepare to learn a thing or two about an alien species we've seen before, as well as, some history about ourselves.

To me, it's #GreatStarTrek!

John Yelverton says

A really well done "Star Trek" novel that stays true to the characters, but even more, takes a very poorly liked episode and continues it in a very worthwhile way. I heartily recommend this book for fans of the original series.

Daniel Kukwa says

I was worried, at first. The opening 20-30 pages seemed stiff and awkward, and didn't exactly hold my attention. But sticking it out was worth it, as it suddenly launched into a witty, interesting, and extremely detailed science fiction tale. It's also a surprising sequel to a TOS episode I rather enjoy ("The Savage Curtain"), but one that doesn't get a great deal of love from Trek fandom. It plays with concepts that run the gamut from the intimate to the epic, and introduces an extremely powerful guest character that manages to subvert the usual preconceptions fans have about Vulcans...and about James T. Kirk and his love affairs. A delightful, engrossing, surprising "Star Trek" novel. Just rough it through the rocky opening pages to get to the gold...

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To me, it's #GreatStarTrek!

Dave says

Boy, this one was all over the place....

It almost seems like the author had a "Check List" they used to write this one...

-Mysterious event at a Federation outpost-"Check"

- An Alien race Kirk had issues with in the original TV series-"Check"(In this case it's the Excalbians from The Savage Curtain")

-A Vulcan from Spock's past-"Check"

-A "New" Alien race introduced in the story-"Check"

-Kirk pursues a woman who resists...at first...-"Check"

It was "ok".....but It really feels like a story with several elements just thrown into the mix.....

Dan says

An interesting read, and one that fleshes out an alien race that wasn't particularly compelling the first time, the Excalbians. I definitely appreciated the work that must have gone into researching this novel, and I found the depictions of the historical characters to be quite fascinating. However, I was curious as to why there were no historical figures from the current century or very many from the one before. For that matter, why not have a few appearances of historical figures from the 22nd century? Can anyone say Jonathan Archer cameo?

Aside from these potentially missed opportunities and a plot that jumps around a little bit too much, I found *Savage Trade* to be a satisfactory diversion. While I enjoyed Daniel's previous *Trek* novel more than this one, I am still looking forward to more from this author in the future. There are plenty more *Star Trek* episodes that deserve a follow-up, and Tony Daniel has proven that he can deliver!

Full review: <http://treklit.blogspot.com/2015/03/S...>

Michael Bradley says

I like that the Excalbians are back. This book keeps you entertained, but the story line seemed too familiar.

Mike Crate says

The *Enterprise* is sent to investigate the loss of communications with the science outpost Zeta Gibraltar at the outskirts of the Alpha Quadrant in a region of space known as the Vara Nebula a huge spawning ground for new stars and totally unexplored by Federation vessels. Upon arrival the outpost is found to be deserted yet there is something not quite right apart from the blood and an alien body part, some quarters are furnished with what amounts to antique items totally out of place but the chase is on as the *Enterprise* follows an ion trail deep into the nebula.

So that's the basic premise of this story by Tony Daniel, a mystery at the edge of explored space and maybe the rise of a threat to the security of the Federation and who or what had such lavish furnished quarters on what was advertised as a simple science outpost? Of course the novel is well fleshed out with a Vulcan official who serves under Sarek and represents the Federation because as per usual *Starfleet* hasn't quite been honest with what Kirk and the *Enterprise* have to deal with and she is written well and her ties to Spock also add a lot of depth to the story. The protagonists and antagonists are maybe the weak parts of the novel but while I can't say they really got me excited at least the protagonists were developed throughout the story and I do have to say I enjoyed the twist in the story near the end.

Overall a solid original series novel, not quite as good for me as Tony's last *TOS* novel "The Devil's Bargain" but enjoyable in it's own right and it's never really a bad idea to mine the original televised series for characters and races to expand upon.

Paul Lunger says

Tony Daniel's "The Savage Trade" is a case of let's bring back a race we haven't seen in a while which isn't a bad thing until a left turn that this book takes & things go downhill from there. The concept for the most part is simple with the Enterprise traveling to Zeta Gibraltar trying to find out why it wasn't answering messages. Upon arrival, they discover the outpost abandoned & eventually track down a race of pirates that were once thought extinct. Upon rescuing the personnel from the outpost, they are greeted by George Washington who is in fact an Excalbian (last seen in "The Savage Curtain"). Into this mix comes an envoy delivered via the USS Montana named Valek a Vulcan diplomat attached to Sarek who is familiar with Spock.

The book for the most part doesn't do a bad job of following along the plot with the Excalbians who are trying to form their own government called New Excalbia & are also getting used to the fact that they can't return back to their original form. The use of the historical figures from Washington to Galileo to Ben Franklin is nice as well in keeping with the known history of the Excalbians. Where things go awry is when the Montana is mysteriously removed from orbit & the truth about who the Excalbians are & where they are now comes out.

It's at this point through the end that Daniel takes us down a road that is so far-fetched it leads to an ending that literally had me shaking my head & thankful that the novels in the Original Series fiction aren't "canon" & this farcical tale can be forgotten. A major disappointment for this reader for a book that I had a lot higher hopes for about half way through.

Patrick Nichol says

Tony Daniel has written a worthy sequel to the classic episode The Savage Curtain.

The Excalbians who terrorized Kirk's crew last time in a good vs. evil battle with feaux characters from history have returned.

This time, appearing as George Washington and other luminaries, they seek asylum from the Federation. Their planet destroyed by a malevolent entity, they seek help from the very man they terrorized before - Capt. James T. Kirk.

Daniel spices his story liberally with historical references, high action, and excellent characters. Great fun for TOS fans.

Ed Wyrd says

Savage Trade is a sequel of sorts to the TOS episode, The Savage Curtain, in which Kirk and Spock team up with Abraham Lincoln and Surak the Vulcan in a forced battle between good and evil. This novel is very imaginative with plenty of action. A fun read.

David Palazzolo says

I liked this one better than I thought I would. In this sequel to the TOS episode "The Savage Curtain," Kirk and company once again encounter the shape-shifting Excalbians who once again pull their stunt of taking the forms of many famous people from Earth's history. This time we are treated to such notable figures as George Washington, Ben Franklin, Galileo, Horatio Nelson and others but the twist here is that they are not out to torment the Federation, but to seek asylum from it. To that end Starfleet has dispatched a prominent ambassador to broker the terms of sanctuary, Valek of Vulcan.

It seems that one of the major themes in this novel is concerned with bullies and bullying, specifically the negative consequences that the bullies may bring on themselves through their actions. The first instance we have of this is the TOS episode itself--the Excalbian Washington was involved in that story and came to regret his actions. Later, in a stroke of irony, the Excalbian who would be Washington would find himself on the run from his people because of this change of heart. In another stroke of irony, the larger part of the Excalbian population are nearly wiped out entirely when they bait the seemingly harmless entity called the Demiurge. The Demiurge themselves bite off more than they can chew when they, through the machinations of Spock, Franklin, and Galileo, encounter a still larger unnamed entity.

The book is a fun read and should go fast. Pay no attention to my reading time here--I had distractions like a death in the family to deal with.
