



Death's Angel

Kathleen Sky

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When ambassadors on a sensitive Federation diplomatic mission are murdered one by one, Kirk and Spock realize they are dealing with a being of seemingly supernatural abilities. Now the entire crew of the Enterprise is at the mercy of this mysterious, self-proclaimed Angel of Death, which the most sophisticated Star Fleet technologies are powerless to stop.

Death's Angel Details

Date :

ISBN : 9781852865368

Author : Kathleen Sky

Format :

Genre : Media Tie In, Star Trek, Science Fiction, Fiction

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From Reader Review Death's Angel for online ebook

John says

Well, that went downhill fast!

For the first third of DEATH'S ANGEL, it seemed Kathleen Sky had learned from her mistakes in writing the atrocious VULCAN! and fashioned herself into a capable STAR TREK author. Unfortunately, however, that impression was short lived.

The instant Act II begins, Ms. Sky reverts to the same storytelling techniques that made VULCAN! so painful. After setting up an intriguing little murder mystery aboard the Enterprise, Ms. Sky switches focus to a new female character who instantly reduces the story to the level of bad fanfic. Because, as with VULCAN!, the addition of the new character smacks of poorly disguised wish-fulfillment fantasy. This character is gorgeous, intelligent, highly capable, and intensely desirable. All the Enterprise crew fawn over her, despite the fact she holds the entire ship at her mercy.

Good grief, where to start with this book?

First of all, Ms. Sky seems unable to portray alien races without basing them on Earth animals. We have a koala bear alien, a snake alien, a rabbit alien, even a vampire alien... It gets old quick. Next, she is prone to altering the STAR TREK universe in ways that don't make sense. In DEATH'S ANGEL, for example, she introduces an entirely new organization called the Special Security Department (SSD), the members of which outrank even Star Fleet officers. Who knew! We also learn that, in the future, marriages are only temporarily binding and must be regularly renewed. Perhaps that makes it more excusable for Kirk to hit on a married woman--I mean, since her marriage contract is about to expire, where's the harm?

Speaking of Kirk, Kathleen Sky once again portrays him as a high-functioning horndog who cares more about getting laid than performing his duties properly. When the SSD officer threatens to blow the Enterprise to smithereens if Kirk doesn't comply with her murder investigation, his response is to...wine and dine her?

And Spock... Spock basically exists in this story to make Kirk look stupid. He constantly points out--in public, I might add--how illogical or unreasonable Kirk is behaving, and Kirk never seems to mind.

(Apparently, Spock also gets pretty rapey in this book, but I didn't stick with it long enough to find out.)

Suffice it to say, DEATH'S ANGEL winds up being pretty terrible. Which is too bad, considering it was off to a good start. Ultimately, though, it's another case of "What was Bantam thinking?!"

Randy says

Decent novel involving plant spores that rob you of dreaming.

Tim Ristow says

Starts out ok but really drops off about a third of the way through when Sky introduces her female security character. That character takes over most of the storyline at that point and - worst of all - is just not interesting. The cast of Trek regulars plays second fiddle to her, which is a shame because the story does start with promise and I was starting to get drawn in to it. Its a shame. I pity Sky's view of her own gender as she has a tendency to create females characters that are just plain annoying (the Vulcan hater in her other Trek novel, "Vulcan!", is perhaps the most annoying character ever created in Trek fiction - and not in an interesting way but in a way that makes you want to stop reading the book immediately). The best thing about this book is the cover art, which in the case of the original Bantam edition, is one of the most intriguing artistic depictions of that early Star Trek book line.

colleen says

read 07.22.85

Joel says

More strange aliens in one place than I've ever seen! And MURDER!!

J.D. says

oh, last of Bantam Books ST novels. Somehow it's one of rare ST books I didn't want to come to light... I hated it. Simply put, no stars.

Mike McDevitt says

Spoilers:

It's 'Journey To Babel' on a bigger budget with ambassadors from every phylum and species: lobsters, pandas, kitties, snakes. I love 'J To B', so well done. It's a murder mystery, Sarek is back, and so is a severe, driven Mary Sue from (essentially Section 31) the SSD. She's a beautiful multiracial black-clad judge, jury and executioner with a failing term marriage. She seems rational, so I preferred her to Ms. Sky's other Mary Sue, the Vulcan hater in 'Vulcan!'.

The unstoppable killer who vanishes through walls and ends each ambassador opposed to peace with the Romulans is, coin a phrase, fascinating.

How do I fathom the canonicity? M'Benga murdered in his sleep while on SPACE POPPIES and is sent to rehab on Vulcan. But plenty of other stories used M'Benga since then without mentioning this tiny indiscretion.

I like the story, so in my personal canonicity, somehow rehab went so well that he soon returned to duty on Enterprise.

Rich Meyer says

Awful Trek novel; bland new characters, poor use of actual Star Trek characters, and an incredibly bland and logic-less mystery, added to a brand new division of Star Fleet that's apparently been secret forever. And Jim Kirk decides to get married. Just...blech.

Charles says

A good one. My copy has a much better cover, an hourglass with the Enterprise inside and Death looking on from the background.

Bev says

Just for the record...my edition is ISBN: 0553246372; published by Bantam in 1984. However, whoever entered that edition into GoodReads screwed up the entry.

Joe Davoust says

This book reads like an episode of the animated series. Lots of crazy alien ambassadors that special effects crews of a the sixties live action series couldn't make. Well written and if you like the TV show, you'll like this book.

Michael Hanscom says

Would have been three stars, but it started slipping with a bit too much focus on Kirk-as-Lothario, and then lost me when Spock admitted to raping another crew member...and then it was written off as "not really" rape because he was being influenced and she enjoyed it, even though she was asleep and he used his telepathy to keep her that way and remove her memory afterwards). With some judicious editing, it could be a solid three star, but as it is, being written thirty-five years ago and before there was much actual oversight over the books really shows.

James Herring says

I loved Kathleen Sky's 'Vulcan!' book and this one also does not disappoint. I like how she uses our favorite characters but doesn't make the book about them. Also, she highlights great organizations and expands the Trek universe in a logical sense. This is truly for the lover of the original series. If you want J.J. Abrams lens flare or whatever this latest atrocity STD, you probably won't appreciate her style.

In any case, she introduces us to another diplomatic mission the Enterprise has to undertake. Also a bevy of unique and interesting ambassadors that Sarek (who else) is riding herd on. And like before, a murder happens. Then another. The ambassadors call for the Special Security Division (SSD); something akin to the Texas Rangers, to protect them and find out what's going on. We meet beautiful and intelligent Colonel Elizabeth Schaffer. She is having some personal marital issues, and seems to be a step behind whoever is murdering the ambassadors. Yet, she is a strong and likable character because she is not perfect.

I can not say enough good thing about this book. Her books are among my most favorite as it lets you put yourself into the story as one of those other characters; you know, the ones you see our favorite primary

characters strolling by in the corridors.

Danny says

Worse than Vulcan! from the same author. It's bad. let's just leave it at that.

Denise Dion says

This book was written in 1981. I bought this book when I was probably in my early 20's. I didn't remember a thing about it. Now 20 years later I picked it up and read it...and loved it. I think the author did a great job with the character Col Elizabeth Schaffer. She is tough as nails, strong capable, doesn't take any shit from anyone. Plus she stands toe to toe with the Captain.

This book is 30 years old, and you can scream Mary Sue all you want but to have her husband as the insecure spouse wanting his wife to come back to him, to save their marriage, I think it was a welcome change. He is such a child. Just adored her character so much.

The ambassadors on board are pretty cool, all different, and have a unique culture of their own...and what they believe to be the Angel of Death.

The only thing that did surprise me was the killer. And I won't say who it is, if you haven't read it.

Great book. I recommend it.
