



The Eyes of the Beholders

A.C. Crispin

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After several Federation and Klingon ships disappear while traveling a newly opened trade route, the "U.S.S. Enterprise" TM is sent to investigate. Their quest leads Captain Picard and his crew to an eerie space graveyard full of ships of every size and description, all of them, dead in space. At the center of the graveyard lies a huge, incredibly powerful artifact, constructed by an ancient alien race. And as the crew struggles to solve the mystery of the artifact, they unwittingly trigger its awesome power, a power that threatens insanity and death to all aboard the "Starship Enterprise."

The Eyes of the Beholders Details

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Author : A.C. Crispin

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From Reader Review The Eyes of the Beholders for online ebook

Angela says

Ships are going missing and the Enterprise is sent to investigate. The fun parts of this novel are the B plots. A vulcan Doctor cares for a blind Andorian child, and Data is trying to write a novel. These are what makes this book worth reading, they have emotional impact.

Susan says

I'm a longtime Star Trek fan who finally read my first novel. I'm looking forward to reading others and seeing if Eyes of the Beholders is indicative of the overall quality because it was SO BAD IT WAS GOOD! Seriously, this is bad writing with several tired plots weaving awkwardly together, though you can't help but love bringing our TNG crew to life in a 2-day read of harmless fun.

The subplot with Data writing a bad novel was a predictably poor rehashing of any Data subplot on the show, made spectacularly ironic given the low quality of Crispin's writing here. Troi laughing at and complimenting Data's work, assuming it to be parody, summed up my exact feelings for this delightful book, which uses distilled caricatures of our crew, is peppered with highly awkward physical descriptions, and anchored with laughable literary devices, all while essentially borrowing a story from existing episodes.

Upside: getting further acquainted with Dr. Selar was very welcome, and the mystery of the artifact's origin (and exploration of alien sensory perception) was quite cool. In the end, more TNG is better than less, so take a day or two and enjoy this bit of simple fun. As I said, it's so bad it's good, and now I'm seeking out more Star Trek novels to gobble up on rainy days.

Editing mistakes in the edition I have include spelling Tellarite as "Tellerite" on at least two occasions, and once referring to "Ten Forward" as "Ten Four." Treat these like Easter Eggs and enjoy!

Jerry says

A good story...but a bit too much sexual content.

John Wood says

Very good story, thoroughly enjoyed it. It's too bad A C Crispin isn't around anymore, but I will certainly feed more of her stories in the future.

Bethany Mortimore says

really amazing, not what i expected but in a good way. really liked the characters.

Robert says

The book was full of a lot of messy subplots, but I enjoyed it otherwise.

Michael Bedford says

I read this novel a while ago in my ongoing journey through the Star Trek universe. This one's trippy and a bit frustrating. Ships are disappearing from a specific point in space and, naturally, Picard and crew are sent to investigate.

After investigating the region, the Enterprise gets pulled towards an unknown object surrounded by drifting starships and are unable to effect any escape from the object's pull. The object, it turns out, is so strange to the crew of the ship that every crew person, excepting Mr. Data (he's an android), becomes faint whenever they view it without specific filters.

Anyway, things start looking pretty desperate on the Enterprise. It turns out this crazy space object is really bothering folks onboard, except for Data (still an android). Plus, radiation-blasting robot-things are attacking the ship and crew. Some highlights of crew members interacting with these robot-things include Worf bashing some, and reliable Wesley Crusher inventing a machine which could turn these robot-things into neutrinos, I think.

So to stop the chaos, an away team is sent over to the crazy space object. This turns out to be a bad choice. All members of the away team become temporarily insane, and are unable to carry out whatever mission they had. In the end, somebody gets the bright idea to modify Data's programming and send him over (der, isn't that guy an android?).

This goes well. Data is able to shut down the source of the crazy radiation. There's a bit of a hiccup when Data's beamed back, La Forge has difficulty convincing Data that he should allow the engineers to revert his programming to human standards. Things work out, though, Picard is able to get close enough to deactivate him so that the modifications can be made.

It turns out that the crazy space object was actually meant to be a museum. Unfortunately, the designers of it made it totally deadly to a bunch of different alien races. (Accidentally?) Data, who was during this whole ordeal trying unsuccessfully to write a fiction novel is instead given the opportunity to write the definitive history of this crazy alien race.

Also, somewhere in there is a shmaltzy story about a blind Andorian girl being adopted by a Vulcan scientist.

Maj says

Well...this book is not great. There's not much action, there's a lot of psychological analyses going on - and some of them are not far off Data's forays into literary fiction - but I still as a whole quite enjoyed reading this one. I did skip a paragraph here and there but it was a quick and fun read overall.

Since the story features a few short cuts or full-on plot holes I can't give The Eyes of the Beholders a higher rating but as I said...compared to some of the other Next Gen novels I've read so far this one belongs to my favourite ones at this point. It gave me new appreciation for La Forge's character, as well as Selar's - and that's no small feat.

Kai Knetsch says

This was a pleasant surprise. I thought this book would just be average but I really enjoyed it. I liked that it almost completely takes place on the Enterprise and focuses on the crew rather than aliens on a planet. I liked the side story about Thala and liked the development of the Dr. Selar character.

Art Lyon says

Like much of Crispin's ST work, the B-plots are the real strong-suits here. The A-plot takes a long time to go anywhere, but is eventually very rewarding as well.

John Loyd says

Read this on the recommendation of a friend who read all of the star trek novels. It was OK, but not enough to make me want to run out and read dozens of these books.

Optimism says

Needed a break. Huzzah for easy-to-read sci-fi!

And no, despite my massive update last week, I haven't read this one before. It was new to me. Really.

Anyways, it was typical Trek. Oh no, horrible dilemma, how do we save ourselves? Seemed a bit too much like another episode, "Booby Trap," which actually came out a year earlier. Upon realizing that, I've revised my rating down from 3 to 2 stars.

Did like the focus on Geordi--his character had a ton of potential that's not realized on-screen very much. Good to see him get a turn in the limelight.

Overall, a fun book. I needed a break. Chicks have their trashy romance novels (not all, mind you, just some)... I have my trashy sci-fi. It works.

Craig says

This one surprised me but not too much as I have enjoyed anything I have read by A.C. Crispin thusfar. The evolution of Data's novel was probably one of the funniest things I have read in a Star Trek novel as he

continues to adopt different styles and methods to his book. More specifically, the plot, mystery really drew me in as Crispin again finds a way to utilize the main characters along with adopting other side characters into her story. I expected a small Andorian girl to be annoying but I actually enjoyed her parts of the book. Definitely recommended to those who enjoyed the third season of Star Trek the Next Generation.

Dawn Christoffersen says

The best thing I can say about this book is Data looks at his own junk and writes a romance novel.

Anna Lee says

This book is wonderful. It reminds me of the video game Dead Space. It has a haunting atmosphere with several side plots. The side plots focus on Data, Selar and the blind Andorian girl Thala, and Geordi.
