



# Trek To Madworld

*Stephen Goldin*

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## **Trek To Madworld** Stephen Goldin

The "U.S.S. Enterprise" is ordered to proceed at maximum warp to Epsilon Delta 4, where 700 colonists are slowly dying of radiation poisoning. At the same time, the Romulans and the Klingons have a chance to obtain an unstoppable weapon. Torn between preventing the Romulans and Klingons from upsetting the galactic balance of power forever, and saving the 700 colonists, Captain Kirk faces the most difficult decision of his career.

## **Trek To Madworld Details**

Date : Published January 1979 by Titan Books Ltd  
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Author : Stephen Goldin  
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## ABC says

[a Romulan officer would fall in love (I think) with a Federation citizen after a couple of hours or even half a day, seems a little odd to me. (hide spoiler)]

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## John says

These early STAR TREK ADVENTURES novels are not just bad, they're generally bad in some very surprising and unique ways. I can't begin to fathom what Bantam was thinking in assembling this series, and each volume is like a punch to the stomach of the original TV show.

Although intermittently entertaining, TREK TO MADWORLD is no exception. We begin with Kirk practically throwing himself at a 20-year-old female passenger, reminiscing on his soccer prowess, and taking unnecessary navigational risks. Almost like watching Chris Pine's Kirk in action, rather than William Shatner's.

The plot could basically be summed up as "Willy Wonka gives the Enterprise crew a tour of Wonderland." Author Stephen Goldin had noticed the popularity of comedic STAR TREK episodes like THE TROUBLE WITH TRIBBLES and SHORE LEAVE, and therefore decided to write something with a comedic bent. Unfortunately, TREK TO MADWORLD is not funny ha-ha, but just plain silly. And silly STAR TREK episodes, such as SPOCK'S BRAIN or THE ALTERNATIVE FACTOR, are generally those most despised by STAR TREK fans. It certainly doesn't help that the only funny lines in the book are lifted from WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY verbatim. Honestly, that's what annoyed me most about TREK TO MADWORLD. It's one thing to base a new character on a pre-existing one, quite another to plagiarize dialog and mannerisms in such an obvious manner. Almost every other review for this book mentions the Willy Wonka connection. This is because the similarities are THAT obvious. The book does everything short of trotting out the Oompa Loompas.

Another thing these early TREK books do is waste our time on new ENTERPRISE crew members we don't care about. Remember that 20-year-old girl Kirk was hitting on? Well, would it surprise you to learn that she gets more page time than anyone else except maybe Kirk? I mean, who wants to hang out with Spock, McCoy, Scotty, etc. when you can spend time with some generic Jane Doe who spends most of the book whining and causing trouble? Not only does she make the stupidest decision of any character in the history of STAR TREK, she also embarks on the franchise's most unconvincing romantic subplot. Not bad for a day's work!

At the center of TREK TO MADWORLD's plot is an interesting question: namely, what crucial element is missing from Willy Wonka's conception of paradise? I thought this might lead to some interesting philosophical discussions, but, boy, was I wrong! Ultimately, the answer is something a small child could've figured out, and it makes no sense for a being with god-like powers to have overlooked it. The fact that the answer to the novel's central question turns out to be so obvious and uninteresting makes this book even worse in retrospect. As much as I enjoy watching STAR TREK take its first baby steps into the vast world of tie-in novels, this early STAR TREK ADVENTURES series is more of a detriment to the franchise than an asset.

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## **Charles says**

I don't really like stories with super powered beings and this one fits that mold. It started off well but once the superbeing was introduced I lost my interest in it. After that it's hard to play a story for anything more than some laughs. I also thought one particular scene with a young woman who suddenly decides to ally with the Klingon's was wayyy out of character. I think that bothered me more than the superbeing.

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## **Mike McDevitt says**

Mr. Mxyzptlk gives our crew a tour of Wonka's Chocolate Factory, now with added sexual recreation. (Off-screen)

It's silly, it's funny, it's fun. What more can I ask? I appreciate Enwil being written as a quirky Organian rather than someone from a new race. I almost always like it when the existing toys in the sandbox are picked up and played with in a new way. (Unless, capriciously, I feel like it's a rip-off and a disservice to the original author, which I didn't here.)

Despite the oddity of the tale, everyone's in character. And a solution is found to two problems at once. A good, short read.

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## **Jesse A says**

Very good. It read like a lost episode (which all my favorite S.T. do). Everyone stayed within character. A solid effort. 3.5 stars.

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## **Baal Of says**

This book read like a lost episode of the original series. Decently written, kind of fun, a bit goofy, and rather predictable. Not amazing stuff, but an enjoyable read in a nostalgic sort of way.

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## **Dan Quigley says**

This is one of the earliest Star Trek (pre-1980) books written in which the characters from the TV series are recognizable in print form. (Alan Dean Foster's are the others.) The Star Trek crew are diverted from an important rescue mission by a mysterious life form with godlike powers and an agenda for the crew. Does that sound like one of about any ten or twelve of the original show plots? The book reads like it could be the thirteenth show of that nature, only with a humorous bent this time, unlike any of the original series shows with this plot device.

This story has no bells or whistles, no dialog that sparkles, no extras. It's just a fun read that stays consistent with the Star Trek universe and characterization. I think even a modern day reader can enjoy this book.

I give it a solid four stars, the same rating the author gives himself for this book. I'll also be choosing to read something else by Goldin, based on his work here. He clearly knows how to tell a story and create interesting characters.

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### **Rich Meyer says**

A very quick read from the original Trek novel series, Trek to Madworld reads a lot like an episode of the original series - though it would've gone way over budget on special effects. Kirk and the crew of the Enterprise have to save nearly 700 colonists who are slowly dying of radiation poisoning, but are sidetracked by Enoliw, a near-omnipotent being who wants their help (along with the crews of a Klingon and Romulan ship) in solving a problem.

The book's fairly well written and the main characters are all in character, if you get my meaning. There are several new faces that also fit into the story very easily. It's reminiscent of several other Trek episodes, and a few books, but it's an easy two hour read for any Trek fan.

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### **Karen Cowgill says**

One of my favorite Star Trek books!! I first read this a loooooong time ago. I saw it in a used bookstore, and I just had to have it!

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### **James Sorensen says**

The most decorated of all Federation explorers has died on the Enterprise. Kostas Spyroukis and his daughter are on the way back to Epsilon Delta 4 to make it their home, but upon his death it is discovered that a slow acting radiation is killing the planets inhabitants. While rushing to the planet to begin evacuation the SS Enterprise is hi-jacked by Enowil, a self exiled Organian. Enowil has created his own world inside a galactic bubble to which he has brought a Romulan, Kligon and Federation vessel. And, initially, there is no way to escape the bubble. In order to be released one of the crews from the three competing ships must answer the question: What is Enowil's world missing. The crew that can arrive at the correct answer will have one wish granted. All this goes on while the inhabitants of Epsilon Delta 4 face almost certain death.

For those familiar with early Superman comics Enowil is similar to Mr. Mxyzptlk. A goofy character that leads everyone on a frustrating chase for the answer.

This is the 9th of the Bantam Star Trek novels and is better than most but still seems a little amateur. I think it is worth the read as a fun, silly story but the Star Trek get lot better when Pocketbooks takes over the Star Trek franchise.

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### **Benjamin Plume says**

I think this may be my favorite of these very early Star Trek novels. It was a lot of fun to read and it wasn't full of groan-worthy moments like a lot of its contemporaries.

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### **Joe Davoust says**

Fun book. Very light hearted. And descriptive enough to make me think I was watching an episode of the original series instead of reading a novel.

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### **Deranged Pegasus says**

This book is beautifully written and flows from aspect to aspect and character to character smoothly. The differences in philosophy between the Romulans, Klingons, and Humans was intriguing. The idea of a mad Organian was a brilliant idea and his world unique in a way that is hard to explain but once read remains in the mind.

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### **Surreysmum says**

[These notes were made in 1982:]. This Star Trek novel is mainstream - so mainstream it could have been an episode in the series. In fact, I wonder if that's how it started out. I have no objections - the young man is clearly knowledgeable about the series, makes no errors of background information, and does not mischaracterize anyone. And that, I suppose, is why the book got published. But, just as the first ST movie was a rehash of an old episode, so this novel, too, bears a striking resemblance to one of the "79 jewels". And its form is as old as the story of the sphinx: a riddle must be solved to gain the prize (which is not to say it isn't a good form - obviously it's proved itself by sticking around!) Still, I found it a little ho-hum - good enough to be gulped down in one morning.

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### **Ogreart says**

Reread January 1980.  
Read April 1979.

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