



Star Trek 11

James Blish

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Eighteenth volume of Star Trek: The Original Series episode adaptations. Volume 11 includes six stories: What Are Little Girls Made Of?, Squire of Gothos, Wink of an Eye, Bread and Circuses, Day Of the Dove, Plato's Stepchildren.

(back cover)

On the Enterprise's latest mission an alien presence of unsurpassed beauty invades the Starship; an eighteenth-century squire entertains the crew on an uncharted planet; Kirk declares war on the Klingons; and more!

Star Trek 11 Details

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Author : James Blish

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From Reader Review Star Trek 11 for online ebook

Kenneth says

Great stories. Roman gods, working with the klingons etc...

David King says

“Star Trek 11” by James Blish is another of his collections of Original Series scripts adapted into short story form. The seven stories included in this collection are all from season one and are as follows:

What Are Little Girls Made of?

The Squire of Gothos

Wink Of an Eye

Bread and Circuses

Day of the Dove

Plato's Stepchildren

As seems to be the norm with Blish’s adaptations, they tend to succeed or fail to the same extent as the episodes themselves did. For example “The Squire of Gothos” was an episode I really enjoyed on the TV screen and I also found myself enjoying it here in this collection. Whereas “Bread and Circuses” rather silly Roman theme irritated me when I saw I first saw it and I quickly found myself feeling the exact same irritation here.

I won’t really go anymore into the various stories as most of you will know them anyway but my enjoyment of this collection was rather mixed. This probably shouldn’t be a surprise as several of these stories were taken from the rather weak third season. One positive is that Blish does capture all the episodes very well and I could easily visualise them all. Although this wasn’t really a surprise to me as his adaptations have always been competent and as this was his 11th collection he was fairly experienced at writing up the episodes and characters.

Overall, I do find myself repeating myself a lot when reviewing Blish’s collections but what is true for one of them is pretty much true for them all. Quite simply this novel was another competent attempt at capturing the Star Trek episodes that should appeal to anyone wanting to enjoy a quick and painless reminder of the Original series stories.

Arwen says

I am almost done reading the James Blish Original series episode adaptations. This is book 11 of 12, and includes classic episodes like Wink of an Eye, Day of the Dove and Plato’s Stepchildren. In my opinion Blish is the best Star Trek writer I’ve ever read. Not only are most of his book script adaptations he does a real nice job keeping the characters and mood of the story true to the series.

Taaya says

Like in the former books of this series, Blish left out fan favourite scenes, but added a lot of sexism. Kirk feeling sorry for himself because he hasn't got enough time to have sex with every woman in the universe? And actually regretting not being able to flirt with Mara, because she's married? Honestly, Star Trek was supposed to be a utopian tale, which means taking one already flirtatious, but still mostly feministic character and turn him into a sexual predator is a gross violation of the work.

Though I am not sure if Blish invented those parts himself or if they were in the original scripts and got left out in the cutting room, it was HIS decision to add them in the books and that completely ruins the character of Kirk and with it the subtexts of the episodes.

Dark-Draco says

I love Star Trek novels, but hadn't realised that this was a straight adaptation of some original episodes. A bit disappointing finding out that I knew the stories, but nice to revisit the original cast. The writing was very good. I would love to know what Sulu is up to on the front cover though?!?!

Robert says

I think this must have been the last book Blish published in his life-time. It says that Star Treks 1-10 total 6.5 million books printed which is interesting in that over 40 years later it's not these that are still in print, but rather a half dozen or so very influential SF novels straight from his own imagination that show a fascination with Catholic theology, James Joyce and shock endings, among other things.

It feels like the later members of this series of adaptations of the original Star Trek shooting scripts suffered from being essentially the dregs; the best had all been used earlier. Here several of the stories make no sense at all and one of them ends with a hideous cop-out deus ex machina - but blame the script writers, not Blish!

Fangirl says

When these early novels and stories to Star Trek came out I bought them all, devoured them and loved them. It's been a long time, so today I couldn't even say which of them were really good and which of them I only loved because they were Star Trek. ;)

Just thinking of them and seeing the covers gives me a happy feeling of nostalgia. That alone is worth the rating!

Rich Meyer says

Not the best of the James Blish-authored series, but not the worst either. Most of the episode adaptations in this collection are far from memorable ... with "What Are Little Girls Made Of" and "The Squire of Gothos"

really the only ones that might possibly make any fan polls. I will mention that they are all well-written, and you can easily see the episodes playing out in your head if you're a Trekker.

Ruth Marner says

The Blish books are only for the real trekkies among us. It also helps to be a pre-adolescent.

Amanda says

Includes

What Are Little Girls Made Of
The Squire of Gothos
Wink of an Eye
Bread and Circuses
Day of the Dove
Plato's Stepchildren

Canavan says

★½

“What Are Little Girls Made Of?”, James Blish & Robert Bloch (Teleplay Author) . ★★★

“Day of the Dove”, James Blish & Jerome Bixby (Teleplay Author). ★

“Plato’s Stepchildren”, James Blish & Meyer Dolinsky (Teleplay Author). ½

“What Are Little Girls Made Of?”, James Blish, Arthur Heinemann (Teleplay Author), & Lee Cronin (Story Author). ★½

“Bread and Circuses”, James Blish, Gene Roddenberry (Teleplay Author), & Gene L. Coon. ★½

“The Squire of Gothos”, James Blish & Paul Schneider (Teleplay Author). ★½

All stories published 1975.

Janet C. says

The book is authored by several different writers, each one having written one story (chapter). Overall it was a fun read.

Curtiss says

Another half dozen episodes or so of the Original TV series rewritten as novella-length Sci-Fi stories.

Yaaresse says

When i was a kid, my older sister's friend GAVE me the entire collection. (I know!) Over the next few years, I read them all in order, starting the first one the day after I finished the last one. Loved them. I'm not sad that I didn't hang onto them and can only hope they still exist to make some other fan happy. (But I doubt it because...well, paperbacks, you know?)

The adaptations got better in the later volumes, but it was Star Trek whenever and wherever I wanted with having to put up with the spastic tripe William Shatner calls acting.

Frankly, I can't remember which story was in which volume, so my rating reflects my enjoyment of the set...which I am hoping will come out in e-book form very soon.
