



Crisis of Consciousness

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An upcoming Pocket Star Trek TOS novel. It is expected to be released in 2015.

The crew of the USS Enterprise is completing a diplomatic mission with the Maabas, an alien race with whom they'd been sent to sign a treaty. The Maabas are a peaceful people who are not native to the star system they now inhabit, but were refugees from a great war long ago. Several hundred thousand took shelter on their new planet, and have been there for thousands of years. While they have warp capability, they do not travel the stars, but seek to explore within. The Federation's interest is in the Maabas's great intellectual resources. Their science, while behind Federation standards in some areas, excels in others. They are highly intelligent, with unique approaches, and their philosophy is in line with that of the Federation. But just as the pact is signed, the Enterprise is attacked by an unknown ship. They manage to show enough force to keep the alien vessel at bay... but a new danger arises, as their mysterious foes are the Kenisians—a race that used to inhabit this planet thousands of years ago, and now want it back.

Crisis of Consciousness Details

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Author : Dave Galanter

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From Reader Review Crisis of Consciousness for online ebook

John Yelverton says

An extremely well done "Star Trek" novel that places the crew of the "Enterprise" in an entirely new story, but maintains all that is great about "Star Trek". The concept of a Vulcan-esque species which carries hundreds of katra in its head is a truly fascinating concept. It was a well done book, and well worth your time.

Danielle says

This was a really good ST book! It felt very canon and had an intriguing plot that was written really well. The author really captured the personalities of everyone, and he gave each of them a strong voice. The story read very much like a day in the life of the Enterprise in many ways, as we got to see all the interworkings of the crew from various perspectives! Whether there are diplomatic missions to be undertaken or crises to be averted, we got to see how all the crew members have their important jobs to play and how they work together to make the Enterprise what she is. It was very Star Trek Beyond in that way, but in novel form we got to see it in even more detail. It was even surprisingly moving at times as we see what McCoy has to deal with, in having to sometimes watch crew members die, only able to do so much to save them. (McCoy's bedside manner is so sweet! It was so sad!)

The main plot had a lot of intriguing aspects as the Enterprise must prevent the genocide of thousands of races as one race, the Kenisians, are hell bent on vengeance at the cost of everything. Spock plays a major role in this, and is a surprisingly intense and moving dilemma for our favorite science officer. As always he struggles to walk the fine line between his Vulcan and human sides in order to achieve his goals. In this story he goes through a heavy trial. I also loved his relationship and rapport with the maabas ambassador, who was hilariously more emotional and expressive. It was a fun contrast, as they both become captives and have to work together. For a character who is so controlled and aloof, he certainly makes a lot of friends and gains trust easily! ;-)

And to make me happy, definitely a lot of Kirk, Spock, and McCoy bromance moments! Where they secretly worry about each other or find comfort and guidance in the other, but of course never say anything out loud!
^_^\n

Definitely recommend this for all OST fans! Spot on novelization.

Laurie Kazmierczak says

I was ready to read another Enterprise adventure and this one was great. It explored the depths of revenge and bitterness as well as gave insight to the relationship that Scotty exhibited in the episode 'The Lights of Zetar'. Mr. Spock is pushed to his diplomacy limits as well as pushing his morals. A fine balance overall. I recommend it.

Kristina Brown says

An interesting tale that in part examines early Vulcan culture and the nature of katra and mind melding. It provides an explanation for Spock's incentive to undertake Kolinahr. In a broader sense it looks at retribution and how actions of one race can affect another seemingly distant species.

Overall this is an intriguing read providing food for thought as well as tension and drama in the plight of the Enterprise. My only complaint would be the suddenness of the conclusion.

Douglas Graney says

Started off really good, tickling where my Star Trek zones like to be tickled. But towards the end went in a number of directions which did nothing other than make the book longer.

Andrew Beet says

I liked the idea of the Kenisian race having all these consciousness's Inside a human host and the consciousness' making all the decisions In regards to the character of zhatan. I also liked when captain Kirk tries to convince zhatan to settle on another planet and to make peace with the mabbas and she says "peace does not interest us" and also Dave Galanter has done it again with a brilliant star trek novel that I would definitely read again

V says

I feel like this book suffered a bit since it's the third diplomatic mission gone wrong type of story that I read in a row. On top of that the pacing for the first half of the book is pretty slow, and there are a few other choices that made me raise my eyebrows.

In Crisis of Consciousness, the Enterprise is escorting a Maabas ambassador back to his world from a meeting on a Starbase to arrange a treaty for his people to join the federation when suddenly a people calling themselves the Kenisians show up and demand to get the Maabas homeworld back since it was originally their planet long enough ago that all their settlements are ruined.

After a bit of a fight the Kenisians agree to send an ambassador to the Enterprise to work out an agreement. Turns out that they are another offshoot of Vulcans with a twist: each Kenisian hosts multiple consciousnesses, the more they have the more status they have. I don't really want to hash through the whole plot this time, because eh it was okay, but basically the Kenisians aren't even interested in their planet, they want an ancient weapon they can use to destroy the society who had conquered them to make them leave their first home in the first place. The story ends up being a race against the clock to stop the Kenisians from taking their weapon, mines based off warp technology with the power to destroy the whole galaxy in a chain reaction, and using it against their former conquerors.

In what I felt was a kind of out of place scene that disrupted the flow of the story, Kirk fights some space pirates and finds out that the Kensians' conquerors don't even exist anymore. Spock saves the day by forcing himself on pretty much everyone on the Kensian's ship. Yep. Spock uses a weaponized mine meld to incapacitate the Kensians' who conquered him and save their captain from the group consciousness that were trying to control her and make her go on this completely unnecessary, dangerous revenge mission in the first place.

Then everything is happy. The Kensians and Maabas decided to form a treaty and live on the same planet together and the Kensian captain can once again be happy with her gf.

The very end of the book sees Spock considering kolinahr after what he did to protect the lives of the many. I feel like it was... so weird. Spock gets absolutely up in the Kensian captain's face for trying to force a meld on Kirk to make him do what she wanted and then he spends a good chapter running around and forcing a meld on everybody and their mom. I know he uses the mind meld as a tool in the show but not to this extent. It's clearly left him somewhat traumatized, and he refuses to let anyone help or know about that. That's in character I guess but it's so sad. I'm not sure that it was intended to be that sad but honestly I found it to have horrific implications and I can't really get past it to enjoy this book.

How is the McCoy though? He's good. He gasps in wonderment at one point when Spock agrees with him which I found completely adorable. He doesn't really have a lot to do though until the Enterprise takes a beating so he has to kick into full gear, and then he's too busy to really be present.

All the characterization was good even if Spock was kind of like worrying. I have to say that Scotty probably stood out to me most this time. I liked him connecting with the archaeologist and being so obviously in love with the ship it hurts.

I feel like this review is even more disjointed than usual because my heart really isn't in it so much with this book. I liked the concepts but I don't know.

Dan says

A very solid entry in the Original Series line of Trek novels, and one of my favorites to date! The novel delves into some very interesting concepts and ideas, and the crew of the Enterprise is in top form here as they work to solve the mystery and save the galaxy once again. Dave Galanter's work has quickly become some of my favorite Trek fiction, and I hope that we can get more of his work soon!

Full review: <http://treklit.blogspot.com/2015/05/C...>

Melvin Patterson says

A really solid story

Enjoyed this book a lot. Lots of action from beginning to end and lots of interpersonal drama as well. And a morality subplot too. Classic Trek.

Teresa says

Believe it or not, this might have been the first Star Trek book that I have actually read. I know, I know... How much of a fan can I be if I haven't read any of the books? Well, ummm....

Anyway, Crises of Consciousness is a story set in The Original Series timeline. Kirk and the crew are off on what appears to be an easy mission, returning delegates home after treaty negotiations. However, once they enter the home system, they are attacked by an unknown race that claims the planet. From there, Spock and one of the delegates gets separated from the rest of the Enterprise and must attempt to stop the Kenisians from completely destroying an entire arm of the galaxy in their quest for revenge against an ancient invader.

Throw in too many near misses space battles, and a race that carries others around in their heads, literally, and you have a recipe for an ok Star Trek book. I found the space battles a little beyond believable. We see only one person die in three major battles. The Kenisians are interesting as a species; they cannot let the past die and it nearly destroys their future. The moral of the story was only a tiny bit heavy handed, and that was because the author had the characters talk about it during the climax of the story.

The climax and denouement feel a bit rushed. I would have liked this part of the story to last longer than two chapters. I would also have liked to read more about how his actions affected Spock, when he felt required to do something morally objectionable. How will these acts affect him further on? There is a glimpse, but I would have liked to read more.

Overall, something to read, regardless of your level of fandom.

Aron says

One the best TOS novels I've read to date! David Galanter's words are captivating & imaginative, plus his grasp of the characters we all know & love is nothing less than perfect. I thought the plot was excellent, I loved the idea of a splinter group of ancient Vulcan's, or possibly a splinter group of what would become the Romulan's fracturing off & developing a society with practices unique to themselves. A skillfully written TOS adventure,...highly recommended!

Christopher Backa says

I really enjoyed this novel. The author captures the original series characters. The conflict revolves around a group of aliens who can't let go of their past or their hate since the personalities are all incorporated in their progeny. Their past is not history it's always in their present.

Daniel Kukwa says

This is a novel that makes a definitive statement about what "Star Trek" stands for: the action, the thrills, the

shooting all come in-between the talking, the debating, the contemplating, the diplomatic maneuvering...and it's all done magnificently well. About my only complain about this novel is the fact that its stretches the delay tactics near the end a bit too far, in order to keep the Enterprise from initiating the climax too soon. But that quibble aside, this is exactly the kind of intelligent entertainment I want from my classic "Star Trek".

Nicky2910 says

Star Trek: The Original Series: Crisis of Consciousness by Dave Galanter Enterprise is on the way to negotiations with the Maabas when a Kenisian ship attacks and claims the Maabas' homeplanet as their long lost homeworld from which they were driven off millennia ago by unknown conquerors - the same ones which centuries later attacked the Maabas and caused them to settle down on the now abandoned planet. Kirk tries to forge an agreement, and the Maabas even suggest that they are willing to share the planet, but it turns out that the Kenisians are more interested in a research facility that they left behind... and waging war on their erstwhile conquerors because the Kenisian mind contains the consciousness of their ancestors.

This is an interesting novel on more than one level. As with Galanter's previous entry "Troublesome Minds" this reads like a TV-episode, everybody had something to contribute and the portrayal of the "species of the week" (in this case plural), especially contrasting their different coping mechanisms concerning the same events in their pasts, was engaging. Another distinct plus is the fact that the plot was unpredictable enough with twists and turns to keep me on my toes. Things are not what they seem to be, and mere scanner data turns out to be unreliable when only viewed through the prism of fear and hatred.

Essentially, this novel focuses on the question of how different cultures react to one and the same event. Both the Maabas and the Kenisians were attacked and driven off their home planets. Whereas the Maabas reacted by focusing on themselves, essentially closing themselves off for a long time, just now reaching out to other species (although I couldn't quite see the xenophobia that is mentionned throughout, a certain wariness perhaps, but at least the characters we saw were open-minded and pleasant towards new species, even the attacking and threatening Kenisians), the Kenisians cultivated their hatred for the conquerors. Not surprising really, given the fact that the minds of the then attacked people reside within the consciousness of the now acting parties. The Kenisians are described as Vulcanoid, and indeed, they share their looks but also their telepathic abilities (When exactly did they split off the Vulcans? Before or after the Romulans?) - and they developed their own use of "katras" in a kind of amalgamation of the Trill symbiote giving every new host the experience of a previous one, and of course, the Vulcan-style katra. But in both cases the person carrying the katra/symbiote is a clear individual - he or she decides what to do. In the Kenisian case, though, it's a constant struggle between katra and the person carrying them, in the book the person is called a "multividual", up to the katras imposing their will, sort of continuing to live their life, just in another body. Which is what leads to the continued fear and oppression of the erstwhile conquering species and the inability to distance themselves from past and painful events - something which you see every day even in people not influenced by past lives... I'd like to revisit the Maabas and Kenisians on their now shared planet at some point in the future, see how their different views of the world are influencing each other. This point, sharing a planet, having vastly different attitudes should perhaps have been more than merely an afterthought, though. And speaking of katras: Since this novel is set before TWOK or TSS, Galanter treads a fine line revealing this Vulcan custom to the rest of the crew, just remaining inside the canon knowledge.

The second facet of this novel is Spock's role in preventing the Kenisians to deploy a weapon that could essentially rip whole solar systems apart. He gets kidnapped to help them work out some kinks with the device (which they were after on the Maabas homeplanet), and essentially finds himself alone with the

Enterprise as uncertain backup. When conventional means such as delaying tactics or faking information don't work he resorts to using his mental powers, essentially forcing mindmelds and reinforcing the internal struggle within every Kenisian after showing them means to separate the individual from the various katas. As logical as that decision was, Spock is revolted... and takes the first steps to learn about Kolinahr, to purge his logical mind of those feelings of unease and disgust. Actually, we see a Spock later on in "The Undiscovered Country", arguably doing a much more harmful sort of mind-rape for the "greater good", but then again, before that one he had abandoned Kolinahr, died and been resurrected... and no one bats an eyelid about his actions. Which disturbed me greatly, and some novels tried to show the aftermath of and reactions to his actions. Galanter's Spock is pretty straight-forward, his decision-making process relatable which makes his "solution" palatable and his moral conflict certainly sensible. And his struggle is reinforced by the fact that the Kenisian leader early on in the story uses a mindmeld on Kirk which he didn't consent to to get her way... an act by which everyone was horrified. Granted, the circumstances of and the reasons for these acts may not be comparable but it's interesting that Galanter chose this as one reason for Kolinahr, especially in the context of canon usage of mind-melds later on.

The downside of this novel is the Enterprise-side of things. They rush to Spock's rescue, but get delayed by every means possible, attacks, mines, even space pirates (which reminded me a bit of those Pakled, with a touch of Ferengi, I guess)... which gets a bit repetitive and drags out too long. There are a few nice scenes, and everyone gets their opportunity to shine (although why McCoy should diagnose someone who just hit his head and has a bleeding head wound with an aneurysm instead of a concussion, or why Scotty should suffer from noteworthy "internal bleeding" in his broken wrist - since every bone has blood circulation, a broken bone means that there's blood in the surrounding tissue - with nothing indicating a damaged radial/ulnar blood vessels compromising the circulation in his hand, remains a mystery to this medical mind), but it's just not the most interesting part of the story, just a tactic to force Spock to do things by "any means necessary", as ordered by Kirk.

Overall, Galanter again tells an intriguing story, introduces an interesting moral dilemma and shows that he has a great handle on the TOS-characters and their interaction. Unfortunately, especially in the second part it all gets weighed down a bit by passages that could have easily been shortened or even cut without damaging the integrity of the plot. Still an enjoyable read - and I'm definitely on the look-out for more TOS books by this author.

Jimyanni says

Not bad at all. Started off a bit slow, and there were points during the story that seemed a bit cliche, but overall this was a better-than-average Star Trek novel. Closer to three stars than five, still it was an enjoyable read and made some interesting points.
