



## Star Trek: Starfleet Academy

*Mike Johnson, Ryan Parrott, Derek Charm (Illustrations)*

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**Star Trek: Starfleet Academy** Mike Johnson , Ryan Parrott , Derek Charm (Illustrations)

A bold new chapter for STAR TREK begins here, in an all-new series that shows you what life is like for cadets at the galaxy's greatest school! Witness the student days of the iconic cast before they joined the Enterprise! Plus, meet an all-new group of students as they embark on bold new adventures of their own! The first new characters in the STAR TREK movie universe make their mark here.

## Star Trek: Starfleet Academy Details

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Author : Mike Johnson , Ryan Parrott , Derek Charm (Illustrations)

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## From Reader Review Star Trek: Starfleet Academy for online ebook

### Chris says

This is hands down my favorite IDW Star Trek (Kelven Timeline) book. Honesty, it is wonderful. On one hand, it is a mystery, on another a Spock/Uhura story, and on a third, a group bond story. The story starts with Uhura picking up a mystery message and her determination to find out about it. We then switch to a group of cadets, including a Vulcan who is thinking of leaving Starfleet, who are in the Academy after Uhura and the others have graduated (so in between Darkness and Beyond). Eventually, the two stories merge, in a rather wonderful way. And I love the closing panels. It is such a wonderful story.

The cadets are cool too. Various groups, including Vel who is like my favorite. I really enjoyed this.

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### Lauren James says

This is freakin adorable. I've read the Star Trek books set at Starfleet Academy and didn't think much of them - but this captures everything I love about Start Trek. A good old adventure with races, flirting and time travel - and a happy ending with medals and an award ceremony.

I love the mix of old characters and new (T'Laan is such a bae - I hope she's in the new film!), and the different vocal patterns of the different alien races was just done perfectly.

I especially enjoyed the little glimpse into Uhura/Spock's early relationship.

my only regret is the lack of Bones, who is my always-and-forever fave of any character in any fictional universe. Where was he for this whole story?! Pfft.

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### Shelly says

I really enjoyed this series! I loved that it focused mainly on students at Starfleet Academy, and I'm hoping to see these characters again in other Star Trek material.

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### Vanessa ?Queen Alchemy ? Novel Nerd Faction? says

*I received this book for free from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.*

I walked into this one not knowing what to expect. I am glad to say that I was pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed this. One of the things that first drew me into this, other than the fact that it was a Star Trek series, is the beauty of the cover. The colors are glorious. All of the illustrations in this are gorgeous and the colors chosen make things pop out at you. I was greatly impressed by the illustration style. The story was also quite compelling. I liked the two different sets of characters. There are the well known characters, and there is a new group of students from Starfleet Academy. I loved how both stories intertwined to make a great little story. There was mystery, intrigue, and excellent continuity. Combined with the beautiful illustrations it was fantastic. While the story was not overly involved and didn't exactly blow my mind, it was

an excellent read and a great use of my free time. It is a lovely read for Trekkies and I would recommend this to fans of science fiction as well. I think anyone that reads this will enjoy it immensely.

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### **Jarrah says**

*Starfleet Academy* is a YA comic book miniseries set in the Kelvin Timeline (between Star Trek: 2009 and STID) that introduces us to a diverse group of original character cadets. The protagonist, T'Laan, is a Vulcan engineering student who is considering quitting Starfleet Academy to help her people rebuild on New Vulcan. Her Tellarite professor convinces her to join a team competition - basically the Tri-Wizard Tournament in space - celebrating the 100th anniversary of Starfleet Academy.

With her teammates, including two human women of colour, an Andorian man and a Monchezkin man, T'Laan competes in challenges against student teams from Vulcan, Andor and more. She also struggles with human social expectations, including the dreaded "party."

These characters are new yet familiar to us fans of the Starfleet universe. But in case you needed more familiarity, the miniseries intertwines their story with that of our regular JJ-verse crew in their Academy days, three years prior.

This second storyline features Uhura's attempt to solve a mystery at the Academy, with help from Spock, Kirk and Chekov. While it's a fun story that rings very true to the JJ-verse characterizations, it doesn't feel necessary. Further, it continues the JJ-verse pattern of undermining Uhura's badassery in the way it portrays her relationship with Spock.

Ultimately, the two stories do come together in a heartwarming ending that leaves the door open for future comics with the new characters.

I particularly want to shout out the art in this series, by Derek Charm. It's stylized and fun and accessible without seeming childish. Charm's drawing and colour work takes advantage of geometry and angles to great effect. Many panels feature background characters and aliens you'll recognize from other series - from TAS' Kzinti to DS9's Morn, who can be seen hanging out in the bar with Uhura at the beginning. Overall, a really enjoyable read.

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### **Jesse A says**

At the start I thought the story was a little juvenile and I didn't love the art. By the end I was on board with the story mostly (even if it still seemed like a kids Star Trek). Decent but no memorable addition to the Star Trek comic world.

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### **Chessa says**

I really enjoyed this! This takes place in two different times: one is with Uhura, Spock, Kirk, etc in 2258 when they are all still at Starfleet Academy. Uhura is trying to solve the mystery of a strange faint transmission she catches in the lab - it almost sounds like a distress call. When she investigates, she finds

herself in trouble as she starts to uncover something the academy doesn't want publicized. In the other story, which takes place a few years later, we follow a new cast of characters than we've seen in the movie reboots. T'laan is a Vulcan who would like to leave Starfleet Academy to return to New Vulcan, where she thinks she belongs. Her advisor agrees to allow her to withdraw IF she agrees to compete in a kind of Starfleet team sport competition against other schools before she goes. She reluctantly agrees, and her teammates mostly welcome her with open arms. I found myself enjoying this storyline even more than the first. T'laan's teammates are interesting and I loved learning about their characters. The two storylines do eventually end up overlapping and everything ends in a very satisfying way.

This was a really fun read. I would definitely recommend it to fans of the Star Trek movie reboots, and really any fans of science fiction and comics. If you like your science fiction to be a bit feel-good with a dash of mystery, this is the read for you.

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### **Jasmine says**

Definitely working with the modern new Trek-verse where authority is untrustworthy and concerned more with appearances than morals. But we SHOW THEM WRONG with INGENUITY and MORALS and FRIENDSHIP and PURE SMARTS.

Star trek my heart forever, indeed.

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### **Carla Johnson-Hicks says**

There are two separate plotlines in this story that go back and forth. One is from Fans of the Star 2258 when Uhura, Kirk, and McCoy were all at the academy. Uhura discovers a distress call, but has difficulty trying to access information about the system where the call originated. When she investigates, she finds herself in trouble as she starts to uncover something the academy doesn't want publicized. The other is 2261 when they are on the Enterprise and a new group of cadets are making their way through Starfleet. Another group of cadets is competing in a series of competitions in honor of Starfleet Academy's Centennial Celebration. During one of the competitions they encounter the same distress call. Will they have any better luck finding its source and solving the mystery of the crew who sent it?

There are new characters introduced for this series who are a sampling of personalities and races from the member planets of the Federation. T'Laan is a Vulcan who wants to leave Starfleet Academy. Her advisor says he will reassign her if she participates in the competition. The other new characters are also members of this team. Lucia Gonzales and Grace Chen are human. Shev is Andorian and Vel K'Bentayr is Monchezkin. Each of them were chosen for the Academy's team due to their various skills in engineering, marksmanship, history, etc. Unlike the well-known characters, this team is still learning how to work together and appreciate each other's strengths.

For those who have been Trekkies for awhile, there are enough of the classic characters to make them comfortable and not feel that they have abandoned the well-loved characters. Spock and Uhura and the difficulties of their relationship, Chekov's prodigious skills, Kirk's reputation as a womanizer and rule breaker are all included. We also see Admiral Marcus and even hear a little of the reasons why the Academy was founded. And the two groups of characters eventually have a way to connect, wrapping up the story line

of this first book and clearing the way for new adventures.

I found that the story was not overly involved. It was actually a bit boring at the beginning, but it got better. I must say I really liked the illustrations. The colors are glorious and they were not overly done. It was easy to follow the story and see what was happening in the illustrations. Overall a good read that should appeal to seasoned Star Trek readers and new readers.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher via netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Joanna Taylor Stone says**

Really refreshing Star Trek comic, with beautiful art, diverse characters, and the spirit of Star Trek flowing through it. Love this and can't wait for more!

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### **Online Eccentric Librarian says**

*More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>*

Star Fleet Academy does skew a bit young - with a confectionery sweet plot that perhaps feels not only forced but also doesn't come together by the end. Author Johnson tries to tie in a completely separate plot in order to keep it within the new Star Trek movie franchise. But it doesn't really work and feels oddly tacked on. As a middle grade sci fi graphic novel, it is undemanding. Not so much as a Star Trek franchise, though.

Story: T'Laan mourns the loss of her Vulcan homeworld and feels guilty about being at Star Fleet when it happened. She is coerced into joining a Star Fleet competition with several other cadets and finds herself competing against other Vulcans (who are sore she is at Star Fleet when the homeworld needs to be rebuilt). At the same time, Uhura and Spock have a rocky relationship (cadet to teacher) and Uhura convinces Kirk to break into high clearance files at Star Fleet because she wants to know why no one is talking about a missing ship whose distress call she heard. Both Uhura and T'Laan's paths will converge over that century's old missing ship.

Author Johnson doesn't stretch his writing muscles here - we have the usual unexplained anomaly that causes a time paradox. The ship in question has a very odd looking crew that are very un-Star Trek like and in the process of a mutiny. And the cadets are put in odd danger in order to complete the competition (which includes survival, piloting, medical skills, etc.).

The usual characters are there - Andorians, etc. But the plot holes and lack of believability strain what could have been a much tighter story. E.g., Starfleet has done a coverup on the missing ship - but then they mention that same ship in the cadet's competition speech. If you are hiding an embarrassing situation in the past, why mention it randomly all the time? It's things like that (as well as space suddenly being VERY small so that cadets can randomly drive past that same anomaly that eats ships) and it just gets a bit silly.

Even if written for kids, I don't feel it has to be dumbed down. As well, the plot with Uhura is so pointless as to make me wish it had been excised altogether. The tie-in wasn't needed and it makes no sense that Uhura does so many illegal things to get information and then does nothing about it in the end.

In all, nicely illustrated but definitely a Twinkie - a treat that is not very fulfilling and instantly forgotten once finished. Reviewed from an advance reader copy provided by the publisher.

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### **David Agranoff says**

Boring story and I couldn't stand the style of art. Boo. It was mostly the art style I just couldn't get into.

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### **Emma says**

*I received a free copy from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!*

#### 3.5 stars!

This was a super-cute beginning to a new Star Trek comic series.

We have our favourite characters - Spock, Uhura, Kirk, Chekov etc. - in their current representation from the movies, and follow their adventures at Star Fleet Academy, as Uhura detects a hidden message of distress and attempts to work out who it is and how she can help.

We also meet a new set of characters who are studying at the Academy, and follow as they take part in various challenges and competitions. When they accidentally stumble across something completely surprising, the two storylines of all the characters intertwine with each other.

I was a little confused by the timeline, as it does keep jumping back and forward multiple times, but in the end I just went with it and almost ignored the dates - one set of characters are in one date, one are in the other.

The artwork however, is gorgeous - there's something about comics or graphic novels set in space that means the artwork - for me - has so much more potential to be beautiful.

I think one problem would be that I feel you already need a knowledge of the basic Star Trek universe and characters to understand this. I know all the characters and about Vulcan race etc, but many may not get what is going on.

Overall I really enjoyed this and would definitely continue with the series!

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### **Wayne McCoy says**

'Star Trek: Starfleet Academy' by Mike Johnson and Ryan Parrott with art by Derek Charm tells a pretty good story of Starfleet cadets and has really cool art.

There is a wrapping story that goes back to when Uhura was in the academy. She finds a strange distress call that may go all the way back to the reason the academy was founded. She tries to investigate, but finds that the information is classified. Spock won't help her, but perhaps rule-breaker Kirk will.

The main story follows a group of cadets as they prepare for their final tests at the academy. One is a Vulcan woman named T'laan who doesn't want to finish school, but wants to head out to help re-establish New Vulcan. She is convinced to stay with her strange group of classmates. They all have their strengths and weaknesses. The tests that face them will lead them into unexpected danger and they will have to use all their strengths to survive.

I really liked the story. There are a few familiar characters, but the new ones that are introduced are very much of a Star Trek universe. I love the art style. It's very clean and well done. I can definitely see the reboot Uhura, Spock and even Admiral Marcus in the art but it does it with a more minimalist style. I like a good Star Trek story and this definitely hit all the right notes for me.

I received a review copy of this graphic novel from Diamond Book Distributors, IDW Publishing, and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this graphic novel.

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### **Riddhi says**

I read this book with the help of NetGalley. I loved reading it. The new characters introduced are remarkable. T'Laan and her team is amazing. I liked how Uhura tried her best to intercept the distress call. The rescue of starship Slayton is awesome. This book is amazing.

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