



Flashback

Diane Carey

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A hundred years before the Starship Voyager was transported to the Delta Quadrant, Lieutenant Tuvok served under one of Starfleet's most famous officers: Captain Hikaru Sulu of the Starship Excelsior. Now those days have come back to haunt him. While traveling through an uncharted nebula, Tuvok is besieged by recurring memories of his time with Captain Sulu-- repressed memories that may well kill him unless their source is determined in time.

To save her closest friend, Captain Kathryn Janeway follows Tuvok to the century-old bridge of the Excelsior during a desperate battle. There Tuvok, Captain Janeway, Captain Sulu and Commander Janice Rand must face a menace to galactic life unlike anything known before...

Flashback Details

Date : Published October 1st 1996 by Pocket Books

ISBN : 9780671003838

Author : Diane Carey

Format : Mass Market Paperback 279 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Star Trek, Science Fiction, Star Trek Voyager, Fiction

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Sean Randall says

I first encountered this story almost 13 years ago during its 1996 television debut as part of Voyager's third season. Written, as it was, to commemorate Star Trek's thirtieth anniversary, it seems almost inevitable that a novel should have emerged, unsurprisingly swiftly upon the heels of the teleplay.

What's more surprising, to me at least, is the fact that I quite enjoyed this novel. a mere 5 of the 39 voyager novels currently listed are based on television episodes. Perhaps I was too young at the time (I was only eight years old when voyager started showing), but even looking back, I can see potential episodes that would've made superb novels. The other four (which I have read and will read again before I put down my conclusions too conclusively) all flagged themselves in my mind as unworthy for one reason or another, and so Flashback is the one, so far, that leads the pack.

Again, I can only attribute my sluggishness in remembering where this whole story was going to my youth, but it wasn't until The Doctor said 'Who's is that?' that I was able to comprehend the rationale behind the plot. it was a rather sudden revelation, came upon me with light bulb precision, actually - I didn't even have time to stop reading before it sank in and I was there, fully grasping what had happened (and what was to come). odd, how 13 years of memory can cloud something, until one line of dialog can snap you back to something absorbed long ago and buried... Was that line of dialog in the episode? I do not recall. it's unimportant.

I'm not going to go into the plot, only to note the fact that the novel expanded in several large areas on the television episode. it really worked here, giving insight into the Vulcan Mind, Tuvok in particular, and some of the events of the 2290's. Despite several continuity errors from the era, it managed to hold its own well.

One thing I did feel a little overdone was the final chapters, where Tuvok talks with Sulu and Spock. While the author certainly knows her business with these characters (having penned some excellent TOS titles), their seemed little use to dragging them into the end of this book - sort of a hactenus ex machina feel to the moment - an impression that what had gone on before (from then, as in the 2290's) and what had gone on after (as in the intervening time) just happened to fit their words and give them a ring of power and wisdom. or perhaps it's just me... I've been unable to shake the feeling, while rereading many of these trek titles, that there's not a great deal of latitude (because the characters all end up a certain way onscreen, post-novel). Some books make me feel this more strongly than others and Flashback wasn't overly powerful in that way, which is good, but it was by no means a perfect read. But then I have odd ideas about what constitutes a great novel. That's why I've never written my own.

Gabriel Mero says

While I loved the episode that this was based on -- I mean Sulu and Rand! -- I prefer this novelization because of the expansion it made upon the plot. The writers wanted Nichelle Nichols to appear as Uhura, talking to Sulu on screen...Nichelle felt that it wasn't a service to the character and turned down the offer; that scene is included here. We also get glimpses of Janeway's guilt about leaving Amelia Earhardt behind, and

got to see the ending of Star Trek VI through Tuvok's eyes...as well as a surprise cameo from the OG Vulcan himself, Spock!

Indika De Silva says

This novel contains additional material to the Star Trek Voyager Season 3 Episode 2 "Flashback" that could further enhance the story.

I always enjoyed the Voyager series and seeing some of my favorite Original Series characters making appearances in this novel was a wonderful treat.

The story is well written and moving. A must read for Star Trek fans...

Daniel Kukwa says

There is much in here to enjoy, especially Diane Carey's affinity for particular characters such as Janeway, Tuvok and Chakotay. I also enjoyed the little philosophical extras, such as comparing Harry Kim's purely 24th century outlook to Chakotay & Tom Paris, who Janeway believes would fit in to the more rough-and-ready 23rd century of Kirk's time. That said, this is a book that suffers from the same problem as first dozen DS9 novels: first season-itis. For a story set in "Voyager's" third season, there's too much of the early characterizations of certain characters on display, particularly in the Doctor & Neelix. It also extends to the extra sub-plots, used to flesh out the novelization (would Janeway still be pining over Amelia Earhart and her decision to not accompany Voyager back home after "The 37s"?). Speaking of those sub-plots, two of the three are a bit iffy (the Kes sub-plot is a touch overwrought; the Tom & B'Elanna sup-plot just feels like generic action filler). However, the novel does conclude with some gratifying extras, such as Tuvok allowing Janeway to experience the climax of "Star Trek VI" through his memories, and Spock's post-Khitomer advice to Tuvok, which points out some neat parallels between their personal journeys. Overall, it's an imperfect yet satisfying read.

Rich Meyer says

Flashback is an adaptation of an episode of *Star Trek: Voyager*, which was notable in that George Takei made a guest appearance as Captain Sulu. While this book is interesting and it does include a lot of background material not evident in the original episode, especially about Tuvok's time on Sulu's USS *Excelsior*, there's almost too much filler; it's like there are two or three episodes compressed into this book. It's very readable, but there's also a lot I wish I could've just fast-forwarded through to get to the Tuvok/Sulu storyline.

Elizabeth Perez says

"Better to die on our feet than live on our knees"

Things I really liked about this book: First, Tuvok! Finally an author really dove into his character and in such a believable way explaining so much. Next all of the sub-plots that just made the book so much more interesting than the episode. Lastly I loved how the author tied in some Earth history and so much of TOS history, I would think most TOS fans would really love this book it really did the characters justice.

More than the story I loved the writing, it was poetic without being too wordy which is a rarity in any writing let along ST fiction. I think this is the most quotable ST book I've ever read. Here are a few of my favorite quotes.

"A certain onyx glint rose in Sulu's eyes as he finished..."

"The glow began to fade, her mind to blur. Thoughts began blending gently, like tidal waters washing in, out."

"A terrorized mind commits suicide to avoid the terror."

"Better to die in a ball of flames than play it safe and arrive to find a charred husk where the Enterprise had been and a smashed conference with the littered corpses of dignitaries rotting in the sun."

If I could quote the last 10 pages or so I would! I just can't recommend this book enough if I could give it 6 stars I would.

Craig says

This is an example of you don't do an episode novelization. The main narrative is swallowed up in a stupid Kes subplot along with the mining of the sirillium. Not only did that pad a story that was interesting enough on its own it felt like the C story to the main thrust of the novel. Throw in some random Star Trek and Amelia Earhart quotes (along with a subplot with her thrown in for good measure) and the story is unfocused and all over the place and loses what was there in the episode. Toss in the usual Diane Carey pew-pew-pews and her misunderstandings of events and you get this mess of a book. Was a struggle to get through and glad I am done.

Also what's the deal with the Excelsior refit being on the cover? I don't like to nitpick stuff like that but that HAD to have been noticed by somebody.
