



The Murdered Sun

Christie Golden

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When sensors indicate a possible wormhole nearby, Captain Janeway is eager to investigate - hoping to find a shortcut back to the Federation. Instead, she discovers a solar system being systematically pillaged by the warlike Akerians.

The last thing Janeway wants is to get caught up in someone else's war, but to check out the wormhole - and to protect the innocent inhabitants of Veruna Four - she has no choice but to take on the Akerians.

But who knows what unexpected dangers lurk beneath the crimson glow of the murdered sun?

The Murdered Sun Details

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From Reader Review The Murdered Sun for online ebook

Sharon says

I've been going through the Star Trek Voyager books and this is the first in the series where I felt the characters were finally in sync with what we saw in the TV episodes. The earlier books are for the most part good stories but the characters came across as a bit bland but that is not the fault of the authors. The show was also new at the time and there wasn't a lot for them to work with. Christie Golden had access to more background material and it shows.

The Starship Voyager has found a wormhole but the area is controlled by a nasty Empire. Despite Neelix's protestations Janeway orders the crew to investigate. They find a dying world in need of help and several strange surprises. Chakotay and Paris play prominent roles in this story.

Part of me had to laugh out loud at Paris having to overcome his distaste for the appearance of the aliens because they reminded him of lizards. Viewers of the TV series might wonder "Was this supposed to be a joke?" Despite that he had a good arc and some great action scenes.

I left off one star because I'm not a big fan of "Getting into the alien's head and details of their world". I understand that some readers like that sort of thing but to me it bogs the story down too much. However that is a personal preference thing and not the fault of the writer.

This will probably go on my pile of books that I like to read again and again, right up there with my personal favorites from Star Trek Original Series books Prime Directive and Death Count.

Isabel says

Una aventura genial y tan bien escrita. Da gusto el buen uso y caracterización de los personajes, que es algo vago en los libros anteriores. De hecho, es mi libro favorito de la saga, por el momento.
Lo releeré. ¡No cabe duda!

John says

Excellent STV book! Hard to believe this one was Ms. Golden's first ST book...actually her first SF book. She writes like one of the grand masters!

Craig says

I admit that I was kind of worried about reading this book as I hadn't read anything by Christie Golden yet and I knew that she had many Voyager novels ahead of me. So, I was very happy that I quite enjoyed this one. It wasn't anything revolutionary or wholly original but she did a great job of capturing key characters like Janeway, Paris and especially Chakotay. I enjoyed the story and it was a neat idea but the twist (if you

could call it that) was very predictable and expected. This may not sound like it but I quite enjoyed this book and look forward to Golden's other Star Trek works.

Jere says

It was a Star Trek book and as a result one of those relaxing and fun reads. While I really enjoyed the story all in all there were two issues that drug it down for me. The first was the author's continually stressing the bigoted and prejudicial issues that Mr. Paris was having with the alien race they encountered. While I get what the author was trying to do, having the author remind me every few pages that Paris was bigoted towards the aliens got really old and kind of tedious. Also, the foreshadowing was one of those things where the author seemed to think they were being really shifty and tricky by holding onto a secret, it was so obvious what was going to happen that I found myself skimming through passages to skip forward and get on with the story. I get that this is just Star Trek, but still this was a cool idea and a generally fun story that could have been even better.

Stephen says

Having recently read John Jackson Miller's Star Trek: The Next Generation novel Takedown, I decided to further my plunge into Trek with another book. It worked well with John, so I picked another Star Wars author that I liked. In this case it was Christie Golden with her Star Trek: Voyager novel The Murdered Sun.

Now I've never watched Star Trek: Voyager, so I'm unfamiliar with the characters. On the other hand, this is only the second Star Trek novel I've ever ready, so I'm not sure which is more significant. However, as a long time Star Wars reader, Christie did a great job writing the story in a way that new readers like myself could still enjoy it. The characters are well developed and slowly introduced so it's easy enough to get grasp on the cast. There's also some background on what the crew of the Voyager is up to and what's going on with them. As an old school Trek fan, this story had the right amount of trappings to tap into my nostalgia and interest in the Trek universe. It's also just a fun sci-fi story mixing together alien species, cultures, technologies into an intriguing plot.

That said, The Murdered Sun is a lot like an elaborate multi-part television episode. The crew of the Voyager discovers an anomaly that they decide to investigate. It leads them to two alien factions who are at war, and Voyager gets caught in the middle. The aliens are interesting and the story does a great job of developing them. It takes the time to explore what they're like, how their history has affected them, and the ties they develop with the crew of the Voyager. They get intertwined into the plot and the action very craftily without any info dumps. Furthermore, I really liked how the crew of the Voyager played out in the story.

They're led by Captain Janeway who is very much her own character. She doesn't fall into the same molds as Kirk and Picard. In turn, she's backed by a colorful crew, yet only two of them really stand out in this novel. Both Chakotay and Tom Paris get some excellent character building. Each of them form ties with the first alien species they encounter. Chakotay finds common ground with the way their beliefs are similar to his. Tom Paris alternatively finds discord with how snakelike they appear, but in training them to fly, forms a bond with them that transcends physical barriers. Each character story was very enjoyable.

While it might not be a sci-fi epic, The Murdered Sun is a fun sci-fi adventure. Whether you're a Voyager

fan or a Star Wars fan looking to diversify your fandom, this book is worth checking out. I give it a four out of five.

Dustin says

A good book with an exciting and fun story. My only quip is the constant nagging about the Prime Directive. It makes sense at first, but as more is revealed about these people, its pretty apparent that the Prime Directive doesn't apply.

Tony McDowell says

I am a huge fan of the TV series Voyager, my favourite episodes being those which contain Seven or the Doctor. I dislike the Chakotay episodes immensely, with all the anthropological story lines. Unfortunately this book is a Chakotay episode, with no Seven or Doctor storyline, ergo I give it 1 star

It's a book of 3 parts:

The first quarter is engaging, giving a sense of mystery and there's a bit of action and techno involved. So far so good.

However the next half of the book (25% to 75% into the book) is like walking through treacle. A character can't walk down a corridor into the turbo lift without spotting a scratch on the wall which reminds them of this that and the other. They can't get into the turbo lift without something being wrong with the controls, then the lift sends their thoughts reeling to some other background storyline, taking a whole chapter to do so. (The corridor/ lift scenario doesn't happen in the book, it's only my example)

The over-descriptiveness doesn't help either; the description of an alien's outfit can take a full, page and at this point in the book I almost gave up.

I skimmed through until the 75% point where things start to pick up again, but by this time I had honestly lost interest.

I started regarding the Voyager series from book number 1, and this is the first book that I really haven't liked.

Conan Tigard says

The Murdered Sun takes place a few months after the Voyager appears in the Delta Quadrant. Although the Stardate in the last chapter is 43897.1, it has to be incorrect since the Voyager didn't go through the wormhole that led them to the Delta Quadrant until Stardate 48579.4.

Besides that little discrepancy, The Murdered Sun is a wonderful story. The beginning of the story is chock full of combat, while the middle of the story involves the crew helping the Verunians, and then the action-packed ending of the story. Christie Golden does a superb job of portraying the crew of Voyager. I find that most Star Trek books are great, but lack a lot of action.

I loved all the conflict at the beginning and end of this book. After all, I want a book that makes my heart race, and this one did just that. It was also interesting watching Tom Paris work through his reptile issues and finally recognize the value of the Verunians. He went from being repulsed by them to making a really good friend out of one of them. As a series, I always enjoyed Star Trek: Voyager and this book only adds more to my love of the series.

Overall, *The Murdered Sun* by Christie Golden is an excellent tale that I thoroughly enjoyed. I wish all Star Trek book were this good.

I rated this book a 9 out of 10.

Nathan says

Another good *Voyager* book from Christie Golden. She's one of my favorite *Star Trek* authors (along with Kirsten Beyer), but this one fell short. Here's why:

First of all, I can't even count the times Chakotay is described in this book simply as "the Indian". And I mean, yes, he is Indian, but do we have to call him that? I don't hear anybody referring to Harry Kim as "the Asian". It bothers me that Golden didn't find some other aspect of Chakotay to emphasize rather than his race and his spirit guide. The only books that have discussed Chakotay's character have narrowed in on that aspect and I'd just rather they don't worry about his race. They don't mention it for anyone else, after all. The second thing is the fact that this book again says "the *Voyager*" when referencing the ship. I know it's grammatically accurate, but it isn't logically accurate. It sounds awkward since no one in the show ever would say that. Third: it was predictable. There was one thing that Golden clearly wanted to make a shock but by the time she came around to revealing it, I had long figured it out.

Other than those few pet peeves, this was a good book. I liked the aliens a lot: they were easy to picture in my head and were pretty unique. The story was good too. And it didn't focus on a Neelix arc: which is always great. :P

K says

The Murdered Sun is a decent *Voyager* book. The plot follows the general formula of a *Voyager* episode. *Voyager* is traveling back to the Alpha quadrant, they think they find a possible means to get there quicker, discover a they are in a territory of a war like race, Neelix advises they leave, the beings affected by the war like race were unable to defend themselves, prime directive, etc. So I didn't give this book a 4/5 because of that, I did feel the author did a great job capturing the likeness of the characters to the show, especially Chakotay, Janeway, Neelix, and Tuvok. This book was also early in the series, so kudos to the author.

Andrew Beet says

Very good star trek voyager novel the akerians reminded me of the kazon story was good author got the characters spot on not so much of the holographic Doctor in this story or kes either

Jason Vargo says

Even though this story-again-starts with the crew wistfully trying to get home, it turns out to be far better than expected. One of the new alien races, the Akerans, aren't much more than placeholders, but that's also expected from the television series. The real bread and butter here is Tom Paris and his initial feelings toward a new ally. This is what Trek is made of: understanding, learning and friendship.

Chris says

By far my favorite Voyager book so far. I enjoyed the interplay between the three groups very much. Chakotay seems less one note, even while playing his one note, throughout and I'm not even sure why. Tom Paris's arc is very good, it would have been great if this sort of xenophobia would have been explored more in his character within the show.

The pseudo-science was about as interesting as Trek pseudo-science gets, and the plot moved quickly and efficiently. Overall I would highly suggest any fan of Trek in general or Voyager specifically should give this yarn a spin.

Daniel Kukwa says

How to write a solid, enjoyable "Star Trek" novel: (1) provide an interesting, unique scientific puzzle for the crew to solve, (2) provide some action & tension that actually conveys tension, (3) create a situation where Trekkian ideas of peace, forgiveness, and acceptance are all in play, and (4) take one of my least favourite Trek series, capture the crew perfectly, and put them in a story where I thoroughly enjoyed the ride, in spite of my antipathy for "Voyager". Well done, Christine Golden.
