



Star Trek Creator: The Authorized Biography of Gene Roddenberry

By David Alexander

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This is the book Star Trek fans have been waiting for! The one and only authorized biography of Gene Roddenberry, the creative force behind the classic and increasingly popular science fiction show. 16-page insert.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Alexander was editor of the *Humanist* when Roddenberry (1921-1991) chose him as his biographer. The result is a panegyric in the sharpest possible contrast to Joel Engel's *Gene Roddenberry* (Nonfiction Forecasts, Mar. 21). In tracing his subject's career in the Army Air Corps in WW II, as a Pan Am pilot and member of the Los Angeles Police Department, the author shows Roddenberry as a brave and adventurous man who proved to be hardworking and tenacious as well. While the original *Star Trek* series lasted for three years and lost money every year until 1969, when it was cancelled, by 1972 it was a huge hit in syndication. Then followed a series of movies starting in 1979 and another TV series, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, beginning in 1987, followed by *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. As for "warts," Alexander treats Roddenberry's compulsive womanizing as a lovable idiosyncrasy; he also presents without details a list of six science fiction writers who worked for Roddenberry on *Star Trek* but would no longer do so. Exhaustive but exhausting. Filmography. Photos not seen by PW. 100,000 first printing.

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From *Booklist*

The authorized biography of *Star Trek*'s mastermind is a monumentally documented work, drawing largely from Roddenberry's papers as well as the papers of and interviews with those close to him. It portrays an ambitious and talented man, restless and unsettled in his personal life yet fixed on his career goals.

Roddenberry's family, his experiences as a World War II bomber pilot in the South Pacific and an airline pilot after the war, and his relatively short but eventful career in the Los Angeles Police Department all helped shape him. Although sometimes the sheer mass of detail makes the narrative difficult to follow, that same wealth of information provides fascinating insights into not only Roddenberry and his correspondents but also the worlds of sf and its fandom and the making of TV and movies. The many letters between Roddenberry and Isaac Asimov constitute a particularly interesting bonanza, and the appended Roddenberry filmography is useful. All in all, Alexander makes a significant contribution to the understanding of an enigmatic man and his creations. (See also Engel's *Gene Roddenberry*.) *Dennis Winters*

From Kirkus Reviews

This readable biography sketches the trajectory of a man whose life might have served as the plot for one of his television dramas. The creator of *Star Trek* flew missions as a B-17 pilot during WW II, wrote speeches for LA's chief of police, and penned scripts for shows like *Dragnet* during television's Golden Age.

Alexander succeeds in recreating Roddenberry's voice: As the official biographer chosen by Roddenberry, he provides correspondence written over the years to family, friends, and fans. But the author only shifts to warp speed when he discusses how Roddenberry launched the original *Star Trek*. The book lets Trekkers gorge themselves on the trivia of this cultural phenomenon and overhear backstage bickering. Production memos teem with such revelatory details as actors' contracts (Nimoy originally earned a fourth of Shatner's salary), casting decisions, and of course, the secret campaigns to save *Star Trek* (all of which Roddenberry inaugurated). Although Roddenberry's widow, Majel Barrett Roddenberry, states in the introduction that her husband wanted to be depicted ``warts and all," Alexander remains a friend throughout. Interviews with cast members are curiously absent and would have added depth to such incidents as the series'--and television's--first interracial kiss. According to Alexander, this met with only a single memo of protest from NBC; however, others have attested that network suits refused to let the scene be shot as originally written. To be fair, or provocative, Roddenberry's bouts of drinking, use of amphetamines, and frequent infidelities are recounted. The chance to create another *Trek* TV series, however, stirred him. While his bitter fights with

veteran staffers marred the production, Star Trek: The Next Generation ran for seven years and remained true to its creator's optimistic belief in humanity. While this account swings too far between elegy and gossip, it successfully conveys the spirit of Roddenberry, who led us ``where no one has gone before." (16 pages b&w photos, not seen) (First printing of 100,000) -- *Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lorraine Brown:

The guide with title Star Trek Creator: The Authorized Biography of Gene Roddenberry possesses a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This specific book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this reserve represented the condition of the world currently. That is important to yo7u to find out how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you throughout new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read the item anywhere you want.

Alan Castorena:

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Judith Mandel:

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