



The Barque of Heaven

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The Stargate SG-1 team find themselves transported to a world where they must solve a series of riddles and avoid deadly traps in order to travel home. Pursued by Goa'uld and Jaffa, it is a race against death to the finish line.

The Barque of Heaven Details

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Author : Suzanne Wood

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From Reader Review The Barque of Heaven for online ebook

Robyn says

I'll be honest. I was more than a little timid about reading this book. After all, it's one thing to be into a TV show, and something else entirely to start reading fanon novels.

My doubts were more than subdued. "Barque" is a good story, one with enough plot, character development, and interesting elements for me to like it based on its own merit, not its connection to SG-1. As others have said before me, it does a good job at staying consistent with the canon, while still managing to add to our understanding. My favorite parts involved the Egyptian mythology. Ms. Wood certainly knows her stuff!

Overall, highly recommended to any Stargate fans and anyone else brave enough to give it a try.

Kasey Minnis says

An entertaining read

I was nervous when I read the synopsis. The story could easily become a slog as the team faces puzzle after puzzle, but the author manages to make it interesting and entertaining throughout. It feels very connected to the Stargate canon, as well.

Roxane says

Really glad I bought this book! Great characterizations and great storytelling. I bought it because it was probably the most recommended of the Stargate books characterization-wise. I'm looking forward to reading some of the others to compare, but I was very happy with this book. It shows that the author is a fan, she knows what she's talking about, she knows the universe and the mythology.

A great book, especially for the Daniel Jackson fans like myself ;D

Anastasia says

I was surprised to find out that this is Suzanne Wood's first novel. It's well thought out, nailed the characters and team dynamics dead on. I especially enjoyed the way she's written Daniel Jackson. If you're a fan of the show, the book is a great read. If you've never seen the show, some things might confuse you as the author doesn't particularly explain the characters' backgrounds as well as the Goa'uld (but a reader, even one unfamiliar to Stargate SG1 and its mythology can definitely put two and two together themselves upon reading the details she did include), but overall it doesn't hinder the story much. The story was interesting and one I wouldn't mind seeing transferred on screen, however there were a few downsides, in particular to the ending and resolution. However for a first novel, well done and I only wish more writers can learn to write SG1 as well as Suzanne Wood managed.

Jenna says

Started out slow, but really picked up later on. As always the humor was amazing ;)

Beverly K says

One of the best books I read dealing with Stargate SG-1. It was like reading an action packed episode, and I never wanted to put it down. However, I did notice the way she wrote the characters seemed to suggest a closer relationship between Sam and Daniel than I thought the show had evidence for.

I could hear the characters in my head, when she wrote it, and I haven't seen the show in a while.

The writer must have thoroughly researched her stuff, in order to know Egyptian mythology so well. I was impressed. If she writes any more Stargate SG-1 books, I'll be sure to look them up.

Ida Leter says

MUCH too long. I was into it at the very beginning, after the first couple of worlds I kind of started wanting them to hurry along, and by the end of it I was so tired of it, I wanted to break something. If there was some point to these trials, some connective tissue that held it all together beyond "and then they went to this planet and did this thing, and it was very difficult, but they managed to get out in the nick of time to go to the next world in the sequence" repeated 13 times, I might be able to give it a bit more benefit of the doubt. As is, they should have been dead 13 times over, and I can't imagine anyone else with any training ever being able to clear the course. That really pulled me out of it. And if it had some satisfactory ending, that might have been one thing, but it was just pointless, and didn't amount to much.

StrangeBedfellows says

As much as I adore the television series, I was dubious about these tie-in books. I was convinced the authors of these books would fail at capturing the essence of the show or, most unforgivable, poorly portray the characters and their dynamics. I was desperate for more Stargatey goodness, though, so I scoured the reviews on Amazon and finally settled on "Barque of Heaven" as my intro to the Fandemonium series.

The verdict: excellent.

Not only does author Suzanne Wood capture everything that I love about Stargate, she also writes a darn good story. Reading "Barque of Heaven" really is like watching the show: a goodly amount of action, well-

timed humor, enough detail to lend authentication, and the perfect blend of otherworldly science fiction with thoughtful mythology. Best of all, Wood absolutely does justice to our favorite foursome. Each of the main characters receive the same amount of attention, resulting in a balanced narrative of multiple perspectives. I would have enjoyed this book even if I had never heard of Stargate.

Adam says

A very good Stargate novel, well written, great concept and the characters were written as they are in the series.

The plot tries to rectify the inconsistencies between the series and the original movie regarding Ra, and does so very well. It's an interesting take on it and does make it all fit together much better. The attention to detail was good as well, particularly with the 'gate symbol names which have only been briefly mentioned so far in Stargate.

Plenty of action and some great character moments.

SixBeforeLunch says

First off, I enjoyed it way more than I would have expected, all things considered. There are lot of elements to it that are the sort of thing that immediately turn me off to a SG1 story. There's a fair amount of fanon to start. There are at least two "Danny"s which is one more than my maximum tolerance for any story set prior to season 4. (My maximum tolerance for a story set during or after season 4 is, of course, zero.) There's a "Holly Hannah", "kids", and a "campers" I think. There's Daniel thought of as a boy (though by Jaffa, not by SG1). And there's a member of SG1 thinking of Daniel as the youngest member of the team. Those are the ones I remember, there could be more.

There are also some other things that I don't generally like, though I don't know that they could be called fanon per se. One of the sub plots has Daniel thinking about leaving the team to search for Sha're on his own and I did not like the way that was resolved. People telling Daniel how he's weak on his own and needs to stick with SG1? No. Just no. Daniel needs to not go off on his own, but for exactly the opposite reason. Daniel needs people around to keep him in check because he's just that dangerous left to his own devices. Weak, not so much.

(I tend to react badly to stories that are all about how much Daniel, or any character really, needs SG1. I love the team, I love teamy stories, but at the end of the day, these are all highly capable individuals who are able to go off on their own. SG1 is a lovely thing, but as season 6 and season 9 and SGA season 4 shows, they aren't joined at the hip.)

All that said, I liked it. The fanon was not as annoying as it usually is. I think because the story itself is so...not cliche. Not classic. Just...common. It's one of the oldest stories in the world, a band of adventurers passing through various trials as they try to return home. The Odyssey anyone? And in the context of a story that is itself so oft repeated, fanon (at least, fanon that's not anti-canon just takes canon a little too far) doesn't stick out quite so much. Not to say that some of it wasn't jarring, but it didn't make me recoil quite as much as it otherwise might.

Incidentally, saying that the story itself is fairly common isn't a criticism. It's a common story because it's a

fun story to tell. The skill is in taking a story that has been told so many times and keeping it from being boring, and the author mostly succeeded. She had an automatic advantage with the characters, since anyone reading the books is already familiar with them and cares about them. But there was some good character development there, not just the same old same old and getting nothing new. There were some things that I wouldn't have expected from a licensed novel, like the revelation that Teal'c had fathered and lost children previous to Rya'c. The characterization was generally solid. And of course I loved Daniel's Sha're angst.

The other way she succeeded was in the trials themselves, which were interesting. A few planets' trials seemed too easy, or too contrived, but most were exciting. It's hard to build tension when you know for certain that none of the characters will die, but the way she built some of the trials made you want to see how they would turn out.

The other nice thing the author did was tie in the canon in new and interesting ways, which is one of the things I love to see in fic. If nothing else, the plot point of tying what Aris Boch knew of SG1, and especially what he knew of Daniel, to Sha're deceiving Ammounet would have endeared me to the book. It both explained away something I didn't like about the series and brought in Sha're. But the speculation about Ra was very well done. Tying up movie canon and show canon is always hard, but it worked here.

The only thing about the plot that I really disliked was Ra's ghost floating around haunting them. It didn't seem to fit. Also, Bes' story didn't seem to fit with what we know of the Ancients and the Ascended. I would have been more forgiving of that had the book been written during an earlier season, of course, but AFAIK, it was written very recently. But that's just my opinion. I couldn't point to one thing and say this is anti-canon, it's just a feeling that it doesn't fit.

Bruce says

What a wonder surprise! I've never read any fan fiction before, and admittedly even looked down on it. I'm a long time fan of the Stargate franchise, and have been re-living all the SG-1 episodes on Amazon Prime. I'm coming up on the end up season 10, have already re-watched SGA and SGU, so thought I'd risk a fan book to keep the love alive. A little Goodreads research told me *Barque of Heaven* was my best bet, and I wasn't disappointed for a second. Suzanne Wood has done an amazing job with the dialog. Speech patterns exactly matched what I have come to expect from each character, and I could hear their voices in my head as I read. It was an immersive experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. Now for some more Goodreads research to choose the next book. I hope I'm lucky enough to find more that portray the characters so well.

Craterdweller says

Not bad for a first novel

The plot was really interesting and kept things moving. Thought the characters were slightly off, particularly Carter, but nothing that was so distracting as to make me want to put it down.

Zelda of Unapologetic Reviews says

This story takes place during 3rd season. You definitely need to know the series up to that point, but not the previous book.

The story itself is pretty exciting. As can be seen from the summary, they are going from planet to planet in a test. It's very hard to stop reading, because you keep wondering how they are going to get the address and password to the next gate, and when they go through, what's going to be the next challenge. Though there are more exciting planets than others, but if we were talking about actual people, then they would be all dead halfway through.

The characterization is generally good, but O'Neill feels a bit off. On the one hand, he says these nicknames that I can't remember him doing in the show. He calls Daniel "Danny" sometimes, and Teal'c "T". I took off half a star for that. My actual rating is 3.5 stars.

What it also lacked for me was Carter. She seems to be sometimes forgotten. The guys all have something going on, but Carter feels like she's just dragged along.

Overall, an enjoyable story, exciting, and interesting. Good entertainment.

Elaine says

Well-written, good use of the team and its dynamics; they're not all split up and worrying about each other ad nauseum but working together as a cohesive unit. In character, plausible - I like it! I might have wanted a little bit more at the end, but then I may be spoiled by fan fiction.

Miss Clark says

I consider this one the very best SG novel, to date, to have been published by Fandemonium. Wood, almost entirely throughout, with a small number of misses, got the team dynamic down, especially their friendship and family ties to each other. Interesting story. Pretty well written. Less typos than normal. It was a good day. Good story. Will definitely read again.
