



The Stars Blue Yonder

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Chief Terry Myell died and became a god. Now he's back to life, careening around space and time at the behest of a voice that told him to save all of mankind. Helping and hindering this quest are his elderly wife, his young wife, grandchildren who haven't been born yet, romantic rivals he hasn't even met, a descendant from two thousand years in the future, and an alien nemesis who calls itself the Flying Doctor. Life in the military has never been so complicated.

Commander Jodenny Scott would agree. She's seven months pregnant and trying to come to peace with her husband's death. When Myell reappears with tales of time travel, she's not sure what to believe.

But with an invading army bearing down on Earth's last fleet of spaceships, there's not much time for debate. When the dust clears Jodenny is stranded in an Australia she never imagined, and Myell's more desperate than ever to rescue her from aliens, from treachery, and from history itself.

The Stars Blue Yonder Details

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Kris Sellgren says

I truly enjoyed this novel of time travel and reality-hopping. The hero is trapped in a loop where he appears for 24 hours all along his beloved wife's timeline -- from her childhood on one planet, to her service in the space fleet, to her old age on a different planet -- with the limitation that no-one remembers anything he does in each visit. Can he break this loop somehow, and save humans from annihilation by evil aliens? This is the third, and my favorite, in McDonald's SF trilogy.

Jess Saxton says

I very much enjoy Sandra MacDonald's writing. Being intensely interested in the military sci-fi genre, I very much enjoyed the first two books in this series, especially with the Aboriginal mythos thrown in.

I was a little underwhelmed by this book. Sandra McDonald's writing is excellent, mind. It's the only thing that kept me reading to the end. That, and I very much like Jodenny as a character.

The story was a bit drawn-out though. I think this book could have easily been half as long as it was, and the story could have still been conveyed. She keeps you guessing about Myell's time travel through three-quarters of the book and plows through the rest once the proverbial cat is out of the bag.

It was still a great read, though.

Cathy says

It was more interesting than compelling. I liked the way the author wove the stories together, mixing in the sci-fi, time travel and mythological elements. It held my interest throughout, and frequently piqued my curiosity, but wasn't exactly exciting. I would have enjoyed more explanation and exploration of the mythological elements. Which is actually a great way to leave things if, as the epilogue hints, there are more books to come in the series. I was under the impression that it was a trilogy, but the author doesn't indicate on her website if that's true. It may be that this story arc, for Jodenny and Myell, is complete, but more exploration of this universe is yet to come. I hope so! I enjoyed it quite a bit and would recommend the series, but I'd feel even better about it if this was one more step along the road than the final wrap-up. There are too many unanswered questions.

AnnaM says

Amazing. This is a forever keeper for me. I plan to reread the whole series back to back as soon as time allows.

This story continues the romance of Terry Myell and Jodenny Scott. Full of myths and legends, time travel

and heartbreak, aliens and alien technology, it's an emotional ride with lots of Ah Ha! moments based on the previous two books.

My only caveat is to recommend one reads all three books back to back so as to get the full effect of the references in the last book. Don't be put off by the ending of the second book. All is explained.

I love this series and hope the ending leads to a new beginning.

Sherwood Smith says

Thoroughly enjoyed this science fiction book. I managed to miss that there was a second one (read *Outback Stars* and liked it) but McDonald expertly brings the reader up to speed along with Chief Terry Myell's family when he shows up suddenly, not a day older than when he died and was buried forty years previously, on another world.

Once we're up to speed, and discover that Terry is ripped in and out of space and time, we are ripped with him. Time paradoxes can get old fast for me, but McDonald never lets the story go back to base one over and over again--the forward motion occurs at first by inadvertent fellow travelers. Terry tries desperately to get back to his pregnant wife (at the time he crashed), and reunite, then stay with her, but he has the detritus of the future as well as the past to deal with, along with his having become a god, the breaking time machine (called an ouroboros), the evil Roon who are bent on wiping out humanity, and native Australians who keep track of some high tech wizardry within the Dreamtime. McDonald never loses sight of the emotional fallout of this situation, what with pregnant Jodenny not only coping with a dead-and-alive husband, but with her second husband after the death of her first. I was riveted from the start, and had trouble putting this book down in order to get my chores done.

R.K. says

(Yep, finally got around to updating my review of the book from 2009..)

After enjoying *The Outback Stars* and *The Stars Down Under* I was happy to see the ARC of *Blue Yonder* arrive until I read it.

The Stars Blue Yonder by Sandra McDonald stretches the bounds of reality a bit more than the other novels. The science fiction presented in previous novels was believable and the gods presented were explained enough to be believed without being head scratching. So, science fiction and mysticism were combined in a lovely cake with a cherry on top.

Stars Down Under was a game changer and unfortunately leaves *Stars Blue Yonder* something a dilemma: How to continue with the story with the events at the end of *Down Under* or how to out do yourself after Heath Ledger's Joker performance.

The beginning of the book picks up logically where *Down Under* left off. Several of our main characters marooned on a world living out the rest of their lives until the protagonists are reunited. I'm leaving

descriptions as vague as possible due to spoilers. The past several years are explained quite well and then the two lovely words I hate arrived: Time Travel. Followed shortly there after by: Universe correcting itself and the events you just witnessed never happened.

The previous books have dealt with traveling from world to world so why not time travel? Time Travel in small doses in fine, Time Travel for sake bringing characters in from previous novels and then finding out that pulling characters out of time and letting the universe just replace them like nothing happened is just too clean. I don't mind Time Travel so long as it's smart Time Travel.

Characters from previous books are introduced or re-introduced several time(s) are just as interesting as they were and the background information on several locations just as 1900's Australia is well detailed without being a drag.

When the finale is reached it is good and like most of the book is quick and maybe too breezy of finale.

Overall, the book is still a good read just not as good as the others (hence the 2 star rating) and the entire trilogy of books is worth your time.

PJ Who Once Was Peejay says

This is the third book in the trilogy begun with The Outback Stars. I loved this trilogy from start to finish and this final book didn't disappoint me. Impossible to summarize without spoiling things, but everyone I loved in the first and second books are here to finish things off. And there are new characters to love, ones I hope will find books of their own. I recommend this trilogy highly. It's ironic, since I resisted reading The Outback Stars for some time. I thought it was military sf, which I don't particularly care for. It is set in the military, but it's so much more than that: a touching love story, a mystical journey through Aboriginal myth, a mystery, and a confrontation with alien technology. Just a great read.

Julia says

This is book #3 in this series, in the previous book at the end Terry died and became a god. But these books, among many other things, are about time travel, and Terry keeps trying to get back to his (often pregnant) wife Jodenny. Not that she's pregnant often, but she does **seem** to be pregnant for most of the book, even though we also see her as a schoolgirl, a young cadet, a very old woman, and especially in 1855 in Australia where the book ends. I was up until a 3:45 reading this book; it's that unputdownable. (If that's not a real word it should be!) The time travel is accomplished through Australian Aboriginal myth, making this book unique in science fiction, as far as I know.

Nes says

Not the ending I was expecting

I power read the series, it has been a great immersive ride, the world building spectacular, but...

There were many unresolved storylines, I would have liked a 4th book so we could get to them. Hopefully there will be an extension of the stars down under series, I haven't visited the author's webpage so that option remains to be discovered. A good book overall.

Karl Schaeffer says

Book 3 of the Trilogy. It's a book of time travel. It's somewhat jarring that the author moves us around out of linear time. It's also a love story and an improbable story of friends and enemies. I scratched my head a bit as I started reading this series, but I grew to like Jodenny and Terry. I'll look for more books by Sandra McDonald.

Carolyn F. says

I liked this book but not as much as the other 2.

Terry has died, but not really, and is traveling around Jodenny's life. Most of the time she doesn't know him or doesn't believe it's really him. So, he's heartbroken and morose a lot of the time and Jodenny is paranoid and bitter. One time she believes him and travels around time with him. He's on some secret mission with the Australian Gods wanting him to win but not helping him at all.

The biggest reason for the lower rating is the constant time travel, even when he's finally figured some it out. He's still traveling all of the the place. I think the author could have cut them down by half and I wouldn't have started to get bored with that part. Homer was a strange character whose ending didn't really gel for me either.

Saidah Gilbert says

There was a reason I didn't look too hard to find the rest of The Outback Stars trilogy. The story did not end satisfactorily. The point of the whole story was to name-drop Australian and Aboriginal names and culture but not much else apparently. The story was ostensibly focussed on Aboriginal artefacts but Mighty Whitey was all over the place. Aboriginals were marginal even in their own story.

Barb in Maryland says

Wow. A real humdinger of a book. Chief Myell died a hero at the end of book two, became a god, defeated the Roons attempt to takeover Earth. So now what. Jodenny and company are stranded on a planet very far off the beaten path, and Terry is now at the mercy of a time-hopping transportation ring that keeps shuttling him around his known universe. Terry's new mission is to destroy Kultana (whoever or whatever that is), which will stop another takeover try by the deadly Roons. But all he really wants to do is find (and hang on to) Jodenny. The finding part seems to be fairly easy--it is the hanging on to part that's hard. A real roller coaster ride of a story.

Epeeblade says

(cross posted from my blog, I received this title as an ARC)

One of the best things I can say about a book is that I couldn't put it down, that I had to keep on reading to find out what happens next. That certainly applies to *The Stars Blue Yonder*, the third book in this Aussie Space Opera series by Sandra McDonald. From the moment we meet Terry Myell again, the action doesn't stop.

Especially since Myell supposedly died in book two, leaving his pregnant wife, Jodenny Scott, stranded on another planet, away from familiar star systems. Myell apparently has a problem with time travel, or rather, time travel has a problem with him. Terry, much like Sam in *Quantum Leap*, can't control where he ends up, and spends less than a day in various time eddys, only for the people he visits not to remember him nor do his actions have any consequences on the time stream.

This book has so many fascinating threads and subplots. Why is Myell endlessly traveling through time? Will he manage to come back to the woman he loves, and not during a time eddy in which she is married to another man? Who are the mysterious gods that may or may not be directing Terry's path? What about the alien race threatening humanity?

Usually I hate books where the heroine is pregnant throughout (a certain title comes to mind specifically) but Jodenny comes off as honest, realistic and yet the strong military woman she is. (And she doesn't annoy me. That scores plenty of points in my book.)

I also hate book reviews that give away too much of the plot:) The only bit of criticism I have is that you simply must read the first two books in the series (*The Outback Stars* and *The Stars Down Under*) to really get the most out of this novel. McDonald has created a fascinating world, blending religion, folklore and good old fashioned action-adventure to create something truly unique. Her writing has grown even tighter with this product and I am looking forward to the next book.

September says

NOOOOOOOOooooo!!!! I just read the synopsis!! Myell died?!?!?! All I know is McDonald better make up for it!!!! They just got together!!! Grrrr!!!

Well, now. That's just not right. The front page has this book listed this title as the second book in the trilogy, but... after reading the synopsis on the back of *The Stars Down Under*, I think this is book 3. Well, way to spoil it for the reader!! I will never trust the inside flap again!!

I didn't read the next sentence. He's been returned to life!! I was still frustrated knowing he was going to die. However, it didn't make it any less painful.

Outstanding!!! The trilogy just kept getting better & better!! Easily a new favourite series!

I'm not quite sure how things actually ended up working in the end, nor do I understand the epilogue or why it was included. An opportunity for future endeavours? A spin-off?

You'd think that not quite understanding why the ending worked would be a major hang up, but somehow... I guess I was in deep enough that I could suspend belief for that moment? Or maybe it made sense in a way that I haven't quite fathomed yet. All I know is that this book was quite the ride!!

Only once did I think I knew what was going to happen, & I was still wrong. Extremely impressed for a debut trilogy. Sandra McDonald is a new favourite author!

I sucked these books down in no time flat!! I must read more of her work!! Alas, my library has nothing more by her. However, I did find a Kindle called Fir Na Tine, which I've heard great things about! Can't wait!!
