



Traveling In Space

Steven Paul Leiva

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A unique science fiction first contact novel told from the aliens' point-of-view.

Traveling In Space Details

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From Reader Review Traveling In Space for online ebook

Ed Drury says

I was intrigued by the description of this book. Alien visitors to Earth as told from their perspective. Obviously, this would be an extremely difficult assignment to pull off and I thought immediately that it would come off one of two ways : insightful commentary on the state of our culture or extremely riotous satire. My bad. It works exceedingly well as both commentary and satire. My favorite qualities of the book was the way the author created an alien race, quite advanced and yet very flawed. The contrast between human culture and their culture was the source of a lot of the satire, but the qualities the two races share I found quite interesting and revealing. I also liked the efforts the Aliens go to in trying to understand our languages and especially things like metaphor and slang. A wealth of good humor mined there. I did feel the story dragged a bit in the middle, the book could have been a bit shorter. The pace toward an unpredictable and exciting conclusion saves it. A really great read, I know that some people will be offended by some of the observations about life on our little blue marble, or the attitudes of the Aliens toward certain hot button issues that have been over politicized at least in my country over the past decade or more. To those people I would only say that you need to read more than that which props up the political leanings of your current favorite flavor.

Greg Tymn says

For whatever reason, I haven't found many science fiction authors who have the capability of blending dry humor into a techno/philosophical/sci-fi drama. Rob Kroese is probably the most successful modern sci-fi author in that vein, and even he is not always on the mark. I think the humor detracted from an otherwise fine novel and will possibly turn some hard-core sci-fi fans away from the book.

On the other hand, I think the ontological, epistemological and ethical questions and observations in the novel were very well done. On the surface, the book is as lightweight as a blonde at the beach. A little deeper reading reveals, Descartes, Kant and Wittgenstein, among others. The age old questions of Who am I?, Why am I here?, and What happens after I die? are presented from the standpoint of aliens who are surprised to find that they are not the only living intelligence in the universe. It's an interesting book.

So, if you're a "Hitchhikers Guide" fan (I am not), you'll probably enjoy this novel on many levels. If you are a more "serious" student of alien cultural dichotomies, there is enough here for some interesting late night conversations among friends.

Matt Levy says

As a huge fan of TRS, I listened to the audiobook because of Jeff Cannata's narration and I think that might be the way to do it. Being able to hear all the different characters voices brings the books to life. The book was really interesting and I liked how it looked at everything from the "aliens" perspective. There are a lot of

funny moments with them trying to understand human culture. Some of the parts dragged a bit, but the last few chapters were great and I liked how it all wrapped up.

Hiru says

The audio version was highly enjoyable. Jeff Cannata was amazing in his voice acting. The story was amusing and raised good questions if you cared to ponder on them. I would describe this book as 30% Humor, 60% Soft Sci-Fi 10% Research Paper.

Alyssa Garza says

Played with some fun ideas about aliens and humanity itself. Quick to get through and a comical and at times insightful ride.

Carey Upton says

Loved this book, very funny and very insightful.
An aliens view of odd world, great.

Barbara S. says

This was an interesting take on the old alien encounter trope. Switching up old cliches can be interesting, and peering at humanity through an outsiders' point of view was entertaining. The take on the aliens, the Life, though nothing revolutionary, was well thought through and fairly clever.

The point, of course, is to have an "unbiased" critique of humanity. To look at humanity from an outsiders' point of view, so that it seems fresh and interesting. It's not quite as deadly serious as all that, however. The book has a light tone and is fairly fun throughout. This keeps it from being overly preachy, which might be a pitfall in this kind of story. I did like that some things were seen as amazingly positive, some as horrific, and some as just, well, alien. As would make sense. It did strike me, however, that it was odd that in all of the analysis of humanity that gender disparity is not mentioned once. The Life seem to have an egalitarian society in this regard; didn't they notice that humans have treated half of their population as "tenpercenters" throughout most of human history? It seemed like an odd omission.

Regardless, this was a clever book, a fun read, and a cute twist on alien contact. I'd recommend it.

AndTheRest says

I had a love/hate relationship with this read. Loved the concept, but grew tired of the long middle section where there was much... So. Much. Talking. Appreciated how even-handed the author was in kicking around

the Big Issues, didn't really connect with the human characters kicking them around. Two words of advice: skip the character descriptions at the front of the Kindle edition (minor spoilers throughout), and do not attempt to use as an escape from the headlines of the day.

Bradly says

A hilarious, humorous, and often thought provoking first contact story from an Alien point of view.

Raymond says

A unique perspective on an often written theme.

Jordan Brown says

This book had really strong momentum at first. The concept was fresh and funny and the audiobook performance from Jeff Cannata was the best I've ever heard. But the middle third of book had a huge pacing problem. It took me weeks to finish because I would get hopelessly bored. There was an extreme amount of telling not showing, even in the climax, and I think this would have benefitted from some serious edits.

Monkey says

great book.. can't wait for the audio version. the point of view of us by aliens is worth the read alone.. plenty of great humor and characters with depth..

Jeff says

Traveling in Space is an interesting take on the humans-meet-aliens trope, as it is told from the aliens' point of view. In the novel, a group of humanoid aliens who are traveling through interstellar space looking for habitable worlds pick up some of our radio and TV transmissions and decide to stop in to learn more about us and our planet.

Things that are part of us humans' every day life which we take for granted are given a fresh look from the aliens' perspective: our politics, wars, relationships, religion, technology, etc. Since they are benevolent and more technically advanced than we are it is decided that they pose no threat and the leaders and scientists of Earth meet with them to compare and contrast the two different civilizations. Some hilarious and some poignant conversations and interactions result. The human representatives also add interesting observations and commentary about the aliens' planet which they call The Living World.

What I liked most about this book was the humor; it was actually laugh-out-loud hilarious in spots. Especially good were the sections in which the aliens try to grasp our concept of religion. They just could not

understand how it became such a force in the world and retains its influence over so many when it is illogical and flies in the face of natural laws. Parts of the book were sad and grim, such as when the humans tried to explain such things as wars, mass murders, and genocide.

What I didn't like about the book was the pacing. There were long stretches filled with dialogue which didn't seem to add to the narrative and this resulted in me losing interest at times. I found this to be more towards the middle of the novel. It starts out strong and the ending is satisfying.

I read this on my iPhone Kindle app and I wish I would've listened to it in Audible. It was hard to motivate myself to read this because I look at a computer screen all day at work and really the last thing I wanted to do at night was look at an even smaller computer screen. This certainly took away from the experience. Overall, I liked this book although I think it would've been better if it had been pared down a bit in its bloated middle section.

Tom Lange says

This is one of my favorite sci-fi books of all times. Such a refreshing prospective on the normal genre. Lots of laugh out loud moments too. Seriously laughed out loud! Minor nitpicks are it is a little preachy and biased at times which is normal for sci-fi. It was just odd when it was scenes trying to portray unbiased discussion. Other than that one note, the book is always on my top recommendations lists when people ask for a good fun Sci Fi.

Remus says

"fucking gorgeous" and funny :)
