



## Inside Star Trek: The Real Story

*Herbert F. Solow , Robert H. Justman*

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## **Inside Star Trek: The Real Story** Herbert F. Solow , Robert H. Justman

Before the actors were cast, before the U.S.S. Enterprise™ was designed, before the phenomenon exploded, there were three men who set about creating the Star Trek legend. Gene Roddenberry died in 1991. Herb Solow and Bob Justman now remain the only two people on the planet Earth who really know what happened in those early, heady days.

INSIDE STAR TREK is a comprehensive look at the development and life of a television and cultural phenomenon. It is also the story no one else could tell. Between them, Solow and Justman had a hand in virtually every aspect of the development and production of Star Trek – from the battles with NBC and the internal conflicts with studio executives to the behind-the-scenes decisions about actors and their characters, writers, scripts, directors, budgets, and the endless details of weekly television production.

Together, the two men debunk many of the myths that have developed around Star Trek in the last thirty years. At last, here is the fascinating and accurate account of a unique television series launched against astronomical odds – a television series that transported millions of viewers into another world and into an unprecedented, thirty-year, multimedia, multibillion-dollar cultural phenomenon.

## **Inside Star Trek: The Real Story Details**

Date : Published June 3rd 1996 by Pocket Books (first published May 1st 1991)

ISBN : 9780671896287

Author : Herbert F. Solow , Robert H. Justman

Format : Hardcover 458 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Star Trek, Nonfiction, Biography, Tv

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## **From Reader Review Inside Star Trek: The Real Story for online ebook**

### **TrumanCoyote says**

Pluses and minuses--tended to seem a bit canned; the long quotes from the principals were obviously written/prepared, even though they looked like an oral history--and who wrote the text in the middle? Also the sic's in the memos grew wearisome. But great was the recounting of how the "Space: the final frontier" speech came to be--in step-by-step facsimile recreation. And I loved Fred Freiberger's quote: "I thought I could never have a more unpleasant experience in my life than when I, a Jewish kid from the Bronx, parachuted out of a burning B17 over Germany to land in the midst of eighty million Nazis. But that was before my association with Star Trek." And this they're calling at the end the best times of their lives? Roddenberry didn't come out looking too good--but Justman's last meeting with him at the end was poignant, or touching, or weird. Well, something...even though it also suffered a bit from the chronic horn-tooting throughout. Maybe they thought they still had to convince Simon and Schuster to publish them; anyway, I got a bit tired of the "At last, the real inside story" shtick--when really a lot of it was just like budget reports. I think I liked Shatner's book better--and Solow was often facile and unctuous; Justman came off a little bitter.

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### **Daniel Kukwa says**

A straightforward, warts-and-all production p.o.v. history of the original "Star Trek" -- very much from behind the scenes. It's full of details that are amazing, preposterous, triumphant & tragic. It's also a very clear-eyed overview of Gene Roddenberry: the man, the myth, and the myth-maker he became. As an anecdotal history, it is beyond priceless.

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### **Mary JL says**

There are many fan legends and ideas which have grown up in the 40-plus years Star Trek has been with us.

Herbert Solow and Robert Justman were with the original Star Trek series from the very beginning. They give a lot of "behind the scenes" details; photoes---not just of the show but backstage; conventions and so on.

Many died in the wool ST fans think Gene Roddenberry was semi-divine. (Really). There is NO doubt he has a great idea in Star Trek and worked very hard to bring a great idea to life. However, he did not do it alone and I believe that people should recognize the many contributions of other people. A TV production is a team effort--the more all work together, the better.

Not just these writers--Solow and Justman--but Dorothy Fontana and Gene L. Coon and Matt Jeffries and many others had a part in making STAR TREK the landmark series it was.

Lots of good background and research material; a must for the Star Trek fan.

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## **Lily says**

I was curious about what went on behind the scenes while Star Trek the original series was being made. After reading this book I got an eyeful to say the least. I didn't realize the uphill battle that everyone had making this series. NBC and the studio didn't stand behind the show. I never did believe that the Nielsen ratings ever did represent the viewing public well at all. And after two letter writing campaigns showing that ST did indeed have a large following they still didn't treat the show like it should have been given a chance.

There were plenty of people that should be give cudos for bringing the show to life over overwhelming odds. I know that Scotty was called the miracle worker, well on the Starship Enterprise he was. BUT the people behind the show, two miracle workers that stand out is Matt Jefferies, how that man was able to design a set, and make the future come to life, on a shoe string budget is a miracle and Bill Theiss for putting together costumes also on a shoe string budget (and meeting the demands of Gene Roddenberry to make the woman's clothing skimpier) Both men were miracle workers with how they were able to improvise.

I do wish that all the actors got their time in the sun, but Bill Shatner was told by several that he was the 'STAR' of the show. Roddenberry even told one of the producers, who took over for Herb Solow, during a meeting with Bill and Leonard Nimoy, (he asked Gene who is the star of the show Bill or Leonard, talk about being put on the spot. Gene should have said they both were, just to keep the peace, but instead he said Bill was and walked quickly out of the office)

I wish Leonard had gotten his wishes for Spock realized. I do think there were plenty of Spock episodes, but Leonard was fighting for the integrity of Spock with the writers.

I wish there had been more things mentioned about the actors, this book was on the production end of things. I read Shatner's Memories book and Leonard's I Am Spock and they both give you a perspective from the actors POV.

this book is worth reading

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## **Leo H says**

Very very good. An in depth look at the original series of Star Trek, written by the Programme Executive in charge of commissioning it and running it, (Solow, and no I don't know how to pronounce that either) and the Associate Producer, who at several points seems to have had nervous breakdowns handling EVERYTHING on the show (Justman).

Lots of interesting stuff I didn't know, for example, the production company who made Star Trek, Desilu, was owned by the American TV Comedian Lucille Ball. Which I found odd. Everyone at the company and within the TV industry did as well though, so that's fine. Also, Gene Roddenberry was... less than a saint. Both in terms of his personal life and taking credit for stuff he didn't do. Matt Jefferies on the other hand, the guy who designed and built most of the ships, sets and set dressing on Star Trek, is possibly my new hero. The show had ZERO budget for it's entire run, every episode they ever made lost Desilu money before it was even aired (because of stupid TV budget reasons), and the budget was constantly being slashed. And where

were those cuts made? In Matt Jefferies' set budget, obv. The writers constantly describe their heartbreak at, once again, having to go and tell Matt he was going to have to do everything for half the money, and Matt sighing and going "Okay...". And he still made Star Trek look amazing, with beautiful sets and gorgeously designed spaceships. I love you, Matt Jefferies.

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### **Jen says**

Great book for any fan wanting to learn more about the original series, but be warned: you're not going to like Gene Roddenberry after reading it. The book's two authors claim to have been close personal friends of Roddenberry's, so I guess even his friends weren't able to say much good about him. From claiming credit for other's work, to his constant womanizing, affairs, and treatment of the actresses as nothing more than sexual objects, to his total abandonment of the series the second he thought it would be canceled, there's little left to admire about Gene in my mind.

There's also not a whole lot about the actors here, although there are some tidbits. This is a true "behind the scenes" book, about everything not being filmed on set. The book is so hefty that some of the details get a bit mind-numbing: I imagine only the most die-hard fan really cares about the intricacies of budgeting on the Desilu backlot.

I did enjoy learning about the early days, the script-writing process, and the constant challenges the show faced, though, not to mention I never even knew that Shatner wore a toupee. ;) So all in all, a good, eye-opening read.

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### **Laura Lis Scott says**

I've read just about all of the "making of" books on Star Trek, starting with *The Making of Star Trek* (which is still perhaps my favorite).

For anyone who does film, video, television production, this is a must read. I truly enjoyed reading how they bootstrapped this show with no real budget. The combination of tales from the front office, related by Herb Solow, and the trenches of production, by Bob Justman, paints a fascinating picture of the behind-the-scenes action on this show.

I love how they did some of the sound effects. (The woosh as the ship flies by in the opening titles was literally "wwsshh" on the microphone.) I got a kick out of how they came up with costumes and props guerrilla style. I truly loved how Lucy and the Desilu studio took a chance on this oddball (for the time) show (while producing *Mission: Impossible* as well). And it was truly enlightening to me that one of the main reasons NBC greenlit the show was because it was owned by RCA, and RCA wanted shows to showcase color programs so they could sell more color TV sets. I don't care why they greenlit the show, I'm just glad they did.

It's also rather sad to read about how everything changed when Paramount bought Desilu and took over. Live by the bean counters, and die by the bean counters.

If you're into the Roddenberry universe, ship designs, initial visualizations of the show, and more of the

creative side, then I recommend finding a copy of The Making of Star Trek. But if you love independent film/video production and can appreciate the dynamics of pushing the boundaries in a very creatively conservative Hollywood, then this is the book for you.

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### **Cynthia says**

If you like the original Star Trek and occasionally watch a rerun on TV this book is for you. It has a lot of detail about the production, writing, cast and crew of the program. There is a bit that seems gossipy, such as naming all the women on the cast who slept with Gene Roddenberry. But the rest of it is very interesting. It is remarkable that the series was ever made with all it had stacked against it.

I especially like all the photos and original memos and documents that are included in the book.

It was a quick read and was organized in a way that kept the reader interested. I liked getting the perspective from both the executive producer and the producer. They have a slightly different take on a few things. I appreciate the television show even more after reading this.

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### **Brad Abraham says**

In 1996 I worked as an usher at a Star Trek exhibit in Toronto. the exhibit closed at the end of December that year, and while the regular staff was let go, I was kept on to help pack up the costumes, props, set pieces, and gift shop, for its move to Niagara Falls. Packing up the gift shop, there was a stack of HC copies of INSIDE STAR TREK, signed by co-author Herb Solow. One of those HC's found their way into my satchel. Actually, it was cool with management so not technically theft.

The book went on my shelf along with my other film/TV books. I had every intention of getting around to it, but life got in the way. Jump forward 20 years - roughly the span of time between Star Trek's debut in 1966 and TNG's premiere in 1987. I began running the original Trek on Netflix, realizing that while I had seen many episodes, I hadn't seen all of them. As I watched (and continue to) through the series, my gaze drifted to that copy on my shelf, which had followed me around for 20 years. Finally, I decided to crack it open and give it a read.

I'm quite glad I did. Inside Star Trek is and probably remains THE definitive account of the rise and fall of that series; never a ratings winner, it lost money for pretty much everyone involved. none of the people who worked on Trek had any inclination that fifty years later Trek would be an institution, and an entertainment colossus.

Solow and Justman were there at the beginning and beyond, and they leave nearly no stone unturned, detailing the conflicts, battles, and collision of egos that created this classic TV series. It's all here; the battle of egos between Shatner and Nimoy, the letter-writing campaigns to save Star Trek (secretly engineered by Gene Roddenberry), and Roddenberry's own flaws are given ample coverage. While hardly a hagiography, Inside Trek paints a less than flattering portrait of the Great Bird of the Galaxy, while remaining sympathetic towards Trek's controversial creator.

Full of photos, memos, and memories, Inside Star Trek is, despite its length, a brisk read. Obviously your

interest will depend on how much of a fan you are, but if you're at all interested in how television was (and still is) made, it'll be well worth your time. It took 20 years for me to get around to it, but I'm glad I finally did.

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### **Octavi says**

Genial y exhaustivo libro sobre la creación, caída y resurgimiento de Star Trek. Con documentos gráficos y fotos impagables. "Fascinante"...

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### **Bryn Young-roberts says**

Probably the best and most frank account of what really went on behind the scenes of a tv show - at times its even quite shocking!

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### **Devyn Duffy says**

Of course this is a book about Star Trek, but more than that, it's a book about the making of a TV series in the 1960s. The behind-the-scenes details are astounding. A show was placed on a network TV schedule with few completed scripts, a budget too small to realize the creators' vision, and a struggling studio taking a financial loss on every episode. With so little foresight and so little coordination between the financial and creative sides, it's a miracle that Star Trek ever aired at all. One can only hope that TV production processes have improved in the fifty years since.

As for Star Trek itself, this book is full of details and photos that should interest people who liked the show. However, even though this story is mostly lovingly retold by two people who say that they had a great time despite all the pressure, the end result is an unintended hatchet job. The work environment in the Star Trek studio comes across as toxic, and Gene Roddenberry in particular seems to have been quite a jerk--from taking credit and money for other people's work to exploitation of women to abusive and manipulative behavior. (The most horrifying act in the book, though, comes from another Gene, Gene Coon.) Even the authors, both of whom say that they liked or even loved Roddenberry, found the Star Trek working environment too difficult to endure for the full three seasons. In this sense, too, one hopes that TV production environments have improved in the last fifty years.

Under intense pressure, against long odds, a group of deeply flawed people created a good TV show. Was it worth it? The authors think it was.

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### **Irene says**

Este libro es un *must* para cualquier persona mínimamente interesada en entender cómo se gestó, rodó y canceló la serie original de *Star Trek*, contando además que el libro está escrito por dos personas que estuvieron directamente involucradas en gran parte del proceso.

Lógicamente, si solo se ha visto algún que otro episodio, entonces dudo que cualquier lectura sobre la serie sea necesaria. Pero, si se siente curiosidad por entender el origen de todo el fenómeno *Star Trek* y por saber más sobre el mitificado Gene Roddenberry, los actores y escritores, los guiones, el diseño de escenarios, objetos y vestuario (incluidas las orejas de Spock, por supuesto), la producción y postproducción y los problemas de presupuesto, entre otras cosas, entonces este libro es una buena elección, por encima quizás de los tres volúmenes de *These Are The Voyages* de Marc Cushman (uno por temporada), los cuales son quizás una lectura demasiado extensa y detallada como para tener una visión general sobre el tema.

Admito que Roddenberry me ha resultado desagradable y me ha acabado cayendo realmente mal. Mujeriego, ególatra y endiosado, robaba ideas, defendía a su «niño» a capa y espada, y ninguneaba a compañeros tan o más importantes que él para el desarrollo de la serie, sin contar que quería las faldas siempre más cortas (y muchas veces se encargaba él personalmente de tomar las medidas). Personalmente, ciertos detalles sobre la vida íntima de algunos de los implicados en la serie (incluyendo algunos actores) me han resultado chocantes, cuanto menos. Los autores no escatiman tanto críticas como halagos hacia Roddenberry.

Los pilotos y la primera temporada se llevan el grueso del libro, por lo importante del nacimiento de la serie y porque, como comentaba antes, los autores la abandonaron hacia el final. De todos modos, también se mencionan, aunque de pasada y sin entrar en detalles, tanto la serie animada como *The Next Generation* y las películas existentes en el momento de la publicación del libro.

Sin duda, este volumen es un básico imprescindible para cualquier amante de *Star Trek: The Original Series*. Le doy cinco estrellas porque me ha dado exactamente lo que estaba buscando.

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### M Christopher says

A re-read of a book I've owned for years. "Inside Star Trek" provides a new look at the near mythic development and production of The Original Series (ST:TOS) from the perspective of two men who had a great deal to do with it: Desilu/Paramount executive Herb Solow (remember his credit transposed over the face of Balok at the end of the show?) and assistant director/producer Bob Justman. Overall, the book is an affectionate but unflinching look at the struggle to get Star Trek on the air and keep it there. If you are one who can still believe no ill of Roddenberry, Shatner, or Nimoy, you may not want to read this book. Solow and Justman have great respect for all three but paint a picture of each that is far from hero worship. Yes, Shatner treated the rest of the cast shabbily but not unforgiveably so. Yes, Nimoy could be a pill, too. And, yes, Roddenberry was a self-aggrandizing womanizer who comes across as a genius with ideas but so needy of acclaim and so thoroughly chauvinistic that you can't help but wish those great ideas had come from a better man. There's plenty of humor, though, and pretty much all sins are forgiven.

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### reherrma says

Als **Gene Roddenberry** in den frühen 60er Jahren daranging, den Star Trek Mythos zu entwickeln, haben sich zwei Männer als Geburtshelfer dieses Mythos erwiesen.

Anfang 1964 wurde **Herbert F. Solow** unter Vertrag genommen, um die Fernsehproduktion in den **Desilu-Studios** zu leiten. Als im April desselben Jahres ein etwas zerwühlter, leise sprechender Ex-Polizist (Gene Roddenberry) Solows Büro betrat, um ihm die Idee für eine neue Science Fiction-Fernsehserie vorzustellen, erkannte Solow auf den ersten Blick das Potential dieser Serie und schloß auf der Stelle einen

Drehbuchvertrag mit Roddenberry ab.

Kurz darauf holten Solow und Roddenberry **Robert H. Justman** als Regieassistenten an Bord und begannen mit der Arbeit an den beiden Pilotfilmen zu Star Trek. Er wurde später beteiligter Produzent der Serie, die danach Fernsehgeschichte geschrieben hat.

Solow und Justman waren nach dem Tod von Roddenberry die einzigen Zeitzeugen, die von den ersten Stunden von Star Trek berichten konnten, beide haben 1996 mit diesem vorliegenden Band (hervorragend übersetzt von Ralph Sander) ein ehrliches, detailliertes und exzellentes Buch darüber geschrieben, wie die Show entstand, wie sie entwickelt wurde und wie sie gemacht wurde.

Was mich an diesem Band am meisten faszinierte war die Tatsache, dass die meisten Sekundärwerke über Star Trek von Fans geschrieben wurde, in denen immer die eigene Begeisterung und eine naiv-wohlwollende Betrachtung der Macher und ihres Produktes spürbar war; hier aber handelt es sich um ein Buch der "Macher" der Serie, die alle Aspekte der Produktion kennen und sie auch aus ihrer Sicht bewerten.

Allerdings kann ich das Buch nicht denjenigen Star Trek Fans empfehlen, für die Star Trek alles ist was über TOS hinausgeht, für mich ist das "nur" das definitive Buch über TOS...

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