



Ragnarok

Nathan Archer

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Die Voyager gerät unter Beschuss

Seit Jahrhunderten führen die Zivilisationen der Hachai und P'nir einen erbitterten Krieg. Die Voyager gerät mitten in das Schlachtfeld, als sie einer seltsamen Energieemission folgt. Captain Janeway versucht erfolglos, zwischen den verfeindeten Völkern zu vermitteln. Um die Voyager und ihre Crew zu retten, bleibt ihr am Ende nur ein Ausweg: Sie muss den Kampf gegen beide Völker aufnehmen.

Ragnarok Details

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From Reader Review Ragnarok for online ebook

Conan Tigard says

Ragnarok is a good Star Trek story that was written in 1995, the same year that the television show, Star Trek: Voyager, hit the airwaves. The story revolves around Captain Janeway's decision to ignore Neelix's suggestion and find herself in the center of a war that has been raging for centuries.

I really liked the idea of two races at war for hundred upon hundreds of years, gobbling up the resources of all the planets around to help fight their war. I could picture the bubbling mass of ships as they formed as ever-oscillating ball of battleships deep in space. Although I found the storyline to be quite intriguing, I also discovered that the characters were off just a bit, probably due to the fact that the story was written just as the series was hitting televisions for the first time.

The overriding issue I had with the story was Captain Kathryn Janeway. First, Janeway ignores Neelix's suggestion to avoid the area. Why? Because she is too headstrong and doesn't really care about Neelix's knowledge of the area. Then, she decides that after 600 to 800 years of war, she can somehow become a mediator for these two races that clearly hate each other, races that she has no knowledge of at all. Huh? I know the Federation is all about spreading peace, but this seemed a little ridiculous to me. Lastly, Janeway, because of her previous bad decisions, is forced to start destroying some of the warring ships as they begin pursuing the Voyager. Not just some of them, many of them. Hey! What happened to the Prime Directive?

Overall, Ragnarok is a good story, but it could have been so much better if the author could have known the main characters a little better. I enjoyed this story and all of the action within, but the problems I had with Janeway kept me from liking this book as much as I should have. Still, I found myself sucked into this story and couldn't see how it was going to end. Although this was not my favorite Voyager story, it was still an interesting one to read.

I rated this book a 7 out of 10.

Cheryl says

Another book with a woman on the cover -- this time, Captain Janeway. It was nice to spend some time with my old friends again, even if it was back in the early days of Voyager when Harry Kim was green and Tom Paris was a punk and the Doctor was viewed as a computer. This had an interesting plot involving a never-ending war between two alien races and the temptation in the middle of the battle which may be able to get Voyager home. Lots of insight into war strategy and weapons technology. My main quibble was the near constant use of the definite article in discussing Voyager -- any true Trekker knows that Voyager is not merely a ship, she is a character and therefore should not be referred to as "the Voyager."

Jason Vargo says

With a paper thin plot, a completely unnecessary call back to Trek history, characters acting in inconsistent ways and one terrible decision by Janeway, Ragnarok has no hope of being entertaining or engaging. When

Voyager is scanned, Janeway decides to seek out the source. That leads the ship to a war zone, a sector of space Neelix begs the captain to avoid. She doesn't.

And when the ship comes into contact with the aliens at war with one another, she makes a decision which puts four lives in jeopardy (not to mention the ship) and which violates the Prime Directive. Since it is a spoiler, that's all I will say on it.

The characters: they're versions of their early season 1 selves without any nuance, depth or evolution we'd see even by season 2. The narrative rehashes things we know: Paris's backstory, B'Elanna and Carey, Harry and B'Elanna's relationship, the Caretaker, etc. There's nothing really new here. The character who arguably comes out the best is Harry...and that's debatable since the novel continues to tell us how unsure he is of himself. (And there's incessant whining from everyone about getting home...something else the series left behind fairly early in its run.)

Chris says

The alien species were interesting, but a little one-note. The Voyager crew is not exactly normal. The author does a fine job of crafting them interestingly--but there were certain affectations that seemed out of place. There were also a few times when the cohesiveness fell apart (an alien species which only speaks in imperatives and never in questions...except that one time they ask a question) and other small problems which take you out of the story a bit. Overall it was a good read.

****Potential Spoiler****

The ending was sort of anti-climactic, but I liked that Voyager was not able to converse these people out of their multi-century war.

Daniel Devereux says

From the moment I started this book I was enthralled, I finished this book in one sitting. I found myself pulled into the mystery, I just couldn't put the book down.

This quote I found to be quite funny, probably the crowning moment of the entire book.. From B'Elanna Torres to the Warp Core. " 'You behave yourself!' she shouted. 'You just stay aligned, or I'll take you apart with my bare hands, space the pieces, and build the ship a new warp drive myself.' "

DJ says

Captain Janeway got herself in a dilemma. She thought she was getting a signal from a Caretaker that she's searching for so she can get home to the Alpha Quadrant. Unfortunately, the signal emanates from the middle of centuries old battle between the two races. Janeway doesn't want to break the rule of Prime Directives, but she bends it anyways. Blah blah blah, she finds out that the signal is actually from a very old structure that Kirk had as a decoy. The war between the races wasn't exactly clear, but I believe it came from

Kirk's decoy...thus the Prime Directive was pretty much broken by Kirk, creating the war. By the end of the book, the two races finally be friends and decided that Janeway and Voyager is the true enemy.

I'm SO annoyed by this book. The characters are SO unlike the ones that were carefully created by the show and the first book, Caretaker. Neelix sounded SO winey, and it's not right for Captain Janeway to think she's always right. Paris - the helmsman, had a very cocky attitude. In the show and previous book, he seems to be amicable towards Chaktokay. In this book, he acts as if Chakotay is his worse enemy and have to pretty much deal with it. The characterization really threw me off because it's just so unlike the characters that I've come to known and loved.

Felt like this book was way too action based and not so much on diplomacy, or unusual. I think it could have written better as I liked the CONCEPT (hence the extra star), but the way it was written out, bleh.

I know it was an OK book when it took me so long to finish (131 pages, short) and I wasn't too "thrilled" to dive into it when I opened it, but I was wanted to finish it regardless.

Laura says

Blog: <https://lfbooks.blog/>

I liked it. Took me about 5 days to read it. (Nearly typed years then :P) I wasn't in a rush, don't get me wrong the book sucks you in. As soon as the action starts that's it your in the action for the rest of the book. Now bare in mind the books are done by different authors so this does affect the style and some other things. The author of the 2nd installment didn't really explain things or people too much. Where as with this book, the 3rd, the author explains quite a bit and uses the 1st book's scenes as backing, it doesn't use anything from the 2nd voyager novel. (2nd and 3rd came out 2 months apart which would explain the lack of mentions of the 2nd book)

(May contain some spoilers and hints of the inner story)

It was done very intelligently and logical. It wasn't pew pew pew for the sake sake of pew. I did guess how it played out very early on in the book. It very arrogant to think you could just step into a 600+ years of war and bring peace. It wasn't lets spend years building a relationship and reputation to attempt to make peace, more of an instant peace. The only way possible for that kind of peace in a short period of time, would be to become a new threat, a new enemy they could team up to defeat. 600+ years of war will only make a culture based on war. So you would have to respond with a war like strategy. Something Janeway or hell even Tuvok should have logically thought about. Pew. Sorry just like how that sounds. But yeah the way it all plays out is very logical, it not magical bullshit. It all explained or based in logic. Which is why the Star Trek books are always a good read.

Would I recommend it? Yes. Even if you've not watched the series or read the other books it is a good book. You don't need to understand the world it based on, to enjoy the book. It a good story within itself as a solo book.

Dustin says

This book was released around the end of the first season of Voyager and probably largely written before the show even went on the air. Because of that I'll give the author a little bit of slack.

I didn't like this book. Although it follows the Voyager-typical "Everyone tells Janeway it's a really bad idea to do this thing, she ignores them and does it anyway" style, I really feel like the characters were way off. And not just off because we didn't know much about them at the time, but off in that they didn't feel like Starfleet Officers. The aliens told her they weren't interested. Go away. She ignores them and sends a shuttlecraft to force its way on to their ship and tries to force them to take on ambassadors to negotiate a peace. What kind of Starfleet Captain would do that? Even Janeway wouldn't.

The ending was anticlimactic and pretty disappointing. It left me wondering what the entire point of the book was. And that was disappointing because initially I felt like there was a lot of potential in the alien species and what had happened to the planets in this sector. My interest was piqued. I would not recommend this book.

Elizabeth Perez says

This Voyager book is about the crew seeing something that resembles the caretaker so they go in that direction despite warnings. This one is mostly about Janeway, Chakotay, Neelix, with a little bit about Kim and only some short parts with the rest of the crew.

I don't think this author got the crew's personalities down pat but he did an amazing job showing how the crew must have 'gotten along' right at first, when the Maquis didn't know what to think of the Voyager crew and visa versa. I love the little snarky remarks and how you can really feel the ambivalent relationships. There were two extra crewmen that added to the story, I think that is where some other Voyager books lacked needed supporting roles. It was also atmospheric and I caught myself getting a little scared or worried for certain characters.

I know others didn't like Neelix in this one but I felt that he was actually true to character during this early on in the season. Overall I enjoyed it, and would recommend it. I do think that 3 stars is low for this book, I think even though it isn't the best it was a fun fast paced read with some details about star fleet and the characters that made sense and were nice to know.

And I can't forget the aliens were interesting and fun.

Beth says

After enjoying the escape I decided to go straight to the next novel in the series. I miss the TV show dearly and love how easy it is to imagine the scenes played out in this book. The words used in the book are not difficult to read or decipher, which make it the perfect book to read before sleep or after a tiring day. I enjoyed the storyline and was continually intrigued to find out what would happen between the two races in question. After the initial set up of the plot things get very suspenseful, I enjoyed the action elements and the fast paced nature of these encounters. The book became a lot more enjoyable once the main storyline was

underway. This book was definitely better than *The Escape* and I fully recommend it to Star Trek Voyager fans.

Tracy Poff says

(I've not got my notes on hand, so this will be less detailed than usual.)

This book follows the usual 'Voyager finds a rumor that they might get a way home' plot, with Janeway willing to chance destruction of the ship for a quicker way home. That's reasonably consistent with the show, I guess, but since we know there's no real danger to the ship, I don't think it works as well to show how serious Janeway is about getting back home.

The idea of a huge battle involving everything that a civilization has to put into it and lasting for a very long time isn't too new, although *Ragnarok* perhaps goes a bit further toward showing how far they've gotten, stripping every last ounce of metal out of whole planets to build ships for the war.

I liked the look at the alien race that spoke in imperatives--it's always fun to see how authors will try to make a really different sort of alien. The ones in the previous book (*The Escape*) were more or less like extra-bureaucratic humans, so it's nice to see something a little more alien this time.

Overall, this was a reasonably fun read, though maybe not quite as good as its predecessor.

Craig says

Well I haven't read a ton of Voyager novels at this point but I am glad I found one that I really enjoyed. This novel read easily for me - *The Escape* was such a drag to get through and every page seemed to be difficult to turn but this one was very enjoyable. I liked premise and them getting stuck in it was due to a poor decision by Janeway (who doesn't always make bad choices but she does make them which is a great part of her character). Overall it was a fun read and I liked the ending.

Stacy says

I read this novel for the first time back when it was released and I was in either junior high or high school. I am rereading it many years later after picking it up at Half Price Books. I really enjoyed it as a teenager. The plot was new and interesting to me and Voyager was itself so new that the characters were wide open for development by the novel writers. The TV show hadn't really fleshed them out yet, so nothing struck me as out of character.

I have now finished reading *Ragnarok* for the second time with more than 15 years having passed. I still enjoyed the book. I was pleasantly surprised in how I felt about the way the characters acted. There were very few times where I felt like someone acted differently from what I expected. For example, yes, Chakotay and Paris didn't get along very well in the book, but this was true in the show where this incident would fall chronologically. It took them a while to develop a fairly healthy relationship.

The only person that didn't ring quite true to me was Captain Janeway, but even there I had to remind myself that at first she wasn't sure who to rely upon for advice. She respected Chakotay in Season 1, but she wasn't certain whether his primary allegiance was to the Maquis crew members or to the crew as a whole. As another reviewer commented, Tom Paris was an arrogant, smart-mouthed irritant for the first season. Neelix was an oddity who had not yet proven himself entirely. The only person she fully trusted in Season 1 was Tuvok and there was a scene in the book where I thought the author missed the mark on their relationship.

Overall, I feel like a reader willing to put himself or herself in the frame of mind to expect Season 1 characters will be pleased with the book and its plot. This may be difficult for someone who reads the book now that the series has been over for so many years and had a 7 season run. But, if the reader can keep in mind that this author was writing about what was a new television series at the time, I think it will be an enjoyable read. If not, perhaps this book should be skipped.

Nathaniel Boan says

it was enjoyable. Some parts flowed really well while others seemed to drag. The end was very sudden and almost forced. Every now and then the characters really broke character but usually only for a line or 2 of dialogue.

Luke Sims-Jenkins says

Ragnarock is okay. There are some fun moments, but the pacing is oddly slow considering how much action there is in it. This is also the second and final original novel set in Voyager's first season and a bit of a wasted opportunity. Season one was ripe for a book that should more of the Maquis and Federation crews getting along. Instead we get a generic adventure.

The books could have done what the TV show didn't. An average book thats completely skippable.
