

Web of the Romulans

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Ravaged by a killer virus, the Romulans enter Canara, where the only antidote can be found. Desperate, they incite a victorious "U.S.S. Enterprise™ attack on one of their vessels, but Kirk discovers their ruse. Meanwhile the central computer has fallen in love with him, severely crippling the "Starship Enterprise™. Somehow Kirk must overcome the lovesick computer and bring the antidote to the Romulans, before the galaxy crashes over the brink of war.

Web of the Romulans Details


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From Reader Review Web of the Romulans for online ebook

Ibis3 says

An extremely slow story with only a few positives to recommend it and a number of glaring negatives. First, the positives:

The writing was a bit over the top at times, but was generally good. The characters were well drawn--the characters we know acted like themselves and the characters we didn't seemed better than two-dimensional--and the plot was fairly believable. No glaring scientific impossibilities (though at one point Kirk has the Enterprise go from one side of a planet to the other at Warp 1. Faster than light speed to travel halfway around a planet?).

The negatives:

Sexist even for the early eighties when it was written. First, all of the people in charge (including the Starfleet head council) are all men. The women in this story were: Uhura whose main scene had her looking "fragile" in her bathrobe; a yeoman (seq. Wikipedia "a rating usually with secretarial, clerical, payroll or other administrative duties"--in other words the secretary who brings the boss reports to sign when she's not delivering his coffee) in the botany lab (what was she doing there? filing plants?) who is bullied by her male superior; a centurion second-in-command who isn't loyal to the Romulan Empire or inclined to command like the Romulan men, but she's loyal to her commanding officer, whom she's in love with and only feels fulfilled when (view spoiler); a lieutenant helmsman who gets two or three lines, none of which add anything to the situation; and finally, the Enterprise computer who was programmed by female jokers (really?) to act like she's "in love" with Captain Kirk, but who actually acts like a stereotypical (i.e. not realistic) 12 year old spoiled brat with a crush. Blech. It was like the author was trying to be as sexist as the worst of TOS--even though she was writing after the women's liberation movement of the seventies.

Slow. It was more than half way through before there was an actual crisis or conflict. Not much in the way of suspense.

Crazy Admiral Award. Why are there so many crazy Starfleet admirals? Does the pressure just get to be too much? And why, if you have a crazy admiral bent on going to war just because he's a fanatic, would you put him anywhere near the front lines? Why not send him to Utopia Planitia where he can't do much harm. Better yet, send him to a hospital.

Brian Kirk says

Not a bad book, but some details from the trek universe were off. It was a good story and it had some good twists and turns.

Vanillabear says

Not the best one, but still pretty good. The parts with the computer were funny though.

Mike Crate says

Web of the Romulans takes a crack at expanding the Romulan side of Star Trek, there is certainly plenty of options given how little this race has been explored on the original tv series and how so far wrong they went in TNG onwards. The Romulan Empire is dying, a plague has spread throughout their worlds and only one source of a potential cure exists but it's not in their nature to go through diplomatic channels, the Praetor can not show weakness so the fleet is massed on a mission that will determine the future of the empire.

This wasn't a bad story at all but there were issues mainly with the scope of the monitoring of Starfleet and the activities of the Intelligence community which doesn't quite sync with what we know from the original series. The Romulan characters however were spot on and I liked them all and I have to admit to a fondness for the more tradition Romulans from TOS and the novels which added to their portrayal before TNG. It also didn't hurt that the novel takes the best from Balance of Terror with Kirk and S'Talon replying the stand off and battle of wills and tactics between two masters of command. It was gratifying to see an "enemy" given depth and when you get right down to it Trek is all about having worthy adversaries for our captain and ship to deal with.

John Barclay says

This was a bit too light a book. A good idea, getting the Romulans into a plot with Kirk and the question of trust and invasion, but poor execution. Too many rabbits out of hats for my liking, and the very foolish computer on the Enterprise plot was well beyond silly.

Kristina says

Web of the Romulans by M.S. Murdock is competently written, fun trip into the universe of classic Star Trek. All your favorite characters are there, along with those dangerously sexy Romulans, a computer smitten with Captain Kirk, and a Star Fleet Admiral gone rogue. At a little over 200 pages, it's a fast-paced and a satisfying adventure aboard the *Enterprise*.

The Romulans are being killed off by a deadly virus. Captain Kirk and crew are at the mercy of the whims of Countess, the ship's computer, who thinks it is in love with Kirk, calls him "sweetheart" and will follow only his commands. Back at Star Fleet command, there's an Admiral fixated on destroying the Romulans and making himself a war hero. They all meet in space above the planet Canara, where a Romulan commander was sent on a desperate mission to help his Empire seize medicine they need to survive.

There's not a lot to say about this book. Obviously, it's geared to Trekkies. (I know there was a rather cataclysmic debate in the late 1980s/1990s of Trekkie vs. Trekker; I'm a proud Trekkie.) If you're familiar with the mythology of the show (and *like* it), then you may enjoy this book. Conversely, if you know nothing about Star Trek, then don't bother. The author assumes you'll know about Vulcans, Klingons, Romulans and the background stories of the various characters who appear. This book was also written to take place after a specific episode ("Tomorrow is Yesterday") and other episodes in which Romulans and the crew of the *Enterprise* battled wits are alluded to. When I read books based on television characters I love, my biggest concern is not the plot, but the characters. Will they "sound" right? In this case, Murdock is spot-on with his portrayals of Kirk, McCoy, Scotty, and Spock. Their dialogue seems appropriate for each character. The

Romulans, an elegant warrior race distantly related to Vulcans, also come across as believable.

The plot is enjoyable and there are some tense moments, even though I know everything will be fine in the end. The ship's computer, with its intense love for Kirk, provides some comedy as well, even though I thought tv show Spock would have solved the problem of the love-sick computer much quicker.

Web of the Romulans is fun jaunt back into the universe of classic Star Trek. It's more action/adventure than science-fiction (there are other, much more complex and sci-fi ST books out there), but it's worth a read if you're either feeling nostalgic or are a new fan.

Kieran McAndrew says

An attack on the planet Canara by the Romulans appears to be the first stage of a wider incursion of Federation space.

Kirk faces off against a Romulan commander and soon comes to realise that there are wider implications and the attack on Canara has ulterior motives.

M.S. Murdock's novel captures the feeling of an episode and shows the Romulans to be a worthy adversary of the Federation.

Mark says

Ever since I first watched it in reruns, I felt that the Romulans were the orphan stepchildren of the original *Star Trek*. Appearing in just two episodes, evidently they were shunted aside in favor of the Klingons for the simple reason that the makeup for the latter was cheaper. Nevertheless, their first appearance (the superb "Balance of Terror") hinted at a long involvement with the Federation that went unexplored, which made them a promising source of material for authors when the original novels started rolling out in earnest in the 1980s.

Though M. S. Murdoch's novel wasn't the first in the Pocket Books series to include Romulans (a few were included in Sonni Cooper's *Black Fire*, published six months previously), they were the first in which the Romulans served as the main antagonists. When the novel begins theirs is an empire in crisis, ravaged by a plague that is decimating the population. Faced with their destruction, the Romulans embark on an audacious plan designed to obtain the cure from the nearest available source — a planet on the Federation side of the Neutral Zone.

As the first book to utilize the Romulans as the main antagonists, Murdoch has a good deal of latitude, and it testifies to her restraint that she doesn't overdo it. Her Romulans are true to their depiction in the original series, and point to the rich possibilities that would be developed profitably by subsequent authors and in subsequent series. Yet this is offset by her incorporation of a subplot in which the Enterprise's computer falling in love with Jim Kirk, creating chaos aboard the ship as a result. While such a contrivance is necessary for the plot, the silliness of the concept Murdoch uses (which originated in a story she wrote for a fanzine in the previous decade) detracts from the gravity of the situation facing both the Romulans and the

Federation, and might have been better saved for a novel lighter in tone

Ute says

Very nice book that still holds its own. I always liked the old Romulans, much more than the Klingons. Unfortunately they were dropped by the TV series in favour of the latter. Here we still have the political intrigues, the honorable Romulan Commander and the peaceful solution. Not actually new stuff, but hey - they churned out those novels on a monthly basis. Very nice read. Would have made a good episode.

Chad says

I came into this with pretty low expectations after the last few books in this series being not as great. I ended up finding it entertaining, despite the relative absurdity of the concept. Overall I found the plot to be engaging enough to keep me with it and I thought potentially steered the Pocket Books onto a more solid track. We shall see if that trend holds up in the next volume.

Octavia Cade says

This was really entertaining! A stand-off between the Federation and the Romulans, sparked by medical emergency, and war is only prevented by the actions of good people on both sides, working against the war-mongers of their own people. I can't say that it has a particularly happy ending, as it's infused with the understanding that one instance of cooperation does not a peace treaty make, and the status quo of distrust and conflict remains primarily unshaken, but it's the small moments of hope I guess. Unfortunately, the tension and really fine character work (the Romulan hero of the piece is outstanding) is hampered by a truly silly subplot, in which the computer of the *Enterprise* falls in love with Kirk - it's as bad as it sounds.

Oleta Blaylock says

This story is set during the original five year mission. The Romulan Empire is being devastated by a disease and the close cure is in the Federation. The Romulans cross into Federation territory and try to buy and threaten the people of Canara. It takes Jim Kirk and his crew to avert a war and get the medicine that the Romulans need. During this the computer, after maintenance decides that it is in love with Kirk and almost destroys the ship before the crew can regain control.

Overall this is a good story. It is kind of funny that the computer fixates on Kirk and of course in doing so irritated Mr. Spock. I did kind of enjoy watching Spock get just a little more annoyed with each system failure. There are some intense scenes when an Admiral decides he is going to start a war with the Romulans so he can achieve the glory that has so long eluded him. The man really needs to be confined. However things work out and once again Kirk and his crew save the day as well as an entire race of people. They also make some friends along the way.

Jerry says

Good...but not great.

Rob says

This was short and sweet, much like an episode, very well done , This was a good read.

Francisco says

This isn't a half bad novel... on the other hand it is half bad. The part dealing with the Romulans and Romulan culture is quite interesting, it shows them as you would imagine, a military people full of backstabbers and some honorable ones there in the mix as well.

The bad part comes from the part of the plot dealing with the Enterprise computer that is in love with Kirk because the programmers at the last check-up thought that would be a fun idea. It isn't really, particularly because the computer is not only in love, but is also jealous and vindictive perpetuating all the worst stereotypes of the "crazy woman" in the mode of Fatal Attraction or something like that.

All in all it's a fun novel to read, not the best ever, but if you like Romulans this is a good place to go to and get some in depth knowledge. I must warn you, that if you are sensitive about these things there is a whole battle at warp speed, which is clearly ridiculous.
