

Serenity

Keith R.A. DeCandido

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This is the novelisation of one of the most eagerly-awaited feature films of the year, 'Serenity', written and directed by Joss Whedon, creator of Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Angel.

Serenity Details

Date : Published (first published August 30th 2005)

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Author: Keith R.A. DeCandido Format: Kindle Edition 272 pages

Genre: Science Fiction, Fiction, Fantasy





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From Reader Review Serenity for online ebook

Curtiss says

The nice thing about reading books, as opposed to watching & listening to movies/tv is that sometimes the author gives the reader access to a character's thoughts - as in River's mental review of Serenity's other crew members, especially Mal as "the only other person who lived with as much pain as she did."

Alvaro Zinos-Amaro says

Very well done novelization. DeCandido gets the tone just right, infusing his descriptive prose with the same stylized language and humor that characterize much of the banter on Firefly/Serenity. The novelization is largely the same as the film in terms of plot, but we get a couple of extra scenes, like a flashback to Mal during the war, and the attack on Haven from Preacher's perspective before the crew gets there and discovers the wreckage. A few developments are different in subtle ways: e.g. the intro of Mr. Universe happens in person in the novel, with the crew visiting his moon, but I recall in the film it was done by wave. For fans of this world, this is an excellent way to go deeper and relive the final fates of some of the main characters.

David says

This book is probably intended solely for those that have either watched the TV series or watched the series and the movie. As a self-contained novel, it's quite bad. The laziness on the part of the author is ridiculously apparent with such phrases as "little sister look" or "are you serious? look". This is how emotions and visuals are expressed in this book and it's not even just once but repeated for each instance of said look. If you already watched the series you're likely aware of what these phrases should look like but it still reeks of lazy writing.

Another thing is there's nothing in this book that isn't a carbon copy of the movie--unless we're talking about how pathetically out of character the author goes a few times. I assumed that was the case but I want to make sure everyone is aware of it.

In truth, 70% of Firefly/Serenity fan fiction is better than this. If you have the movie, stick to the movie. If you don't have the movie, buy the movie! It's not going to break the bank and it's a much better representation of ideas than the ink between the covers. Just don't buy this. If someone gave it to you, appreciate the nifty cover photo but don't risk any reading. Seriously.

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TLDR?

Fence says

Where do you start when you go to write a novelization? Do you just stick to the script, or go off on little tangents of your own? How much can you make up, do you get to collaborate with the director, or talk to any of the actors? Must be pretty hard, imo, to get a good book out of a film, any film. Full review: http://www.susanhatedliterature.net/2...

Nancy D Miz-Firefly aka Sparky (Paranormal Junkie) says

As a died in the wool Firefly fan all I can say is this book is Perfect.

$?\alpha???\sigma? \sim I'm$ gonna be free, and I'm gonna be fine, but maybe not tonight says

Ok I usually don't write reviews but I saw a lot of bad reviews for this book and wanted to put in my input. People say that it is just like bad fan fiction, but the writer was supposed to stick to the script and the events in the story, so most of it wasn't actually his writing, especially the dialog. I personally loved this book because of how well it stuck to the movie. Although some of the head cannon could have been better I still really enjoyed it!

Jim says

I was a big fan of the science fiction series "Firefly" which ran from 2002 to 2003 and then was abruptly cancelled by FOX. But this series got a second chance with the film "Serenity" released in 2005. Most unfortunately, the movie did not do as well as hoped for and the universe of "Mal" Reynolds and his crew of the Firefly-class spaceship "Serenity" seemed sunk for good. However, this universe has continued in a series of graphic novels. I have to confess that I can't believe that a cable station has not picked up the series. I'm sure NETFLIX could do an outstanding job with it. Anyway, I enjoyed the novelization of the film written by Keith R.A. DeCandido, based on the screenplay by Joss Wheedon. But still--and the reason for ****--is that the movie is still better. You don't have to read the book--be sure to see the movie, as well as watch the DVDs of the TV shows. And hope that Mal and the other "Browncoats" return!

Kim says

Truthfully I don't read many novelizations based on movies or television shows. However as a die-hard Browncoat (the name given to fans of the show Firefly and the movie Serenity) and completist I sought this one out, and I'm glad I did. Mr. DeCandido does a fair job at keeping true to the voices of the Serenity crew, something that's difficult for anyone to do if your name is not Joss Whedon. The novel itself is basically a word-for-word reprinting of the screenplay, but there is the added bonus of additional and extended scenes not in the film in order to produce a more cohesive narrative. For example, instead of just showing the aftermath (like in the film) the Alliance attack on the planet Haven is played out in horrific detail as seen through the eyes of miner and former Independent soldier Bernabe.

I had a minor quibble with the narration. The author would at random intervals revert to long exposition regarding events that occurred on the television show, something not done in the film as it wasn't necessary to reflect on fourteen episodes worth of material for the purposes of the plot. This technique only served to

take me out of the story many times, but I can see why it would work for a reader who was not in anyway familiar with the show prior to picking up the book. Overall, I would recommend reading this book. The extra character insight and added scenes are worth it. But watch Firefly first, and then Serenity. And then spend the rest of your life in mourning because thanks to FOX's premature cancellation, the crew of Serenity will continue to fly only in our imaginations and the occasional graphic novel.

Phenex Alarius says

This novelization is based on my favorite movie of all time, so I admit to being it biased! But...I 100% enjoyed it from cover to cover. I appreciate how I fleshed out the characters we already know and love. The sequence in the beginning concerning the battle of Serenity, which made Mal who he is, should have definitely been included in the film. I highly recommend this book for anyone into the Firefly series, the Serenity film, or both!

Angela says

You'd think I would have loved this because I love Firefly but this novel is simply awful. The writing is terrible (it reads like really, really bad fan-fiction) and cringe-worthy. It's awful and offers no new insights into the fabulous show and film. Avoid. Instead, go and read the graphic novels, they're excellent.

Anastasia says

Read the book before I had a chance to watch the movie; and even before I have seen Firefly. Loved the book, it gives a great insight into the minds of the characters, something that's hard to see on screen sometimes. Serenity is one of my all time favourite books.

Jen from Quebec :0) says

Does the film justice. When you're missing your Firefly crew, this novel helps fill the void. Browncoats unite! --Jen from Quebec :0)

Rachel says

I loved the movie. But this novelisation? Ha. No.

The writing was mediocre at best and terrible at worst (Seriously, I nearly laughed during a death scene). Waaaay too much tell and not enough show (I know you're adapting it from the screenplay, but "The captain was defensive", really?).

The characters weren't true to their characters as established by the show/movie (Nothing else mattering to Zoe except in relation to Mal and Wash? What. The. Heck. It's like the ultimate anti-Bechdel and it's so far from Zoe's actual character that I think I might vomit).

Continuity was patchy in places (You can't say nine people left the ship when there's only eight characters left, on account of one of the nine having died a while back. Likewise, he ain't upstairs if you established earlier that that particular location was downstairs).

A few instances of flat-out NO pertaining to sentence structure (I don't care if it's an action scene; please don't use exclamation marks when writing from the POV of an emotionally dead antagonist. Also, please don't put commas in the middle of sentences for no reason).

And word choice in places left me scratching my head (Shoes don't clank on metal steps unless they're really heavy and/or are made of metal themselves, which Simon's aren't. They might clatter or possibly thud, but they don't clank.)

In short, I found myself thinking "I could have written this so much better" in many, many places.

Rachel says

A good book, but the movie does not translate as well to print. The first third of the book felt like a ton of condensed info dump for those who've never seen Firefly or Serenity, but the book got better as it went along. Movie is still better though.

Nicole says

I became a fan of *Firefly* with the airing of the first episode and have loved it ever since. Even, sometimes, to my own amazement, since I'm not a fan of zombies (which Reavers basically are) and a few other elements of the SF/Horror genre. (The first time I saw the movie, I started to think Whedon was going to kill *everyone* off, possibly just to spite the FOX network for pulling the plug on the show. I still say what happened to Wash was plain *wrong*.) But most of the characters are so well-realised, the dialogue is so clever, and the acting is generally so good that I tend to overlook other things. I don't know if there'd be any point to reading this if someone hadn't seen and liked the movie and the series. Being a fan, I enjoyed it. I was impressed with the way the author managed to capture the tone and vocabulary choices of characters' dialogue and within the narrative. There are a few welcome additions to the story, including references to events that occurred in the series, that are just enough to round things out a bit more. (I could've done without a couple of somewhat overwrought descriptions of Inara--but I've never been fond of Inara, anyway. At least in this story, she's less irritating than I found her in the series.) This is definitely a worthy addition to any *Firefly* nut's collection.