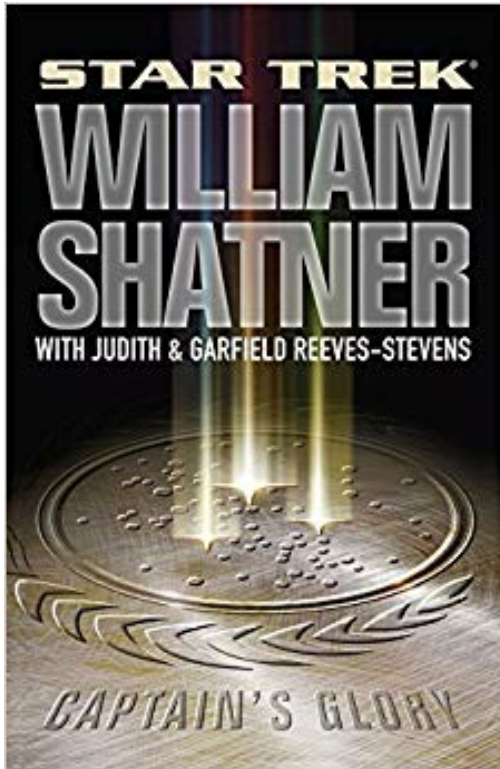


## Captain's Glory (Star Trek) by William Shatner



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**Author:** William Shatner

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During James T. Kirk's five-year mission as captain of the *Starship Enterprise*, a mysterious alien threat called "The Totality" commenced its invasion, intending to conquer the Milky Way galaxy as it had conquered the Andromeda. A war unlike any other is about to begin -- one that threatens to destroy the Federation.

Captain Kirk has encountered the Totality before. It took the beguiling form of Norinda, an irresistible alien who becomes the woman each person most desperately desires. In his first encounter, Kirk almost lost the *Enterprise*. In his second encounter, he almost lost his child, and watched in horror as the Totality absorbed Spock in its monstrous dimensional tendrils. But now, Kirk faces an even more devastating personal challenge. The battle lines have been drawn, and he and his friend Captain Jean-Luc Picard are on opposite sides.

With Captain William Riker of the *Starship Titan* caught in the cross fire of the conflict between Kirk and Picard, and with Kirk's own child poised on the brink of a startling destiny millions of years in the making, Kirk must prepare for his final encounter with the Totality. But how can Kirk fight an enemy whose greatest weapon is love? And how can he triumph, when the price of victory is the life of his only child?



## Reviews of the **Captain's Glory (Star Trek)** by William Shatner

Zovaithug

This book is much better than Shatner's previous books in many ways. I still was a little disappointed with how it ended; a little too much deus ex machina for my taste. Still, it's a very good book; for one thing, Shatner seems to have finally outgrown the tendency to make Kirk into a demigod; in some of his previous books, it seemed that there was absolutely nothing that Kirk couldn't do, and even when that wasn't the case, he was always showing up Picard, Janeway, and any other Trek character about as thoroughly as a major league ballplayer would show up a minor leaguer. In this book, Picard battles him to a draw in a strategic contest, and given the circumstances, Picard could actually have been said to "win" the draw. Riker was the most level-headed captain of the three of them, and ultimately, Picard pulls Kirk's buns out of the fire. Given all that, I'm willing to accept Janeway being written as a largely irrelevant admiral.

There were a few places in which I felt that Kirk acted out of character, and that combined with the previously mentioned quibbles are why I only rate the book at 4 stars. Still, Shatner has always had good story ideas, and he tells this one better than he's ever done before. His pacing has improved, for one thing. Definitely worth the read.

Madis

While no where near the best book in his "shatniverse", this book does a good job of wrapping up the original captains story. The TOS characters are here to shine and are done justice, but TNG fans will be made with the out of character actions done by Picard and riker. The warp core subplot is entertaining enough to keep us going until the finals, which gives fans hope of seeing the original crew in action together one last time.

Thiama

Being a fan of most Star Trek books and all of their shows and movies, (Except for the total idiotic way "Enterprise" was betrayed and wasted for the true fans), I have found Judith and Garfield Reeves-Steven's Shatner books on Trek the very best in all of the Trek media available.

They often employ the best tactical believe-ability in Trek action, motivation and logical conclusions in their story-planning, plotting and telling. The Ashes of Eden was a great start, followed by the more invigorating "The Return" and "Avenger", Kirk in TNG's timeline was really hitting his stride.

Kirk's marriage to Teilani opened up doors and more possibilities, and with a great Mirror Universe Trilogy to follow, Kirk had his best action ever. ("Dark Spectre" probably being the best) Sure, Shatner books focus more on Kirk coming up with the heroic resolutions and action, but Riker

played his usual "I can relate to saddle-swinging Kirk as well as prolific Picard" self. Picard was always handled pretty well and in an expected manner, Janeway was just as you'd expect, from where Voyager and Nemesis left her off.

So now we have the conclusion to the Totality trilogy, which unfortunately is kind of like a typical Peter David 'New Frontier' letdown at the end. Instead of their usual large scale tactical Trek realism, the Reeves-Stevens elects to put us in a little bit of a 'kooky 1960's angle' of believing the Totality is the end-all, be-all abundant actual mass of the universe's 'dark matter' that loves us so blindly, they need to kill us all off to see their point of view. The entire storyline is somewhat contradicting and self-defeating. If the Totality loves themselves enough to describe their own need to be left alone by light matter, then why love us so much as to force us into their dark matter dimension of life against our will, against the very pattern of evolution they had for themselves?

Poor Joseph Kirk has to become something that is a such a stretch, even by a wide-ranging Sci-Fi evolution standard, that what happens to him is impossible to accept. Kirk again must face overwhelming personal tragedy that would make most of us readers insane, despite the strengths of our various characters.

The Picard/Kirk wit matching in this book is good, the ideas of the Totality's attack are great, but I do believe another HUGE careless mistake from the 1960's would be to believe that any human being would last for long in 400% gravity. I do believe most scientists declare that to be instantly lethal. I even liked how Counselor Troi was contributing truly valuable impressions for a change. Spock and McCoy, who were great in the previous novels are downplayed a bit, and Worf, now first officer of the Enterprise was a commenting non-factor at best.

This book was a fine read for the characterizations and story strategies the Reeves-Stevens always provide, and not boring like a lot of J.M. Friedman novels, but the enemy we're left with is unbelievable at best, ridiculous from Spock's explanation of their true nature, up and until how they act at the end. I was wondering how many more times Kirk was going to think or declare "This time I'm really dead..." before he passes into oblivion. It happens so much in the last four chapters, you're being dragged around with morbid expectations.

I think the Reeves-Stevens had to rush this book over martinis and vacations once Enterprise's TV run ended. For what was great story inventiveness, something you can count on from them, there are too many weak points in this novel that are hard to swallow about this story's conflict. Heck, did we have to have ANOTHER alien force take on the shape of sexy woman for Kirk? I sure do miss the true action sequences and smart strategies everyone employed in the Mirror Universe trilogy.

I give this 3 out of 5 stars, because they do keep the magic of the best in Jim Kirk's spirit soaring with the latest day crew of TNG etc. I'm sorry this last trilogy to be done by Shatner and the Reeves-Stevens was not as climactic as the previous one, it's not bad, just not good enough. To be the last such trilogy they do together, I wanted them to care enough on this one to do it far better than the "Totality" development and conclusion. At the end of "Captain's Peril", the first book of this trilogy, it looked as though it might be bigger than a well-done Borg invasion. But, after the often-confusing second book, this third and final one left too much assumed, and not as logically developed as their previous works.

Zeli

All the ingredients of a great space opera and a great story. A fitting end to the trilogy. Bittersweet and humorous, adventurous and thoughtful. Everything that makes Star Trek amazing.

Keath

Embrace the great unknown... Or are YOU unworthy of... adventurers? Discovery's? Forgiveness? Above anguish and pain... God of your life you are... Choose well

Shaktiktilar

This is the companion novel to Captain's Blood, and it's a wonderful story. All the characters are well-developed and well-understood, and the plot holds your interest every moment. I'm going through the rest of the series as fast as I can get them.

Warianys

I liked it and really have nothing further to say except read it for yourself. Well maybe one question: will Joseph find Wesley and the Traveler?

A very enjoyable book, however, I was disappointed in the ending.

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