



## Gulliver's Fugitives

*Keith Sharee*

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While searching for the *U.S.S. Huxley*, missing for more than 10 years, the *Enterprise*TM stumbles across a forgotten colony of humans on a planet called Rampart, where fiction and works of the imagination of any kind are considered a heinous crime. A survey team beams aboard the ship to search for "contraband," and the crew are drawn immediately into a vicious civil war between Rampart's mind police and a band of determined rebels.

## Gulliver's Fugitives Details

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Author : Keith Sharee

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## From Reader Review Gulliver's Fugitives for online ebook

### **Ian says**

This involves a planet where all fiction is outlawed and all law is based on a literal reading of the bible. They literally wear helmets to prevent them from looking at any fiction, and robots will kill people if they think incorrectly. The opening scene involves pages of Gulliver's Travels being weaponized. It's not subtle.

Now, this subject isn't new to trek (it's basically a "Return of the Archons"), but this is amazingly heavy handed. It's cheesy, but not in the Peter David kind of way, but in the smug, self-satisfied way of an author writing about how amazing writing is. It's like all those plays that involve the actors putting on plays. The finale involves physically manifested characters of myth battling the bad guys. Also, Troi saw a holofilm so disturbing her mind blotted it out, but she goes to watch it again because "it's important to open your mind" or something.

The audiobook is hideously abridged, but I doubt I lost much nuance. Scenes are so severely clipped it's honestly difficult to keep track of what's going on. It's a very trippy 1.5 hours.

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### **Craig says**

Ugh, this one was painful. Kind of a dumb premise and everyone seems to be described with "just a tinge of grey in their hair." We get it...they're experienced. The twist was dumb and Troi's parts were annoying to read. I give it two stars because I enjoyed the stuff happening on the Enterprise and wished it focused more on that - specifically Worf and Geordi. My favourite part was when Worf smashed stuff.

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### **Naomi says**

Read by Jonathan Frakes

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### **Jesse A says**

A fairly lifeless STTNG novel.

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### **Eric says**

It was ok

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## **Camille says**

I read two other books while reading this book - that should give you an idea of how much of my attention and interest it captured.

The *Enterprise* encounters the planet of Rampart occupied by a group of humans who wished to leave Earth and create a new world full of fact. These people did not see the point in fiction, yes, fiction. They consider anything fiction, from literature, art, myths, imagination, exploration, etc. illegal – basically if you have to use your imagination you are considered sick with a disease called Allpox. So when the Enterprise stumbles across this planet looking for the lost ship the *U.S.S. Huxley* the Rampartians (I guess I can call them that) consider all of the *Enterprise* "sick" because they speak of nothing of fiction – the very idea that aliens exist is fiction and therefore they must "fix" or destroy the Enterprise and all its inhabitants.

Now that little summary may seem interesting, which I would have to agree, but the sad fact was that this author did a horrible job telling a plausible or interesting story. He even had trouble with writing the canon characters, which caused me to wonder if he even watched the television show. And the worst part for me is that he spent so much time with Troi and her having "hallucinations" of a connection with an alien force (which had nothing to do with nothing) and being a "chick"; as in she could never defend herself or have capability to exert any type of leadership. Granted the TV series does this as well, but I don't like it there either.

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## **Joy says**

The *Enterprise* is looking into the disappearance of another ship, the *Huxley* which brings them to the planet Rampart. The planet Rampart is dedicated to preventing the spread of AllPox, which is a disease of "myth, fiction, imagination, blasphemy, and religious heresy." Their definition of "fiction" is rather twisted and denies that humans are the only species in the universe (even though there are clearly aliens on the *Enterprise*).

Unfortunately, the crew does not know about the dangers of the envoys from Rampart and lets them aboard. They kidnap Captain Picard and beam back to the planet, leaving behind several "one-eyes" which are drones that read thoughts and kill several members of the crew. Meanwhile, Riker, Data and Troi beam down to the planet. Riker and Data are captured but Troi gets away and finds herself among the "dissenters" who are people who rebel against the regulations against fiction and imagination.

This novel is not bad. There are lots of allusions to different works.

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## **Jerry says**

My Thoughts: A fun blend of classical literature and space opera.

Content Concerns: Ten or so profanities, sci-fi action violence throughout, and, most unfortunately, a disparaging reference to Christianity and the Bible.

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### **Kieran McAndrew says**

While searching for the 'U.S.S. Huxley', lost for over a decade, Picard and crew encounter Rampart, a former human colony where fiction and works of imagination are considered one of the most heinous crimes in society.

Essentially a novel which questions the value of stories within society, Sharee's novel bears reading even for non 'Star Trek' fans.

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### **Myke Edwards says**

I read this way back in 8th grade; why I chose this as my one book on that fateful back to school shopping trip in the height of my Star Trek craze I'll never understand. I mean, just reading the descriptions on the backs of countless other books, this sounds like one of the weirdest. Reading it was no picnic either, it was confusing and spent a massive chunk in a dream-state, which is beyond infuriating and highly considered one of the worst mistakes and cheats to the audience the author can make.

A part of me wants to read it again 25 years later to see if I might actually "get it" and like it better, but then I realize, I have better things to do. Given the other reviews I see on here, I think I'll stick with this review and call it a day.

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### **Will Johnson says**

The Grand Star Trek Book Review #3: Gulliver's Fugitives (TNG #11)

This was a great Trek book even if the plot wasn't exactly original. Basically Troi has to deal with a planet similar to that in Equilibrium with shades of Fahrenheit 451 and 1984. There is a 'thought police' who kills people with creative thoughts.

So, naturally, a ship full of Rikers and Barcleys is probably going to peeve some people on this planet since the Federation is all about love, flowers, and hugging. But the positive Trek notion of grasping your own destiny, especially through the arts and personal expression, is evident and the book, while unoriginal, is basically a second season episode of TNG and that is doable.

The author, Keith Sharee, couldn't be found to be interviewed in Voyages of Imagination (the official Trek book on fiction) so I can't pilfer any quotes from there and post them here :( Though I did look up the author and this appears to be the only book he ever wrote though he should still be getting royalties as the book is available as an audio cassette/CD/MP3, an ebook, and is available in other languages!

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### **John Barclay says**

An interesting idea, a bit simplistic, but fun.

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### **Nicolas R. says**

I loved this book Gulliver's Fugitives by Keith Sharee. The story about the Enterprise having to fight a planet that has banned fiction is very interesting. The book switches focus so we can see what all the main characters are doing. Even though this is happening however a lot of the focus seems to be on Deanna Troi the Ship's half-Betazoid counselor and empath. Her story involves dealing with strange lifeforms that appear to be contacting her through visions. Troi must figure out what they lifeforms (called "Other-Worlders in the book) and meeting a rebel group on the planet known as the dissenters.

Sharee is very good at making you care about all of the characters. Even Ensign Wesley Crusher who is hated by many fans of the tv show, is very likable here and you root for him when he appears. The world of Rampart is a very good example of a dystopia. The way they deal with criminals (or who they view as criminals) in their government feels like something Nurse Ratchet from "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" would design. All of the characters are portrayed like their television counterparts and you could imagine actors like Patrick Stewart or Brent Spiner saying the lines of Picard and Data in the story. A very memorable scene is when an officer of the Rampartian government is viewing Picard's memories on a disc (it makes sense in context). The scene mentions several episodes and characters from the show and is a treat for a fan of TNG. I would be interested in looking at what else this author has written. Finally I must mention how there are a lot of similarities to the Ray Bradbury novel "Fahrenheit 451". Someone was a fan. I give this book 4 out of 5 one-eyes.

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### **Michael Bedford says**

Set near the end of the 2nd season of Star Trek the Next Generation and written by Keith Sharee, this was an entertaining but needlessly confusing novel. One interesting pseudo-fantasy element was an imagined attack by the titular character on a mind-controlling, dystopian human colony. Also of note was Data's random word poetry, apparently composed by a rudimentary AI program designed by a friend of the author who is thanked in the novel's dedication, and an indirect reference to Star Trek episode The Corbomite Maneuver by way of mentioning the First Federation. Lots of wacky adventure with Troi at the centre of it all with an interesting, albeit confusing, subplot about her making contact with what seem to Troi to be extra-dimensional aliens that come to her while unconscious.

It's a pretty typical brain police/brainwashing action adventure aside from the extra-dimensional alien bit and the fact that the members of the ubiquitous brain police rebel group in the story identify themselves as various fictional and/or mythological characters; Coyote, Odysseus, etc.

Not really worth the time unless yer a raging Trek fan like myself but give it a go if yer interested in a science fiction take on the theme of the intersection of fact and fiction.

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### **Carl says**

Read this way way way back in the day-- I'd always been more a star wars than star trek fan, but I liked all sci fi, and I guess I bought this on a whim. I think I ended up giving it away to a friend back before I finished elementary school, and can't really remember it all that well now-- but it was fun enough, and quite "star

trekk-y"-- which sometimes feels like a good thing, sometimes like a bad thing. I'm on a bit of a star trek kick again and trying to catch up with all the stuff I've ignored the last 20 years. Can be fairly goofy sometimes, right up through more recent ST stuff, but it IS much more sci-fi than star wars (which is space fantasy), and is intentionally thought provoking in the manner of "traditional" sci fi-- or maybe I should say sci fi of the main body of the 20th century. I was surprised to see how many big names in sci fi from the mid 20th contributed to the original series, but the influence definitely shows-- even if I didn't always like the stories by the guest writers!

Anyway, I hardly remember this book, and am guessing at the 3 star rating-- but remember that I tend to err on the side of higher ratings. Mostly just wanted a chance to review something from Star Trek, now that I'm watching the shows and movies.

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