



The Garden

Melissa Scott

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Desperately in need of vital nutritional supplies, the crew of the "USS Voyager" TM must risk dealing with an enigmatic race known as the Kirse, legendary for the bountiful crops of their world - and for their secretive ways. Despite Neelix's warnings, Captain Janeway leads an Away Team to the Kirse homeworld. But when the hostile Andirrim attack the Kirse, Janeway finds herself caught in a deadly situation. Forced to fight alongside the Kirse, Janeway and her crew can only hope that their strange, new allies are not more dangerous than their common foe.

The Garden Details

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Author : Melissa Scott

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From Reader Review The Garden for online ebook

I B Broome says

A well written novel based in Voyager's early years. Where Paris was still trying to find his place on board. Slightly disappointed as given the title Kes could have had a larger role.

Sharon says

This book takes place during the first season of TV series.

Once again Voyager needs to look for food but this time there is a bit of a twist. There is a nutritional deficiency and the situation must be dealt with NOW. They find the Kirse who have a planet that is literally a garden but of course things are not what they seem. They never are.

Tom once again gets involved with a beautiful alien female Kirse but at least this time its limited to friendship but still, this trope was just way to overused.

There were several nitpicks. Harry and Tom were part of an away team. The author had Harry reporting back to Janeway when it should have been TOM as the ranking officer doing the communicating with the Captain.

The book is fairly well written although some of the descriptions of the planet and its inhabitants went into too much detail. The POV shifts from Janeway, Harry, Tom and Torres. There is a very riveting action scene and a rather odd resolution. I found it to be a good story personally but I understand if other readers might find it boring.

Adam says

The only word that sprung to mind as I reflected on this book was average.

It is possible that the author was restricted somewhat due to the theme of the story. The main characters would not be killed off, no one would join the crew, and at the end they would continue on their journey home.

The premise didn't excite me. The ship was running out of food. A realistic idea for a stranded ship but not very interesting!

The thing that sticks out for me was the underused Revek! An ex marquis, stranded in the delta quadrant. He could have been such a main player in this tale! Instead he was sent to the periphery and we had an average encounter with some weird space pirates.

In my opinion

Sean Randall says

A novel concept and not a badly-written one, unlike some of the others in the numbered voyager annals

André says

Not so interesting, can't remember much of it... but it was okay, I think... did I read this book at all? No idea...

Peter says

The book was ok but I found at times the author would just put gibberish in, I feel it was there to just increase the word count and most of the time it did not make any real sense and I would find myself getting annoyed every time she wrote a character did something again even if it was the first time. I think I may skip books from this author in the future.

Jimyanni says

Not a great book by any stretch of the imagination, it was certainly closer to a three-star than to a five-star, but I really felt that it was just a little bit too good not to jump it up to four stars. The characterizations were handled pretty well, the plot was an interesting if fairly standard early-first-season Voyager plot (or at least, the problem driving the plot was typical early-first season; the ramifications were somewhat more original) and the pacing and action were better than average. Worth reading if you're a fan of the series; maybe not if you aren't.

Joy says

Voyager has recently stocked up on food, but the human population are all getting scurvy. The mystery is quickly solved, but if they don't find nutritious food soon, they won't have enough crew left to run the ship. This means Captain Janeway must make a deal with the Kirse, no matter how questionable the Kirse ethics are.

The crew are interesting and likeable, and the Kirse are interesting, however I felt Melissa Scott was too limited by the boundaries required by Star Trek writing. I wonder what she would have done with it, now that Star Trek's foundations have been deconstructed.

Craig says

I wish I could rate this book a 2.5. I have read better Star Trek books and this one did annoy me how much it

dragged itself out and took forever to get anywhere. However, the things I liked made an impact. I liked the dilemma - the ship is starving and they have no choice but to get food from this planet. I liked the characters - Melissa Scott seemed to really grasp the Voyager crew and I didn't have a moment where something felt off - Janeway even has to contemplate her coffee addiction. Though it never showed up too much in the show I liked how there was still a rift between the Maquis and the Starfleet people in here and Chakotay, Paris and Janeway often see crew members as us vs. them kind of scenario as they work to fit together. I thought that was always a weaker part of the show that was not emphasized enough. I just found the story was very thin for what was there and took a long time to unfold.

Charles says

This book, the eleventh in the series of novels featuring the U. S. Voyager, is rather average in depth of the plot and the level of tension that is generated. Due to issues with some of the food they have been eating, the crew of the Voyager is unable to intake enough vitamins to survive, specifically C.

The situation is growing critical and Voyager is in an area with few quality planets, so they are forced to seek assistance from the Kirse. They are a species that is chronically short of metal, so Captain Janeway decides to trade some of their metal spare parts for fresh food rich in vitamins. The Kirse are known as avid traders, so it seems that a deal is possible. From the perspective of the Voyager crew, they have little choice, it seems unlikely they would survive until they could find another planet that could satisfy their needs. While the Kirse planet is ringed with defensive systems, they are informed that it is to repel the hostile Andirrim, to force them into a trading posture.

The Kirse social structure seems enigmatic to the Voyager crew, yet there is nothing significant blocking the execution of the trade. However, an Andirrim task force arrives, supposedly to trade, but in fact to raid. After some unsuccessful negotiation with Captain Janeway, the Andirrim attack the Kirse planet and Voyager, leading to some basic defensive actions. Of course Voyager wins, yet there is no real challenge in achieving the victory.

The action is generally predictable and the constant undercurrent of doubts and uncertainties due to past service with the Maquis reaches the point of being boring. Mention it once, early and in depth and be done with it.

Chris says

It was middling for the most part, but I liked the twist at the end. I loved the Kirse as a species, very interesting concept, even if it wasn't completely realized.

Angela says

Voyager needs food desperately, the crew are all going down with scurvy. Only one planet has the food they need but it is known to be hard to trade with. A clever idea for a story. Its set really early on in the show, where being a marquis could still be a problem. A good read.
