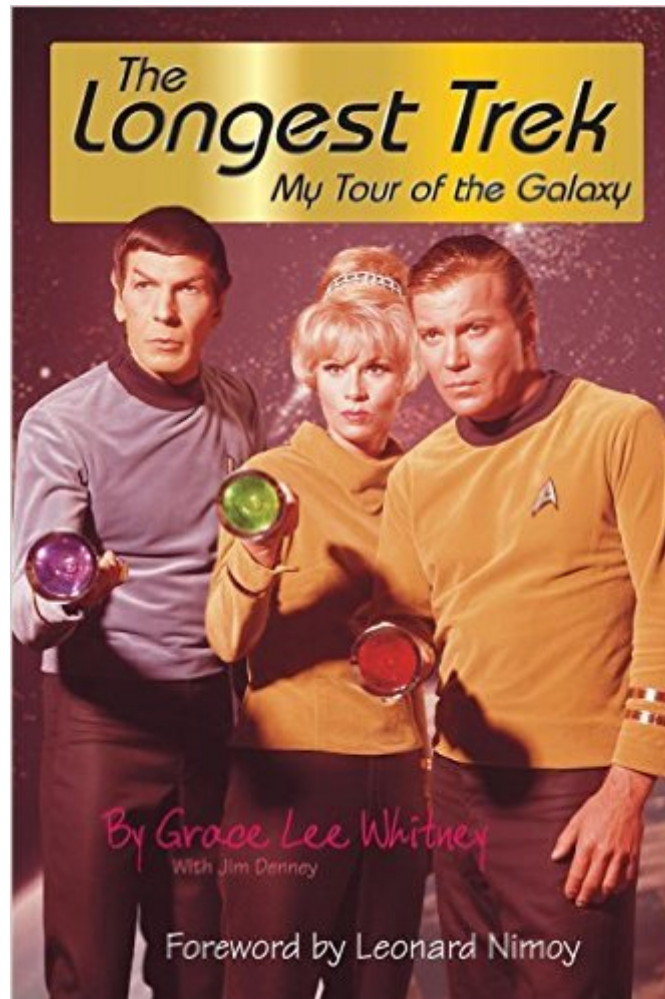


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The Longest Trek: My Tour Of The Galaxy



Synopsis

She opened for jazz great Billie Holiday, shared the set with Marilyn Monroe, and flirted on-screen with Jack Lemmon. In her dream role, Gene Roddenberry beamed her aboard the Starship Enterprise as Yeoman Janice Rand in the original "Star Trek" series. But a terrifying sexual assault on the studio lot and her lifelong feelings of emptiness and isolation would soon combine to turn her starry dream into a nightmare.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

How is it that a character who appeared in only 8 episodes of a television show in 1966, remains a fan favorite half-a-century later? For the answer to that question, ask Ms. Grace Lee Whitney, best known for her role as Yeoman Janice Rand on the perpetually popular Star Trek Original Series. Despite the Yeoman Rand character being pulled abruptly from the show without explanation, she managed to appear again and again in a total of four Star Trek movies, an episode of Star Trek: Voyager as Lt. Commander Rand and at countless Star Trek conventions. Something about Ms. Whitney's demeanor, personality, forthrightness, perspective on life and, as this autobiography proves, the way she tells her story, have all contributed to her role as immortal intergalactic diva. After Leonard Nimoy's seemingly bipolar books *I Am Not Spock* and *I Am Spock*, George Takei's *To the Stars* and Nichelle Nichol's *Beyond Uhura*, all of which tell the stories of lives that are so much more than Star Trek, one might expect Ms. Whitney's story to be anti-climactic. Not so. Hers is a life filled to the max and a story that is difficult to resist. What makes it so

compelling is the sense of honesty the reader gets when learning about a life filled with unimaginable ups and heart-wrenching downs. This sparkling blue-eyed platinum blonde entertainer shares her life with us as she opens for such greats as Billie Holiday and as she appears with the legendary Marilyn Monroe in *Some Like It Hot* where she had to dye her hair so as not to compete with Ms. Monroe who would allow no one in any of the productions in which she starred to have hair a lighter shade of blonde than her own. The diversity of Ms.

I found this author's openness "amazing." The story of the original *Star Trek* is very little because the author kept the story line mostly "about her life", her ideology and personal affairs more than about *Star Trek*. *Star Trek* is used as a vehicle to tell her story of alcohol, sex, drugs, religion, recovery and survival; which makes it an important book for anyone who is suffering from addictions. I found the book educational about what one goes through when in the throes of addiction; i.e., dry drunk where alcohol is replaced by pot, medical issues about circulation in the legs, etc. from alcohol and drug abuse, etc. I find the story of her ex-husbands being able to railroad and take her to the cleaners financially very informative and a "wake up call" to others in a similar situation, meaning, being drunk or stoned blinds one and makes a person a victim to those who are opportunists. I found the recovery part of the book great -- the author's lifelong longing to feel connected, loved and accepted by those she likes and respects and she finally feels all this when with the actors in the AA meeting she'll finally attend and accept sobriety. This is a wonderful thing she shared with us readers as many in our society do feel this same sense of longing. The author also showed an iron will throughout her life, which I'm sure is why she was able to survive such a tragic, horrific life of abuse. It's a good read, well written and one I'd recommend to those who learn and grow from another's experiences, i.e., marrying someone without really knowing their attitudes about women. The first ex-husband in this book is a great example.

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