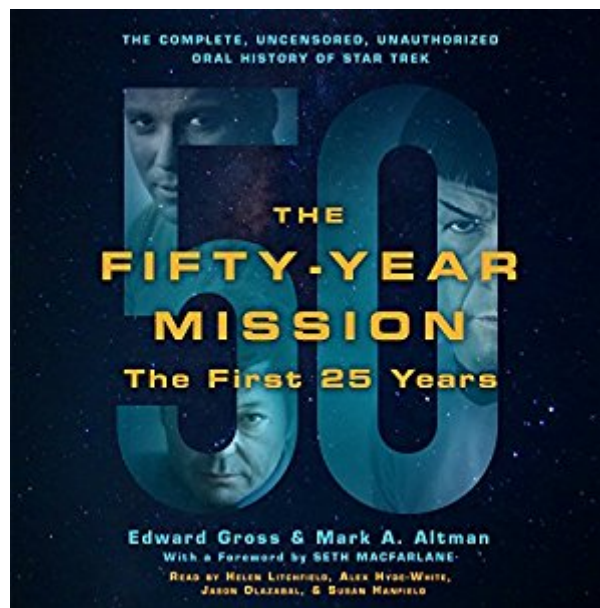


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The Fifty-Year Mission: The Complete, Uncensored, Unauthorized Oral History Of Star Trek: The First 25 Years



Synopsis

This is the unauthorized, uncensored, and unbelievable true story behind the making of a pop culture phenomenon. The original Star Trek series debuted in 1966 and has spawned five TV series spin-offs and a dozen feature films, with an upcoming one from Paramount arriving in 2016. The Fifty-Year Mission is a no-holds-barred oral history of five decades of Star Trek, told by the people who were there. Hear from the hundreds of television and film executives, programmers, writers, creators, and cast as they unveil the oftentimes shocking story of Star Trek's ongoing 50-year mission - a mission that has spanned from the classic series to the animated show, the many attempts at a relaunch through the beloved feature films. Make no mistake, this isn't just an audiobook for Star Trek fans. Here is a volume for all fans of pop culture and anyone interested in the nuts and bolts of a television touchstone.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Last night I was privileged to hear Altman speak about this first volume at a bookstore in Los Angeles. [It was a bookstore chain that is a competitor of , so I will not tell you its name. You will never guess.]While initially saying he would not do a reading from it, that was what eventuated. He declaimed a long letter from Gene Roddenberry to Shatner, Nimoy and DeForrest Kelly. Written after the first season ended in 1966. Directed mostly at Shatner and Nimoy with only glancing mention of Kelly. Roddenberry was complaining and warning them about their sharp elbows towards each other and the rest of the cast. Each jostling to be pre-eminent, with complaints about lines

being shifted around and the like. Altman had dug this letter out of obscure personal archives. Indeed, the overall worth of the book is not actual interviews with the lead actors, but the attention given to those behind the camera. Who were rarely interviewed or even recognised by fans. Like the secretaries of Roddenberry and some directors. No one had apparently interviewed them prior. Altman suggested an analogy to *Mad Men*. In the 60s, it was rare for women to be in managerial roles. Some of these secretaries might today have been executives but they were trapped by the mores of their time. Altman pointed out that if you scan the now vast literature on Star Trek, the actors are the focus. Deliberately, this book breaks new acreage by acknowledging and documenting those others behind the scenes. Giving them a proper and long belated due. Something the fan base woefully overlooks. He also suggested that anyone wanting to write a similar book faces fundamental obstacles. Many, actors and crew, are now dead. No more interviews.

Growing up in the seventies, I fell in love with Star Trek watching the reruns on TV. Even after the success of Star Wars, I was always a Star Trek guy. Now that it is Star Trek's 50th anniversary year, the show is getting a lot of attention. Among that attention are two books that claim to be the complete, uncensored, unauthorized oral history of Star Trek. This is the first of them. Though this book claims to focus on the first 25 years, it cheats a bit. It would more accurately claim to be the book that covers the series of the original cast. Thus, it covers the original series and the movies through Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country but it ignores Star Trek: The Next Generation, which I assume is covered in the second book even though it began broadcast in 1987. It's a sensible division to make. Assuming that the person reading this is interested in Star Trek to begin with, there are two things that will likely determine whether or not this book is enjoyable. First, do you like reading lengthy interview excerpts from various people? Second, how much do you worship Gene Roddenberry? Essentially, this book is a giant collection of interview excerpts of people both major and minor in the history of the series. This has become a popular approach to the history of pop culture products, having previously been done for SNL and MTV, for example. It has its pleasures, giving a multitude of voice to people who were there and involved, sometimes bringing to the fore people wrongly forgotten and sometimes doing the same for people better left forgotten. It's surprising how little there is from the cast, however. But it does feel like a series look behind the scenes. Also, Gene Roddenberry comes across very poorly in this book.

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