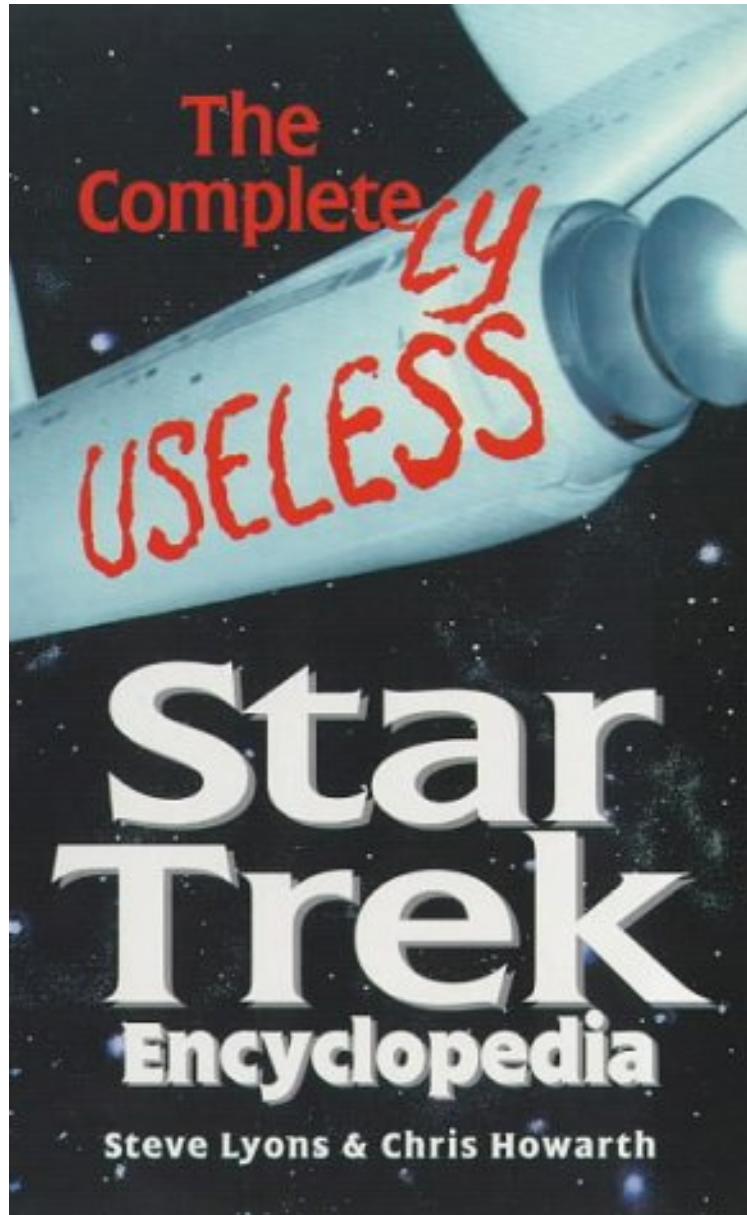


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## The Completely Useless Star Trek Encyclopedia (Virgin)

*Chris Howarth, Steve Lyons*

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**Chris Howarth, Steve Lyons : The Completely Useless Star Trek Encyclopedia (Virgin)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Completely Useless Star Trek Encyclopedia (Virgin):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hilarious! By MoserGray Written by the same team behind the

Completely Useless Doctor Who Encyclopedia, this book is extremely funny. Offering humorous observations on Star Trek TOS, Star Trek TAS, Star Trek TNG, Star Trek DS9, Star Trek Voyager, and the motion pictures, it is jam packed. Just please note it was written in 1997 and is somewhat dated, but that should not deter you from purchasing. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Highly amusing for Star-Trek aficionados. By A Customer I'll start this review by saying up front that I'm a big fan of the TV show "Mystery Science Theater 3000" so I was bound to at least look favorably on any sort of parody of Americana such as this one. Which is odd, because the two authors are English and writing for audiences in England (thus the references to such things as TV 21, Doctor Who, personalities of whom us Yankees have never heard, etc.) Even so, I found this to be a notably enjoyable book; a good stocking-stuffer for the sci-fi fan in your life (as long as he's not the sort who thinks all things Roddenbury are holy.) It takes the form of the ubiquitous "Guide to Star Trek" books available today, which are generally little more than glorified episode guides with some fandom tidbits thrown in and still shots from the movie or TV show in question. However, this book is meant to parody of these sorts of publications, and does so with admirable skill (you can tell that the writers did their homework.) Topics covered range from 'Auto-Destruct' (what if someone sneezes while giving the cancel command four seconds before the ship explodes?), through 'The Love Boat' (certain early scenes with overblown romantic tension made some fans complain that 'TNG' was starting to resemble this show. See also 'GET A LIFE'), up to 'Yangs' (enemies of the 'Kohms' in the less-than-subtle allegory that was 'The Omega Glory'). Numerous Star Trek "tales" are brought up, and many are given an entirely new spin (i.e. "beam me up Scotty" as a fanboy creation, so they could have something to be smug at non-fans for attributing to the series.) You will find yourself laughing out loud at many points, or at least snickering. Of course, it's not a perfect book. Many of the parodies are simply the standard "cheap shots" we've all come to know and...recognize (not exactly \_love\_.) And the humor \_does\_ wear thin after a while...reading the whole book in one or two sittings is a no-no. In fact, this might make a good "bathroom book"--go in, sit down, pick it up, read a few entries, and leave in a cheerier mood than you entered. All in all, though, a good pick for a Trekkie near you. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A must-read for any Trekkie with a sense of humor. By A Customer When I first saw this book I thought; 'Oh, no, another boring Star Trek encyclopedia full of uninteresting 'facts'; I'm not giving good money for this useless...' And that's when the title hit me. The book has the format of your average boring Trek trivia compilation, but the entries are treated with well-aimed humor and sometimes biting sarcasm, which makes for a frank laugh if you enjoy good-natured parody. Personally, I almost strangled myself trying to keep from laughing out loud in the aisle of the respectable bookshop I was in; eventually I failed in my attempt to maintain any shred of dignity and collapsed in a fit of mad laughter. But then I'm a shameless Trekkie. You can feel the authors are British, as is their sense of humor (with a Monty Python touch to it); but I don't see that as a problem, being Belgian myself. All in all, resistance (against hilarious parodies) is futile.

**SHAMELESS EXPLOITATION OF A REVERED SCIENCE FICTION CASH COW.** It's here! The book that could have been thicker and more jam-packed with facts and exposes, but wasn't. However, its disappointing size conceals a bumper collection of facts, both trivial and pointless, about Star Trek in all its incarnations but especially the animated one. Within this uniquely portable volume you will find: The silliest items of merchandise. The fattest members of Starfleet. Not much about Voyager really. No distracting illustrations. And various other things!