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[DSG2k](#)
Commander

 **For Paula Block**
[#5329219](#) - 05/12/05 01:42 AM

Reged: 02/12/29

Hello,

Some of the Pocket Books folks posting on this forum noted that you sometimes post here as well. I was hoping to trouble you with a couple of quick questions.

1. As Senior Director of Licensed Publishing at Viacom Consumer Products, you are to Pocket Books what Harry Lang is to Perpetual (makers of the Star Trek Online game). Is there anyone in such a role to Paramount Digital Entertainment, maintainers of the StarTrek.com and Paramount.com websites? If so, who might that be?

2. According to Jon Ordovery and Marco Palmieri, none of the Star Trek books are canon. However, non-Pocket resources still list two of Jeri Taylor's several novels (*Mosaic* and *Pathways*) as being canon, and Jeri Taylor and Jon Ordovery in older interviews confirmed that she intended them to be canon.

Assuming for the moment that they aren't held as canon by Paramount or VCP now, how would such a change come about? I see a few possibilities:

- A. Viacom Consumer Products received a directive from Paramount Communications or Berman or what-have-you which explicitly decanonized the materials.
- B. Viacom Consumer Products received a directive from Paramount Communications or Berman or what-have-you that did not specifically include the novels as canon.
- C. At Viacom Consumer Products, the books were considered to have been decanonized after Taylor's departure.
- D. At Viacom Consumer Products, the books were considered to have been decanonized after certain events in Voyager seemed to contradict the novels.

Just wondering how the change would have come about. I presume something like that would require explicit decanonization, but it never hurts to ask.

Thank you in advance for your answers. They'll help me improve the page I ever-so-shamelessly plug in my sig below. 😊

Author of Google's #1 ranked page on "[Star Trek canon](#)"

Post Extras:   

[KRAD](#)
Keith R.A. DeCandido

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
[#5329261](#) - 05/12/05 01:57 AM



Quote: _____

- [Trek BBS](#)
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Reged: 99/11/28
Loc: New York City

However, non-Pocket resources still list two of Jeri Taylor's several novels (*Mosaic* and *Pathways*) as being canon, and Jeri Taylor and Jon Ordovery in older interviews confirmed that she intended them to be canon.

Something that should be pointed out: If *Mosaic* and *Pathways* were canon, I wouldn't have been allowed to contradict them in the least in *The Brave and the Bold*. But my account of how Tuvok joined the Maquis in the latter is not quite consistent with what was in *Pathways*.

If those novels were canon, I wouldn't have gotten the proposal approved.

DeCandido.net

[KRAD's Inaccurate Guide to Life](#)

Post Extras:

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [KRAD](#)]
#5329296 - 05/12/05 02:09 AM

[KevinK](#)
Writer



Reged: 02/01/11
Loc: Wilmington, NC, USA

And they worked so hard on updating the FAQ.....

-- Kevin K.
"It's your dream; make it work"
-- Valerie K.

www.BattleCorps.com

Mit der Dummheit kämpfen Götter selbst vergebens.

Post Extras:

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
#5329347 - 05/12/05 02:25 AM

[Therin of Andor](#)
Commodore



Reged: 04/06/30
Loc: Sydney, Australia

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:
you are to Pocket Books what Harry Lang is to Perpetual (makers of the Star Trek Online game). Is there anyone in such a role to Paramount Digital Entertainment, maintainers of the StarTrek.com ... website?

AFAIK, all of those people would send their ST material to Paula Block, Senior Director of Licensed Publishing at Viacom Consumer Products, for approval.

Thiptho laph!

The Andor Files
<http://www.geocities.com/therinofandor/>

Post Extras:

NEW

Last Episode:

06/04 [In A Mirror,](#)
[Darkly - Part I](#) (R)

[Promo](#) | [Review](#)

Next Episode:

06/11 [In A Mirror,](#)
[Darkly - Part II](#)
(R)

[Promo](#) | [Review](#)

Upcoming:

Last Episode:

06/04 [In A Mirror,](#)
[Darkly - Part I](#) (R)

[Promo](#) | [Review](#)

Next Episode:

06/11 [In A Mirror,](#)
[Darkly - Part II](#)
(R)

[Promo](#) | [Review](#)

Upcoming:

Dec 15 - [News Bullets](#)

New movie allegations, Shatner x2, Siddig, Takei x2, Pocket Books, CCG, 'The Fallen', gaming competition, communicators, 'Enterprise' in syndication, Vulcan mind techniques, convention news.

Dec 15 - [Whitney To Appear in 'Star Trek: New Voyages'](#)

Janice Rand actress will return to Star Trek in fan series' fourth episode.

Dec 14 - [Braga Talks 'Threshold' Experience and Cancellation](#)

Former 'Enterprise' exec says he planned to have more Star Trek actors on former CBS series.

Dec 15 - [News Bullets](#)

New movie allegations, Shatner x2, Siddig, Takei x2, Pocket Books, CCG, 'The Fallen', gaming competition, communicators, 'Enterprise' in

Writer

#5330625 - 05/12/05 02:06 PM



Reged: 00/05/22
Loc: Somewhere without a paddle...

Quote:

Posted by KRAD:
Something that should be pointed out: If *Mosaic* and *Pathways* were canon, I wouldn't have been allowed to contradict them in the least in *The Brave and the Bold*. But my account of how Tuvok joined the Maquis in the latter is not quite consistent with what was in *Pathways*.

If those novels were canon, I wouldn't have gotten the proposal approved.

syndication, Vulcan mind techniques, convention news.

Dec 15 - Whitney To Appear in 'Star Trek: New Voyages'
Janice Rand actress will return to Star Trek in fan series' fourth episode.

Dec 14 - Braga Talks 'Threshold' Experience and Cancellation
Former 'Enterprise' exec says he planned to have more Star Trek actors on former CBS series.

And look. I only missed my guesstimate by an hour or so

www.daytonward.com

"If common sense was actually that common, more people would have it."

Post Extras:

DaveR
Lieutenant Commander

Re: For Paula Block [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
#5332158 - 05/12/05 10:42 PM

Reged: 04/12/04
Loc: Vancouver, BC

Since Taylor wrote them when she was producer of the show, she'd be perfectly within her rights to consider them canon. But once she left, anything from the books that she didn't establish on-screen would immediately go to non-canon, wouldn't it?

Dave

Post Extras:

Dayton Ward
Writer

Re: For Paula Block [Re: [DaveR](#)]
#5332191 - 05/12/05 10:49 PM



Reged: 00/05/22
Loc: Somewhere without a paddle...

^ Pretty much, yeah.

As has been pointed out, were the books in question part of the "canon," then tie-in books would be required to remain consistent with information they presented, just as is required with regards to any other "canon" material. Books not holding to that standard would have been corrected prior to publication. Such corrections/clarifications/revisions occur all the time, particularly if information introduced on screen creates a conflict with a book that is in the process of being written (Dave Stern's *Rosetta* required rewrites for this precise reason).

EDIT: At least, I think it was *Rosetta*.

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"If common sense was actually that common, more people would have it."

Edited by Dayton Ward (05/12/05 10:52 PM)

Post Extras:

Christopher
Writer

Re: For Paula Block [Re: [DaveR](#)]
#5332318 - 05/12/05 11:13 PM



Quote:



- [Trek Nation](#)

- [TrekToday](#)

- [Trek BBS](#)

- [ST: Hypertext](#)

- [The J-Team](#)





Reged: 01/03/15

Posted by DaveR:


Since Taylor wrote them when she was producer of the show, she'd be perfectly within her rights to consider them canon. But once she left, anything from the books that she didn't establish on-screen would immediately go to non-canon, wouldn't it?

Well, not "immediately," like a switch was thrown or a law passed or something. Contrary to what fans like DSG2k keep assuming, it's not like there's some dogma of canon handed down from on high. Canon is more a description of a working phenomenon than a formal standard. It's just the stuff that the makers of the show choose to acknowledge. The producers after Taylor certainly *could* have chosen to incorporate elements from her books after she left; they just didn't. It's just that while Taylor was running the show, she chose to keep it consistent with her book(s), but once she left, her successors didn't feel obligated to make the same choice.

[Christopher L. Bennett Homepage](#) Updated 11/12/05 with info on VGR: *Distant Shores*: "Brief Candle" and *Titan: Orion's Hounds*

Post Extras:   

DaveR
Lieutenant Commander

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Christopher](#)]
[#5333364](#) - 05/12/06 02:40 AM

Reged: 04/12/04
Loc: Vancouver, BC

That's kind of what I was getting at. By Taylor having written those books *and* being producer at the time, she could enforce that any backstory stuff that was in the series matched her view. Once she was gone, it wasn't as "automatic" as that. If the producers wanted to keep it, they could, but they didn't have to.

That's the way I've always looked at it, anyway.

Dave

Post Extras:   

Christopher
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DaveR](#)]
[#5333493](#) - 05/12/06 03:06 AM



Reged: 01/03/15

Quote:

Posted by DaveR:


That's kind of what I was getting at. By Taylor having written those books *and* being producer at the time, she could enforce that any backstory stuff that was in the series matched her view. Once she was gone, it wasn't as "automatic" as that. If the producers wanted to keep it, they could, but they didn't have to.

Basically. For that matter, Taylor didn't have to either. If someone had come to her with a great story idea that contradicted *Mosaic* but was still consistent with onscreen canon, I doubt she would've rejected it for that reason alone. So I don't even think it's accurate to say that Taylor considered *Mosaic* part of the canon; more likely, she treated it like a writers' bible, in that it was a source of ideas and backstory, but didn't absolutely have to be binding if a better idea came along.

[Christopher L. Bennett Homepage](#) Updated 11/12/05 with info on VGR: *Distant Shores*: "Brief Candle" and *Titan: Orion's Hounds*

Post Extras:   

pmblock
Ensign

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
[#5336979](#) - 05/12/06 10:39 PM

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

Hello,

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- D. At Viacom Consumer Products, the books were considered to have been decanonized after certain events in Voyager seemed to contradict the novels.

Just wondering how the change would have come about. I presume something like that would require explicit decanonization, but it never hurts to ask.

Thank you in advance for your answers. They'll help me improve the page I ever-so-shamelessly plug in my sig below. 😊

As Gilda Radner might have said, Mr.DSG2k, you ask a lotta questions...

Had I seen this a couple posts earlier, I might have given you a lengthy reply. But I see that most of those answers have been covered by your helpful compatriots. To give you a quicky response:

1. Re Paramount Digital, actually there's a guy down there --Tim Gaskill--who used to work for me at VCP, overseeing some of the Star Trek publishing. He's not the only one at PDE, but he's one of several Star Trek experts down there. Not sure what else you're asking here.

2. Okay, none of the books are canon. That's 100% true. While Jeri Taylor was actively involved with Star Trek, we allowed the licensees to treat her two books as quasi-canon for their projects (because the folks at Voyager weren't likely to contradict them in their episodes). And that worked pretty well for a while. After she left Voyager, however, the other writers on the show pretty much did what they wanted (I doubt they ever read her books), so the books eventually stopped being even quasi-canon.

This doesn't mean that the fiction writers working for Pocket can't use Jeri's books as background for their stories. It's a free country. But they're not "canon". Nothing that wasn't onscreen (tv or movie screen) is canon. You guys are so into this "canon" thing. It's just a word, guys. It's not the ten commandments. All it means is that we try not to let people contradict the stuff that was on-screen, but we don't care if all the fiction authors contradict each other's books. Sigh.

I hope this has enlightened you!
best, Paula

Post Extras:   

Reged: 04/05/12
Loc: Oxford, PA

At the risk of stirring up hornets, I can't resist weighing in on this whole "canon" thing.


To be brutally honest, this tends to be more of a fannish concern than anything else. A few years back, I was the editor of the (sadly short-lived) FARSCAPE novel line. As a result, I was often in touch with the good folks at Henson several times a day. During this entire period, and in all my dealings with Henson, the subject of "canonicity" never even came up. Not once. In all of the dense, voluminous, and painfully negotiated contracts regarding the series, the word "canon" was never mentioned. Honest.

In the real world, this wasn't even an issue. We worried instead about deadlines, schedules, approvals, royalties, and, yes, even the literary quality of the books. "Canon" was something fans argued about at conventions.

Okay, now I've got that off my chest . . .

Post Extras:   

Q420
Commodore

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [pmblock](#)]
[#5337903](#) - 05/12/07 02:35 AM

Reged: 03/08/23
Loc: Washington state

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:
You guys are so into this "canon" thing. It's just a word, guys. It's not the ten commandments.

Best. Quote. Ever. [/comic book guy] 

Thanks for not paying attention.

Post Extras:   

Dayton Ward
Writer


 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [pmblock](#)]
[#5337945](#) - 05/12/07 02:45 AM



Reged: 00/05/22
Loc: Somewhere without a paddle...

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:
You guys are so into this "canon" thing. It's just a word, guys. It's not the ten commandments.

Well, this should tide us over for a day or so. 

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"If common sense was actually that common, more people would have it."

Post Extras:   

Emh
The Doctor

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Dayton Ward](#)]
[#5338024](#) - 05/12/07 03:03 AM



Quote:

Posted by Dayton Ward:

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:
You guys are so into this "canon" thing. It's just a word, guys. It's not the ten commandments.

Well, this should tide us over for a day or so. 🍷

Perhaps we should make Paula's quote as the quote for the forum. Maybe people will actually pay attention.

Yeah, I can't say that with a straight face

"Good time to be a cat owner. Strap a bomb to a dog and tell him to run into a crowded area, and the poor thing will do it. Try it with a cat, and it's just as likely to pick that moment to crawl into your lap and hold on until the bomb goes off." - Peter David

Post Extras: 🍷 🍷 🍷

William Leisner
Commodore

📢 **Re: For Paula Block NEW** [Re: Dayton Ward]
#5338349 - 05/12/07 04:49 AM



Reged: 03/08/17
Loc: Minneapolis, MN


Quote:

Posted by Dayton Ward:

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:

You guys are so into this "canon" thing. It's just a word, guys. It's not the ten commandments.


Well, this should tide us over for a day or so. 

What an optimist you are.

Shameless plug: [S.C.E. #57: Out of the Cocoon](#) AVAILABLE NOW!
(And check out my spoiler-ific [Annotations page](#), too!)

Post Extras:   

KevinK
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [William Leisner](#)]
#5339047 - 05/12/07 01:13 PM



Reged: 02/01/11
Loc: Wilmington, NC, USA

Quote:

Posted by William Leisner:


Quote:

Posted by Dayton Ward:

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:

You guys are so into this "canon" thing. It's just a word, guys. It's not the ten commandments.

Well, this should tide us over for a day or so. 

What an optimist you are.

Beat me to it, Bill.

My guess is the next question(s) will be:

"When did that policy change? (Because everyone *knows* {insert title of favorite novel here} is canon!)"
and/or

"What makes Paula Block think she has the authority to change the rules like that? (Because everyone *knows* {insert title of favorite novel here} is canon!)"

Or variations on that theme.

Then again, I'm very old and prone to be cynical.

In reality I'm certain this the last time the issue of "canon" novels is ever brought up.

(Why, yes. It is a new medication. Why do you ask?)


-- Kevin K.
"It's your dream; make it work"
-- Valerie K.

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Mit der Dummheit kämpfen Götter selbst vergebens.


Post Extras:   


Mr. Spock
Ensign

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [KevinK](#)]
#5339773 - 05/12/07 05:04 PM

Reged: 05/10/07
Loc: NorthEast

Because you said someone wouldn't bring this up again 

Is any of the Non Fiction stuff canon? What about Books 1 and 2 of Titan? How about any of the novelizations? 

Blame these questions on Kevin K. 

War Is Hell.

Post Extras:   

Emh
The Doctor


 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Mr. Spock](#)]
#5339828 - 05/12/07 05:18 PM





Reged: 00/07/20
Loc: Durham, North Carolina

Quote:

Posted by Mr. Spock:

Because you said someone wouldn't bring this up again 

Is any of the Non Fiction stuff canon? What about Books 1 and 2 of Titan? How about any of the novelizations? 

Blame these questions on Kevin K. 

ahem

cough *cough*

Poorly attempts to clear throat.

Taps microphone.

No.

"Good time to be a cat owner. Strap a bomb to a dog and tell him to run into a crowded area, and the poor thing will do it. Try it with a cat, and it's just as likely to pick that moment to crawl into your lap and hold on until the bomb goes off." - Peter David

Post Extras:   


TerriO
Writer


 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: Mr. Spock]
#5339861 - 05/12/07 05:24 PM





Reged: 01/12/13
Loc: Covering Shep's six

Quote:

Posted by Mr. Spock:
Because you said someone wouldn't bring this up again 

Is any of the Non Fiction stuff canon? What about Books 1 and 2 of Titan? How about any of the novelizations? 

Blame these questions on Kevin K. 

No, Marc. Just. No. 

-Terri Osborne

Now: "Eighteen Minutes"-*Star Trek: Voyager: Distant Shores...*In 2006: S.C.E. #61: *Progress*

"Yes, Rico. Ka-boom."
"Smile and wave, boys. Smile and wave."--Skipper

Post Extras:   

Marco Palmieri
Commodore

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: Emh]
#5339864 - 05/12/07 05:27 PM



Reged: 00/01/27

It's suddenly very tempting to make *Canon* the title of the next *Titan* novel, just so I can then sit back and watch the seizures.

Marco

"Pessimism is a misuse of imagination."

Post Extras:   

Dayton Ward
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: Marco Palmieri]
#5339868 - 05/12/07 05:29 PM



Reged: 00/05/22

^ Let me write it, and you can have every decent blackmail photo of Keith I have.

I'll throw the Bubba ones in for free.


www.daytonward.com

"If common sense was actually that common, more people would have it."

Loc: Somewhere without a paddle...

Post Extras:   

TerriO
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Dayton Ward](#)]
#5339871 - 05/12/07 05:30 PM



^Knowing Marco, he's got his own library of blackmail photos on all of us. 😊

-Terri Osborne


Now: "Eighteen Minutes"-*Star Trek: Voyager: Distant Shores...*In 2006: S.C.E. #61: *Progress*

Reged: 01/12/13
Loc: Covering Shep's six

"Yes, Rico. Ka-boom."
"Smile and wave, boys. Smile and wave."--Skipper

Post Extras:   

Mr. Spock
Ensign

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [TerriO](#)]
#5340123 - 05/12/07 06:37 PM


Reged: 05/10/07
Loc: NorthEast

It was a joke Terri. I was trying to have fun with Kevin's post.

War Is Hell.

Post Extras:   

JAG
Trek Lit, The stories continue.

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Marco Palmieri](#)]
#5340141 - 05/12/07 06:41 PM



Reged: 03/04/01
Loc: Somewhere out there.

Quote:

Posted by Marco Palmieri:
It's suddenly very tempting to make *Canon* the title of the next *Titan* novel, just so I can then sit back and watch the seizures.

I'd pay Hardcover price for it.

There is unrest in the forest, and the trees are really mad.
Hear the maples scream "You traitor!"as the oaks put the smackdown on Jag. Dayton Ward

Post Extras:   

David Henderson
Commodore

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Christopher](#)]
#5340177 - 05/12/07 06:52 PM



Reged: 99/04/30
Loc: Peoria, IL

Quote:

Posted by Christopher:
The producers after Taylor certainly *could* have chosen to incorporate elements from her books after she left; they just didn't. It's just that while Taylor was running the show, she chose to keep it consistent with her book(s), but once she left, her successors didn't feel obligated to make the same choice.


As I recall, there were a few episodes written after Jeri Taylor left the series which still referred to items from *Mosaic* and/or *Pathways*. IIRC, Mike Sussman used some of Neelix's backstory in a later episode, and I think the name of at least one of Tuvok's children, as mentioned later in the series, came first from the books.

davidh

[David Henderson](#)
Missing his [Josh](#)

Post Extras:   

[Ordover](#)
Fleet Captain

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [David Henderson](#)]
#5340898 - 05/12/07 09:32 PM

Reged: 00/04/02
Loc: Brooklyn, NY, USA

To paraphrase something Fred Pohl said (I'll quote him directly below) You can only decide what is and isn't canonical for anything once the area is dead. In other words, what is and isn't canonical in the Old Testament and New Testament is something that could be hammered out only after no more testaments were forthcoming (and yes, there were other gospels and other stories left out of the final work for various reasons - it's actually a fascinating subject, what was left in and what wasn't, and why).

So until Star Trek is completely dead - no possibility of further movies or further TV shows - it will be impossible to decide which works are canon and which works are not canon. See how that goes?

A century from now, for all we know, after no new Trek is produced for 100 years and no one is going to (no one is writing more books for the bible either) someone hunting for a Ph.D Thesis will find Trek and go through all the films, shows, books, comics, T-shirts, shoelaces, etc. and put forth an argument for what should and shouldn't be part of canonical Trek. That will then spawn dozens of response-thesis arguing against the choices made, and eventually, after a decade or so, a canonical set of Trek will be differentiated from the Apochrypha. Whereupon the whole thing will start again with SG-1. 😊

My point being, you -cannot determine what is and what isn't canon- in an -ongoing process- while still in the midst of that process.


So to use another, more accurate term, the films and TV shows are the "sun source" from which all other Trek is derived. That, however, does not have the same meaning as the word "canon" does, although they are close in concept. Canon implies that the book is closed - no more entries are being accepted - and while TV and Movie Trek is taking a break now, I can't imagine it won't be back eventually, especially with Bryan S. saying he'd like to take a whack at it. 😊

As for what Fred Pohl said, he said "The reason you can't define exactly what science fiction is is because you can only define a field after it's dead."

John J. Ordover
Editor-in-Chief
Phobos Science Fiction and Fantasy

Post Extras:   

[Kevink](#)
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Marco Palmieri](#)]
#5341747 - 05/12/08 01:16 AM



Reged: 02/01/11
Loc: Wilmington, NC, USA

Quote:

Posted by Marco Palmieri:

It's suddenly very tempting to make *Canon* the title of the next *Titan* novel, just so I can then sit back and watch the seizures.

Or -- Dare we hope? -- a series!

Star Trek Canon!: *I Never Said "Beam Me Up, Scotty"*
Star Trek the Next Generation Canon!: *The Fish has no Name*
Star Trek Voyager Canon!: *I Do Not Sleep With My XO, Okay?*
Star Trek DS9 Canon!: *Yes, he Does Hold His Shape for Sixteen Hours*
Star Trek Enterprise Canon!: *He's **Really** Dead, Jon.*

-- Kevin K.
"It's your dream; make it work"
-- Valerie K.

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Mit der Dummheit kämpfen Götter selbst vergebens.

Edited by KevinK (05/12/08 01:18 AM)

Post Extras:   

ATimson
Commodore

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [KevinK](#)]
#5341789 - 05/12/08 01:28 AM



Regeid: 03/01/03
Loc: Andrew Timson

Quote:

Posted by KevinK:
Or -- Dare we hope? -- a series!

Don't forget the lit-only spinoffs!

Vanguard: Canon--His Ship, His Rules
New Frontier: Canon--Storytime with M'Ress
I.K.S. Gorkon: Canon--The 2380 "I Know Worf" Reunion
Stargazer: Canon--Twenty Years Together
Challenger: Canon--Cultural Anthropology 101 with Nick Keller

Andrew Timson
=====

"Niceness is the greatest human flaw, except for all the others." - RulanAllwine

"...don't mistake a few fans bitching on the Internet for any kind of trend." - Keith R.A. DeCandido

Post Extras:   

Emh
The Doctor

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [ATimson](#)]
#5341846 - 05/12/08 02:18 AM



Regeid: 00/07/20
Loc: Durham, North Carolina

Oh, guys! You're priceless. 😄

"Good time to be a cat owner. Strap a bomb to a dog and tell him to run into a crowded area, and the poor thing will do it. Try it with a cat, and it's just as likely to pick that moment to crawl into your lap and hold on until the bomb goes off." - Peter David

Post Extras:   

Christopher
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [ATimson](#)]
#5342061 - 05/12/08 03:23 AM





Reged: 01/03/15

Quote:

Posted by ATimson:
Don't forget the lit-only spinoffs!

But those would have to be called *Non-Canon*.

Or maybe *Not. Canon*.

[Christopher L. Bennett Homepage](#) Updated 11/12/05 with info on VGR: *Distant Shores*: "Brief Candle" and *Titan: Orion's Hounds*

Post Extras:

Greg Cox
Lieutenant Commander

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [ATimson](#)]
#5343442 - 05/12/08 03:21 PM

Reged: 04/05/12
Loc: Oxford, PA

Dibs on "Star Trek: The Wrath of Canon."

Post Extras:

JWolf
Commander

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [Greg Cox](#)]
#5344634 - 05/12/08 10:35 PM

Reged: 05/10/09
Loc: Massachusetts, USA

With all these Cannon's flotating around, let's play the *1812 Overture*.

JWolf

Visit the home of [Novastream Radio](#) for the best in Internet radio 24/7.

Previously read *Vulcan's Soul Exodus* by Josepha Sherman & Susan Shwartz
Currently reading *Gateways: Doors into Chaos* by Robert Greenberger

Post Extras:

Emh
The Doctor

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [JWolf](#)]
#5344866 - 05/12/08 11:32 PM



Reged: 00/07/20
Loc: Durham, North Carolina

Quote:

Posted by JWolf:
With all these Cannon's flotating around, let's play the *1812 Overture*.

Only if it's the DRD version. 😊

"Good time to be a cat owner. Strap a bomb to a dog and tell him to run into a crowded area, and the poor thing will do it. Try it with a cat, and it's just as likely to pick that moment to crawl into your lap and hold on until the bomb goes off." - Peter David


Post Extras:

TurboTails16
Captain

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [Emh](#)]
#5345473 - 05/12/09 02:00 AM



wipes Coke off monitor

This thread has saved my day from the pit of despair. Thanks, guys! 

Voyager Anti-Survivor Season 3, Round 2

Reged: 04/06/01

Loc: South Carolina

od0_ital: Law & Order: Criminal Intent is on, so that means it's time for the poll.

gturner: Those who cannot choose between good and evil are condemned to watch Seinfeld.

Post Extras:   

DSG2k

Commander

 **Re: For Paula Block**  [Re: [pmblock](#)]

#5345648 - 05/12/09 02:42 AM

Reged: 02/12/29

Sorry to spoil the fun of the thread, but . . .

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:

As Gilda Radner might have said,Mr.DSG2k, you ask a lotta questions...

How'd you know I was from Jersey?



Quote:

Re Paramount Digital, actually there's a guy down there --Tim Gaskill--who used to work for me at VCP, overseeing some of the Star Trek publishing. He's not the only one at PDE, but he's one of several Star Trek experts down there. Not sure what else you're asking here.

I was simply seeing if information on StarTrek.com was subject to VCP oversight. It's been suggested that PDE is a licensee in regards to all the sites it maintains (such as Paramount.com), and as such is not a trustworthy source of information if one is looking for data from 'Paramount-proper' (or whichever group will control Trek after the split, assuming StarTrek.com even exists after 12-31-05). One would expect that if this were so, then there would be VCP oversight.

Quote:

While Jeri Taylor was actively involved with Star Trek, we allowed the licensees to treat her two books as quasi-canon for their projects {...} After she left Voyager, however, the other writers on the show pretty much did what they wanted (I doubt they ever read her books), so the books eventually stopped being even quasi-canon.

So, to paraphrase, the canonicity/quasi-canonicity and 'decanonicity' (or 'de-quasi-canonicity' if you really wanna make your tongue sore) occurred in-house at VCP, with the latter occurring due to the perception that later Voyager ignored the novels. Would that be accurate?

Quote:

You guys are so into this "canon" thing. {...} It's not the ten commandments.

Of course it isn't. In general, everyone will have their own 'personal continuity' or 'personal canon' or 'codex' or what-have-you, and there is no reason why this should not be so.

However, for many fans there is great utility in having a third-party standard to start from for the purpose of discussing the tapestry of Trek. Determining what the standard actually is can therefore be of importance. Both of those are the very reasons so many people are so into "the canon thing", and fan discussions end up as threads like [this](#) or [this](#).

It's not just a TrekBBS phenomenon or just a Star Trek fan phenomenon . . . issues of canon and continuity have been discussed regarding everything from soap operas to Sherlock Holmes stories to children's cartoons. Arthur C. Clarke troubled himself to mention the matter in the Introduction to *2061* and the Afterword of *3001*. The civil war between Star Wars "movie purists" and "E(xpanded) U(niverse) Completists" has raged for over a decade, with entrenched "EU Defense Forces" assaulting purists with comments that make the flaming I received in a recent TrekLit thread look like Kirk's proverbial folk dance.

But in any case, I don't mind being the whipping boy in these threads so long as I still achieve my goal of getting more info on the canon issue. Thanks for your help in that regard.

Author of Google's #1 ranked page on "[Star Trek canon](#)"

Post Extras:   

DSG2k
Commander

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Ordover](#)]
[#5345734](#) - 05/12/09 03:03 AM

Reged: 02/12/29

Quote:

Posted by Ordover:

To paraphrase something Fred Pohl said (I'll quote him directly below) You can only decide what is and isn't canonical for anything once the area is dead.

That's a thesis which, to my mind, falls rather flat. One can imagine Marco pondering what is or isn't continuous in regards to the next Titan novel (*Canon?* 😊) only to have to stop himself because the Titan series isn't done.

Far from being an instance of equivocation, comparing 'canon' and 'continuous' as I did above is on the money, especially when you frame the idea (as many do and some of the participants in this thread have recently) that canon is a topic only of import to producers, writers, and so on.

Further, the idea that a creator and/or owner of a work that has inspired spin-off materials can't dictate what is real in his universe (or declare the spin-offs to be another universe entirely) strikes me as rather odd.

Quote:

Canon implies that the book is closed - no more entries are being accepted

I'm unfamiliar with that connotation of the word. I've seen many people use the word while talking about new additions to canon. Of course, given how people use words like canon, continuity, content, and so on almost interchangeably, it's sometimes difficult to avoid accidental equivocation.

((Incidentally, as long as you're here, I have some quotes purportedly of you that are reprinted [here](#). The source is somewhat untrustworthy, so I'd like to inquire if those are accurate quotes (or at least are what you would've said) so I can move them out of my "hearsay" section. Thanks for your help!))

Author of Google's #1 ranked page on "[Star Trek canon](#)"

Post Extras:   

Therin of Andor

Commodore



Reged: 04/06/30

Loc: Sydney, Australia

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]

#5346273 - 05/12/09 06:19 AM

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

So, to paraphrase, the canonicity/quasi-canonicity and 'decanonicity' (or 'de-quasi-canonicity' if you really wanna make your tongue sore) occurred in-house at VCP, with the latter occurring due to the perception that later Voyager ignored the novels. Would that be accurate?

Huh? You wanted direct quotes from Paula Block so they wouldn't be "hearsay" and now you want to *paraphrase* her? But our earlier paraphrasing of previous Paula quotes weren't good enough? Just use her direct quotes. 😊

Thiphtho laph!

The Andor Files

<http://www.geocities.com/therinofandor/>

Post Extras:   

DSG2k

Commander

Reged: 02/12/29

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Therin of Andor](#)]

#5346844 - 05/12/09 01:03 PM

Quote:

Posted by Therin of Andor:

Huh? You wanted direct quotes from Paula Block so they wouldn't be "hearsay" and now you want to *paraphrase* her? But our earlier paraphrasing of previous Paula quotes weren't good enough? Just use her direct quotes. 😊

Cute. But given how thoroughly I was misunderstood when I mentioned hearsay last time, kemosabe, I figured I'd exercise good 'active listening skills' so as not to do the same thing to others. 😊

Author of Google's #1 ranked page on "[Star Trek canon](#)"

Post Extras:   

LightningStorm

Captain



 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]

#5347232 - 05/12/09 03:42 PM



Reged: 04/08/30
Loc: Kansas City

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

Of course it isn't. In general, everyone will have their own 'personal continuity' or 'personal canon' or 'codex' or what-have-you, and there is no reason why this should not be so.

Continuity and Canon are NOT the same thing. You keep using them interchangeably and I think this is the source of your confusion.

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

It's not just a TrekBBS phenomenon or just a Star Trek fan phenomenon . . . issues of canon and continuity have been discussed regarding everything from soap operas to Sherlock Holmes stories to children's cartoons.

And in every one of those cases people have been mixing up the definition of canon and continuity.

See, canon (within Trek) is simply that which appears on screen in live action. Continuity can not be exactly the same thing as canon because canon isn't always continuous.

The confusion comes because writers have to be continuous with that which is canon therefore to the untrained eye it appears as if they are the same thing. The question then becomes (and it has been raised before) is what aspect of canon do the authors use when they want to tell a story that has been contradicted within canon? i.e. two stories that are not continuous but are both canon. I believe in that case it is simply the quality and merits of the story that prevail.

Post Extras:

DSG2k
Commander

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [LightningStorm](#)]
#5347279 - 05/12/09 03:55 PM

Reged: 02/12/29

Quote:

Posted by LightningStorm:

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

Of course it isn't. In general, everyone will have their own 'personal continuity' or 'personal canon' or 'codex' or what-have-you, and there is no reason why this should not be so.

Continuity and Canon are NOT the same thing.

A great many people use the terms either interchangeably or in their own predetermined set way that overlaps with other people's use of other terms for the same meaning. I don't use the terms that way on my pages, but I can't ignore that others do (especially if I'm talking to others who might not know my context).

Quote:

You keep using them interchangeably and I think this is the source of your confusion.

No confusion here, thank you. I was simply covering all the bases so that I wouldn't be misunderstood. I didn't realize that I'd be misunderstood for doing so, but oh well. 😊

Author of Google's #1 ranked page on "[Star Trek canon](#)"

Post Extras:   

LightningStorm
Captain

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
[#5347327](#) - 05/12/09 04:09 PM



Reged: 04/08/30
Loc: Kansas City

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

A great many people use the terms either interchangeably or in their own predetermined set way that overlaps with other people's use of other terms for the same meaning. I don't use the terms that way on my pages, but I can't ignore that others do (especially if I'm talking to others who might not know my context).

Indeed many people do, do this. And as I said in every case they are doing so incorrectly. Since you supposedly use them correctly and want to allot for those who don't, might I suggest you define exactly how you are using them.

Although, personally, I would never allot for the misuse of a term. It'd be like automatically defining within everything I do what I mean by the words "to, too, or two" or "there, their, or they're" because many people use them incorrectly as well.

Post Extras:   

TerriO
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
[#5347336](#) - 05/12/09 04:11 PM



Reged: 01/12/13
Loc: Covering Shep's six

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

Quote:

Posted by LightningStorm:

Continuity and Canon are NOT the same thing.

A great many people use the terms either interchangeably or in their own predetermined set way that overlaps with other people's use of other terms for the same meaning. I don't use the terms that way on my pages, but I can't ignore that others do (especially if I'm talking to others who might not know my context).

The error doesn't lie with you on this. The real problem is that the people who are using them interchangeably are wrong, and many refuse to admit that they're wrong.

(Although, I admit, I do find the incessant arguments over what is and isn't "real" in a fictional universe to be an interesting insight into the nature of some aspects of Trek fandom. Over the past month or so, I've discovered that depression is something that plagues SF fandom. There are times when I wonder if OCD isn't just as rampant.)

-Terri Osborne


Now: "Eighteen Minutes"-*Star Trek: Voyager: Distant Shores...*In 2006: S.C.E. #61: *Progress*

"Yes, Rico. Ka-boom."

"Smile and wave, boys. Smile and wave."--Skipper

Post Extras: 

DSG2k
Commander

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: **TerriO**]
#5347534 - 05/12/09 05:03 PM

Reged: 02/12/29

Quote:

Posted by TerriO:

The error doesn't lie with you on this. The real problem is that the people who are using them interchangeably are wrong, and many refuse to admit that they're wrong.

Well, I'm kind of hesitant to call them "wrong". The denotations of "canon" are all over the map compared to the narrow connotations we're hoping to work with, so it's understandable that (for example) a TrekBBS discussion group might settle on a meaning whereas some other group or author might settle somewhere a little different. That's the very reason why English is so full of jargon . . . general terms sometimes aren't enough, so new words (or, in some cases, old words reapplied) are needed. I highly recommend "Made in America" by a Mr. Bryson (IIRC) for an illuminating look at such things.

(That's the reason I've been toying with using the word "codex" to apply to "personal continuity", reaching back to the original Roman term for a stump to which people were tied (or, in this case, the positions they tie themselves to), not to mention the general concept of something a bit more informal than a published idea. (It also goes well aesthetically with another five-letter C-word.))

Quote:

(Although, I admit, I do find the incessant arguments over what is and isn't "real" in a fictional universe to be an interesting insight into the nature of some aspects of Trek fandom.

Well, as I noted in the original TrekLit FAQ thread, many people like to think their ideas (even the subjective ones) are objective facts that are universally applicable. Some of the ugliest chapters of history exist because people like that encounter someone who agrees with that principle ... but has a different opinion.


This can be especially true in groups (such as SF fandom, certain internet locales, or unique-idea religious cults) where counter-culture or less-than-popular types gravitate because they perceive some greater level of acceptance. Awash in this heady change of pace, they can break out into full-scale jackassery. This is true not only against other groups, but also (and often especially) against different-minded people in the same group.

It's not pretty, but it's frequent. 😊

Author of Google's #1 ranked page on "[Star Trek canon](#)"

Post Extras:   

TerriO
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
#5347599 - 05/12/09 05:16 PM



Reged: 01/12/13
Loc: Covering Shep's six

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

Quote:

Posted by TerriO:
The error doesn't lie with you on this. The real problem is that the people who are using them interchangeably are wrong, and many refuse to admit that they're wrong.

Well, I'm kind of hesitant to call them "wrong". The denotations of "canon" are all over the map compared to the narrow connotations we're hoping to work with, so it's understandable that (for example) a TrekBBS discussion group might settle on a meaning whereas some other group or author might settle somewhere a little different.

I'm aware of the definition of "canon", thanks. 😊

However, in this instance, the concept is very well-defined and has been for a long time. They'd know that, if they'd have bothered to get their facts straight (which is amusing, since often these folks are incredibly anal about the facts *within* the fictional universe, but outside of there have no problems with using terms that are incorrect), I have no hesitation in saying their usage is wrong. 😊

Edit: Typo

Terri Osborne

Now: "Eighteen Minutes"-*Star Trek: Voyager: Distant Shores...*In 2006: S.C.E. #61: *Progress*


"Yes, Rico. Ka-boom."

"Smile and wave, boys. Smile and wave."--Skipper

Edited by TerriO (05/12/09 05:16 PM)

Post Extras:   

RookieBatman
Lieutenant Commander

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [TerriO](#)]
#5348034 - 05/12/09 06:56 PM



Quote:




Reged: 05/09/10

Posted by TerriO:

(Although, I admit, I do find the incessant arguments over what is and isn't "real" in a fictional universe to be an interesting insight into the nature of some aspects of Trek fandom. Over the past month or so, I've discovered that depression is something that plagues SF fandom. There are times when I wonder if OCD isn't just as rampant.)

☺ That's awesome! I hope you don't mind if I quote you in my sig line (I took the liberty...); I can honestly say that if I'm any indication of the average Star Trek fan, then you hit the nail on the head!

Currently reading: "Surak's Soul"

Currently watching: Enterprise, Season 2 

Over the past month or so, I've discovered that depression is something that plagues SF fandom. There are times when I wonder if OCD isn't just as rampant. --TerriO

Post Extras:   

pmblock
Ensign

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k1](#)]
[#5348187](#) - 05/12/09 07:27 PM

Reged: 05/10/07

Thanks Lightning Storm and TerriO--you cover the bases quite well. Frankly, I don't really understand why there's so much confusion between continuity and canon. I started working at Paramount while Gene Roddenberry was still alive, so you might say I got canon from the horse's--er, Great Bird's--mouth. Canon is what's produced for the TV and Movie screens. Books aren't. End of story. It's my job to hold licensees like Pocket to that standard. Which is not to say that there haven't been times when canon has contradicted itself--those darn producers and scriptwriters don't always keep track of/remember/care about what's come before. So things can get confusing. But books are never considered part of canon. The only reason Jeri Taylor's books were considered quasi-canon for a while was because licensees really wanted some sort of background structure they could utilize for the Voyager characters (they find it hard to accept statements like "Well, they haven't established that on the show yet..."). So we (by this I mean VCP and folks in Rick Berman's office, whom I consulted with) let them consider Jeri's stuff quasi-canon. It didn't seem to hurt anything.

Another thing that makes canon a little confusing. Gene R. himself had a habit of decanonizing things. He didn't like the way the animated series turned out, so he proclaimed that it was NOT CANON. He also didn't like a lot of the movies. So he didn't much consider them canon either. And--okay, I'm really going to scare you with this one--after he got TNG going, he...well...he sort of decided that some of the Original Series wasn't canon either. I had a discussion with him once, where I cited a couple things that were very clearly canon in the Original Series, and he told me he didn't think that way anymore, and that he now thought of TNG as canon wherever there was conflict between the two. He admitted it was revisionist thinking, but so be it.

That's kind of like God telling you the stuff in that old bible...well, he's just not in to it anymore. (And please don't take that as an invitation to starting a thread about the merits of the old testament vs. the new. Do that on another bbs.) Anyway, you can see why canon is such a difficult concept. But I always fall back on the first and original rule (call me a traditionalist)--what you see on the big and small screens is canon. Nothing else.

Good night and good luck...

Post Extras:   

TerriO
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [RookieBatman](#)]
[#5348190](#) - 05/12/09 07:27 PM



Reged: 01/12/13
Loc: Covering Shep's six

Quote:

Posted by RookieBatman:

Quote:

Posted by TerriO:

(Although, I admit, I do find the incessant arguments over what is and isn't "real" in a fictional universe to be an interesting insight into the nature of some aspects of Trek fandom. Over the past month or so, I've discovered that depression is something that plagues SF fandom. There are times when I wonder if OCD isn't just as rampant.)



That's awesome! I hope you don't mind if I quote you in my sig line (I took the liberty...); I can honestly say that if I'm any indication of the average Star Trek fan, then you hit the nail on the head!

Go for it. 😄👍

-Terri Osborne

Now: "Eighteen Minutes"-*Star Trek: Voyager: Distant Shores...*In 2006: S.C.E. #61: *Progress*

"Yes, Rico. Ka-boom."

"Smile and wave, boys. Smile and wave."--Skipper

Post Extras: 📄 📧 📧

Dayton Ward

Writer

📖 Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [pmblock](#)]

#5348220 - 05/12/09 07:37 PM



Reged: 00/05/22

Loc: Somewhere without a paddle...

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:

Another thing that makes canon a little confusing. Gene R. himself had a habit of decanonizing things. He didn't like the way the animated series turned out, so he proclaimed that it was NOT CANON. He also didn't like a lot of the movies. So he didn't much consider them canon either. And--okay, I'm really going to scare you with this one--after he got TNG going, he...well...he sort of decided that some of the Original Series wasn't canon either. I had a discussion with him once, where I cited a couple things that were very clearly canon in the Original Series, and he told me he didn't think that way anymore, and that he now thought of TNG as canon wherever there was conflict between the two. He admitted it was revisionist thinking, but so be it.

Oh, wow. I can't wait for how this one gets received....

ALL HANDS! BRACE FOR IMPACT!!!

(But gimme time to get my popcorn, and a nice, cold beer.)



Quote:

But I always fall back on the first and original rule (call me a traditionalist)--what you see on the big and small screens is canon. Nothing else.

"If it were dark on Tuesday....."



www.daytonward.com

"If common sense was actually that common, more people would have it."

Post Extras:

Marco Palmieri
Commodore



Reged: 00/01/27

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [pmblock](#)]
#5348286 - 05/12/09 07:54 PM

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:

Another thing that makes canon a little confusing. Gene R. himself had a habit of decanonizing things. He didn't like the way the animated series turned out, so he proclaimed that it was NOT CANON. He also didn't like a lot of the movies. So he didn't much consider them canon either. And--okay, I'm really going to scare you with this one--after he got TNG going, he...well...he sort of decided that some of the Original Series wasn't canon either. I had a discussion with him once, where I cited a couple things that were very clearly canon in the Original Series, and he told me he didn't think that way anymore, and that he now thought of TNG as canon wherever there was conflict between the two. He admitted it was revisionist thinking, but so be it.

Now we got ourselves a show!

reaches for Dayton's popcorn

Marco

"Pessimism is a misuse of imagination."

Post Extras:

TerriO
Writer

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [Marco Palmieri](#)]
#5348342 - 05/12/09 08:04 PM



Reged: 01/12/13
Loc: Covering Shep's six

grabs the tequila and takes a seat on the couch

-Terri Osborne

Now: "Eighteen Minutes"-*Star Trek: Voyager: Distant Shores...*In 2006: S.C.E. #61: *Progress*

"Yes, Rico. Ka-boom."

"Smile and wave, boys. Smile and wave."--Skipper

Post Extras:

Defcon
Lieutenant Commander

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [pmblock](#)]
#5348348 - 05/12/09 08:06 PM

Reged: 03/05/09
Loc: Germany

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:

Another thing that makes canon a little confusing. Gene R. himself had a habit of decanonizing things. He didn't like the way the animated series turned out, so he proclaimed that it was NOT CANON. He also didn't like a lot of the movies. So he didn't much consider them canon either. And--okay, I'm really going to scare you with this one--after he got TNG going, he...well...he sort of decided that some of the Original Series wasn't canon either. I had a discussion with him once, where I cited a couple things that were very clearly canon in the Original Series, and he told me he didn't think that way anymore, and that he now thought of TNG as canon wherever there was conflict between the two. He admitted it was revisionist thinking, but so be it.

Non-Trekkie A : "What is that Mushroom Cloud over there?"

Non-Trekkie B (but trekbbs lurker) : "Oh it's just Paula M. Block dropping a H-Bomb over Trek - Fandom. Better Run and run fast."



[My TrekLit-Journal](#)

Latest Reviews (30. Nov 2005):

Voyager : Distant Shores (final part) | Titan : The Red King | Voyager : String Theory - Fusion

Post Extras:

[William Leisner](#)

Commodore



Reged: 03/08/17

Loc: Minneapolis, MN

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [TerriO](#)]

[#5348371](#) - 05/12/09 08:10 PM

Quote:

Posted by TerriO:

grabs the tequila and takes a seat on the couch

Remember to save some of that tequila for next fall, when the fallout will *still* be going on, and you'll really need it....

Shameless plug: [S.C.E. #57: Out of the Cocoon](#) AVAILABLE NOW!

(And check out my spoiler-ific [Annotations page](#), too!)

Post Extras:

[Ens. Brodsky](#)

Captain



Reged: 04/07/22

Loc: Arizona

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [Marco Palmieri](#)]

[#5348383](#) - 05/12/09 08:13 PM

Wow, maybe we should pay an admission fee, because I know this will be very entertaining.

* Sits down with a drink and candy*

Edited by Ens. Brodsky (05/12/09 08:14 PM)

Post Extras:

[Christopher](#)

Writer



Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [pmblock](#)]

[#5348432](#) - 05/12/09 08:23 PM

It's not really surprising that GR would've wanted to disregard elements of TOS. It's a natural enough impulse for creators to be dissatisfied with their past works and want to revise or disavow them. George Lucas is by now infamous for revisionism with his own earlier works, but he's hardly the only one. Novelists have been known to



Reged: 01/03/15

rewrite old books or stories for later republication. (Heck, I did it myself when I reprinted my first published story on my website.)

After all, hopefully we're smarter now than we were back then, and we don't like being trapped by old assumptions. Also, everyone makes mistakes or bad choices from time to time, and most people would rather not be beholden to them.

Certainly there are things in TOS that would be best ignored, and usually have been. The casual sexism of Pike in "The Cage" and everyone in "Mudd's Women." The lunacy that passed for cosmology and antimatter physics in "The Alternative Factor." Spock's profoundly out-of-character behavior in "The Cloud-minders."

In just about any long-running TV series, you'll find that aspects or assertions of earlier episodes tend to be disregarded later on. Sometimes it's just because things get forgotten, lost amid the huge amount of continuity to keep track of, but at other times it's a deliberate choice to replace an unsatisfying old assumption with something that the creators now think is better. And if the creator himself doesn't have the right to do that, who does?

Which just goes to underline how misguided it is to think of Trek canon, of any fictional canon, as some kind of true history that has to be absolutely perfect, all-inclusive, and self-consistent. Part of the beauty of fiction is that it isn't real, so that you *can* get away with changing or ignoring bits of it.

In sum, I think the best response to the whole issue of canon and inconsistency is Walt Whitman's:

"Do I contradict myself? Very well, then I contradict myself. I am large; I contain multitudes."

[Christopher L. Bennett Homepage](#) Updated 11/12/05 with info on VGR: *Distant Shores*: "Brief Candle" and *Titan*: *Orion's Hounds*

Edited by Christopher (05/12/09 08:24 PM)

Post Extras:

Re: For Paula Block NEW [Re: [Marco Palmieri](#)]
#5348566 - 05/12/09 08:56 PM

[Corran Horn](#)
Commodore



Reged: 01/06/04
Loc: Orlando, FL--US

Quote:

Posted by Marco Palmieri:

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:

Another thing that makes canon a little confusing. Gene R. himself had a habit of decanonizing things. He didn't like the way the animated series turned out, so he proclaimed that it was NOT CANON. He also didn't like a lot of the movies. So he didn't much consider them canon either. And--okay, I'm really going to scare you with this one--after he got TNG going, he...well...he sort of decided that some of the Original Series wasn't canon either. I had a discussion with him once, where I cited a couple things that were very clearly canon in the Original Series, and he told me he didn't think that way anymore, and that he now thought of TNG as canon wherever there was conflict between the two. He admitted it was revisionist thinking, but so be it.

Now we got ourselves a show!

reaches for Dayton's popcorn

Oh, you wanna see a show? Go drop this A-bomb in the TOS forum. 😄

"Dear diary: Today I was pompous and my sister was crazy... Today we were kidnapped by hill folk, never to be seen again. It was the best day ever."

Post Extras:   

captcalhoun
Fleet Captain

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: **Christopher**]
#5348571 - 05/12/09 08:58 PM



Reged: 05/04/29
Loc: USS Wraith

once i found out from KRAD that GR tried to decanonise TWOK, as well as having declared Sybok apocraphyl(SP) i decided the idea of canon was a load of bunk and i would instead go with my Personal Interpretation of the Star Trek Universe, into which i cheerfully allow all 6 TV shows (even TAS), all 10 movies and...basically, the books i've read and like. more or less, SCE, GKN, ATT, NF, TTN, VGD, Prime Directive, Sarek and the DS9-R as far as i'm familiar with it. i ignore Federation, the Rise and Fall of Khan and the Shatniverse because they're contradicted by FC in Federation's case and i just think the Shatbooks take place in another reality. the Khan books, i enjoyed, but i don't agree with their interpretation of events. where stuff contradicts other stuff, i just try to explain it; like the defiant in Interphase and IaMD, or go with the prevailing evidence; like Trills.

this is the basis i use for my fan-fic.

note, just cos FC contradicts Federation and i don't agree with the covert war of RaFoKNS didn't stop me enjoying either.

-
[Star Trek: Spec Ops & Star Trek: The Romulan War](#)

-
[New Frontier guide](#)

Post Extras:   

DSG2k
Commander

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: **pmblock**]
#5348696 - 05/12/09 09:25 PM

Reged: 02/12/29

Thanks again, Paula, for your responses and for engaging with the fans in [a polite manner](#). I think you've covered things quite well, with the little exception of whether or not PDE is a licensee like Pocket in reference to their work on things like StarTrek.com and Paramount.com. But, I think I already have the correct answer.

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:

And--okay, I'm really going to scare you with this one--after he got TNG going, he...well...he sort of decided that some of the Original Series wasn't canon either.

Actually, I've already got that report from Richard Arnold quoted on my page. What, you thought I was a rank amateur? 😄

(And about that . . . sorry to spoil that bit of fun for you, Dayton. Better luck alienating the fans and killing your own bottom line next time. But don't worry, you can just keep talking trash about me at SimonSays.com's canon thread.



Author of Google's #1 ranked page on "[Star Trek canon](#)"

Edited by DSG2k (05/12/09 09:29 PM)

Post Extras:   

Dayton Ward
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block**  [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
#5348751 - 05/12/09 09:35 PM



Reged: 00/05/22
Loc: Somewhere without a
paddle...

^ If you're referring to my comment about "reading it on a website, so it must be true," as alienation (a far cry from "trashing you," by the way, considering that I mention no person or site by name), I'd say that makes us about even in the insult department.

For what it's worth, I don't think ill of you in the least.


www.daytonward.com

"If common sense was actually that common, more people would have it."

Edited by Dayton Ward (05/12/09 10:02 PM)

Post Extras:   

pmblock
Ensign

 **Re: For Paula Block**  [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
#5348865 - 05/12/09 10:00 PM

Reged: 05/10/07

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:
I think you've covered things quite well, with the little exception of whether or not PDE is a licensee like Pocket in reference to their work on things like StarTrek.com and Paramount.com. But, I think I already have the correct answer.

PDE is not a licensee. They're a division of Paramount. As for whether or not what they say is canon...Not sure what you're referring to, but again, I will point you back to the tv shows and the movie shows as the only true sources of canon. (what a weird sentence that is, eh?) Websites are not canon. Books are not canon. People are not canon. Not even me (or, for that matter, Richard Arnold).

Post Extras:   

DSG2k
Commander

 **Re: For Paula Block**  [Re: [Dayton Ward](#)]
#5349525 - 05/12/10 12:38 AM

Reged: 02/12/29

Quote:

Posted by Dayton Ward:
For what it's worth, I don't think ill of you in the least.

Actually, in re-reading the two threads I feel a bit bad for singling *you* out. The comment over at SimonSays stuck in my mind, but Christopher's been the main fellow aggressively giving me grief. I've been in the role of 'underdog poster' elsewhere and know I can lose track of who's said what in such situations. Above all things I want to be just, so I hope you'll forgive my momentary unfairness.

I wouldn't have singled anyone out at all, but now that Trek is in the midst of a new 'interregnum' of sorts it seems to me that we could all be on our best behavior, especially those in any sort of official capacity whatsoever. Divisiveness isn't what brought back Trek the first time, and it certainly wouldn't help it come back again. 😊

Author of Google's #1 ranked page on "[Star Trek canon](#)"

Post Extras: 

Ordover
Fleet Captain

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [pmblock](#)]
[#5351154](#) - 05/12/10 02:04 PM

Reged: 00/04/02
Loc: Brooklyn, NY, USA

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:

Thanks Lightning Storm and TerriO--you cover the bases quite well. Frankly, I don't really understand why there's so much confusion between continuity and canon. I started working at Paramount while Gene Roddenberry was still alive, so you might say I got canon from the horse's--er, Great Bird's--mouth. Canon is what's produced for the TV and Movie screens. Books aren't. End of story. It's my job to hold licensees like Pocket to that standard. Which is not to say that there haven't been times when canon has contradicted itself--those darn producers and scriptwriters don't always keep track of/remember/care about what's come before. So things can get confusing. But books are never considered part of canon. The only reason Jeri Taylor's books were considered quasi-canon for a while was because licensees really wanted some sort of background structure they could utilize for the Voyager characters (they find it hard to accept statements like "Well, they haven't established that on the show yet..."). So we (by this I mean VCP and folks in Rick Berman's office, whom I consulted with) let them consider Jeri's stuff quasi-canon. It didn't seem to hurt anything.

Another thing that makes canon a little confusing. Gene R. himself had a habit of decanonizing things. He didn't like the way the animated series turned out, so he proclaimed that it was NOT CANON. He also didn't like a lot of the movies. So he didn't much consider them canon either. And--okay, I'm really going to scare you with this one--after he got TNG going, he...well...he sort of decided that some of the Original Series wasn't canon either. I had a discussion with him once, where I cited a couple things that were very clearly canon in the Original Series, and he told me he didn't think that way anymore, and that he now thought of TNG as canon wherever there was conflict between the two. He admitted it was revisionist thinking, but so be it.

That's kind of like God telling you the stuff in that old bible...well, he's just not in to it anymore. (And please don't take that as an invitation to starting a thread about the merits of the old testament vs. the new. Do that on another bbs.) Anyway, you can see why canon is such a difficult concept. But I always fall back on the first and original rule (call me a traditionalist)--what you see on the big and small screens is canon. Nothing else.

Good night and good luck...

Paula, what Roddenberry did is why "canon" can only be determined after it is agreed no new material will be produced that can at all be considered for inclusion - in other words, when the "archive" is complete and no one is adding to it. Since that isn't true for Star Trek, there can be questions of continuity but not canon.

John J. Ordover
Editor-in-Chief
Phobos Science Fiction and Fantasy

Post Extras: 

TerriO
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [William Leisner](#)]
[#5351995](#) - 05/12/10 07:48 PM



Reged: 01/12/13
Loc: Covering Shep's six

Quote:

Posted by William Leisner:


Quote:

Posted by TerriO:

grabs the tequila and takes a seat on the couch

Remember to save some of that tequila for next fall, when the fallout will *still* be going on, and you'll really need it....

counts the bottles on the bar

Dude, I'm good. And if that should somehow run out, there's always the Irish whiskey stash. 

-Terri Osborne

Now: "Eighteen Minutes"-*Star Trek: Voyager: Distant Shores...*In 2006: S.C.E. #61: *Progress*

"Yes, Rico. Ka-boom."

"Smile and wave, boys. Smile and wave."--Skipper

Post Extras:   

DSG2k

Commander

 Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [pmblock](#)]

[#5357618](#) - 05/12/12 07:36 AM

Regeed: 02/12/29

A little thread round-up . . . thanks to all participants.

Issue 1:

Re: Christopher and Therin's claim that PDE was a licensee -

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:

PDE is not a licensee. They're a division of Paramount.

. . . which is what I'd originally stated and then defended (along with my character) against attacks wherein I was claimed to be less knowledgeable than others as a result of their position.

I think that qualifies as an ad hominem circumstantial (because I'm not in the position of author) or an ad verecundum (appeal to false authority), or a smattering of both. Whatever the fallacy, we see that logical rigor has its advantages, even if it's not considered as fun to some.



Issue 2:

Re: The official canonicity of Taylor's novels -

(Incidentally, I just found that these are available as eBooks online, but the only one available on SimonSays.com (Mosaic) is broken with completely missing lines. Yuck! The other, obtained at another eBook store, was fine.)

Paula Block has made it clear that the novels were quasi-canonized by VCP due to requests by licensees (and with permission from folks at Berman's offices), and then after Taylor's departure and with perceived contradictions occurring on *Voyager* this quasi-canonization was dropped by VCP. (Of course by that point the original licensee need for it was also probably gone.)

Given *Voyager's* frequent self-contradictions the idea of them being proof of something seems rather unique, but in any case the continuity was hit-or-miss. Henderson demonstrated a few hits above, whereas misses include the

oft-referenced "Prasba" Torres name-change. (Of course, "Prasba" rolls off the tongue about as painlessly as burning napalm, so I'd call "Miral" an improvement. Indeed, given Voyager's continuity woes, it's a wonder Torres even *had* a mother in the post-Taylor show.)

In any case, though, the VCP quasi-canonization and de-quasi-canonization do not really touch on the fact that Jeri Taylor said the works were to be held as canon in 1996.

Thus, amusingly, it seems that the novels were both canon and quasi-canon simultaneously. The latter eventually dropped away, but the status of the former seems to have never been rescinded by any party of equivalent or higher rank, according to the evidence available. I have a statement from Berman in Communicator #154, but it leaves the door pretty open either way.

With no explicit decanonization and with canonicity still claimed by Paramount's official Trek web presence StarTrek.com, a rigorous analysis must apparently conclude that the two Taylor novels are still canon.

(Trust me, they aren't in my little codex, but personal continuities aren't the topic. On the other hand, given the position of "CaptainHawk1" in the last thread (who Christopher seemed to have me confused with), there are fans who *do choose* to use the official statements on canon as their codex. This is a choice no less valid than any other, so I'd appreciate no further character attacks against those who choose to use it or others like myself who choose to analyze and study it.)

Author of Google's #1 ranked page on "[Star Trek canon](#)"

Post Extras:   

[KevinK](#)
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
#5358045 - 05/12/12 01:45 PM



Reged: 02/01/11
Loc: Wilmington, NC, USA

For those of you just joining us:

DSG2k believes certain books are canon -- specifically *Pathways* and *Mosaic* by Jeri Taylor. These novels, in which Taylor expanded her personal vision of the *Voyager* universe, were used by the writers working under her as a "writer's Bible" for keeping their scripts internally consistent. At one point during this period, these novels were referred to as "canon" on a website run by a division of a company which is a licensee of the Star Trek franchise. Although this has been identified as an error and consistently refuted by the professionals involved in producing Star Trek written fiction many times, this 1996 error continues to be cited by many sources.

DSG2k discounted the latest round of clarifications on this perennial misconception by several Star Trek writers and Marco Palmieri, the editor in charge of Star Trek books at Pocket Books because none of them is the final authority with Viacom. This is true. However....

In a very rare guest appearance, Paula Block, who *is* that final authority on all things Trek, period, answered **DSG2k** in an effort to lay the board-eating issue to rest once and for all.

What Paula Block said (boldface added by moi, though I have not changed a word):

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:

Okay, **none of the books are canon. That's 100% true.** While Jeri Taylor was actively involved with Star Trek, **we allowed the licensees to treat her two books as quasi-canon for their projects** (because the folks at Voyager weren't likely to contradict them in their episodes). And that worked pretty well for a while. After she left Voyager, however, the other writers on the show pretty much did what they wanted (I doubt they ever read her books), so the books eventually stopped being even quasi-canon. This doesn't mean that the fiction writers working for Pocket can't use Jeri's books as background for their stories. It's a free country. **But they're not "canon". Nothing that wasn't onscreen (tv or movie screen) is canon.**

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:

Frankly, I don't really understand why there's so much confusion between continuity and canon. I started working at Paramount while Gene Roddenberry was still alive, so you might say I got canon from the horse's--er, Great Bird's--mouth. **Canon is what's produced for the TV and Movie screens. Books aren't. End of story.** It's my job to hold licensees like Pocket to that standard. Which is not to say that there haven't been times when canon has contradicted itself--those darn producers and scriptwriters don't always keep track of/remember/care about what's come before. So things can get confusing. But books are never considered part of canon. The only reason Jeri Taylor's books were considered quasi-canon for a while was because licensees really wanted some sort of background structure they could utilize for the Voyager characters (they find it hard to accept statements like "Well, they haven't established that on the show yet..."). So we (by this I mean VCP and folks in Rick Berman's office, whom I consulted with) let them consider Jeri's stuff quasi-canon. It didn't seem to hurt anything.

Quote:

Posted by pmblock:

PDE is not a licensee. They're a division of Paramount. As for whether or not what they say is canon ... Not sure what you're referring to, but again, I will point you back to **the tv shows and the movie shows as the only true sources of canon.** (what a weird sentence that is, eh?) Websites are not canon. Books are not canon. People are not canon. Not even me (or, for that matter, Richard Arnold).

So she laid the matter, including the website misinformation, solidly to rest. To quote her quote of Gene R.'s position:

"Canon is what's produced for the TV and Movie screens. Books aren't. End of story."

No room for misunderstanding.

Oddly, this is what **DSG2k** came away with from all of that:

Quote:

Posted by DGS2k:

Paula Block has made it clear that the novels were quasi-canonized by VCP due to requests by licensees (and with permission from folks at Berman's offices), and then after Taylor's departure and with perceived contradictions occurring on Voyager this quasi-canonization was dropped by VCP. (Of course by that point the original licensee need for it was also probably gone.)

...With no explicit decanonization and with canonicity still claimed by Paramount's official Trek web presence StarTrek.com, a rigorous analysis must apparently conclude that the two Taylor novels are still canon.

Although I have some concern **DSG2k** will post Paula Block's "confirmation" of his pet theory on his web site, there's nothing we can do about that. (I write fiction for a living, too.) However, with due appologies to the popcorn and tequila crowd on the couch over there, I think this thread has gone about as far as it should.

Those of you who know Ms. Block personally: Please thank her for her time and advise her trying to beat this particular tar baby (by which I mean the issue, not the poster) will only develop into an endless time sink.

(edit to fix typo)

-- KeVin K.

"It's your dream; make it work"

-- Valerie K.

Mit der Dummheit kämpfen Götter selbst vergebens.

Edited by KevinK (05/12/12 03:35 PM)

Post Extras:   

Christopher

Writer



Reged: 01/03/15

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [KevinK](#)]

[#5358105](#) - 05/12/12 02:17 PM

Quote:


Posted by DSG2k:

Paula Block has made it clear that the novels were quasi-canonized by VCP due to requests by licensees (and with permission from folks at Berman's offices), and then after Taylor's departure and with perceived contradictions occurring on Voyager this quasi-canonization was dropped by VCP. (Of course by that point the original licensee need for it was also probably gone.)

...With no explicit decanonization and with canonicity still claimed by Paramount's official Trek web presence StarTrek.com, a rigorous analysis must apparently conclude that the two Taylor novels are still canon.

This is completely self-contradictory. DSG, Paula told you outright that the novels were never *really* canonical to begin with -- only treated as "quasi-canonical" for the purposes of other books. It makes no sense for you to acknowledge that they were only "quasi-canonized" at best, and that said quasi-canonical status was then dropped, yet subsequently claim they're "still canon." How can they "still" be something that, by your own acknowledgment, they never were in the first place????

Folks, this has got to be one of the saddest applications of the Gutenberg Principle in recent memory. DSG2k continues to place more faith in *one outdated entry on a website* than he does on the mutually reinforcing corrections of that entry given to him by the highest possible authorities on the issue (short of the ghost of Roddenberry himself). I wonder -- if that entry were removed, as it should've been years ago, would it change DSG's conviction? Or would he just find some other way to rationalize the facts away so he can cling to his misconceptions?

Well, Startrek.com may be closing down in a few months, judging from the news. Maybe we'll find out then. 

[Christopher L. Bennett Homepage](#) Updated 11/12/05 with info on VGR: *Distant Shores*: "Brief Candle" and *Titan*: *Orion's Hounds*

Edited by Christopher (05/12/12 02:28 PM)

Post Extras:   

LightningStorm

Captain




Reged: 04/08/30

Loc: Kansas City

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Christopher](#)]

[#5358304](#) - 05/12/12 03:42 PM

Well, I have to say this is the most unique canon debate I've seen. Yet not the most stubborn believer of a belief that can actually be proven that I've seen. 

Quote:



Posted by Christopher:

...continues to place more faith in *one outdated entry on a website* than he does on the mutually reinforcing corrections of that entry given to him by the highest possible authorities on the issue

(short of the ghost of Roddenberry himself).

Come on! You should know that ANYTHING on the internet (outside of online BBS's) is absolutely true ALWAYS!



I mean I get all my news from the best and most true source on the net of theonion.com  

Seriously though... perhaps we could lobby for Ms. Block to talk with the web masters of startrek.com to have them update, or remove all together, that tiny litte page that is reeking such havok on the whole of Star Trek.

Post Extras:   

Christopher

Writer



Reged: 01/03/15

 **Re: For Paula Block**  [Re: [LightningStorm](#)]

#5358362 - 05/12/12 04:03 PM

Quote:

Posted by LightningStorm:

Seriously though... perhaps we could lobby for Ms. Block to talk with the web masters of startrek.com to have them update, or remove all together, that tiny litte page that is reeking such havok on the whole of Star Trek.

I think it's just wreaking havoc on the four or five Internet geeks who really think that the canonical status of *Mosaic* and *Pathways* is an issue of great national import.

[Christopher L. Bennett Homepage](#) Updated 11/12/05 with info on VGR: *Distant Shores*: "Brief Candle" and *Titan*: *Orion's Hounds*

Post Extras:   

DSG2k

Commander

Reged: 02/12/29

 **Re: For Paula Block**  [Re: [Kevink](#)]

#5358519 - 05/12/12 04:57 PM

(Sigh)... You know, I don't want to be utterly rude, here, but I cannot avoid commenting on the fact that it's ironic that novelists would have such astonishingly bad reading comprehension.

Quote:

Posted by Christopher:

This is completely self-contradictory.

Christopher, your claim that I contradict myself is based on ignoring the middle of that section of the post and thus claiming contradiction based on your own incomplete reading. While I should simply direct you back to the post with instructions to re-read it, I shall type out the principle more briefly for you:

I accept the VCP quasi-canonization and de-quasi-canonization Paula explained. However, Taylor also canonized Mosaic herself, a canonization which has never been known to have been rescinded. Thus, for a time Mosaic was canon in two ways simultaneously depending on who you asked, only one of which is no more.

Quote:

I wonder -- if that entry were removed, as it should've been years ago, would it change DSG's conviction? Or would he just find some other way to rationalize the facts away so he can cling to his misconceptions?

If I wanted to respond in kind, I'd say:

"I wonder -- does mischaracterizing people you don't agree with make you feel better? Or is it that you simply don't have the ability to maintain logical rigor to actually address their real points, and thus must resort to 'straw man' misrepresentations of what they say mixed with character attacks?"

. . . oh, but wait, I'm supposed to "lighten up" when my integrity and character are attacked. My bad, silly me . . . how dare I even think to respond in kind?

As for the claim buried within your silliness, the website's statement is icing on the cake, demonstrating that the canonicity continues. However, even if StarTrek.com falls at the end of December, the fact that we have no explicit decanonization of Taylor's novels will still exist.

Quote:

Posted by KevinK:

these novels were referred to as "canon" on a website run by a division of a company which is a licensee of the Star Trek franchise.

The consistent claim that PDE is a licensee is, at best, a case of "terminological inexactitude".

PDE is a division of Paramount (per my analysis and confirmed by Paula Block), and is the official Paramount web presence for Star Trek. Are you suggesting that you think Paramount is a licensee of the Star Trek franchise? How, praytell, does that work?

Quote:

Although this has been identified as an error

When and by whom?

Quote:

and consistently refuted by the professionals involved in producing Star Trek written fiction many times,

. . . who, unfortunately, are not of sufficient rank to override Taylor on the matter . . .

Quote:

this 1996 error continues to be cited by many sources.

"1996 error"? Are you referring to Taylor's 1996 statements regarding Mosaic being held as canon, or the StarTrek.com information which (so far as I know) didn't appear until circa Nov. 2000, long after Taylor's departure and the VCP de-quasi-canonization?

Quote:

Paula Block, who *is* that final authority on all things Trek, period,

I have the utmost respect for Paula Block, but she is *not* the final authority on all things Trek and, unless I missed her name bumping Roddenberry/Berman off the screen, never has been.

Quote:

To quote her quote of Gene R.'s position:
"Canon is what's produced for the TV and Movie screens. Books aren't. End of story."

Your claim that the above is a quote is unique, given that PB gave no such indication in her message.

=====

Now, to both of you:

Issues like the ones pointed out above . . . the straw man misrepresentations of others, the BS character attacks, the terminological inexactitude, and quoting other people based on reports/paraphrases of what they believed . . . are the very reason the debate goes on.

Trek fans are pretty smart, as a rule, and are willing to ask questions . . . these "shell game" answers like Christopher's won't cut it, and clearly they haven't cut it since people keep asking.

Meanwhile, I have provided you with the bases for my analysis, links to my page wherein this is all given more thoroughly, and so on. If you insist on trying to dissuade others from my position, then why don't you actually address my position?

If you guys really want to prove that Taylor's novels are non-canon, then why don't you give me something solid (such as, for example, directions to a quote of Berman or Braga) where the canonicity is disavowed?

Author of Google's #1 ranked page on "[Star Trek canon](#)"

Post Extras:   

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
#5356609 - 05/12/12 05:12 PM

[William Leisner](#)
Commodore



Oh, for Christ's sake...




Reged: 03/08/17
Loc: Minneapolis, MN

We got anything stronger than tequila 'round here? Like a ball-peen hammer, maybe?

Shameless plug: [S.C.E. #57: Out of the Cocoon](#) AVAILABLE NOW!
(And check out my spoiler-ific [Annotations page](#), too!)

Post Extras:   

TerriO
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
[#5358660](#) - 05/12/12 05:25 PM



Reged: 01/12/13
Loc: Covering Shep's six

Just an idle thought here, but why the heated debate over something that only really relates to people who are writing for the TV series/movies and tie-in fiction?

This is a level of obsession with detail that I don't recall seeing in any other fandom (not even B5), hence my curiosity. 😊

Idle thought, that's all. 😊

[Terri Osborne](#)

Now: "Eighteen Minutes"-*Star Trek: Voyager: Distant Shores*...In 2006: S.C.E. #61: *Progress*

"Yes, Rico. Ka-boom."

"Smile and wave, boys. Smile and wave."--Skipper

Post Extras:   

Steve Roby
Fleet Captain

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
[#5358661](#) - 05/12/12 05:25 PM



Reged: 02/02/25
Loc: Ottawa, ON Canada

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

If you guys really want to prove that Taylor's novels are non-canon, then why don't you give me something solid (such as, for example, directions to a quote of Berman or Braga) where the canonicity is disavowed?

I doubt there's any such quote, because the books are below their radar. You're about as likely to find a quote affirming or denying canon status to Taylor's books from them as you are to find a quote from them critiquing the manufacturing or design quality of a Star Trek starship model kit, or the colour choices of Star Trek pyjamas, because their concern was the TV series and movies, not the tie-in merchandise. (I mean no denigration of the books at all, of course.)

The person who does speak authoritatively for the tie-in merchandise, because it's her job, has already given you a clear and concise answer.

Quote:

Trek fans are pretty smart, as a rule, and are willing to ask questions . . . these "shell game" answers like Christopher's won't cut it, and clearly they haven't cut it since people keep asking.

Oh, I see. You're a firebrand and an iconoclast, speaking truth to power on behalf of the downtrodden masses of Trek fans. Well, allow me to retort. There are plenty of smart Star Trek fans who know none of the books are canon and just don't care. There are plenty of smart Star Trek fans (certainly smarter than me) who see another

time-wasting thrash like this and just walk on by, refusing to make eye contact or get involved.


And I guess I'll just delete the rest of the various sentences I've written and rewritten except to say that I'm impressed by the patience and restraint the writers, editors, and Paula Block herself have shown here.

Complete Starfleet Library <http://www.well.com/~siroby/lcars>
A Star Trek book collector's blog: siroby.blogspot.com

Edited by Steve Roby (05/12/12 08:02 PM)

Post Extras:   

TerriO
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [William Leisner](#)]
#5358669 - 05/12/12 05:27 PM



Reged: 01/12/13
Loc: Covering Shep's six

Quote:

Posted by William Leisner:
Oh, for Christ's sake...

We got anything stronger than tequila 'round here? Like a ball-peen hammer, maybe?

hands over the Irish whiskey

-[Terri Osborne](#)


Now: "Eighteen Minutes"-*Star Trek: Voyager: Distant Shores...*In 2006: S.C.E. #61: *Progress*

"Yes, Rico. Ka-boom."

"Smile and wave, boys. Smile and wave."--Skipper

Post Extras:   

elraithin
Commander

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [TerriO](#)]
#5358698 - 05/12/12 05:34 PM



Reged: 04/06/22
Loc: Louisiana

Quote:

Posted by TerriO:

Quote:

Posted by William Leisner:
Oh, for Christ's sake...

We got anything stronger than tequila 'round here? Like a ball-peen hammer, maybe?

hands over the Irish whiskey

I got some chips. Anybody got salsa?

Seriously though - DG, is it really *that* big a deal, man? Christopher, guys, you too. It doesn't matter that much.

- Pat Weber


Edited by *elaithin* (05/12/12 05:36 PM)

Post Extras:   

SCMoll
Commodore



Reged: 01/12/07
Loc: Colerain Twp., OH

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: **DSG2k**]
[#5358707](#) - 05/12/12 05:37 PM

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

If you guys really want to prove that Taylor's novels are non-canon, then why don't you give me something solid (such as, for example, directions to a quote of Berman or Braga) where the canonicity is disavowed?

Novels and other tie-ins are not allowed to contradict canonical sources.

"Seduced" in 2005's *Tales from the Captain's Table* contradicts *Pathways*-- the former says Demora Sulu sponsored Chakotay's Academy application, the latter says Hiromi Sulu did.

If a short story can contradict *Pathways*, then *Pathways* must not be canonical.

Q.E.D.

Star Trek Novel Rankings

Currently reading: *Star Trek #73: Recovery* by J.M. Dillard

Post Extras:   

Christopher
Writer



Reged: 01/03/15

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: **elaithin**]
[#5358871](#) - 05/12/12 06:10 PM

Quote:

Posted by elaithin:

Seriously though - DG, is it really *that* big a deal, man? Christopher, guys, you too. It doesn't matter that much.

You're right -- and it's kind of silly for me to make such a big deal out of trying to point out that it isn't a big deal at all.

Anybody have an audio clip of William Shatner on SNL saying "Get a life?" I think it has rarely been so apropos as it is now (short of any thread participated in by James Dixon).

Christopher L. Bennett Homepage Updated 11/12/05 with info on VGR: *Distant Shores*: "Brief Candle" and *Titan*: *Orion's Hounds*

Post Extras:   

KevinK

Writer



Reged: 02/01/11

Loc: Wilmington, NC, USA

 **Re: For Paula Block**  **[Re: Christopher]**

#5359001 - 05/12/12 06:37 PM

Okay.

Last time before I take my own advice and walk away from this train wreck.

First and foremost, DSC2k (do you go by any other name?): At no point have I used any sort of strawman misrepresentation of you or any of your positions. I have used quotes which were in context. I have not impugned your character at any time. I HAVE pointed out that the flimsy constructs you keep calling rigorous logic stands only if you deny facts.

Of course intelligent people ask questions. But intelligent people also listen to the answers to those questions. Wise people accept those answers even when those answers aren't what they were hoping they'd be.

Are you sincere in your misunderstanding about licensing? Paramount can only produce Star Trek material under license. Each division does not have a separate license. Paramount has a license. It's divisions are covered under that license. Anyone who tries to produce Star Trek without a license is breaking the law. The statement that the digital entertainment division of a company which produces Star Trek materials under license does not have its own separate agreement with Viacom should not be taken to mean it is in some way excused or exempt from the licensing agreement that binds the parent company.

When I said "1996 error", I meant the misconception that the novels were canon in any context other than as guides for writers working on the show has been around since 1996.

As Paula Block stated, VIACOM had no problem with the show's writers regarding them as canon because they felt it simplified their jobs.

Any elements of those novels which were incorporated into the scripts themselves of course became canon because they then became part of the live-action TV show. To misconstrue this to mean all aspects of these novels are therefore canon is akin to saying that because all presidents of the United States have been white males all white males are President of the United States. (Yes, I know that's a silly example. It is, however, as rigorously logical as any syllogisms you've presented in the course of this discussion.) As has been pointed out, after Jeri Taylor left the show, the writers stopped referencing her books.

That regarding these books as canon is an error has been pointed out repeatedly. Your "When and by whom?" question is simply silly. You can not pretend you've never heard that before. What you refuse to acknowledge the authority of the people who point out the error. That is an issue of personal belief systems, not logic.

I read Paula Block's statement how she received the definition of canon (and here I am quoting) "I got canon from the horse's--er, Great Bird's--mouth." to indicate the definition she then cited was a direct quote. I'll grant she did not use quotation marks. But your response that she gave no indication that statement was not made by Gene Roddenberry is again disingenuous. There is not now nor has there ever been any indication from any reputable source that Gene Roddenberry's standard for canon (and here I will attribute the quote to Paula Block) has been anything other than: "Canon is what's produced for the TV and Movie screens. Books aren't. End of story."

She further stated: "It's my job to hold licensees like Pocket to that standard."

That is her job. She's the one everyone else has to answer to.

Your witty remark that you will not accept Paula Block's authority until you see her name bump Roddenberry's and Berman's from the screen does not change the fact that she is the final arbiter -- there is no appeal. Again, you are apparently confusing a personal belief system for reality.

Please accept the facts as they have been presented to you.

Your questions have been answered. I'm sorry the answers are not what you wanted to hear.

Please do not continue to accuse those who have taken the time to provide the information of lying, being ignorant, or not having the right to do their jobs.

-- Kevin K.

"It's your dream; make it work"

-- Valerie K.

www.BattleCorps.com

Mit der Dummheit kämpfen Götter selbst vergebens.



Post Extras:   

KevinK

Writer



Reged: 02/01/11

Loc: Wilmington, NC, USA

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [elaithin](#)]

#5359033 - 05/12/12 06:45 PM

Quote:

Posted by elaithin:

Seriously though - DG, is it really *that* big a deal, man? Christopher, guys, you too. It doesn't matter that much.

You're right.

Wish I'd read your post before investing half my lunch hour composing a long and thoughtful response. Which will no doubt be dismissed as a vicious and unprovoked personal attack. Again.

-- KeVin K.

"It's your dream; make it work"

-- Valerie K.

www.BattleCorps.com

Mit der Dummheit kämpfen Götter selbst vergebens.

Post Extras:   

LightningStorm

Captain



Reged: 04/08/30

Loc: Kansas City

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]

#5359370 - 05/12/12 07:53 PM

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

Trek fans are pretty smart, as a rule, and are willing to ask questions . . .

And generally when those questions are answered, we accept them. Why are you different? What is the purpose in asking the question if you are not really wanting an answer? You even called out Paula Block specifically for her direct connection to and authority on the subject and then you reject that response too. So? What? You now want Rick Berman or Brannon Braga to respond to your post? Will THAT convince you?

It sounds to me more like you want things to be one way and refuse to accept that they are another. Fine, continue to live in that fantasy world where novels are canon, but stop trying to push that world off as pure and actual fact simply because you said so. Because, let me tell you, YOU are the only one saying so.

Post Extras:   

Ens. Brodsky

Captain



 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [KevinK](#)]

#5359480 - 05/12/12 08:18 PM

Ok DSG2k, if you won't believe Paula, who has the final say over what can and can't be in the books, Marco, who enforces the rules set by Paula and Paramount, and the authors, who follow said rules, who will you believe?

Because I can't think of anyone else other than Berman, who probably doesn't even give a damn about the books, that could give you an answer.

(Gah, LS beat me to the punch.)


Reged: 04/07/22
Loc: Arizona

Currently reading: Star Trek Voyager String Theory : Fusion by Kirsten Beyer

Edited by Ens. Brodsky (05/12/12 08:22 PM)

Post Extras:   

captcalhoun
Fleet Captain

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: **Ens. Brodsky**]
#5359584 - 05/12/12 08:40 PM



Reged: 05/04/29
Loc: USS Wraith

i'm willing at this point to call this guy some rude names and get my second warning and bedamned. however, i won't. everyone should just stop responding to this guy and then this thread and any others he starts will die a death.

but, i am going to indulge in a small amount of spleen venting.


IT'S A MUTHAFRAKKING TV SHOW! NONE OF IT'S EVEN DROKING REAL! GET A LIFE FOR GRUD'S SAKE!

Star Trek: Spec Ops & Star Trek: The Romulan War

New Frontier guide

Post Extras:   

Scott Butler
Fleet Captain

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: **DSG2k**]
#5359654 - 05/12/12 08:55 PM



Reged: 04/02/10
Loc: CT, USA

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:
Taylor also canonized Mosaic herself, a canonization which has never been known to have been rescinded.

...


If you guys really want to prove that Taylor's novels are non-canon, then why don't you give me something solid (such as, for example, directions to a quote of Berman or Braga) where the canonicity is disavowed?

These are a few of the things that senior Star Trek-related Viacom employees have said *on this very board* in the past few days:

- "None of the books are canon. No exceptions." --Marco Palmieri, Pocket Books
- "None of the books are canon. That's 100% true." --Paula M. Block, Paramount Licensing
- "Books are not canon." --Paula M. Block, Paramount Licensing
- "Nothing that wasn't onscreen (tv or movie screen) is canon." --Paula M. Block, Paramount Licensing
- "Canon is what's produced for the TV and Movie screens. Books aren't. End of story." --Paula M. Block, Paramount Licensing

In what way are those not solid, and in what way do those not disavow the canonicity of any and all books?

Scott Butler

Did I really just use the word "canonicity?" 

"The last thing we want is a war in the Middle East." --Dick Cheney 1/20/2005

"With the first link the chain is forged. The first speech censored, the first thought forbidden, the first freedom denied, chains us all irrevocably." --Judge Aaron Satie, The Drumhead

Post Extras:   

Dayton Ward

Writer



Reged: 00/05/22

Loc: Somewhere without a paddle...

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: **Scott Butler**]

#5359684 - 05/12/12 09:00 PM

Quote:

Did I really just use the word "canonicity?"

Sounds like the title of a Def Leppard comeback album.

www.daytonward.com

"If common sense was actually that common, more people would have it."

Post Extras:   

TrekkieBez

Lieutenant Commander



Reged: 04/02/26

Loc: England

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: **SCMoll**]

#5359772 - 05/12/12 09:14 PM

Quote:

Posted by SCMoll:

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

If you guys really want to prove that Taylor's novels are non-canon, then why don't you give me something solid (such as, for example, directions to a quote of Berman or Braga) where the canonicity is disavowed?

Novels and other tie-ins are not allowed to contradict canonical sources.

"Seduced" in 2005's *Tales from the Captain's Table* contradicts *Pathways*-- the former says Demora Sulu sponsored Chakotay's Academy application, the latter says Hiromi Sulu did.

If a short story can contradict *Pathways*, then *Pathways* must not be canonical.

Furthermore, various *Star Trek: Voyager* episodes contradict *Pathways*. For example, *Pathways* says that B'Elanna Torres' mother was named Prabsa, whereas the *Voyager* TV show says her name was Miral.

If the television series can contradict *Pathways*, then *Pathways* must not be canonical.

Edited by TrekkieBez (05/12/12 09:16 PM)

Post Extras:   

SCMoll

Commodore



 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: **TrekkieBez**]

#5359786 - 05/12/12 09:17 PM

^ Exactly.



(Like the avatar, by the way. Made me laugh. Where've you been?)

Reged: 01/12/07

Loc: Colerain Twp., OH

Star Trek Novel Rankings

Currently reading: *Star Trek #73: Recovery* by J.M. Dillard

Post Extras:

TrekkieBez

Lieutenant Commander

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [SCMoll](#)]
#5359827 - 05/12/12 09:23 PM



Reged: 04/02/26

Loc: England

Quote:

Posted by SCMoll:
Like the avatar, by the way. Made me laugh.

Thankee, sah.

Quote:

Posted by SCMoll:
Where've you been?

I wasn't aware that I'd been absent . . .

Post Extras:

Christopher

Writer

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: [LightningStorm](#)]
#5359837 - 05/12/12 09:24 PM



Reged: 01/03/15

Quote:

Posted by LightningStorm:
You even called out Paula Block specifically for her direct connection to and authority on the subject and then you reject that response too. So? What? You now want Rick Berman or Brannon Braga to respond to your post? Will THAT convince you?


Only if they tell him exactly what he already believes.

What's weird is that DSG2k seems to insist on defining "canon" in terms of whether something has been formally declared "canon" by some kind of authority. Apparently he considers that more fundamental than actual practice. But the actual practice is that *both* the TV shows *and* the licensed novels have contradicted *Mosaic/Pathways* on numerous occasions. If that isn't empirical proof that they aren't canonical in practice, nothing is. So I have to wonder why anyone would believe it *matters* whether some official person has *said* they are or aren't canon. If "canon" simply means "something that somebody in authority stuck the label 'canon' on," even if that directly contradicts everyday, empirical practice, then the whole debate becomes completely meaningless, simply about an arbitrary label rather than something with any functional meaning. DSG might as well be trying to prove that Jeri Taylor's novels are potrzebne.

Edited by Christopher (05/12/12 09:26 PM)

Post Extras:   

TerriO
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Dayton Ward](#)]
#5359847 - 05/12/12 09:26 PM



Regeid: 01/12/13
Loc: Covering Shep's six

Quote:

Posted by Dayton Ward:

Quote:

Did I really just use the word "canonicity?"

Sounds like the title of a Def Leppard comeback album.

< sidebar >

Dude, Lep needs a comeback album about as much as Rush and Queensryche do. 😏

< /sidebar >

[Terri Osborne](#)


Now: "Eighteen Minutes"-*Star Trek: Voyager: Distant Shores*...In 2006: S.C.E. #61: *Progress*

"Yes, Rico. Ka-boom."

"Smile and wave, boys. Smile and wave."--Skipper

Post Extras:   

Dayton Ward
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [TerriO](#)]
#5359873 - 05/12/12 09:31 PM



Regeid: 00/05/22
Loc: Somewhere without a paddle...

^They're still putting out albums?

Are they canon?

www.daytonward.com

"If common sense was actually that common, more people would have it."

Post Extras:   

David Mack
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Dayton Ward](#)]
#5359997 - 05/12/12 09:56 PM



^ Nothing that wasn't pressed on vinyl or released on cassette tape is canon.





Reged: 03/01/25
Loc: New York, NY

~ David Mack
davidmack.org (because .com and .net were taken, dammit)

Post Extras:   

Geoff
Captain

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [David Mack](#)]
#5360110 - 05/12/12 10:14 PM



Reged: 01/01/10
Loc: Elkhart, IN USA

^^^
Eight track tapes, on the other hand, are entirely apocryphal. Many people believe that they never actually existed.

Worst. President. Ever.

Post Extras:   

Christopher
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Geoff](#)]
#5360366 - 05/12/12 11:06 PM



Reged: 01/03/15

Ahh, but is Pachelbel canon?

[Christopher L. Bennett Homepage](#) Updated 11/12/05 with info on VGR: *Distant Shores*: "Brief Candle" and *Titan*: *Orion's Hounds*

Post Extras:   

KevinK
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Christopher](#)]
#5360624 - 05/12/13 12:01 AM



Reged: 02/01/11
Loc: Wilmington, NC, USA

^ 

-- Kevin K.
"It's your dream; make it work"
-- Valerie K.

www.BattleCorps.com

Mit der Dummheit kämpfen Götter selbst vergebens.

Post Extras:   

DSG2k
Commander

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Christopher](#)]
#5361907 - 05/12/13 05:30 AM

Reged: 02/12/29

The one statement of consequence in this latest batch of replies is Kevin Killiany's argument that Viacom, Inc. (or maybe Viacom Entertainment Group, a division thereof) owns Star Trek, and that therefore Viacom has been licensing Trek to Paramount for the creation of shows and films. Killiany further argues that Paula Block, titled as Senior Director of Licensed Publishing for Viacom Consumer Products, is in fact the head of the Star Trek franchise.

So far as I'm able to determine, this is a completely unique point of view.

It would require that with Viacom's purchase of Paramount Communications in 1994, the ownership of copyrights and intellectual property fell upward to Viacom, with Paramount Communications being stripped of ownership and becoming a mere licensee, and Paula Block . . . formerly accepting statements on canon from Trek's executive producers while a part of whatever Paramount Communications's licensing group was called . . . suddenly was the one calling the shots, with "Licensed Publishing" suddenly taking on a whole new meaning.

While I'm sure Paula might've enjoyed this were it the case, it runs contrary to all facts as far as they are known.

1. The copyrights employed on Trek material run counter to this notion, identifying ownership with Paramount Communications companies. Yes, these companies are owned by Viacom and Trek is thus one of Viacom's assets

just like the rest of Paramount, but this alone is insufficient to prove that Paramount was a licensee.

1a. According to a [copyright infringement letter](#) sent out circa 2001, Paramount Pictures Corporation owns all of the rights to the various Star Treks mentioned.

2. Viacom's own website [specifically identified](#) Paramount Television as the owners of the Star Trek franchise.

(Frankly, I've never quite gotten a bead on which piece of Paramount Communications owned what. Final ownership of Star Trek seemed to depend largely on who you asked and when. In the end, though, all the possible contenders and pretenders were part of Paramount Communications, so it was hardly a major question. (Of course, now the split's muddying that up quite nicely, but oh well.))

3. Viacom Consumer Products did handle the licensing for all Paramount Communications ventures, but a separation of licensing companies from production companies is common for whatever reason. Witness Lucas Licensing, Ltd., which was independent from Lucasfilm, Ltd. for all these years (until 2003's reorganization made it a subsidiary company).

4. Paula Block is Senior Director of Licensed Publishing, and some older sources refer to her as the Executive Director of Publishing. None of these titles suggest or imply that she was tasked with overseeing the Star Trek franchise as a whole. However, these titles would make sense if she were overseeing, say, Pocket Books (and other publications from Simon & Schuster or (heaven forbid) other publishing groups).

5. Killiany misreads Block's statement regarding the VCP establishment of quasi-canoncity. She noted that licensees wanted some background structure to use and didn't really like the answer that such information had not been established on the show yet. Instead of recognizing that by "licensees" Block referred to people like Killiany and Ordober, Killiany says "As Paula Block stated, VIACOM had no problem with the show's writers regarding them as canon because they felt it simplified their jobs." In other words, he's calling the show writers licensees, which would mean that the show writers were requesting background structure and were allowed to use the Voyager novels because they had yet to write shows detailing the background structure.

Huh?

6. Killiany argues that a licensing deal with Paramount by Viacom would've allowed Paramount to make Trek, and that this license would've filtered down to other Paramount-owned companies (like Paramount Digital). However, he provides no evidence that this was in fact the nature of his claimed license.

6a. Why in the world would Redstone have spent ten billion dollars to buy Paramount only to have to give it away to lawyers to draw up licensing deals to license all the intellectual property back to Paramount so the company would be worth anything?

. . . and so on.

Killiany will undoubtedly view this as an instance of me rejecting answers I didn't like from someone more qualified than I to speak on the matter, but in fact it is an instance of me critically analyzing answers that 'smelled funny' and which were given by someone unqualified to make such assertions, finding the answers wrong after careful scrutiny.

That said, I can't help but be amused that I basically already had the necessary info above on my site thanks to [past research](#) on the matter. However, it never hurts to give old info a new run-through.

Now, let's shift gears a bit, moving on from careful scrutiny to a simple reply to some odd ideas from another poster:

Quote:

Posted by Steve Roby:

I doubt there's any such quote, because the books are below their radar.

Berman mentions the books and various other media in comments on canon in his Communicator #154 interview. Unfortunately, his statements did not reject the Taylor novel canonicity.

Quote:

The person who does speak authoritatively for the tie-in merchandise, because it's her job, has already given you a clear and concise answer.

Yes, you're absolutely correct . . . she's specified that VCP stopped considering the novels quasi-canon, a quasi-canoncity created by VCP to begin with. This end of quasi-canoncity was not the result of consultation with production, but was instead an in-house determination based on an assessment of Voyager continuity.

Please explain to me what this has to do with the canonicity established by Jeri Taylor in a rank-based assessment such as mine.

As I've already stated (and which Kevin et al. have ignored), I have no particular wish to see the novels as canon. The issue is simply whether they *are* or not . . . my desire is irrelevant.

Quote:

You're a firebrand and an iconoclast, speaking truth to power on behalf of the downtrodden masses of Trek fans.

Not at all, sir, nor am I any other name or caricature you'd care to reference. I compliment the poetry, if not the absurdity that spawned it.

From my perspective the matter was settled. Sure, there was a rumor of Ordover contradicting StarTrek.com and Taylor, but it was only hearsay from an untrustworthy source. Also, there were instances of later Voyager contradicting the novels, but at the same time {a} this was Voyager (which contradicted *itself*) and {b} there were many occasions where the novel facts were upheld. I was simply searching for "Richard Arnold" one day and bumped into Therin of Andor's post in the last thread (the old FAQ thread) about StarTrek.com supposedly being a licensee. I asked for information, at which point I was set upon by rabid Trek authors.

In any case, I'm a nice and easy-going fellow, but I do have a defiant streak . . . I can give as good as I get and I don't care how important you are (or think you are).

I think I've demonstrated that sufficiently well, here. And, since those who've chosen to serve as my opposition have resorted to patently absurd 'arguments', character attacks, counterfactual assertions, and preposterously irrelevant arguments about short stories, I don't foresee much relevant information coming out of the thread.

But, ever the optimist about people, I'll hope for a surprise.

However, I fear that I'll just end up with more bunk like the below, which I'll play with for a moment before I go:

Quote:

Posted by KevinK:
First and foremost, DSC2k (do you go by any other name?):

Yes . . . DSG2k.

Quote:

At no point have I used any sort of strawman misrepresentation of you or any of your positions.

... excepting your absurd claim that I didn't believe Paula Block or VCP existed, or your attempt to claim that all my statements have been fallacies based on your false analogy to a fallacy you can't even name, et cetera ...

Quote:

I have used quotes which were in context.

... although when attempting to understand the quotes you ignored the context ...

Quote:

I have not impugned your character at any time.

... except to question my honesty and intellect ...

Quote:

I HAVE pointed out that the flimsy constructs you keep calling rigorous logic stands only if you deny facts.

... which gives us an example of psychological projection.

Quote:

Please accept the facts as they have been presented to you.

I have.

Quote:

Your questions have been answered. I'm sorry the answers are not what you wanted to hear.

The answers were fine. It's *how they fit in a rigorous assessment* that you people are flipping out about and attacking me over.

Quote:

Please do not continue to accuse those who have taken the time to provide the information of lying,

Don't try to play the injured party here. You, Christopher, et al. set upon me like a pack of wolves, heaping false attacks, misrepresentations, and general disdain upon me. Maybe you've simply seen too many people asking about a canon you'll never be a part of, or maybe you guys have a bit of a diva complex. I don't know and I don't care, but I'm not the sort to turn the other cheek. Just be glad I've exercised restraint.

As for claiming lies on your part, I haven't actually done so. But, if you'd rather I not split hairs about whether you people are making intentionally counterfactual claims versus merely accidental counterfactual claims when you try to attack me . . .

Quote:

being ignorant,

I haven't questioned your intelligence, just your grasp of the facts and your reading comprehension.

Quote:

or not having the right to do their jobs.

You and Christopher have every right to do your jobs . . . though I'd recommend you avoid writing for post-ENT Vulcans.

Good day.

Author of Google's #1 ranked page on "[Star Trek canon](#)"

Post Extras:   

elaitin
Commander

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [KevinK](#)]
#5362004 - 05/12/13 06:03 AM



Reged: 04/06/22
Loc: Louisiana

Quote:

Posted by KevinK:

Quote:

Posted by elaitin:

Seriously though - DG, is it really "that" big a deal, man? Christopher, guys, you too. It doesn't matter that much.

You're right.

Well of course I am. Remember that in the future. It'll save you a lot of time. 🤖

Sorry, couldn't resist.

- Pat Weber

Post Extras:   

David Mack

Writer



Reged: 03/01/25

Loc: New York, NY

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]

[#5362053](#) - 05/12/13 06:21 AM

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

Maybe you've simply seen too many people asking about a canon you'll never be a part of

Guess what, pal -- my work *is* part of the canon: DS9: "Starship Down" and "It's Only a Paper Moon." And you know what? All the books I've written since? Not canon. Even though I've frequently referenced my prior work on the show, none of my work in print is canon. None of it. Not one damned word of it.

Paula *is* the person whose word is law on what the books can and cannot be, and on what they are and are not. She says the books are not canon. None of them. Not one. Not a single damned one. Period.

Canon is what's live-action on screen. That and nothing else. Period.

This is simple. This is cut and dried. There is no ambiguity here.

Let go of your rambling diatribes and face the truth: *Star Trek* books aren't canon. 🤖

~ David Mack

davidmack.org (because .com and .net were taken, dammit)

Post Extras:   

KRAD

Keith R.A. DeCandido



Reged: 99/11/28

Loc: New York City

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [David Mack](#)]

[#5362064](#) - 05/12/13 06:25 AM

Folks, there's no point in replying. It's obvious that DSG2k isn't going to let reality stand in the way of anything, and none of the replies to him have done any good, up to and including the one he specifically asked for. Which is why I haven't responded in this thread -- it's a ton of sound and fury that doesn't signify a fucking thing.

DeCandido.net

[KRAD's Inaccurate Guide to Life](#)

Post Extras:   

[skeletonsingh](#)
Ensign

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [KRAD](#)]
[#5362140](#) - 05/12/13 07:12 AM

Regeed: 05/10/26

As someone's who is a bit new around here I may have a different take on this issue... or not. Firstly, I think it's obvious that a lot of people in Star Trek fandom are sick and tired of the whole issue of canon. However, it's also clear that most of us have our own personal "canon"; novels and comic books that we think of as equal to what has been presented on the screen. A lot of us also probably discount certain small aspects of televised and film Trek, for whatever reason, be it Gene Roddenberry's own misgivings about some of the movies, certain sexist scenes and storylines from TOS, or whatever the case may be.

I can understand, to some degree, DSG2k's obsession with the issue of canon. Lets face it, we wouldn't be here posting on this site if we all weren't obsessed with some facet of Star Trek. Now, I agree with a lot of you when you say that it isn't healthy to be so obsessed with what is a fictional universe.

Anyways, with the debate at hand, it seems that most of the criticism of DSG2k surrounds the fact that he seems to be coming off as hard-headed, obsessive and more than a little obtuse. However, DSG2k keeps insisting that he is simply being logical and rational and everyone else is resorting to name-calling and personal attacks. So, who's wrong?

I think the problem lies in the fact that from what I read of the situation, most people here think that DSG2k is just sort of obsessed with including these Voyager novels as canon when its clear (and it is to me, by the way) that they and all other books simply are not canon. DSG2k on the other seems intent on demanding to see some sort of proof that seems impossible to find.

Now, after seeing this debate I checked out his page. I have to admit that he has been nothing short of completely methodical. While I have to say that it seems a little overboard to analyze this whole issue of canon so carefully, is it really any less "overboard" than the Starfleet library, the Starfleet Museum, the Star Trek Comic Checklist or any of the other dozen or so fansites out there that go into insane amounts of detail and have obviously taken A LOT of time and energy?

The real problem, it seems to me is not with DSG2k's obsession with Canon, but more so his obsession with "logical" debate. His use of formal logic just is NOT appropriate here. From what I gather of his reasoning, it goes something like this,

- A. Jeri Taylor states that the 2 novels in question are canon.
- B. Pocket books believes them to be "quasi-canon" (would be a great addition to any starship I'm sure)
- C. Pocket Books no longer considers them to be "quasi-canon".
- D. No one has countered Jeri Taylor's statement of the books being considered canon.

The main problem is thinking that Star Trek is run in some organized and efficient way, let's say like Starfleet itself, with admirals of differing ranks all the way down to ensigns. DSG2k seems to believe that since Taylor was an Executive Producer the only person who really would be above her in "rank" would be Berman himself. Since Berman hasn't commented on this, then her statements must be left in place.

But, it simply doesn't work like that! We're talking about a massive fictional universe which has seen numerous executive producers and creators over four decades, as well several film producers over 10 movies. In addition, this massive fictional universe is run by a gigantic trans-national corporation which has a lot of other things on its plate besides this one venture.

Just because Taylor made that statement years ago does not mean that it is set in stone until someone higher up the chain of command rescinds the order. This isn't an army or a government. It's a work of fiction run by a large bureaucratic corporation. Things aren't "officially" put into place and orders aren't given in any typical fashion. If you've read the DS9 companion for example, or seen how movies and television are made in general, you'll see that making a TV show really doesn't have much to do with issues of canon or anything really. It's just about making something week after week and getting it up on the screen. The deadline is king. In this atmosphere all of these issues seem to be just ignored.

There is, I don't think, ever going to be an official statement from anybody at the level of authority your logical system demands. The fact of the matter is, that Star Trek does not work like that. Maybe Star Wars might, with one creator who is still alive, but even there we all know there's plenty of debate over the issue of canon. If that's the case with a universe with one primary creator and only six movies... compare that to five television series and ten movies with many, MANY creators... how can you expect a coherent system??? It is in not understanding this fact that you, DSG2k, are yourself not being logical.

What makes something canon or not canon is NOT official statements but instead how the work is treated by subsequent creators within that universe. As Christopher pointed out, Pike's sexism probably isn't "canon" because it is usually simply ignored, as are the Kirk's inconsistent titles for Starfleet command, and a whole lot of other things. There were no official statements in regards to these issues, they simply EVOLVED over time. If, in the

future, creators wanted to ignore some of the insights into the Borg that Voyager provided and present that on screen, then those scenes from Voyager would not be canon, not because of some official statement from Berman but simply because that was the reality of the current Star Trek project. Which is why, I think, Ordovery's statement about Canon only being able to be established after a work has been completely completed makes a lot of sense. In reality here, there is no Canon since Star Trek is simply too big with too many parts and it just can't have a coherent policy like that right now with the nature of the corporate ownership and the way the shows and movies are produced.

DSG2k is working through the issue of canon in a methodical and scientific manner. This is admirable, but such a black and white viewpoint fails to take into account the realities of the universe that he is analyzing, both its fictional nature and the real world limitations of the way it is created, produced and presented. Let's say for a second that Ira Behr was to state that the novels in question are NOT canon, would he override Taylor's statements? He's also an executive producer, but still under Berman. Maybe because he was there for longer, would that matter? Or, would it matter less since he had nothing to do with Voyager and worked on DS9? The problem with this debate is that I just don't believe that there is this strict chain of command, and nor are there official statements about canon or a lot of the other things that us fans worry about so much.

Anyways, I'm sure this will all be ignored, but I have an exam in two days and I needed to waste some of my own time, so get back to the epic struggle you've all found yourselves in.

That, and if I've offended anyone, sorry in advance.


Post Extras:   

Rosalind
Lieutenant Commander

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [skeletorsingh](#)]
#5362254 - 05/12/13 08:47 AM



Reged: 05/03/30
Loc: Sydney, Australia

^ well said! 

Post Extras:   

KevinK
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [skeletorsingh](#)]
#5362566 - 05/12/13 01:09 PM



Reged: 02/01/11
Loc: Wilmington, NC, USA

You've offended no one, SkeletorSingh. While your reasoned and cogent arguments may be dismissed as "unique" by some quarters, you summed the situation up quite well -- and were quite generous to all concerned in the process.

Good luck with your exam.

-- Kevin K.

"It's your dream; make it work"

-- Valerie K.

www.BattleCorps.com

Mit der Dummheit kämpfen Götter selbst vergebens.

Post Extras:   

DSG2k
Commander

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [skeletorsingh](#)]
#5362634 - 05/12/13 01:43 PM

Reged: 02/12/29

 My compliments . . . your diplomatic skill is far greater than my own.

(Of course, that alone isn't saying much, since when I feel unfairly maligned I have all the diplomatic skill of a bull in a china shop, but . . .)

The question of whether Trek canon is able to withstand the level of scrutiny and presumption of consistency that I and others use is something that I think is perhaps best left for another time. But, as I pointed out here and in the other thread, I have no choice but to employ that type of analysis given the history of the debate my site is a part

of, not to mention the entrenched and hostile pro-SW opponents who feign that level of analysis.

In any case, my point is simply this: you actually looked at where I was coming from, recognizing that there was a method (the one I was referring to when I spoke of "rank-based schema" and "rigorous analysis" and so on), one which is separate from and not equivalent to my personal opinion on the matter.

This attempt to understand the origin of what I was saying, plus the attempt to explain it to the others like I tried in the last thread, is the sort of understanding-spreading maneuver that, ideally, can allow people of differing views to be at peace and learn from one another, instead of having a little war.

And that, good sir, is good Star Trek.


Author of Google's #1 ranked page on "[Star Trek canon](#)"

Post Extras:   

Steve Roby
Fleet Captain



Reged: 02/02/25
Loc: Ottawa, ON Canada

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [skeletorsingh](#)]
#5362729 - 05/12/13 02:28 PM

Quote:

Posted by skeletorsingh:

However, it's also clear that most of us have our own personal "canon"; novels and comic books that we think of as equal to what has been presented on the screen.

Some of us are pushing for the term personal continuity instead of personal canon, which is a bit of an oxymoron.

Other than that little quibble, good post.

Complete Starfleet Library <http://www.well.com/~sjiroby/lcars>
A Star Trek book collector's blog: sjiroby.blogspot.com

Post Extras:   

Christopher
Writer



Reged: 01/03/15

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Steve Roby](#)]
#5362782 - 05/12/13 02:44 PM

Quote:

Posted by Steve Roby:

Some of us are pushing for the term personal continuity instead of personal canon, which is a bit of an oxymoron.

In the sense that the Dominion War was a bit of a skirmish.

[Christopher L. Bennett Homepage](#) Updated 11/12/05 with info on VGR: *Distant Shores*: "Brief Candle" and *Titan*: *Orion's Hounds*

Post Extras:   

Dayton Ward
Writer



 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [Christopher](#)]
#5362819 - 05/12/13 02:53 PM



[Bartlet]

:: headdesk ::
:: headdesk ::
:: headdesk ::
:: headdesk ::

Reged: 00/05/22

Loc: Somewhere without a
paddle...

"Oh, God. I'm sorry. Am I still here?"

[/Bartlet]

www.daytonward.com

"If common sense was actually that common, more people would have it."

Post Extras:

LightningStorm

Captain

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: **Steve Roby**]

[#5362972](#) - 05/12/13 03:42 PM



Reged: 04/08/30

Loc: Kansas City

The idea of a "personal canon" is like saying this picture is my idea of a stapler.



It's a matter of fact, not opinion. "Canon" is no more redefinable than "spiral notebook" or "stapler."

Edited by LightningStorm (05/12/13 03:43 PM)

Post Extras:

Kevink

Writer

Re: For Paula Block **NEW** [Re: **DSG2k**]

[#5363038](#) - 05/12/13 03:59 PM



Reged: 02/01/11

Loc: Wilmington, NC, USA

Quote:

Posted by DSG2k:

when I feel unfairly maligned I have all the diplomatic skill of a bull in a china shop, but...

... I have no choice but to employ that type of analysis given the history of the debate ...

I'm sorry you feel unfairly maligned. That is not my intent.

Your "rigorous analysis" is demonstrably predicated on the assumption that the statements of fact provided to you by the people in a position to know are false, either through their ignorance or deliberate misdirection. Your prejudice against facts with which you do not agree reduces your logic (reasoning conducted or assessed according to strict principles of validity) to sophistry (deliberately invalid argument displaying ingenuity in reasoning). It's my belief your persistence in this practice indicates deliberate behavior. That is not an accusation, that is an assessment based on your public actions.

For example: You have repeatedly accused me of saying things I did not in fact say.

Paula Block is the final authority on written Trek. Everything crosses her desk. If she does not vet it, it does not fly. This is the reason she is one of the judges for the annual Strange new Worlds writing competition. Everyone who writes Trek fiction has had some work rejected -- or had to rewrite a submission -- because it did not meet her exacting standards. Your response to this was a witty remark about never having seen her name bump Roddenberry's or Berman's from the screen.

When I restated the fact Ms. Block is the final authority on canon Trek publishing, you derided my "unique" view that she is in charge of all aspects of the Star Trek franchise. That's not unique, that's ridiculous. I never said or implied any such thing. We are in the Trek Lit forum. The subject is Star Trek print fiction.

Paula Block is the final authority on what is and is not Trek in print. She does a tremendous job, Trek readers are blessed to have her at the helm. I've never met the woman, but her criticisms of my work have always been right on the money and my work has been better for following her directives.

Now, for all of her authority over the print side of Trek, Paula Block has none (that I know of) on the TV/movie side of Trek production. If she were to make a statement about a TV show in production it would be her opinion. Her statement would no doubt be knowledgeable and insightful, but it would have no direct impact on the TV production because that is not her department. People might listen because of who she is, but her words would not have authority. Kinda like if a Trek TV show producer made a statement about Star Trek books.

Quasi- is a prefix most often used to mean having the form of without the substance. A quasi-legal act is a crime. The example that comes most quickly to mind is driving five miles over the speed limit. This is against the law, but it is overlooked to the point people often feel victimized when law enforcement officers actually enforce the law. Quasi-legal means not legal.

When Jeri Taylor stated she regarded her novels as canon, Paula Block has explained that for the sake of convenience for all involved they (her office, the folks with the actual authority over Trek publications) decided not to enforce the criteria of canon. Like the traffic cop letting the guy going 60 in the 55 zone go by, they allowed Jeri Taylor, et al., to behave as though Ms. Taylor's novels were canon. The books themselves, however, were never canon. Hence: "quasi-canon."

I'm not even going to bother with how you misconstrued my other statements.

However, I will return to a question you consistently avoid answering.

You know who each of us is, but you have refused to identify yourself on this board.

In case I've not been clear, my name is Kevin Killiany. (I'm the bearded guy on the left in the picture under my screen name, the good looking one next to me is my wife of 25 years.) I have been an actor, photographer, teacher in an alternative high school, special education elementary school teacher, community college instructor, and paper boy. My current day job is through the Department of Social Services and carries the improbable title of "high-risk intervention community-based services professional". I am also an ordained minister with the Soul Saving Station, an interdenominational church with congregations throughout the eastern US, Haiti, Ghana, France and Germany. As a writer, in addition to original fiction, I produce short fiction in the Star Trek universe and short fiction, novels, and RPG source book materials in the Classic BattleTech and MechWarrior gaming universes.

Who are you?

-- KeVin K.

"It's your dream; make it work"

-- Valerie K.

www.BattleCorps.com

Mit der Dummheit kämpfen Götter selbst vergebens.

Post Extras:   

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [KevinK](#)]

[#5363081](#) - 05/12/13 04:15 PM

[zhu](#)
Ensign

Reged: 05/05/27
Loc: shanghai, china

Quote:

Posted by KevinK:
Who are you?

A combination of exceedingly brief WHOIS and Google searches reveal the following:-

<http://www.stardestroyer.net/Empire/HateMail/RSA/RSAGeneral.html>

Edited by zhu (05/12/13 05:07 PM)

Post Extras:   

KevinK
Writer



Reged: 02/01/11
Loc: Wilmington, NC, USA

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [zhu](#)]
[#5363129](#) - 05/12/13 04:27 PM

^[Data]That explains much.[/Data]

(Where were you with this information before I wasted three hours of my life on posts?) 😊

Thanks!

-- KeVin K.
"It's your dream; make it work"
-- Valerie K.

www.BattleCorps.com

Mit der Dummheit kämpfen Götter selbst vergebens.

Post Extras:   

zhu
Ensign

Reged: 05/05/27
Loc: shanghai, china

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [KevinK](#)]
[#5363157](#) - 05/12/13 04:36 PM

Quote:

Posted by KevinK:

^[Data]That explains much.[/Data]

(Where were you with this information before I wasted three hours of my life on posts?) 😊


Thanks!

My pleasure. However, I must stress that I only posted the initial two Google results featuring descriptions of Mr. Anderson, both of which, as can be seen, are somewhat less than flattering. There may be more objective biographical analyses available online, but I was not about to waste time trawling through the vast cesspool of "Trekkies Vs. Warsies" sites to find them.

Post Extras:   

Dayton Ward
Writer



 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [zhu](#)]
[#5363179](#) - 05/12/13 04:41 PM



Reged: 00/05/22
Loc: Somewhere without a
paddle...

Assuming **DSG2k** and the person described in those links are the same person, and assuming the information described in that second link is up-to-date, I'm pretty sure it's a board violation to present such personal info without the person's consent.

Don't get me wrong: Several of **DSG2k's** comments have and continue to irritate me (I got your restraint right here.), but there are lines one shouldn't cross.

Just my \$.02.

www.daytonward.com

"If common sense was actually that common, more people would have it."

Edited by Dayton Ward (05/12/13 05:05 PM)

Post Extras:

KevinK
Writer

Re: For Paula Block **[Re: Dayton Ward]**
[#5363240](#) - 05/12/13 05:02 PM



Reged: 02/01/11
Loc: Wilmington, NC, USA

Quote:

Posted by Dayton Ward:

Assuming **DSG2k** and the person described in those links are the same person, and assuming the information described in that second link is up-to-date, I'm pretty sure it's a board violation to present such personal info without the person's consent.

Good point there, Dayton. (Careful, you'll put someone's eye out.) Two good points in fact. (Careful, you'll -- never mind.)

"DSG2k" does sound like a reasonable nom du board for someone who is known in other forums as "Darkstar" and "Guardian2k" but that does not mean it's the same person. Let's give DSG2k the opportunity to self-identify. Could be someone else entirely.

As for the posting of personal information, I'm sure zhu did not mean to invade anyone's privacy -- can the moderators remove that link?

In fact, why don't they remove everything after Christopher's Pachelbel post? That was pretty much the high point of the thread.

-- Kevin K.
"It's your dream; make it work"
-- Valerie K.

www.BattleCorps.com

Mit der Dummheit kämpfen Götter selbst vergebens.

Post Extras:

zhu
Ensign

Re: For Paula Block **[Re: KevinK]**
[#5363263](#) - 05/12/13 05:09 PM

Reged: 05/05/27
Loc: shanghai, china

Quote:

Posted by KevinK:

As for the posting of personal information, I'm sure zhu did not mean to invade anyone's privacy -- can the moderators remove that link?

The link has been removed. 😊

Post Extras:   

DSG2k
Commander

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: **KevinK**]
#5363366 - 05/12/13 05:36 PM

Regeed: 02/12/29

You know, Kevin, my message above was meant to applaud the other poster's appeal to understanding, in concert with my point in the earlier post that the thread had pretty much come to a useful end. Given your recent behavior I should've predicted that such thoughts wouldn't phase you and that instead you'd press your attack.

Quote:

Posted by KevinK:
I'm sorry you feel unfairly maligned. That is not my intent.

Since you don't want me to split hairs, I'll be blunt . . . your statement above is a lie. Otherwise, why would you go and make asinine comments like the below?

Quote:

Your "rigorous analysis" is demonstrably predicated on the assumption that the statements of fact provided to you by the people in a position to know are false {...} Your prejudice against facts with which you do not agree reduces your logic {...} to sophistry {...}. It's my belief your persistence in this practice indicates deliberate behavior.

You've taken your utter failure to comprehend my method and the the exercise thereof and have developed a personal attack from it. By your reasoning any use of a strategy to understand a subject is in fact mere sophistry . . . instead, I'm sure that you feel we should simply feel our way through using faulty information such as you're prone to dispense, or faulty reasoning such as you're all too happy to share.

Quote:

For example: You have repeatedly accused me of saying things I did not in fact say.

You have, in fact, said these things. The fact that you want to come back and change them up later is not my problem. Consider your addition of "written" to the below . . .

Quote:

Paula Block is the final authority on written Trek.

This addition runs completely contrary to your earlier statements, wherein you proclaimed her the "final authority on Trek, period", "the final authority with Viacom", and so on, the "final arbiter" over Berman and other 'licensees' like Paramount's Exec Producers such as Jeri Taylor that I'd referenced.

Your sudden about-face is indicative of your standard maneuverings in this thread. And note how you then take this historical revisionism of yours and make yet another attack out of it regarding my "witty remark" about Block's name bumping the Executive Producers.

In short, you've made a ridiculous statement and are now backpedaling at warp speed, trying to guard your retreat with covering fire and trying to save face by claiming that you're not retreating at all.

This continues here:

Quote:

I never said or implied any such thing. We are in the Trek Lit forum. The subject is Star Trek print fiction.

Then why argue that Block is over people not involved in print fiction like Berman and Taylor, and further argue that Paramount is a licensee when it makes live-action Trek?

Don't lie, Kevin. You screwed up and got caught.


That said, you redeem yourself here:

Quote:

If she were to make a statement about a TV show in production it would be her opinion.



Welcome to the party! This "sophistry" you use above is just the same sort of rank-based rationale that I've been using and being flamed for in the thread. Good show.

Since you're also willing to employ it, I suppose you've been assimilated into my evil collective. 

I am amused, though, by your new argument that the producers of Trek aren't at liberty to decide a canon policy. That's rich. If we assume that the creators and/or owners have the say in regards to such things, then obviously the issue falls to Paramount. And who would Paramount ask for a final answer? Per Tim Gaskill that would be Berman and the gang.

Quote:

You know who each of us is, but you have refused to identify yourself on this board.

Naturally. Given that you people went right for the personal attacks, and given the sort of insanity I've seen before out of others who've done the same thing (*death threats . . . over a Star Trek vs. Star Wars debate!*), I had no interest in revealing anything.

Of course, I think the fact that you were so concerned about my identity is quite telling. Instead of being concerned about *what* was said, you want to focus on *who's* doing the saying. This is a hallmark of illogic.


Like I said earlier, I don't care who you are (or think you are). Likewise, I don't care who you think I am. If you want to listen to the lies of my opponents elsewhere to discern your beliefs about who I am, so be it. However, I wouldn't run off to build personal attacks based on those beliefs . . . they might entertain you and others for spectacle, but they won't be referring to me any more than your current attack patterns do.

The question for you now is, how far do you want to go? Do you want to keep pressing your attack and making claims about me that backfire, or shall we simply part ways?

Author of Google's #1 ranked page on "[Star Trek canon](#)"

Post Extras:   

TerriO
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [zhu](#)]
[#5363442](#) - 05/12/13 05:53 PM



Reged: 01/12/13
Loc: Covering Shep's six

As the questions have been asked and answered, I would like to make a motion that this thread be closed before it degenerates further.

-[Terri Osborne](#)

Now: "Eighteen Minutes"-*Star Trek: Voyager: Distant Shores...*In 2006: S.C.E. #61: *Progress*

"Yes, Rico. Ka-boom."

"Smile and wave, boys. Smile and wave."--Skipper

Edited by TerriO (05/12/13 05:54 PM)

Post Extras:   

Steve Roby
Fleet Captain

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
[#5363475](#) - 05/12/13 05:58 PM



Reged: 02/02/25
Loc: Ottawa, ON Canada

DSG2k, as I understand it, you're rejecting Paula Block's comments on canon because of your "rank-based rationale." She doesn't have the final say because Rick Berman "outranks" her, and Gene Roddenberry would have "outranked" her if he were still alive. Do I understand you correctly?

The rank-based rationale works well when discussing Star Wars because there's a George Lucas who created Star Wars, owns Star Wars, and runs Star Wars. It doesn't necessarily apply with Star Trek, which has never had a person in a position like Lucas's. Roddenberry certainly never had Lucas's kind of control or ownership, never mind the people who followed him.

Does Rick Berman run Star Trek now in any meaningful sense, with no Star Trek in production? With the changes at Viacom, there's no reason to assume he will automatically be in charge again when some form of Trek returns on TV or in theatres. And if he isn't, as Roddenberry wasn't in charge for the third season of TOS or the post-TMP movies, any pronouncement he might make on the canonicity of Jeri Taylor's books or anything else will be no more binding on anyone than anyone else's.

The person you're waiting for an answer from, the person on whose desk the buck stops here regarding all matters Star Trek, doesn't exist and never has.

Complete Starfleet Library <http://www.well.com/~siroby/lcars>
A Star Trek book collector's blog: siroby.blogspot.com

Post Extras:   

KevinK
Writer

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [DSG2k](#)]
[#5363488](#) - 05/12/13 06:01 PM



Wow.



Regeid: 02/01/11
Loc: Wilmington, NC, USA

Step by step, exactly as explained on the web site warning about him. There are even names for each of the trolling tactics he's using. (Pretty much clinches the identity issue, too, Dayton.)

Zhu, thank you so much for providing that link. Without it I would still be attempting to conduct a reasoned and civil dialog unaware that I was being deliberately baited.


-- KeVin K.
"It's your dream; make it work"
-- Valerie K.

www.BattleCorps.com

Mit der Dummheit kämpfen Götter selbst vergebens.

Post Extras:   

Emh
The Doctor

 **Re: For Paula Block** **NEW** [Re: [TerriO](#)]
#5363596 - 05/12/13 06:27 PM



Regeid: 00/07/20
Loc: Durham, North Carolina

Quote:

Posted by TerriO:
As the questions have been asked and answered, I would like to make a motion that this thread be closed before it degenerates further.

You know what, you're right. I really don't have the time, patience or the energy to deal with this crap right now. In fact, I should be working on my last take-home exam. Unless my co-Mod comes along later and disagrees, I'm going to close this mess and I sincerely hope that we *all* put this behind us. Next time this debate starts (oh, and it will, I've been here for five years, I know it will), let's start anew and fresh.

Bye-bye, thread. I'll discuss with Aatrek in a couple days if any warnings need to be issued.

"Good time to be a cat owner. Strap a bomb to a dog and tell him to run into a crowded area, and the poor thing will do it. Try it with a cat, and it's just as likely to pick that moment to crawl into your lap and hold on until the bomb goes off." - Peter David

Post Extras:   

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