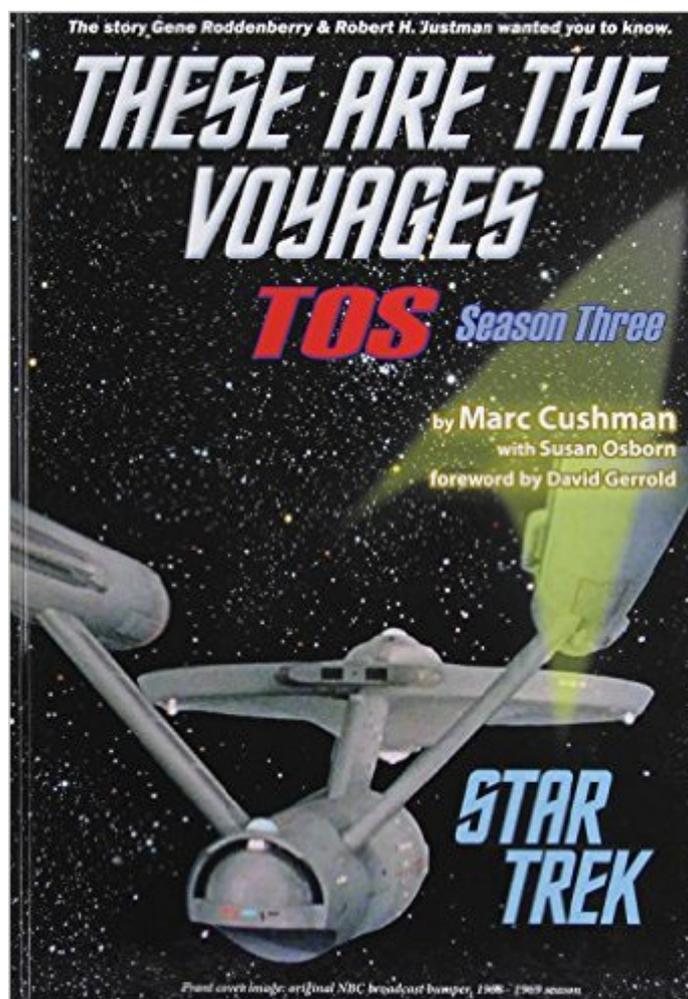


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# These Are The Voyages: Tos: Season 3 (Star Trek: These Are The Voyages)



## Synopsis

Marc Cushman's biography of Star Trek® the original series (TOS) takes you back in time for the final season of this iconic television show, to the production offices, the writers' room, onto the soundstages, and in front of your TV sets for what many thought would be Star Trek's final voyage. Included are hundreds of memos between Roddenberry, the producers and staff, production schedules, budgets, fan letters, behind-the-scene images, and the TV ratings. You'll find out the real reason Star Trek® was cancelled. So buckle your seat belts, this final trek gets really bumpy.

--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have had the chance to read these books from the very beginning, courtesy of the publishing group. Lucky me. I have also posted this review under the first two volumes of this trilogy, so if you've read those reviews, then this will just be a reminder of how essential these books are to the real Star Trek mavens. History is hard to pin down, especially when it can be viewed from so many perspectives. With that in mind, Marc Cushman has done the most remarkable history of Star Trek TOS that I've read in my long association and love affair with iconic Trek. Marc has talked to those who were really there in the trenches during the three seasons that Trek graced prime time NBC television. He has read thousands of documents and reconstructed how this show began, its initial growing pains, and the harshness of its last gasps for life. Riddled with quotes from Bobby Justman's infamous memos and crackling with notes from actors, writers, directors, ADs

(assistant directors, the heart of the set) and countless other production folk, Marc's trilogy of "These are the Voyages" books read like high drama. We are brought right into studio and sound stages as the show is conceived, reconceived, cast, recast, and finally bursts into the world's consciousness. I was lucky enough to have written for Star Trek, and even luckier to have had a thirty year television writing and producing career jump-started by breaking into Trek with "The Tholian Web". I went through the process of "spec-ing" a script, selling the idea and then writing the script through a final draft. I was amazed that Marc seemed to have been in the script editor's room as that script was pounded into the episode that was finally shot.

These Are the Voyages: TOS Season Three is finally in release! This monumental book series by Marc Cushman illuminates the background and creation of the world-bestriving colossus that is Star Trek. The reason these books take so long to produce is the miles-deep research involved. Over a span of years (and in some instances, decades), Cushman was able to interview the principal creators, and also achieved access to tons of studio paperwork, story proposals, casting lists, budget memos, and other original documents. He puts this together with contemporary press coverage and retrospective quotations from cast and crew, and, hey presto! the answer to every TREK or pop culture fan's dream! We have in-depth descriptions of each episode's genesis, development, and production; narratives of crew and cast changes; and for me the most interesting of all, the part telling the day-to-day stuff. We learn how much time was spent on this stage or that; the changes in a character's name or which directors were sure-footed or floundering; and about a gazillion other details that make you feel like a tribble on the wall. As I noted in my reviews of the first two books in this series, another mind-blower is the inclusion (and explanation) of the TV ratings for Star Trek's NBC run. Contrary to the popular narrative that Trek flopped in the ratings, we are shown that nearly every week, the show either won or took second place in one or both of its half-hour segments. My own conclusion is that show creator Gene Roddenberry was too much of an irritant to NBC, Desilu, and Paramount executives. (Read these books for plenty of ammunition for this opinion.

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