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The Impossible Has Happened: The Life and Work of Gene Roddenberry, Creator of Star Trek

Lance Parkin

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September 8, 2016 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the debut of the world's most successful science fiction television series: *Star Trek*. In this new biography Lance Parkin, author of Aurum's acclaimed *Magic Words: The Extraordinary Life of Alan Moore*, will go in search of the show's creator, Gene Roddenberry.

This book reveals how an undistinguished writer of cop shows set out to produce '*Hornblower* in space' and ended up with an optimistic, almost utopian view of humanity's future that has been watched and loved by hundreds of millions of people around the world.

Along the way Lance will examine some of the great myths and turning points in the franchise's history, and Roddenberry's particular contribution to them. He will look at the truth in the view that the early *Star Trek* advanced a liberal, egalitarian and multi-racial agenda, chart the various attempts to resuscitate the show during it's wilderness years in the 1970s, explore Roddenberry's initial early involvement in the movies and spin-off *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (as well as his later estrangement from both), and shed light on the colourful personal life, self-mythologising and strange beliefs of a man who nonetheless gifted popular culture one if its most enduring narratives.

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