



Glory Lane

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THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE IS IN THEIR HANDS

Seeth, a bored punk rocker looking for excitement. Miranda, an air-head beauty who lives to shop. And Kerwin, a nerd who just wants to fit in.

They're not friends, and they don't even particularly like each other. But now this unlikely trio is the key to saving the universe. And they're in for the adventure of a their lives.

Speed-of-light starships, intergalactic shopping sprees, and frontline action in an all-out space war lead them down the GLORY LANE.

(The above description is from the book's back cover.)

Glory Lane Details

Date : Published August 1st 1987 by Ace

ISBN : 9780441516643

Author : Alan Dean Foster

Format : Mass Market Paperback 295 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fantasy, Fiction, Humor



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From Reader Review Glory Lane for online ebook

Allen Lyons says

The story is a snowball that just gets bigger and faster as it rolls. It starts with Seeth, a punk rocker in 1980's Albuquerque. His snowball collects Kerwin when he visits the bowling alley. Kerwin is trying to conduct research for a school paper. But Seeth just wants to annoy him. When they see a mysterious bowler at the far end, the snowball rolls even faster. After Seeth distracts a pair of cops from arresting this bowler, two are now three.

Come to find out, the bowler and the bowling ball are aliens. And the cops chasing them are actually a rival race. Rail reveals himself as a green shape-shifter. And Izmir can defy all the laws of physics – A bowling ball is just one of many forms he can take. These Oomemians want Izmir. But Rail won't let them have him. So Rail hotwires a van, and Seeth and Kerwin tag along. They collect another passenger when they learn that the van wasn't empty. Miranda is an air-head who cares for nothing but shopping. But when the snowball is at its biggest, she proves to know more than she lets on.

Rail takes them to his ship, and then to Alvin, a city planet. To learn that he helped George Lucas shape the Star Wars universe, I wonder if Alvin is basically Coruscant. But he creates a sense of wonder when he describes the levels of this planet. Each layer plunges further to the core. Within each layer is another society. Then after you think the snowball couldn't get any bigger, they go back out to space. With each race that's after Izmir, the microscope is put on these oblivious humans. And each race just sees the last one as colonies of insects.

It's too bad there isn't a sequel to Glory Lane. With how deep this book got, sequels could explore a universe just as expansive as Foster's other stomping grounds.

Printable Tire says

Found this book in the attic the other day. I remember it vaguely from when I was a kid, and I decided to read it. It has one of those wacky scifi covers that despite my better judgment I am forever a sucker for, and the book itself lived up to (or down to) my expectations.

I've also blandly been interested in Alan Dean Foster because to me he is one of the most successful hack science fiction writers ever, having written novelizations of everything from Alien to Star Wars franchise filler. The only book previous to this I read by him was Splinter In the Mind's Eye, a Star Wars story written to be the basis for a low-budget sequel to Star Wars in which Darth Vader loses his arm (oops!). I find him to be the cream of the crop of blah, heartless hack science fiction in a field where such writing is prominent.

At any rate, Glory Lane belongs to a big genre of science fiction I would simply call Poor Man's Douglas Adams, in which an assortment of stereotypes are sprung from the belittled planet Earth and thrust into a madcap absurd universe full of wacky characters and irreverent, stupid humor. A sort of wish fulfillment is the lure of these stories, as nothing extraordinary exciting or dangerous happens but bickering and insignificant, thoughtless, breezy jokey dialogue, in which at some point it is always revealed in a goofy way that humans are the lowest form of life. The wish fulfillment comes in as the humans experience amazingly mundane situations in comfortably imaginative worlds, such as the super-huge city Alvin in Glory Lane

where our heroes spend the bulk of the novel eating weird food and shopping. Some sort of epic galactic secret is unearthed, there is some silly moral posturing, the universe is rescued, and everybody goes home happy.

I have a hard time grading a book like this, as going into it I knew exactly what to expect and it DID live up to my expectations. The problem is my expectations were retarded and for a book that (along with of course not being funny) is immensely grating to my sensibilities, especially when it tries pitifully to come across as intelligent but instead barely pulls off stupidly smug. I guess I sort of get some masochistic pleasure in how unfunny a book like this can be, how annoying all the characters are and how basically altogether irritating it is to read. I used to read a lot of books like this when I was younger and they still have that comfortable, cozy appeal. They are my equivalent of a Harlequin romance and now I am embarrassed to read them in public. I have to be careful though because reading too many books like this WILL make me stupider.

But anyway in the end this particular book was too sloppy, lazy, talky, repetitive, contradictory, and plain dull to even be good mindless entertainment. It was bullshit on auto-pilot, crap on cruise control, and a complete waste of time to a connoisseur of wasting time such as myself (which I guess is an achievement of some type). Also, I have no idea why it was called Glory Lane.

Amy Howard says

Very of its era junk food book. Quick silly read.

Lin says

Me: Hey, Danny.

Danny: Yeah?

Me: Glumelmerk.

Danny: Oh, OK.

Alex says

The first part of this book was sincerely okay. It seemed like the basic science fiction 1990s movie of the basic high school kids, the nerd, hot cheerleader, and the punk rocker. What really disappointed me was the fact that there was no action packed adventure or space wars. Although what really brought me to the book was intergalactic shopping sprees, that wasn't to much of a hook either. I don't think this book was very good, but I do think it would be a great movie made in the 90s. So if you like the basic 90s teen space story of the 3 categories of the basic kids in your high school meet a space dude and run away from enemies and spend most of their time in some kind of intergalactic space vehicle-then this book is for you.

Ian says

I loved this book a long time ago... it's a fun read...

Mary JL says

Alan Dean Foster is a prolific writer. Therefore, of course, some of his books are better than others.

This was one of the less successful stories---tried to be funny; seemed a bit pointless. Recommended for SF fans who have read everything else or are die-hard fans of Alan Dean Foster.

Scott says

Humorous SciFi similar to Hitchhiker's Guide.

A nice mental vacation while also answering many of our deepest questions: what really happened to the Neanderthals, how many dimensions are there? and where is all the dark matter in the universe?

Ron says

Uproariously funny. Pop corn for the mind, unless you want to consider the philosophic possibility that the purpose of mankind *is* shopping.

Kim says

Very strange tale. I did feel the author didn't know how to finish.

Corlynn Schuster says

I read this when I was a kid and I know my taste in books changed but I was slightly disappointed reading this book that I enjoyed as a kid. The writing was okay but the characters were so annoying and the story just felt rushed.

Scott Rhee says

Attempting to (I'm guessing) jump on the sci-fi humor bandwagon made popular by Douglas Adams in the '80s, Alan Dean Foster wrote this silly little novel, "Glory Lane" way back in 1987. It's okay, nothing superb. It does nothing to add to or enhance the sub-genre of science fiction comedies. If it does anything well, though, it strikes a nostalgic chord in my heart for those wonderfully silly sci-fi comedy movies that, for some reason, were extremely popular in the '80s. I'm talking about classics like "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai in the 8th Dimension", "Weird Science", "The Last Starfighter", "My Science Project",

"Terror Vision", "Back to the Future", "Explorers", "Spaceballs", "Ice Pirates", and, well, I could probably name a bunch more obscure titles, but I'm sure you've all gotten the idea.

Foster, best known for writing a whole bunch of novelizations for sci-fi movies (some of which, I'm sure, are ones I just mentioned), understood sci-fi audiences. He also understood cinematic pacing and how to tell a good story without bogging the reader down with lots of unnecessary details. Probably not the most eloquent of writers, Foster was nevertheless pretty prolific. "Glory Lane" is dumb, but it's still fun to read. As is requisite for all '80s sci-fi comedies, there is a nerd-hero, a stupid sidekick (in this case, a literal punk rocker, replete with mohawk, leather jacket, torn jeans, combat boots, and a proclivity for wanting to destroy stuff), and a sexy Valley Girl (who populates her statements with numerous "like totally"s and "fer sures" and who is obsessed with shopping.) Due to a series of auspicious occurrences, they all manage to end up on an alien spaceship, pursued by other aliens and involved in a an intergalactic war.

Other than some great cover art, a few humorous situations, and a fairly interesting---albeit totally unscientific---theory explaining the Big Bang, "Glory Lane" is one of those books I generally refer to as a "throw away". Not that I actually condone throwing away books at all. It's just a term, mind you. It's not the worst book I've read, and it's certainly not unreadable, but it's basically the type that is forgotten the minute you finish.

Michael says

This is, thus far, the worst book I have ever read.

I can handle and sometimes enjoy Foster's work, but when the smug Neanderthal showed up and told the protagonist in no uncertain terms that his species was MUCH smarter than Homo sapiens, I wanted to strangle the book.

Thankfully, it didn't have a neck.

Jeff Ritterpusch says

I almost gave it two stars because of the annoying character interaction. The story itself was pretty entertaining though

Frankie Saxx says

It's been ages since I read this book. It's still pretty great. :)
