



Tantalus
Revisited

Tantalus Revisited

a retrospective of Classic *Star Trek* stories
originally published in the Orion Press fanzine *Tantalus*

Contents

Dedication	2
Looking Back editorial by Ann Zewen	3
Fire in the Lake written by Ann Zewen	4
A Minor Irritation written by Holly Trueblood	44
Skin Deep written by Holly Trueblood	68
End Game written by Mary Rottler and Lynn Syck	97
Alone written by Laurel Ridener, Mary Rottler and Lynn Syck	121
Not Light But Warmth written by Mary Rottler and Lynn Syck	130
Cover art by BEKi	

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Looking Back

Ever since Randy took the *Tantalus* fanzines out of print, I have toyed with the idea of compiling a “best-of” collection to satisfy our many faithful readers who keep saying how much they miss this fanzine. *Tantalus* was conceived as an attempt to fill a void in the once-prolific arena of what is known as the hurt/comfort story. From there, we branched out a bit with other, so-called “dark” stories: those featuring the Mirror Universe and, occasionally, even a few about the death of one of our beloved characters. But every time I contemplated a “best-of” collection, I ran into the difficulty of deciding exactly what were the best stories printed in *Tantalus*.

Finally, with Randy’s support and encouragement, I decided to forego the idea of a monster zine with all of the “best” stories and instead settled on just a handful of stories we keep getting requests for, stories written by a group of writers whose works have been featured in other Orion Press publications, including their own novellas, as well as in the pages of *Tantalus*. These talented writers are still writing for Orion Press and are among the most popular of our Classic *Trek* authors.

We open this collection with “Fire in the Lake,” a Mirror Universe story I wrote in an attempt to answer the question: What would have happened if Kirk and Company hadn’t been able to return to their own universe at the conclusion of the events depicted in the episode “Mirror Mirror”? BEKi provided the wonderful cover artwork which graces this zine as well as the original in which the story first was published. BEKi also did double duty here, editing the story for me.

Next we have two stories by Holly Trueblood: “A Minor Irritation,” in which Mister Spock learns that there are some itches you shouldn’t scratch, and “Skin Deep,” a follow-up to “Enterprise Incident,” in which Jim Kirk is forced to consider the possibility of life without his celebrated good looks.

Finally, we have three stories by Mary Rottler and Lynn Syck. In the first, “End Game,” they take a look at the ramifications — physical, emotional and political — of the events in “Amok Time.” In “Alone,” they are joined by Laurel Ridener to show how Jim Kirk and Leonard McCoy face the long night on Rura Penthe, each wrestling with his own demons and his worry about his friend. Finally, in the novella “Not Light But Warmth,” Lynn and Mary take a look at the aftermath of the “Journey to Babel.” McCoy has done his medical magic. Sarek will live, as will Kirk, and all’s right with their world. Or is it? Can a Vulcan first officer live with the fact that his captain risked life and his ship just to save the life of his friend’s father? And can that captain live without his friend by his side?

I hope you enjoy these stories as much as I did — both the first time we published them and again this second time around.

Ann Zewen