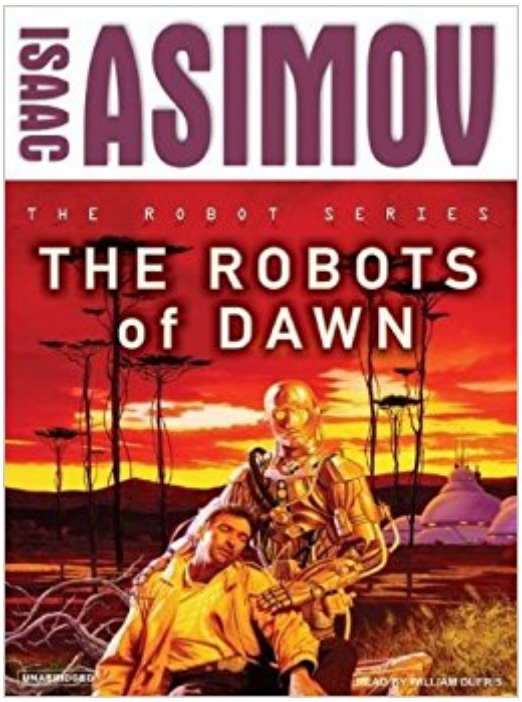
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The Robots Of Dawn



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Synopsis

A puzzling case of roboticide sends New York Detective Elijah Baley on an intense search for a murderer. Armed with his own instincts, his quirky logic, and the immutable Three Laws of Robotics, Baley is determined to solve the case. But can anything prepare a simple Earthman for the psychological complexities of a world where a beautiful woman can easily have fallen in love with an all-too-human robot?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

`Isaac Asimov was one of the great explainers of the age...It will never be known how many practicing scientists today, in how many countries, owe their initial inspiration to a book, article, or short story by Isaac Asimov'Carl Sagan `Asimov displayed one of the most dynamic imaginations in science fiction'Daily Telegraph `Asimov's career was one of the most formidable in science fiction'The Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A puzzling case of roboticide sends New York Detective Elijah Baley on an intense search for a murderer. Armed with his own instincts, his quirky logic, and the immutable Three Laws of Robotics, Baley is determined to solve the case. But can anything prepare a simple Earthman for the psychological complexities of a world where a beautiful woman can easily have fallen in love with an all-too-human robot...? A LITERARY GUILD DUAL SELECTION --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Asimov is always a treat but the Robots series are detective novels rather than straight-up robot scifi. Lots of twists and turns, keeps you guessing, with very engaging characters and good development. This one in particular kept me on the edge of my seat all the way through, wondering how the heck the main character was going to pull this off. Very enjoyable!

Asimov’s final Robot novel (Excluding Robots and Empire, which I did enjoy) features Elijah Baley once again facing a compound challenge: Solving a murder mystery and making a decision that will affect the future of the human race.R. Daneel Olivaw, Elijah’s fellow detective, sadly fades into the background and loses the significance he had in "The Caves of Steel." Perhaps that was an unavoidable decision as the burden of the investigation rides on Baley’s shoulders. Gladia makes a welcome return and gains more depth than she had as the femme fatale in "The Naked Sun." Dr. Han Fastolfe also returns and his benevolent exterior may veil a more callous and malignant character: A future Dr. Frankenstein if you will.The people of planet Aurora itself are well plotted out with their culture, politics and mores, along with their notion of an ideal society and its influence on the future of Earth.The one detriment to "The Robots of Dawn" is the pace of the narrative which is too heavy on detail which bogs down the story. It is sometimes didactic and it does not trust the reader to make the intuitive creative leaps that would help the story along at a vigorous pace.All said, "The Robots of Dawn" is a positive view of humanity’s future but does not shy away from its quandaries and challenges. The conceit is a much needed vision for a modern Earth that, in its own way is beginning to resemble The Caves of Steel described in the first book. Asimov’s vision of a star-spanning species is championed in real life by such luminaries as Neil DeGrasse Tyson and Bill Nye. May reason and wanderlust prevail as it does in all of Asimov’s novels.

I really enjoyed listening to and reading the book using the Kindle app on my iPhone. It departs from the first two novels in its exploration of sexuality on Aurora in general and in particular of sexuality between robots and humans on that particular planet in the fear distant future. Most of the discussion of sexuality surrounded the character Gladia and her sexual experiences with a humaniform robot whom she considered to be her husband and who had been found dead in the sense that his positronic brain had ceased to function. Elijah Bailey had been summoned to solve the case with dire consequences for both himself and for earth if he failed, which seemed to be the path that he was headed down for most of the novel as he chased lead after lead without promise of success. He had a meltdown in a thunderstorm, which I found annoying because of my experiences

in this day and age, but to the character it was very realistic in the time period that story was set where human beings from Earth were agoraphobic from living completely enclosed inside of buildings (Caves of Steel) and never had contact with the world outside. There was a sexual attraction between Gladia and Elijah Bailey who had been called to Aurora to investigate the roboticide. The attraction resulted in sexual encounter near the end of the novel. Asimov approached the subject matter frankly with consequences for those involved and with tenderness in the case of Gladia and Bailey. The novel moved along slowly at first, but it did pick up with more interest and excitement towards the ending, which made me to listen or read as much as I could to find out the eventual outcome, which I never could have imagined but which I really did enjoy. I would recommend reading the first two novels, Caves of Steel and Naked Sun first and then this one afterwards. it's a trilogy which involves the main characters and some other characters from the previous novels, and which ends with this novel.

As the short bio in the book says, Asimov wrote 470 books and three major series. One of them introduced the concepts of robots, their contributions to human progress, the emotional response to early models, and the researchers who designed improved models. InÃ Â The Caves of Steel (R. Daneel Olivaw, Book 1), he introduces Elijah Baley, a detective on Earth who must investigate a murder of a human visitor known as a 'Spacer'. After that success, he is called away from Earth to clear a beautiful Spacer, Gloria Delmarre, of her husband's murder inÃ Â The Naked Sun (The Robot Series). A dramatic movie is made after he closes the case, and it creates no end of complications for Baley. This book continues the pattern- only the victim was a robot.In 'Dawn', Asimov imagined Baley as a middle-aged man, most comfortable when surrounded by people and the teeming city. He works hard for the measly privileges given to a civil servant. If he could get over his fear of outdoors, maybe he could emigrate to a new world; Earth is experiencing high unemployment. So, visiting the leading Spacer world of Aurora might lead to opportunities. The space flight is uninspired but once there, we are given decent character descriptions and scenes are detailed. The single POV writing drags at times, repeating some emotions, puzzling over inane details of Spacer society, meals, and robot actions.The plot is split among Baley's search for perpetrator, relationship with several suspects, and his foibles (including storms). After a vehicle breakdown, he is walking for help in the dark:'And then he remembered that lightning might hit trees and might kill people. He could not remember that he had ever read a description of how it felt to be hit by lightning or if there were any measures to prevent it. He knew of no one on Earth who had been hit by lightning....His teeth were chattering and he was trembling.Another flash. Not a bad one.

For a moment, he caught a glimpse of his surroundings.Trees! A number of them. He was in a grove of trees. Were many trees more dangerous than one tree where lightning was concerned?He didn’t know.Would it help if he didn’t actually touch a tree?He didn’t know that, either. Death by lightning simply wasn’t a factor in the Cities and the historical novels (and sometimes histories) that mentioned it never went into detail.He looked up at the dark sky and felt the wetness coming down. He wiped at his wet eyes with his wet hands.He stumbled onward, trying to step high. At one point, he splashed through a narrow stream of water, sliding over the pebbles underlying it.How strange! It made him no wetter than he was. ’ (p. 352)Like a good mystery tale, there are twists until the very end. Baley offers advice for several characters to take. This time, Asimov writes a sweet romantic interlude.The real impact of this book is to discuss the programming of humanoid robots, impersonal video conferencing, and especially, the need for humans to move population off Earth and settle new worlds. He interrogates people who knew the robot’s owner, interacted with it, and the man who designed it. In between, he battles his fear of the outdoors, of strange technology, and nature, learning to depend on robots for information and partnership.Published long after the first two books, this links to the future Empire and sets the stage of Foundation series. In the future, Human settlements will grow into that empire and robotic design lead to Psychohistory. And Daneel Olivaw will appear again....

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