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The Windup Girl



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Synopsis

Anderson Lake is a company man, AgriGenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Calorie Man in Thailand. Undercover as a factory manager, Anderson combs BangkokÃ¢â ¬â„¢s street markets in search of foodstuffs thought to be extinct, hoping to reap the bounty of historyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s lost calories. There, he encounters Emiko.Ã¢â ¬Â¦Emiko is the Windup Girl, a strange and beautiful creature. One of the New People, Emiko is not human; she is an engineered being, crÃƒÂ¨che-grown and programmed to satisfy the decadent whims of a Kyoto businessman, but now abandoned to the streets of Bangkok. Regarded as soulless beings by some, devils by others, New People are slaves, soldiers, and toys of the rich in a chilling near future in which calorie companies rule the world, the oil age has passed, and the side effects of bio-engineered plagues run rampant across the globe.What happens when calories become currency? What happens when bio-terrorism becomes a tool for corporate profits, when said bio-terrorismÃ¢â ¬â„¢s genetic drift forces mankind to the cusp of post-human evolution? Award-winning author Paolo Bacigalupi delivers one of the most highly acclaimed science fiction novels of the twenty-first century. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Baclgalupi’s story is set in Bangkok Thailand, one of the last surviving centers of human population. All petroleum has been used by a thoughtless civilization and the primary energy source is animal motion transferred into "kink springs". Plant and animal DNA has been manipulated to create new

foods as well as animals as well as gene engineered people. Devastating diseases and plagues have invaded the planet killing most other food sources.The "new people" have been designed to serve the remnants of mankind as sex slaves, specialized labor and warriors. One new person female sex slave (a windup girl) discovers that her creators have accidentally given her some unexpected capabilities that give her an advantage over old style humans.I came to read Paolo's books with "The Water Knife" and enjoyed it so much I searched for his earlier works such as this.

One of the best books I have read in a very long time.Dystopian, science fiction, clones, fantastic and complex plot line, well developed characters, a little dark and disturbing in places but will make you think about a variety of philosophical issues.The author has a well developed vocabulary and a lovely command of language. If you like to read a book that will have you using a dictionary a few times, read this book.I tend to not describe the contents of books so as not to spoil it for future readers, but if you like a little dark, dystopian, sci-fi you are missing out if you haven't read this book. I will definitely be picking up other titles by this author.

An enjoyable read, I actually REALLY enjoyed reading it. However, those wishing for a satisfying self contained story are in for a disappointment. I liken the story more as a series of events that touch upon interesting ideas, but many of those ideas are seemingly saved for future exploration and plot devices prepped aren't really utilized in a meaningful way. None of the characters, save for the title character, are particularly likeable/sympathetic. Yet despite these seemingly glaring faults.. I enjoyed reading it. A harsh bleak exploration of a believable near future scenario.

This is a unique novel. Some people have claimed that it is steampunk rather than science fiction. I admit, there are steampunk elements but the novel has a sound basis in speculative fiction. The world of the novel is not an impossible world, as has been my experience with steampunk.Windup Girl is not an easy novel to read. It's long, there are a lot of characters, the world is complex, people's motivations are diverse as are their personalities. The local, future Bangkok, also takes some time to adjust to, at least for me since I have never been to Bangkok. It takes a while to sink into the world and know your way around. That is, as well as any of the characters do at any rate, which is not very well. Everyone has a different view of what's going on and is keeping secrets from all of the other characters. No one is simple. No one is easy to relate to. The Windup Girl, Emiko, is probably the most identifiable character, which says a lot.I enjoyed the novel. I enjoyed the challenge of reading and understanding. I enjoyed the author's depth of understanding of this alien

landscape. The use of Thai words and concepts gives the world substance and character.While I am giving it five stars -- which it deserves -- I caution potential readers that this is not a book for everyone. If you’re looking for something light and uplifting, this isn’t it.One last point, a negative one, there is a huge unresolved issue at the end of the book. Normally I can forgive authors for not clearing up every little thing, but this was like getting punched in the face. Come to think of it, I think I’ll knock it down to four stars just for that.

In The Windup Girl, Paolo Bacigalupi wrote characters that I couldn’t like. I empathized with them at times, pitied them at times, and felt disappointment and disapproval often. If he aimed to write characters complicated and flawed enough to elicit these reactions, he succeeded, but I never cheered for any character.Much more interesting to me, he wrote about a humanity that suffered near-apocalyptic change and adapted. The particulars of the adaptation: genetic reworking of plants, animals and people as well as reliance on systems of nonelectric, nonchemical potential engine "batteries" that change everything from transportation to computing and weaponry. Despite some serious omissions (wind, solar, and water--particularly the last two, because his setting of a levee-dependent Bangkok would have plenty of sun and a huge potential water power source), he created a convincing and engrossing system that picked at my brain. While at first the squalor and discomfort facing the denizens of this world seemed bleak, it really is an optimistic vision, because somehow the world, governments, countries, individuals, and systems adapted without entering a new medieval period.Though, there should have been more war between nations, at least the way I understood the role of the "calorie companies" and the various plagues mentioned in the book. But, I don’t feel like that was well explained.

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