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I, Robot (The Robot Series Book 1)



Synopsis

The three laws of Robotics:1) A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm2) A robot must obey orders given to it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.3) A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law. With these three, simple directives, Isaac Asimov changed our perception of robots forever when he formulated the laws governing their behavior. In *I, Robot*, Asimov chronicles the development of the robot through a series of interlinked stories: from its primitive origins in the present to its ultimate perfection in the not-so-distant future--a future in which humanity itself may be rendered obsolete. Here are stories of robots gone mad, of mind-read robots, and robots with a sense of humor. Of robot politicians, and robots who secretly run the world--all told with the dramatic blend of science fact and science fiction that has become Asimov's trademark.

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Customer Reviews

This is a must-read for everyone, science fiction lovers or not. Beyond all other authors, Isaac

Asimov seemed to have the clearest idea of what the future would be like. The questions of what it means to be human in a world with artificial intelligence are even more relevant today than when *I, Robot* was originally published. It is short, entertaining, well-written, humorous, and thought-provoking. You don't need to read all the *I, Robot* series--but you have to read this book!

This book of connected short stories is remarkable, not for the quality of its writing, but for its prescience. The stories date back almost 70 years (or more), but deal with issues of human/robot interactions that are becoming more salient, even pressing, with each passing day. The underlying theme is the unintended (and typically unforeseen) consequences that arise from Asimov's famed (but very coarse) Three Laws of Robotics; the stories inspire reflection. I recommend them.

This is NOT the poorly done movie, in book form, at ALL! This is the GOOD STUFF! The classic primary book of the series written by the man who, literally, coined the term "robotics," and invented the absolutely brilliant "3 laws of robotics." From the "Handbook of Robotics, 56th Edition, 2058 A.D.":

1. A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
2. A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
3. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Laws.

and eventually, the zeroth law: 0. A robot may not harm humanity, or, by inaction, allow humanity to come to harm. (yes, the three laws of robotics consists of ... four laws!)

I, Robot is a great starting point to Isaac Asimov novels in my opinion. His style of short stories that tells a bigger story using themes such as religion, morals, and ethics makes fun short stories have depth. In addition, he blends humor and fun character interactions that make his characters come to life and are prevalent in most of his novels. After reading *I, Robot*, I went straight into Asimov's *Foundation* and never looked back. The transition was seamless. If you end up loving his writing style, I recommend checking out his other work. His greatest strength as a writer, in my opinion, are his characters. You feel as if you are in the same room as them.

Classic Asimov, I'm not sure what you say that hasn't been said in the what - 60+ years it's been published. If you like Sci-fi, if you like Asimov, if you want to help fill in some of the background to reading the *Foundation* series or some of the other subjects that intertwine in later novels, this is one of them you go to. I guess there is a point to make for reading it (or even re-reading it) in 2016 -

we're talking about robots today, in our real-lives, in our near future. We're talking about sentience and capabilities and concerns on their independence and impact they'll have on our lives - it's amazing how much Asimov truly anticipated how it'd develop and put out a lot of the concerns and questions to consider. It is a timely read of the topic.

This book gives a good problem description of automation in today's world. It indicates the three laws must be beneath the processing unit's reasoning. In real robots, this will be very difficult. It shows why the terminator series is quite viable.

One of my favorite books, as books go. This is Isaac Asimov's masterpiece, and is notably not quite like the movie. The story is laid out chronologically and covers numerous different perspectives as robotic technology progresses. The use of perspective was very professionally done, and that alone is something that would cause me to recommend this book. However, there's even more depth to this book. Asimov was a thinker, considering what an age of robots would be like, and his Laws of Robotics are still considered today by top robotics scientists. While this book is specifically about the examples in which that those laws were broken, it is an interesting starting point for a study into intelligent robotic design. Don't let that discourage you, though! This book isn't dry and boring - it's full of human experience and story. Highly recommend.

I, Robot is, from start to finish, a genuinely brilliant novel. More accurately, it is a series of nine short stories held together by the narrative construction of an interview. This is similar to Ray Bradbury's Martian Chronicles, but in this case the story holds together as a novel a bit better. (That's not a knock on Bradbury whatsoever; it's just that that book feels more like a series of great short stories, while this holds up more as a unified whole.) I read this book in order to fill in an important gap in my reading the great science fiction novels, particularly of the 20th Century. I'd read Dune, Ender's Game, The Mars Trilogy by Kim Stanley Robinson, Starship Troopers, Stranger in a Strange Land, and Asimov's own Foundation books, among others, but I had somehow never gotten to this one. I'm so glad I finally tackled it, as it is thought-provoking, funny, insightful, and downright enjoyable. The three laws of robotics are a brilliant construction, but it's particularly cool that the stories all flow from the problems they cause: the contradictions, the nuances of meaning, the far-reaching consequences. In our age of smart phones and tablets, etc., I wouldn't say robots have taken over our real lives, but some concerns that I, Robot anticipates really seem more prescient than ever. Some classic novels seem dry these days, but those novels I mentioned earlier

hold up incredibly well. I, Robot is absolutely deservedly in that group. It's an astonishing book, and I'd advise anyone who likes good writing to read it, whether you consider yourself a science fiction fan or not.

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