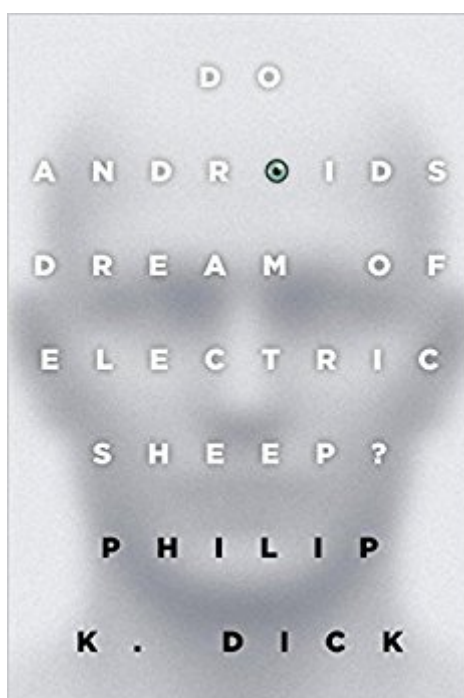


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Do Androids Dream Of Electric Sheep?: The Inspiration For The Films Blade Runner And Blade Runner 2049



Synopsis

A masterpiece ahead of its time, a prescient rendering of a dark future, and the inspiration for the blockbuster film *Blade Runner*—now in a sharp new edition with an introduction by New York Times bestselling author Jason M. Hough. By 2021, the World War has killed millions, driving entire species into extinction and sending mankind off-planet. Those who remain covet any living creature, and for people who can't afford one, companies built incredibly realistic simulacra: horses, birds, cats, sheep. They've even built humans. Immigrants to Mars receive androids so sophisticated they are indistinguishable from true men or women. Fearful of the havoc these artificial humans can wreak, the government bans them from Earth. Driven into hiding, unauthorized androids live among human beings, undetected. Rick Deckard, an officially sanctioned bounty hunter, is commissioned to find rogue androids and "retire" them. But when cornered, androids fight back with lethal force. Praise for Philip K. Dick: "The most consistently brilliant science fiction writer in the world."—John Brunner "A kind of pulp-fiction Kafka, a prophet."—The New York Times "[Philip K. Dick] sees all the sparkling and terrifying possibilities . . . that other authors shy away from."—Rolling Stone

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Del Rey (May 28, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0345404475

ISBN-13: 978-0345404473

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 1,260 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #695 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Media Tie-In #5 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Science Fiction #14 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Cyberpunk

Customer Reviews

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prophet. — The New York Times

"The most consistently brilliant science fiction writer in the world."--John Brunner
THE INSPIRATION FOR BLADERUNNER. . . Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? was published in 1968. Grim and foreboding, even today it is a masterpiece ahead of its time. By 2021, the World War had killed millions, driving entire species into extinction and sending mankind off-planet. Those who remained coveted any living creature, and for people who couldn't afford one, companies built incredibly realistic simulacra: horses, birds, cats, sheep. . . They even built humans. Emigrants to Mars received androids so sophisticated it was impossible to tell them from true men or women. Fearful of the havoc these artificial humans could wreak, the government banned them from Earth. But when androids didn't want to be identified, they just blended in. Rick Deckard was an officially sanctioned bounty hunter whose job was to find rogue androids, and to retire them. But cornered, androids tended to fight back, with deadly results. "[Dick] sees all the sparkling and terrifying possibilities. . . that other authors shy away from."--Paul Williams Rolling Stone

I read this novel for two reasons: Blade Runner is one of my favourite films, and I thought reading Phillip K. Dick may help improve my own speculative fiction writing. As others already mentioned in their reviews, this novel is much different from Blade Runner, the later film inspired by the book. In most regards I prefer the film to the book. The film has more of a dark, brooding presence, though the novel is certainly an enjoyable read. The world Dick creates is highly believable and engrossing. The expression, chicken head still sticks in my mind. More than being a great writer, Philip K. Dick seems to have been a purveyor of great ideas. Dick occasionally throws in the odd large, unusual word in his sentences, as if to prove the power of his vocabulary. Some of the devices he uses to explain action seem clumsy and occasionally lazy. Later explanations of action that had transpired earlier in the novel sometimes seems a little contrived, though his intricate technical imagination for the futuristic themes he describes prove him to have been before his time, certainly for a piece written in 1968. The Androids of Blade Runner are a much more ruthless breed than those portrayed in the novel. However, there is an ongoing sympathy we feel for them in both mediums, more particularly I believe in the novel. The film and book are miles apart but provide an interesting perspective how the same action and themes can be presented in vastly contrasting, though still similar ways. The novel has a slow start and one wonders if today's publishers, with their insatiable

demand for immediacy, would have been eager to publish it. Regardless, the novel, even with its few shortcomings, is an enjoyable experience. I particularly liked the closing chapters that seem to focus on quasi-religious, or spiritual thought. Dick was a very interesting writer with a powerful imagination and I look forward to reading more of his works. I would have given the novel three stars, but the strong ending made it a four.

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? by Philip K. Dick, isn't your typical science fiction novel that focuses a lot on what the future is like, but rather the focus is turned towards more on the characters and how they're dealing with their lives. Rick Deckard, a bounty hunter who is given an assignment to hunt down a few rogue androids begins to question his morals. What I liked about the book is the core themes that dealt with empathy, identity, different versions of reality and isolation. All these themes allow the readers to speculate the different messages Philip K. Dick is trying to get across. For instance, there is a machine called "the mood organ", which regulates a person's feelings and allows them to feel whatever they want. Rick tries to convince his wife, Iran to use the mood organ in order to get rid of her depression, but Iran refuses. Rick decides to dial "594" into his wife's mood organ, the number she dialed states "pleased acknowledgment of husband's superior wisdom in all matters" (Dick 7). I find it outrageous that a machine is able to influence females to obey their husbands no matter what. Machines like the mood organ and regulate our emotions and turn them into artificial ones. Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep, allows readers to reflect on how technology presently have taken over our lives. Now the book also has its flaws. Readers may feel a bit lost when beginning to read the book because it takes awhile to fully introduce the plot. Philip K. Dick takes his time setting up the readers for what is about to transpire within the story, so the book will generally feel a bit slow. Another thing is that readers may feel lost about is the second protagonist in the book named Isidore. The book won't really focus on Isidore all too much because the main focus is on Rick Deckard. However, sometimes the plot will change from Rick's to Isidore's for one chapter and breaks the readers attention away from Rick. I will say that Isidore's plot isn't at all bad, I rather liked it because it shows two different perspectives of how humans are living within this future, but it's just the way Philip changes from one plot to another can be rather distracting. That's my only nit pick of the book, other than that I found Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? by Philip K. Dick, a very enjoyable read. If

you're interested in stimulating your brain and looking for a book to do just that, than I highly recommend it.

This is the book on which the great sci-fi classic, "Blade Runner" was based, and as such it seemed about time I got around to reading it. What I found is that very little of the book made it into the movie beyond the key concept of hunters licensed to hunt down and terminate androids. The movie improved the book almost beyond recognition. Nevertheless, it was an interesting read.

Saw the movie many times, first as a kid and then later on, when I could already fully appreciate the philosophical undertone. Couldn't help feeling that most of these wonderful ideas and notions were grossly undeveloped in the plot, whilst the visual qualities of the picture triumphed. Bought the book, read it and hoped it would dig a bit deeper. After I was done, I found I felt exactly the same way about the book. Although it was very pleasant read, I couldn't help missing some more complexity to the issues and the people involved. Still...both the movie and the book are definitely a classic.

This is the fantastic book version "Do Androids Dream Of Electric Sheep" which was the inspiration of the movie Blade Runner. Now I have to say that I LOVE this book so much, but the narrator is one of the worst I have ever heard. He is so bad that it ruins this great classic sci-fi book, it really breaks my heart. I will give it 4 stars only because of the quality of the book writing by Philip K Dick.

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