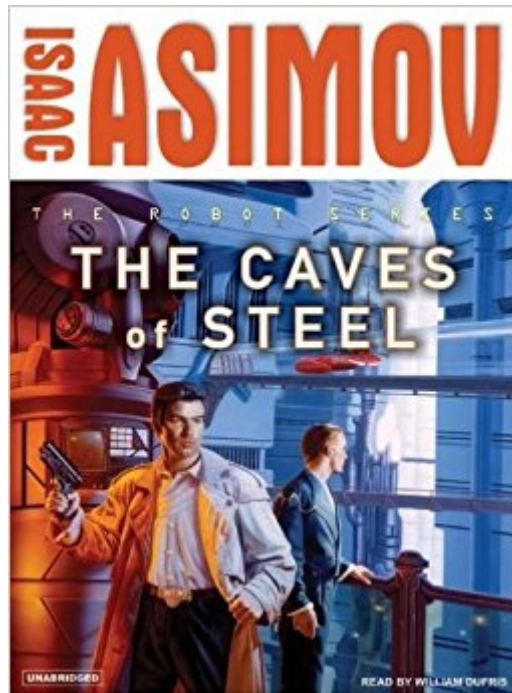


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The Caves Of Steel (Robot)



Synopsis

A millennium into the future, two advancements have altered the course of human history: the colonization of the galaxy and the creation of the positronic brain. Isaac Asimov's Robot novels chronicle the unlikely partnership between a New York City detective and a humanoid robot who must learn to work together. Like most people left behind on an over-populated Earth, New York City police detective Elijah Baley had little love for either the arrogant Spacers or their robotic companions. But when a prominent Spacer is murdered under mysterious circumstances, Baley is ordered to the Outer Worlds to help track down the killer. The relationship between Baley and his Spacer superiors, who mistrusted all Earthmen, was strained from the start. Then he learned that they had assigned him a partner: R. Daneel Olivaw. Worst of all was that the "R" stood for robot-and his positronic partner was made in the image and likeness of the murder victim!

Book Information

Series: Robot (Book 1)

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Customer Reviews

Grade 6 Up
Isaac Asimov's mid-20th century tale artfully combines science fiction and detection. William Dufres performs it in multiple voices and with just enough camp to pull in contemporary listeners by playing to the ironies of the period in which the story was written. A human police detective, Baley, lives in New York City a thousand years hence. He's tapped to help solve a murder in a community where robots are not reviled and ends up with a partner, Daneel, who is a highly sophisticated, humanoid machine. Baley and Daneel don't have an easy time with

each other or with those New Yorkers, called Medievalists, who despise robots. The action moves swiftly, yet there is time for Asimov to weave in some engaging and edifying glosses on the Bible as literature and for Baley to smoke, making this as an adult book of the period. While most of Dufres's voices are successful, his interpretation of Baley's 16-year-old son reduces the latter to sounding like a whiney 8-year-old. Asimov's story is a great way to introduce young readers to a polymath who captured the "American century" through futurism and literate character development. Francisca Goldsmith, Halifax Public Libraries, Canada Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"William Dufres breathes new life into this classic science fiction mystery.... Ultimately, he is the perfect narrator for the series, which includes three more novels." ---AudioFile

Isaac Asimov is one of the classic writers of science fiction and this novel is the beginning of one of the great classic series in the science fiction canon. The Robot Series is a must-read for anyone interested in speculative fiction and this is where it should be started. The novel begins with a mystery but rather than being a mystery novel it focuses on investigating sociological aspects of technology, overpopulation and colonisation of space. It is an interesting and thought provoking read and leaves one with wanting to know more about Asimov's universe with its human colonies and robot servants. For that's what the robots are in these novels: friendly and loyal servants for whom it is impossible to turn against their creators. Yet the fundamental laws of robotics may cause interesting twists in their behaviour - a robot cannot harm a human being but it can be manipulated by a human and in this book alone Asimov uses that fact to steer the story. Despite the four stars I cannot overstate the importance of this novel and recommend it to everyone without reservation.

Don't get me wrong, I love Asimov's work, but reading Golden Age novels always drives me a little bit nuts with the language. I suppose that's inevitable, though, since they simply didn't have the vocabulary yet to describe things we take for granted. As to the story: this is a fun story, one of my favorites by Asimov. Honestly, I love all his Robot novels, but stories with androids and AI's always catch my interest. So what could be more fun than a detective novel with a Humanoid robot? My only complaint is how the hero builds up these grand reveals... Only to fall flat on his face. That always strikes me as amateurish, because real world detectives would not do that. They might explore a theory, but not set up some sort of big scene to "trap the killer." Aside from the issues that can understandably be attributed to an author who was still relatively new to his craft at the time, I loved

the story the first time, and I still do. This would make an excellent movie adaptation... Far better than that Will Smith movie. If you're wondering whether to read this book... If you like Asimov's other works, you will enjoy this. If you don't like classic SF, complete with the shallow characterization and amusing language, then try his short stories first, to see if his writing does it for you. As for me, I will be re-buying the rest of this series. It's been too long, and they are too much fun to pass up.

I read this book after reading *The Naked Sun*, so it puts things in perspective, and explains the relationship between Baley and Olivaw, and the phobias that Earth and the Spacers have. For those who love Asimov, it's a must read.

Generic review for Asimov's books because I bought all of them for my collection and am writing ALL of the reviews at once. I love everyone of his books, and each brings a great story to the table, if you are looking for a good Saga to start reading, check out his Foundation / Robot series. I've read them all the way through several times and each time, loved each book. Each book builds off the one prior and adds a whole new dynamic to the overall universe while still being able to be enjoyed individually. If you are reading this review, Just check out the book, I guarantee it will be worth it.

I can't stop reading his books. Foundation trilogy was epic. This was much more localized and personal, but exists in the same universe. Fantastic read.

This book is the second in the Robot series, the first in the Robot trilogy. In this, Asimov starts to explain and develop the relationships between robots, humans on Earth, and the "Spacers", those humans who left Earth centuries before, to colonize planets around the galaxy. The premise of this is that there is a murder in the Spacer city, next to New York City. Murder unheard of among Spacers, so someone from New York City is immediately suspected. However, there are no clues to be found and the only possible suspect has an alibi. We learn that humans on Earth are overpopulated and struggling for survival. A caste system has been put into place to ration calories. Cities have grown beyond reason and are each enclosed in a dome, outside of which no one dares go. The space between the domes is used for farming and manufacturing, completely handled by autonomous robots. On Earth, robots are seen negatively - they are completely subservient, yet are seen as a threat to humans, and a threat to the limited jobs. There is a strong belief that one can lose their job to a robot, then become "declassified" and wind up in a lower caste, with fewer privileges and less food. There are subversive groups who want robots exterminated and life on

Earth to move outside of the domed cities. On the other hand, the Spacers are those humans who, years ago, left Earth to colonize other planets. Over the years they have populated a number of planets, and spread throughout the galaxy. Their wealth from mining is extraordinary as is their technology. They are sparsely populated and dominate interstellar space. Since eradicating most disease and infections, they fear those from Earth as carriers of disease. In the plot of the story, the hero Elijah (Lija) Baley, is a plainclothes police officer assigned to help the Spacers. He is paired with a robot especially manufactured to appear human to avoid conflict as he maneuvers the city with Lija. The story is well developed, and well written. Although the premise is far fetched, as most science fiction, if you are able to suspend reality long enough to allow yourself to be drawn into the story, it is quite fascinating. This is a definite must read for the science fiction fan. The same night I finished this book, I moved to the next book in the series.

Old school Asimov classic. It hasn't aged terribly well, but the detective story and three laws puzzles are still fun.

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