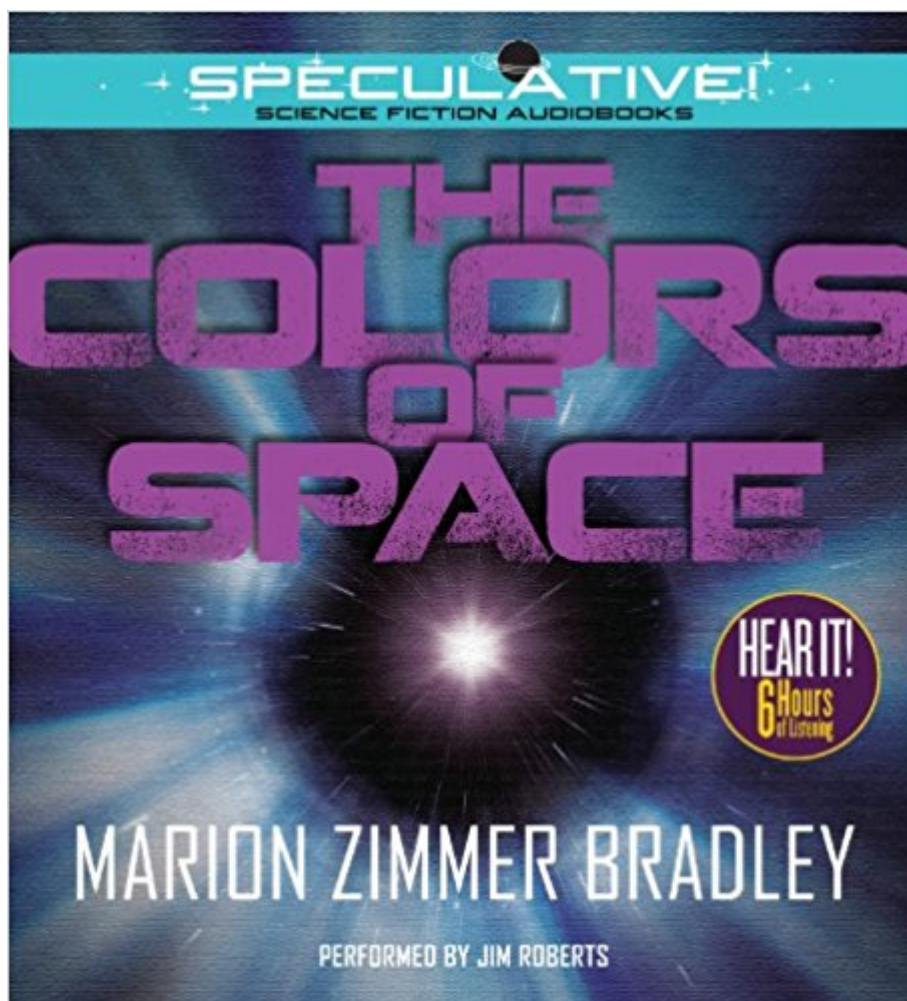


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The Colors Of Space



Synopsis

In *The Colors of Space*, young Bart Steele, Space Academy graduate, is waiting in a spaceport for a ship to take him home when something happens that suddenly thrusts him into the center of a quest for the secret of interstellar travel. The method of faster than light travel, called "warp drive" in later Sci-Fi stories, is a tightly kept secret of an alien race known as the "Lhari." Some humans feel that they should not have to depend on the Lhari to get to far away planets and enlist Bart to help them wrest the secret from the Lhari by undertaking a perilous mission. Bart's survival and the freedom of the human race suddenly depend on his courage and wits.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One would hope that the first contact between Humans and Aliens would be as Marion Zimmer Bradley describes in this book. History is full of discovery of technology from one tribe of Humans to another. Here Bradley describes what it may be like between two alien races (alien to each other) to learn about each other and their different technologies in a peaceful way. Are there Aliens out there? Statistics say YES! Will we meet in a friendly way? Only the future knows, we may have real Aliens walking amongst us right now hiding from a very divided world, yet trying to understand us to find a safe way to reveal themselves to us in a safe way for both races. Who knows?

The Colors of Space By Marion Zimmer Bradley I remember reading this a long time ago. Some time after the 1963 edition was published. I decided to read it again and see if it still stood well

against time. Bart Steele is a young Vegan who has come to Earth to study at the academy. He is a product of a human and Mentorian pair, although he lost his mother, the Mentorian, early in his life. His father owns a space shipping business that struggles as it must against the monopoly that the Lhari race has over interstellar flight. The Lhari have made it clear that only Lhari can survive while the warp-drive is active and that all other races must go into cold-sleep. This monopoly causes Bart and many others to have a prejudice against the Lhari. On graduation Bart is to meet his father at the Lhari spaceport where he will return home. Bart will never see his father again and will be catapulted into a universe of danger and intrigue. He discovers that his father and several others have died while trying to obtain the secrets of the Lhari and of the warp-drive. Bart is thrust into his father's world while he's become a fugitive from Lhari authorities. The Lhari are not able to perceive colors the way humans and Mentorians do and this becomes a major plot device or I should say part of several plot devices. This is the only part that my more mature insight has quibbles about during this read. There are some big things that are hinged on this color disability that might not work quite as well as I once believed. One major one is that the Lhari could not tell something was red hot because they couldn't see the red. Since often survival hinges on such things there would likely have been another way for them to discern that a surface they were working on in their ship might be hot. Most everything else in the story seems to stand the test of time and still seems to work quite well to move the plot along. Since not enough is revealed about how a specific disguise is worked out, it might seem a bit thin but it still works here. The story itself beyond being science fiction seems to contain a mix of moral elements as regards prejudices and race hate. It becomes a story of a young mans journey to grow to maturity in his thinking and his beliefs. J.L.Dobias

This is top-notch YA-level SF in the mold of Heinlein or Pohl, or for a comparison from a more modern era, Spider Robinson. The opening is the Heinlein-like, as the young protagonist's life is suddenly derailed and sent off on a new and unexpected track. In the course of the book, the protagonist is faced with a powerful, difficult moral choice, and it pleases me that he chooses the high road, eschewing violence. The book shows its age in a couple of ways. Operating a "computer" requires facing a panel of hundreds of dials and knobs: shades of ENIAC! More seriously, there is only one female character and she's only a cutie-pie object of desire for the hero. And this from a female author! Well, this was written early in her career and might have been written to the expectations of a magazine editor of the time -- and she did a lot better by her women characters later.

Excellent example of Bradley's juvenile fiction. I read it as a child and found it still interesting as an adult. We now know that despite her ability as an author, Bradley's personal life was less than exemplary to put it mildly. I understand that the publisher of her digital books is donating all income to childrens' charity. I do not know about the hard copy books. Perhaps her daughter, who asserts that she was abused, benefits.

I have this book in both hard cover and kindle version. I have read and reread it over the years, and even made a homemade taped version of it for someone to listen to while driving down the Alcan.

This story is not, in all truth, up to the standard which MZB was putting out by the end of her life. Then again, this story was not written at the end of her life, now was it? The storyline has some holes here and there, there are some glaring bumps here and there that throw you out of your pleasant link with the story, but it is still a very exciting and effective book for all of that. These little inconsistencies just serve to remind the reader of the very great ability which MZB had at the start of her sadly not long enough career as a writer. Well worth reading and savoring.

I liked this book, enjoyed reading it, liked the people. Definitely recommend it. It's not military Sci-fi. (Which I thoroughly enjoy). Not hideous green bugs. It's about the people. The idea behind the story, we have met the aliens and guess what? No spoilers.

Being an old dog and enjoying the works of Arthur C. Clark & Isaac Asimov and having lived through the advent of the original Star Wars movie & Star Trek tv series I found the book pleasant for both old & young alike. Book was gripping from the first chapter on, and had even better character development and storyline than Redliners which I also liked. Definitely time well spent!

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