



I robot e l'impero

Isaac Asimov , Piero Anselmi (Translator)

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Nel corso della secolare lotta che oppone i terrestri ai loro nemici spaziali, il dottor Amadiro ha trovato un sistema per distruggere una volta per tutte il pianeta natale dell'umanità. Ma Lady Gladia e i suoi due robot vegliano sulla galassia.

I robot e l'impero Details

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Josh says

Like every other Asimov book, a snappy, fantastic read full of crisp dialogue and an absorbing plot with elements of sci-fi and mystery. I will never get over his ability to craft books without a single dull moment despite the fact that 99% of the action is just people talking. They're either hashing out a logical argument or painstakingly explaining one of the few actual bits of action, and I will never get tired of it.

If you're new to Asimov, thank you for reading this review, but let me stop you right here. This should be, at minimum, the fifth book you read, after the three previous books in the Robot series, as well as *I, Robot*. But seasoned Asimov readers will get what they've come for and should not be disappointed. I'm not sure why I never got around to reading this series before now, but glad to have finally done so.

Stands up, turns chair backwards, and sits back down, hunkering down over the chair back indicating that I'm going to "get down" with you here

Now it's time for some Real Talk. Real Ike Asimov Talk.

So, Ike wrote all the classic books in the Foundation, Robot, and Galactic Empire books in the 1950s. They had some links and similar elements, but were mostly their own things. For the most part, there they sat for a while as he churned out all kinds of other fiction and nonfiction. In the '80s he decided he wanted to link them together better, and produced two prequels and two sequels to Foundation, and a couple of sequels to Robots.

It's been a while since I've read the '80s Foundation books and I could stand a refresh, but my opinion today is that the latter two Robot books succeed where Asimov's '80s add-ons to the Foundation series failed. Those felt awkward and unnecessary. Whereas *The Robots of Dawn* and *Robots and Empire* expanded the universe created in the original books and gave them a more galactic scope. I only wish there were more.

Hassan Chaudhri says

It should be noted that I am a long-standing Asimov fan, so my opinion is perhaps not entirely objective. Having said that, *Robots and Empire* stands out to me as one of his top works. It serves to bridge his Empire/Foundation and Robots series; this is a dangerous venture, because there is always the risk of fouling one or both stories in the process. Asimov handles it admirably though, in a way that gives a satisfactory conclusion to the Elijah Baley story, and sets the scene for the way into the Galactic Empire.

The story focuses around familiar faces; Gladia, Daneel, and Giskard. The true focus of the novel is on the robots, which has always been Asimov's great strength. The passages of the novel that are essentially discussions and deliberations between the two robots are some of the most interesting parts of the novel; they are at once dear friends, earnest protectors, and subtly but pointedly inhuman. Their struggle to both serve and protect, and their discussions revolving around this dichotomy, give new depth to the characters.

Overall I highly recommend this novel to fans of either Empire, Foundation, or Robots.

David says

Not my favorite. Certainly not the best of the Robot series. Large amounts of this could be excised and nothing would be lost. But I suppose we had to bridge the gap between the Robot books and the Empire books somehow.

Mickey Robbins says

Friends never say goodbye

The events that lead to the current predicament of humanity in the Robot series beginning from I, Robot through Robots and Empire leaves the reader with a bitter sweet sense of success. Humanity has still not overcome its dread of robots but they can lust after them if designed to look as humans. The sarcasm is lost to all humans even if it stands before them all the time. The humans from all over the galaxy are broken into two fragments(or Tribes), Settlers and Spacers. The Earth people are not considered as a tribe but more as a Holy Land or a land of disease ridden self-rejects.

The spacers look at earth and the earth worshipping settlers as propagators of the earthly philosophy of No-Robots and advocacy of short life. They curse and blame them the settlers as a plague or mutation that threatens the existence of the much more superior form of life beings as themselves. Yet they fail to notice or more like deny to notice the issues long life and rejection of Earth has brought upon them.

The element of mystery as in all the Robot novels is thin and feels as expected - as not much of an issue. There are no murders here but there is a pretext of a missing colony that drives the story onward. The human characters very quickly dwindle into the background as the reader realises that they are far away from the truth. Even if they wished to look for it, they would not be able to because of all the other stuff they find more interesting - like the prospect of interstellar fame, better the other clan, etc.. It is inevitable that the final task of finding out the mystery and eventually determining the fate of humans as a whole rests on the cold shoulders of two robots

Giskard and Daneel. Asimov sama shows us here a glimpse at what could hold for us in the foundation series in the interactions and abstractions the two robots draw as a unit. Their conversations stand out through out the book as the most interesting and spell binding. They go on to tackle the superhuman task of defining and protecting humanity.

The finale of the Robot series is apt and sound. it is thoroughly entertaining while at the same time it makes us think - it was two robots who defined humanity into a single entity while the rest of us broke it down into subdivisions based on idiosyncrasies.

The Robots Series is:

1. I, Robot
2. The rest of the Robots
3. The complete Robot
4. The Caves of Steel
5. The Naked Sun
6. The Dawn of Robots
7. Robots and Empire

Steven Peterson says

In some ways, this novel, which clearly and explicitly links three of Isaac Asimov's series--Robot, Foundation, and Empire--is the development of a new law of robotics. Of course, all fans of Asimov know the three laws:

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 orders given it by humans except where such orders would violate the First Law;
3. A robot must protect its existence unless such behavior would violate the first and second laws.

This novel introduces a critical new law, what R. Daneel Olivaw (the classic Asimov robot) referred to as the "Zeroth Law." This law reads:

"A robot may not harm humanity, or by inaction, allow humanity to come to harm."

And this introduces a tension into the first three laws. This novel shows the implementation of this new law, by Daneel's friend (a telepathic robot), R. Giskard Reventlov.

In some senses, the actual plot of this work is not so central. It is indifferent, in fact, as a mystery, compared with the first three Robot novels (as well as short stories). Elijah Baley, who had worked with Daneel in earlier mysteries, has been dead for a couple centuries; Daneel is now on his own (with Giskard). But it represents an effort by Asimov to begin to link his three mighty series: Robot, Empire, and Foundation. The Zeroth Law is what begins to link these, with Daneel as the key player. One would have to read later novels in the Empire and Foundation series to understand the profound consequences of the Zeroth Law in his hands.

Anyhow, this is not a very good mystery on its own, but it is an important work beginning to link the three series, answer questions that had heretofore not been answered.

Tomislav says

Isaac Asimov wrote his original Robot, Empire, and Foundation novels as separate series in the 1950s, and then in the 1980s wrote a number of novels that bridge them together into a continuous future history. The Robots of Dawn and Robots and Empire are two that form the bridge between his Robot mysteries, and his Empire adventures. Here is the complete chronology:

- 1 The End of Eternity (stand-alone) 1955
- 2 I, Robot (short stories) 1950
- 3 The Caves of Steel (Robot) 1954
- 4 The Naked Sun (Robot) 1957
- 5 The Robots of Dawn (Robot) 1983
- 6 Robots and Empire (Robot) 1985
- 7 The Stars, Like Dust (Empire) 1951
- 8 The Currents of Space (Empire) 1952
- 9 Pebble In The Sky (Empire) 1950

Para demostrar esto, se puede dar un claro ejemplo. En cierta parte del libro, se relata como fue el fallecimiento de Elijah Baley (no estoy haciendo spoiler porque desde el primer momento nos dicen que la historia transcurre muchos años después de la muerte del mismo). Esta escena, para alguien que no leyó la saga, puede parecer una escena mas dentro de la historia, aunque en la misma se revela algo esencial para la misma. Pero para los que leímos toda la saga, es una escena ÉPICA, ya que es el personaje mas representativo. Admito que estoy siendo bastante subjetivo con lo que digo, pero ... es Elijah Baley señores!

Mas allá de la carga emocional que nos puede transmitir cada personaje, lugar, etc, la historia es muy diferente de las anteriores, por, justamente, la misma razón expuesta antes: ya no esta Elijah Baley. Por lo tanto, deben aparecer nuevos personajes en escena (que son los detonantes de la historia), mezclados con viejos conocidos, como Gladia, Amadiro, y los robots Daneel y Giskard, quienes tienen un gran peso en la misma.

Ya no se puede hacer una novela detectivesca llena de intrincados desenlaces, porque quien justamente los resolvía, ya no está. Por lo tanto, la historia esta orientada por otros caminos los cuales se nutren mucho de la saga en su totalidad, y que puede ser un poco "plana" para aquellos que empiezan en este punto.

¿Asimov pudo cumplir su objetivo a la perfección? ¿Logro que dos sagas quedaran unidas sin ningún tipo de incongruencia? Ni si, ni no. Tengamos en cuenta un dato que no es menor. Entre la primera de las novelas de estas sagas, "Fundación", y la ultima, "Hacia la Fundación", pasaron 42 años. Por lo tanto, es prácticamente imposible que las cosas tengan una coherencia perfecta, mas teniendo en cuenta que, cuando se empezaron a escribir, no se hicieron con la intención de que formaran un universo compartido.

A pesar de todo lo expuesto anteriormente, la historia me pareció muy buena. La leí con gran entusiasmo, y ademas, con gran expectativa, ya que era la ultima de la saga, y no me decepcionó. Es un gran cierre, donde se dejan varias cosas obviamente con final abierto, y que, principalmente, lo dejan a uno con ganas de mas, por lo que lo impulsan a empezar la próxima de las sagas.

Stephen says

4.0 stars. While listed as the last of the Robot series, this is probably better described as the bridge novel between the Robot novels and the Foundation series. In it we see the beginnings of how the Galactic Empire got started and why there are no Robots in the distant future of the Foundation novels (except of course for R. Daneel Olivaw) who becomes the only central character to appear in both series.

In addition to being a pivotal novel in the Robot/Foundation series, it is also top space opera and a lot of fun (as I feel about all of this group of books). Good quality entertainment from one of the masters of the genre. Recommended!!

Ed Correa says

Es increíble ser testigo de la evolución de los personajes a través de la narrativa tan fluida de Asimov, no se sienten forzados los cambios de cada uno de ellos y se comparte su aceptación de sus nuevos estatus. Espectacular cierre de la saga de los robots y al mismo tiempo un excelente puente para lo que sigue. Voy a extrañar a cierto robot...

Mars says

Out of all the Foundation-and-related books, this one is definitely in line for being declared the weakest.

We find out how things happened, but what would have been brilliant as 2-3 pages of exposition was stretched out to hundreds of pages of endless flashbacks, somewhat dull dialogue, and at least 70 repetitions of the words "nuclear intensifier".

Especially annoying highlights:

Vasilia made Giskard into what he is. All fine and good, but one of the characters even mentions that this is extremely unlikely to have happened, no practical explanation is ever given, and the entire setup feels badly built and seems to exist only for the sole purpose of explaining how this information became known to certain other parties. One would think that easier approaches could have been made.

D & G endlessly discuss their approach to the zeroth law, and expound it to various humans at various times. Yes, we get it, there's no need to hammer it home. The modern reader is bored by constant repetition of the same thing, especially when it serves no meaningful purpose.

The first law which gets violated left and right, especially given how any violation of it should have put Daneel and company into permanent brain freeze immediately.

Giskard endlessly complains of how using his powers is dangerous and must be done with extreme care, yet apparently keeps doing it on the fly to everyone he meets.

What the end of the book sounds like: "Friend Daneel, I can give you this power, but it shall suck for you, so I won't. Soon, however, you shall have this power. Any moment now, I will give it to you, but not yet. I am looking forward to providing you with it very much."

And on and on.

Generally, I'd recommend you skip it and read something else out of Asimov's works.

Simona Bartolotta says

"Lentamente, esitando, Daneel tese la mano, e Giskard la fissò incerto. Poi anche lui tese la mano. Le punte delle dita si sfiorarono, poi i due robot si strinsero la mano... sembrava quasi che non solo si definissero amici, ma lo fossero davvero."

A volte, mi detesto. Sono così sentimentale. Cioè, la maggior parte della gente mi conosce come una persona riservata, poco incline a indugiare su smancerie e melensaggini, a lasciarsi andare a confidenze, o simili. Una tutta d'un pezzo, insomma. Ma come mi commuovo, se coinvolta davvero! Tipo adesso, che mi sembra di crollare. Ma non ho la minima intenzione di inserire ulteriori spoiler in questa recensione (se l'affermazione della mia tristezza si può definire spoiler... ma suppongo che rientri abbondantemente nella definizione) perciò tenterò di accantonare il problema.

Sono sempre più convinta che quelli di Asimov più romanzi siano capolavori. Davvero, non saprei come altro definirli. Per la complessità, la trama, i personaggi, le dinamiche tra gli stessi e le conseguenti implicazioni di un tessuto narrativo così fitto; tocca, con le sue storie, tasti dolenti e corde del cuore che

neppure immaginiamo di possedere.

Mi chiedo perché mai mi ostini a voler scrivere queste specie di commentini insulsi alle opere di Asimov. Davvero, dovrei smetterla, tanto non riesco a cavarne niente di utile per chi li legge. D'altra parte è vero che sono utili a me: mi sfogo, in un certo senso, riuscendo ad esprimere una minima parte e in maniera eufemisticamente sommaria tutte le emozioni che Asimov suscita in me.

Concludo, ancora una volta, con una dichiarazione d'amore. Amore per due dei personaggi meglio riusciti in cui mi sia imbattuta in tutta la mia carriera di lettrice, Giskard e Daneel, che per me sono e resteranno i veri protagonisti del Ciclo dei Robot, insieme ad Elijah, e amore per la fantascienza vera che per ammaliare le folle, come mi piace ripetere, non può essere mai solo fantascienza.

Norm Davis says

Having grown up in the cold war era, ducking under desks in preparation for nuclear destruction from the USSR, I developed a bit of antipathy towards Russians so even though I was an ardent science fiction fan I refused to read Isaac Asimov on the principle that he was Russian even though all my science fiction loving friends were crazy in love with Asimov fiction. One day, reluctantly, I picked up Foundation. One third of the way through the novel I was becoming extremely upset because I could very easily see that there was no satisfactory way out of the dilemmas he had developed to that point in the novel. When he pulled it off magically, mystically, unexpectedly and expertly I was astonished and became Asimov's biggest fan, reading everything I could find that he had written. At that time Robots and Empire had not yet been written and I struggled through the years waiting patiently as he combined his Empire, Foundation, and Robot series.

Now, many years later I'm re-reading the 15-16 novels in the 'recommended' order and have now finished his Elijah Baley – Daneel Olivaw novels. This one is more suspense adventure rather than mystery like the earlier novels although it is written somewhat like a mystery novel. On re-reading this one I'm of the impression that he ran up against a hard deadline as he concludes the novel suddenly yet satisfactorily but without really fleshing out all the threads of the plot lines. Still, there's no such thing as a bad Asimov story or novel and such is the case with this novel. Even vaguely remembering the details of the novel I still clung to it like a teenager again staying up long past bedtime to devour just a little bit more, just a little bit more.... It's a fun read. Enjoy it.

Davyne DeSye says

Sigh. Love this book. It's always bittersweet for me to read since it is the last of the four Robot novels, and I will miss the characters (until my next reading in a couple of years!). (As usual, this book can be read as a standalone book without having to read the previous books in the series.)

This story, again, features Elijah Baley, the hard-boiled detective from Earth (although in a surprising way – no spoiler here!), and his robot partner, Daneel Olivaw. We also still have Gladia who has been the love interest in the two books previous to this one. She really comes into herself in this book, and I just love her. Daneel is joined in his work by another robot, Giskard, who was featured very briefly in the book before this one, but this time, Giskard wins your heart.

In this story, it is planet Earth that is in danger of destruction, and a large part of the mystery in the book is not who is going to destroy it, but how. We know there's an "evil plot" and a truly unlikable "dastardly doer." What we must discover along with our detectives is how it is to be done – so they can stop it, of course.

novel I read so far, so maybe that's the cause, but I feel some scenes would be better trimmed down.

Great read, overall.

Alina says

The main focus (and also the most interesting part) is on the robots Daneel and Giskard and their debates on *The Three Laws* and the **HUMANITY** concept, giving them new and (un?)expected depth.

A beautiful ending to the Robots series and a bridge to the following works in the Foundation Universe.

VeRMiNaARD says

Bir önceki kitapla ba?layan Vak?f serisine olan köprünün in?aat? bununla son buldu. ?uan hala kitab?n sonunun etkisindeyim. Bu Asimov nas?l bir yazard?r da y?llar sonra bile okundu?unda insan? böyle derinden etkileyebiliyor anlam?? de?ilim. ?uan alt?n? çize çize söylüyorum Vak?f serisini direk okumay?n. Araya Robot serisini muhakkak ekleyin. Tam okuma s?ras?n? yaz?m?n sonuna ekleyece?im buna uyun muhakkak.

Kitap için bir?eyi demeden de edemeyece?im. Ulan Gladia ka?ar!??n kitab?n? yazd?n be :) Gördü?ün her erke?e insan - robot ay?rt etmeksizin yav?amana al??t?k ama Baley ailesinin ortak mal? oldun be kad?n. Az edepli ol edepli! :P

Okuma s?ras?:

<http://i.hizliresim.com/210X50.jpg>
