



Proteus in the Underworld

Charles Sheffield

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In the 22nd century biofeedback techniques have enabled humans the ultimate expression--the ability to transform the body into any viable form. What began as an innocent technique to reduce anxiety without drugs has raised fundamental questions about what it is to be human. Enter the Humanity Test.

Proteus in the Underworld Details

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From Reader Review Proteus in the Underworld for online ebook

Matthew McClintock says

Meh. It passed the time.

Chris says

I can't believe I have had this book in my library since I was probably 15 (a long time ago), and only within the last couple years got the 1st two books in the series, and read them all. What an interesting character (Bey Wolf) and concept (form change).

Maddalenah says

Having read the whole series, I have to say that the first one, especially the first part honestly, was by far the best of the three. I grew more and more annoyed by the title choices, though at least this one had more to do with form-change than the second one. Actually, I think that this makes for a better sequel to the first one, and Proteus Unbound seems a little out of place in the narrative (I kept expecting Ransom to be behind at least some of the problems in this book but no, he just escaped and his story it's over). One has to wonder if Sheffield actually had a longer series starring Bey Wolf in mind that just didn't happen; and either way I think if you substitute Proteus with Wolf, both sequels titles make more sense.

I still have issues with the way Sheffield wrote his women, though Sondra and Trudy seem at least a little more characterised than Mary and Sylvia. The ending in particular made little to no sense, though here my main issue lies with Bey's behaviour more than with Sondra's.

Having said all this, there's a peculiar pleasure in reading sci-fi written by a mathematician (I didn't know this about Sheffield when I was younger, and I have to wonder if others of my favourite sci-fi books were written by mathematicians or if it's something else about Sheffield that makes me like them). I love the untangling of the problem, the long and thoughtful explanations, the evident pleasure that his characters feel when facing a really difficult puzzle. Even though I don't find Sheffield writing style particularly fascinating, and though I wasn't really invested in the story, I just couldn't put it down, so there must be some kind of magic at work here.
