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Friday



Synopsis

Engineered from the finest genes, and trained to be a secret courier in a future world, Friday operates over a near-future Earth, where chaos reigns. Working at Boss's whimsical behest she travels from far north to deep south, finding quick, expeditious solutions as one calamity after another threatens to explode in her face.... --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

Like many people, I go way, way back with Heinlein. My very favorite book (and one that stands out in my mind--and with much affection--to this day) is Tunnel in the Sky. I really, really wanted to go off to explore new worlds with a covered wagon and horses, like the hero does at the very end of the book. But one of the nice things about Robert Heinlein is that he's got something for everyone. One of my best friends has a different favorite: Podkayne of Mars. Go figure. --Shelly Shapiro, Executive Editor --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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In my opinion, one of Heinlein's breast...wups! One of Heinlein's most fantastically convoluted books and one of his best portrayals of a female character in his oeuvre. Look out for a funny scientology reference...I'd include a synopsis but I really don't see the point. Suffice it to say the story revolves around an artificial person (AP) named Friday Baldwin and in it you will encounter shadow governments, assassins, group families, a fractured United States, coups, religious skewering, cultural commentary and of course Heinlein's brand of rugged individualism.

This is a superb book from the brilliant mind of Robert A. Heinlein. And Friday is the most interesting heroine that anyone could have the pleasure of teasing their fancy. Yes, I'm praising this book! I took one look and was hooked. On adventure, on action, on love of the heroine. Boy, did I cheer her on! I couldn't help myself. I wanted her to succeed. I wanted her to be happy. Of course, with Heinlein you have to mull through politics, sex, different marriage, science, space, until you get to the heart of the heroine's life. I'll let you fill that in. If you read this book, I'm sure you'll be entertained, and you'll enjoy the fact that you had the pleasure.

Reviewing a book like this with so many others doing it so well before me is difficult. For me there is no typical Heinlein book but I have yet to find one I truly dislike. As for Friday, I loved this book though I am not put off by sex or violence and there is lots of both. In her search to finally belong and be a part of something I found myself flying through the book and wanting more even after it was done. For me the end felt a little sudden even though there were no loose ends to wonder about. For fans this likely is a must own and for those new to Heinlein I would give this an enthusiastic recommendation if you are not squeamish about violence or an abundance of sex.

Not Heinlein's best, but a nice paperback edition and a fun read. The cover captures the flavor of the book (Friday is a supremely sexual being... as are many Heinlein heroines), but I wish the image weren't so... well, lurid. The color doesn't help... It's very Harlequin. I was kind of embarrassed to be seen reading it on the train, actually. (I would have bought the Kindle version were one available for this reason).

Friday is a MUST READ novel. I keep a small library of novels that I've read over the years...I have purchased this novel 3 times now, over the last 20 years. I keep wearing out the cover and binding;

I've re-read it maybe 15 times.:o)Friday is a strong, sensitive and determined lady, with a healthy sexuality; but not in a trash novel sort of way.The story is compelling and very plausible.Robert... where is this lady?I'll marry her!!

Bought this for my brother, he LOVES it, this is his fave writer!!!

I've always considered the novel Friday as the start of Heinlein's `modern' science fiction works. He wrote his novels I Will Fear No Evil (1970) and Time Enough For Love (1973) in the 70's and The Number of the Beast (1980) followed up with characters from his previous works. Friday (1982) started out with new and fresh characters and shucked off most of the 60's and 70's feel of the other previous novels (such as the lovey-dovey talk between bedmates, the oft-used term `dear' (though still used), etc). Although there is still some aspects of it in Friday such four lovers together in one bed. By the 80's, swinging had pretty much ceased to be a social phenomenon.For anyone that's a red-blooded male, you couldn't help but notice the book cover if you passed it in a book store. On it is a pneumatic woman in a tight jump suit zippered down low. With that though was also a problem, as the term `don't judge a book by it's cover' comes to mind and one then thinks of it as just a pulp novel and not of any good. So come to my surprise where in this day and age where faery handbags and militant lesbianism passes as award winning SF and I look back to past science fiction works to find that Friday was one of six finalists for the 1982 Nebula Awards and one of five finalists for the 1983 Hugo Awards. It's a brilliant cover telling of the novel, the woman has her sleeves rolled up showing that she's independent and tough, and in the background is a futuristic window on what appears to be a space station or space shuttle overlooking a planet. In one brief glimpse one's able to tell that this is a science fiction story. Fortunately the publishers knew this book cover is a classic and have not removed it which they've unfortunately done to other classics, Frederik Pohl's Gateway being one.It wouldn't be sufficient to say that this novel is about the adventures of Friday because although it is, it uses her actions partly as means to tell of events in the story. North America is broken up into a series of autonomous regions and a series of assassinations and riots occur within these regions and the inner systems and asteroids. Sort of a Tet Offensive for the Solar System. After these events tone down for a while, she's able to meet back up with "Boss", in scenes reminiscent of Charlie's Angels. Talking about television programs, there are strong similarities between Friday and Cameron's former program, Dark Angel. There's a genetically modified and enhanced female courier, young and sexy, set within the future where the United States has disintegrated into several countries.Although Heinlein does use the discrimination

against genetically modified persons, or artificial persons (AP) as mentioned in the book, as an allegory on racism, racism is a bit more complex. It's difficult to consider a male refusing a curvy, sweet, willing woman like Friday whether she's an AP, black, brown, yellow, red, Andorian blue, or Rigelian green. And for other women to be prejudiced against Friday, it's less likely to be due to her color than to her curviness. There's not as much sex in the novel as may have been mentioned, certainly less when compared to other Heinlein novels, *I Will Fear No Evil* topping the list. Any mature adult should be able to handle the scenes within the novel. Heinlein does rip into religion so some puritans may be offended. As with other Heinlein novels, there are sections that drag on, and if you find yourself re-reading the same section, just plow forward, keep reading, and it'll get better. There are some 'hard-core' science fiction sections such as describing that the distances between stars may be further apart than they appear looking up into the night sky on earth. You either already know this from astronomy or you don't really need to know it to read the novel. Categorize this novel under 'fun'!

Friday, 1982, 357 pages: 3-1/2 stars

Friday is one of my favorite science fiction books. It is not part of Heinlein's future history group (which I also enjoy), so it has a different feel than many of his books. The main character, Friday is strong woman who mixes easily in a society that would reject her if they understood her genetic heritage. This bigotry has changed her and affects her actions throughout much of the story. There are a variety of believable & interesting characters who each contribute to the tale. The technology is futuristic, but based on things humanity is trying to do now. Friday has abilities, talents, and skills that allow her to independently perform dangerous tasks with great confidence in her success. When at last she fails to complete a mission, she learns how valued and admired she is in the eyes of a select few people. Overall this is an optimistic tale of human survival set mostly on a nearly apocalyptic Earth. I reread Friday every few years. Highly recommended.

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