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The End Of Eternity



Synopsis

This stand-alone novel is widely regarded as Asimov's best science fiction novel. Andrew Harlan is an Eternal, a member of the elite of the future. One of the few who live in Eternity, a location outside of place and time, Harlan's job is to create carefully controlled and enacted Reality Changes. These Changes are small, exactly calculated shifts in the course of history, made for the benefit of humankind. Though each Change has been made for the greater good, there are also always costs. During one of his assignments, Harlan meets and falls in love with Noëls Lambert, a woman who lives in real time and space. Then Harlan learns that Noëls will cease to exist after the next Change, and he risks everything to sneak her into Eternity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for The End of Eternity: "His most effective piece of work. Asimov's exemplary clarity in plotting is precisely suited to the material at hand. Asimov's engagement with the present is clearer here than in his other works, as is his engagement with the human. --Locus "By literary standards, this tale of time travel from the 95th century is generally rated Asimov's best. --Entertainment Weekly "Asimov's flirtation with the tropes employed by A. E. van Vogt and Charles Harness is startling for an author deemed ultra-rational and scientific. | The effects of this influential, seminal book echo to the present, in the works of such writers as Greg Egan, John Varley, Kage Baker, and Greg Bear. --SciFi.com --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Isaac Asimov (1920-1992) was born in the Soviet Union and came to the United States in 1923. He earned his PhD in chemistry in 1948, and in 1958 became a full-time writer. His writings include the Foundation Trilogy; I, Robot; Tomorrow's Children; and numerous works of nonfiction touching on a range of scientific topics. Among his accolades are six Hugo awards, a SFWA Grand Master Award, and high praise from such luminaries as Kurt Vonnegut, Arthur C. Clarke, and Gene Roddenberry. J. Paul Boehmer is an American actor best known for his numerous appearances in the Star Trek universe. His audiobook narrations have garnered nine AudioFile Earphones Awards and two prestigious Audie Awards for Best Narration, besides being a finalist for the Audie Award in 2012 and 2015. Between narrations, he is active in regional theaters across the country. His television appearances include guest spots on Nip/Tuck and Numb3rs.

Nightfall is said to be Asimov's greatest short story: I have a substantial collection of his books, and have never been in any doubt that this is his best novel. Technically, the balance between narrative and reported speech is just right, and the grammar is as good as the vocabulary is wide. Most importantly, he explores an unusual idea while maintaining a sense of tension ... it is one of those books that you just have to stay up late to finish. It is also one of the few Asimov books in which there is a love element. I have read it several times over the years, and have no reason to change my opinion. Just one thing ... if you get it, then whatever you do DON'T sneak a look at the ending!

One of my all time favorites, I've must of read this story at least 12 times. It's endlessly fascinating, and answers questions we all have about ourselves. Would it be a good thing if we had the power to go back and interfere with our own lives? The book has a pretty compelling argument against that. The plot is about an agency that alters the history of the human race, often forgoing incredible advances for a 'safer' future. But does this power help or hinder us? If we could step back and avoid all our mistakes in our individual lives, would our future be better, or merely safe and unremarkable? I love this book for its clever and imaginative plot, and it's subtle introspection it carefully delivers right at the end. Asimov was a true genius, his stories never fail to inspire.

You'd think that 60 years after this book was written, you would have already seen all the time travel tropes from this book copied everywhere else. But apparently not. The logic might get a little too complicated for a Hollywood film adaptation, but the book is so well-written for a plot-driven story that it holds your attention through layers of mind-blowing revelations. The story is also told through a very human, emotional perspective against an otherwise ruthless plot.

In all fairness, I am not a sci-fi fan, but some are OK for me. Our book club decided we would each choose a different book by Isaac Asimov to read.. I chose this one because it seemed like a story that might appeal to me. Well, I didn't make it through the book, and I rarely give up. I know Asimov is a lauded science-fiction writer, and I am sure that real fans of the genre would enjoy it. If you aren't really a sci-fi fan, I would skip it.

If there is a book that feels like a classic Sci-fi, this is it! Time travel, different dimensions, a seemingly strict hierarchical enterprise, it's all there. I haven't read any other books by Isaac Asimov, but I have no problem accepting that this is one of his best books. I wasn't much invested in the characters, but I don't think that is a bad thing. I think the fact that I didn't care for either Harlan or Noëls and still really enjoyed the book says a lot about how interesting and well developed this plot is. They are both insipid characters for most of the story, but I was still always interested to open my book every chance I got, because so many interesting things were happening to them. There was also the sheer mystery of the reason why these bland characters would defy their society and rules in such an extreme way. I loved the time paradox discussions and the original time traveling plot, but what I loved the most was the incredibly surprising ending. I'll obviously not hint to it, but it was smart and unexpected. I highly recommend it!

It is Isaac Asimov, so almost guaranteed to be good. But I have to say I was not initially impressed after reading 60 pages or so. but when things started to fit together, it became very interesting. Some great twists.

I consider "The End of Eternity" to be Asimov's highly philosophical, hidden gem; an intellectual delight that goes beyond the primary narrative and is worth a careful re-read. It primarily deals with the question of the ideal human society. There's a big caveat though- the writing is (sometimes shockingly) poor. My first thought was "didn't Asimov have an editor?". Actually, I believe that for this novel he didn't ...If you're fluent in a different language, you may want to check out a good translation first, as translation requires some re-editing. No, I'm not joking. The Romanian translation I read flowed a lot better.

I love this book, I had it in Spanish and decided to read it again now in English. Also, the book had

all pages, arrived in good shape and with no markings.

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