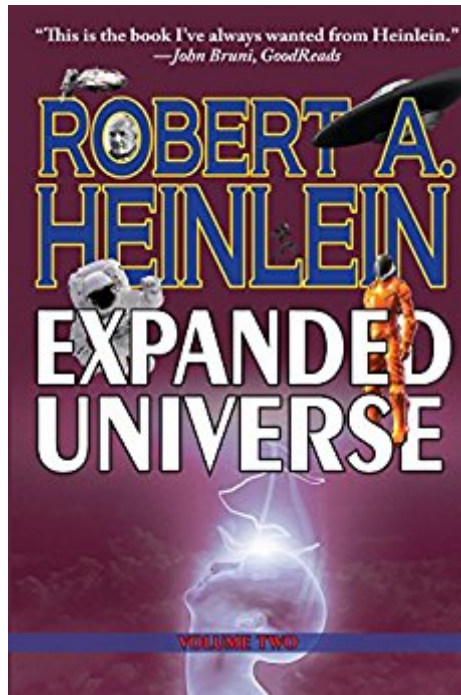


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Robert Heinlein's Expanded Universe: Volume Two



Synopsis

“The single most important and valuable Heinlein book ever published.” —Spider Robinson

Robert A. Heinlein has been hailed as one of the most forward-thinking science fiction writers of all time, and *Expanded Universe* (presented in two volumes) offers the perfect collection of his works to provide readers with true insights into his uniquely creative mind. Heinlein personally selected each story or essay for inclusion in this collection, which is ordered chronologically, starting with his first sale in 1939 of “Life-Line” to *Astounding* (for seventy dollars). This remarkable collection highlights the development of Heinlein’s writing style and his philosophy on life throughout his career. More importantly, this collection is as close to an autobiography as anything Heinlein wrote during his life. Heinlein was an extremely private person who never wrote much about himself. In this exclusive collection, he offers forewords to most of his stories and essays (and an occasional afterword), giving readers a rare glimpse into the inner mind of the master. *Expanded Universe* is a must-have for any Heinlein enthusiast and any fan of science fiction. ***

From “Life-Line” (1939), one of his earliest works, to a tale of adventure on the moon (“Nothing Ever Happens On the Moon”), this collection demonstrates the formidable talent and irascible perceptions of one of the genre’s most outspoken writers. —*Library Journal*

“This is the book I’ve always wanted from Heinlein.” —John Bruni, *GoodReads*

Book Information

File Size: 3900 KB

Print Length: 287 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1612422403

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Phoenix Pick (March 16, 2015)

Publication Date: March 16, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B00UUBAAJU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #63,136 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #99 in Kindle

Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Anthologies & Short Stories
#150 in Kindle Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Anthologies

Customer Reviews

I have this book in hardback, and I was considering buying it for Kindle and Audible, but they have split the book into two parts and are selling it twice. I'm not going to buy it. To buy it would encourage publishers to take normal books and sell them twice in digital editions. That would be a horrible practice if it caught on. Shame on them.

OK it is tough to give a Heinlein book less than 5 stars. and I may be sent to Hades because of it. But fellow readers, I have my reasons. The few stories in the collection are good RAH works. and worth a read or re-read/My objection and the reason for the lowered rating is that there are very few stories in this volume. Mostly it is a collection of very dated essays written by the master during the depth of the Cold War. The fact is these are so dated that they add very little to the volume. I just wish there had been some more short stories in this book and fewer of the extraneous essays.

Only a couple short stories here. A lot of prose about his trips around the world, concentrating a lot on Russia. A lot of his views of the real world and its politics. Heinlein was far more involved in the world than I ever dreamed of. He and his wife helped shape some policies that are still in effect. The world took a huge loss with his death but his influence will live on as long as people read his books and believe in his idealism. BTW, if you're after a book that ties his stories together or even a book with several short stories in it, this really isn't it.

This is the second volume of Heinlein's Expanded Universe -- a collection of short stories and essays. The stories are good, the essays even better. I particularly enjoyed his look back at various predictions he had made -- some of which were accurate, some not so much. His evaluation of the education system in the USA is excellent, also.

As with all of Heinlein's stories, they are starting to get dated, but you know what, they are all still wonderfully written. They are a walk back in time when we were awed by the concept of a man climbing into a rocket and actually flying to the moon. Heinlein got us excited and kept us up late on school nights reading about the adventures, and miss-adventures of really average human beings as they traveled through the Universe.

Robert Heinlein's Expanded Universe: Volume Two is a fascinating look into the thinking and philosophy of the dean of science fiction. This volume includes only a few typical Heinlein fiction stories including a "boy scouts on the moon" adventure and a short fiction piece he did for an electronics company. The real treasure in this volume is the many essays and accompanying forwards for those essays. The essays give you a look into what Heinlein thought about both the writing process and many other subjects. He gives detailed essays on Public Education in America and traveling in the Soviet Union in the late 1970's. It's a real time capsule into what he, and many others, were thinking circa 1980. He displays a deep fear of the Soviets and a deep sadness at what he believes America has lost. Although I don't agree with some of his conclusions it is nonetheless a terrific read. If you have read at least a few of Heinlein's works this is a nice addition to give a perspective of where the writer was coming from. A list of predictions Heinlein made in 1950 are also included. Unlike most prognosticators Heinlein reviews his predictions in 1965 and 1980 and gives honest opinions on his hits and misses. This was probably my personal favorite section. The version I reviewed was the 2015 unabridged audio version read by Bronson Pinchot that was about 9.5 hours. The audio version was published by Blackstone Audiobooks. Pinchot is an absolutely sublime narrator. Within five minutes I felt like it was Heinlein telling me his own story. I look forward to listening to more books read by Mr. Pinchot.

A great book and I highly recommend it to anybody who enjoys reading Heinlein. Be warned, however; it is more commentary than stories. So if all you are interested in is the fiction, this book not be for you. I strongly encourage everybody to not purchase the digital editions as they have split a single published book into two parts for no possible reason other than to make twice as much money. If they were selling it as the single volume, I might have purchased it eventually. Heinlein was all for making money but he also pointed out one way to show your disapproval is by not spending your money on it.

NOBODY BETTER. My children laugh at their Mom reading science fiction except my youngest boy who praised "Stranger in a Strange Land; and my copy of "Star Ship Trooper" is falling apart from rereading,

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