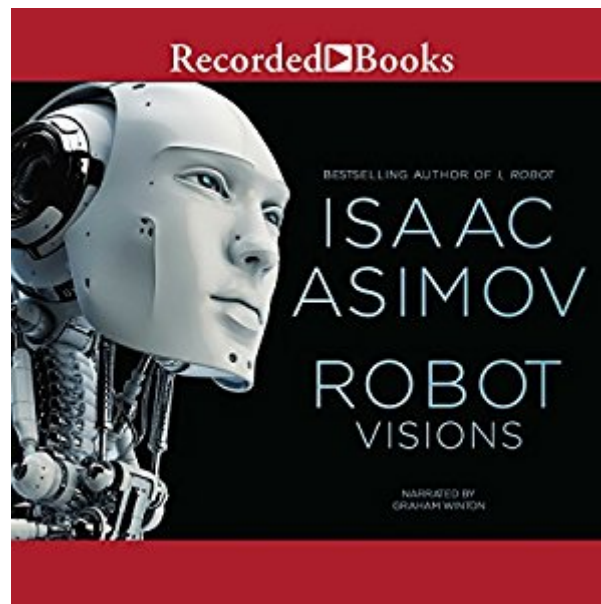


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Robot Visions



Synopsis

From the writer whose name is synonymous with the science of robotics comes five decades of robot visions - 36 landmark stories and essays, plus three rare tales - gathered together in one volume. Meet all of Asimov's most famous creations: Robbie, the very first robot that his imagination brought to life; Susan Calvin, the original robot psychologist; Stephen Byerley, the humanoid robot; and the famous human-robot detective team of Lije Baley and R. Daneel Olivaw, who appeared in such best-selling novels as *The Robots of Dawn* and *Robots and Empire*. Let the master himself guide you through the key moments in the fictional history of robot-human relations - from the most primitive computers and mobile machines to the first robot to become a man.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like its companion *_Robot Dreams_*, this collection is in part an excuse to feature the haunting illustrations of Ralph McQuarrie and partly a well-chosen selection of the Good Doctor's short writings. However, unlike *_Robot Dreams_*, this one really does concentrate on robots. It also includes a good chunk of Asimov's nonfiction on the subject -- and (unlike Heinlein) Asimov wrote very good nonfiction too. Two things you should know before you buy this: (1) It includes most of the contents of *_I, Robot_*, but not all -- and it also doesn't include the frame story (the interview with Susan Calvin). So even if you buy this, you'll still have to get *_I, Robot_* if you don't already have it. (2) It includes the robot stories that *_aren't_* part of *_I, Robot_* -- among them the very best Susan Calvin story, "Galley Slave". At any rate, no Asimov fan will want to be without this one.

Bought this book to add to the Asimov Books already read----half finished this book and it is a very good collection---easy read---if you like Robot books the following may be of interest to you,****Issac Asimov -****The Robot BooksAsimov had a suggested reading sequence HE published in Prelude to Foundation --- for all the books he had written on robots---am listing that here - they were not written in sequence as you see. The Complete Robot - 1982 The Caves of Steel - 1954 The Naked Sun - 1957 The Robots of Dawn -1983 Robots and Empire - 1985 The Currents of Space - 1952 The Stars, Like Dust - 1951 Pebble in the Sky - 1950 Prelude to Foundation - 1988 Foundation - 1951 Foundation and Empire - 1952 Second Foundation - 1953 Foundation's Edge - 1982 Foundation Earth - 1983peace and love----

This is a companion book to "Robot Dreams," but unlike that book, all the stories in "Robot Visions" are actually about robots. Six of the stories also appear in the collection "I, Robot." The stories were written over a wide range of time, from 1940 to 1989, and they reflect the character of their times. (The way to check when a particular story was written is to look at the copyright page at the front of the book.) The stories cover a range of issues well, mostly hinging on the three laws of robotics that Asimov quotes and uses repeatedly. One might think going back to the well like this would result in repetitive stories, but that is not the case at all; robots are involved in these stories in jobs as mundane as checking galleys for publication to jobs as unforgiving as performing microsurgery, and in all cases Asimov carefully considers how the humans and robots--each acting on their motivations (the robots' is hardwired, of course)--interact with each other and the situations they are confronted with. One stands out: "The Bicentennial Man," about a robot who was unusually creative, and over a period of decades acts on his desire to become more independent and acquire more rights, going so far as to replace his robotic systems with organic ones in an attempt to become closer to being human. The book includes a number of essays by Asimov about how he sees robots in the future, how he conceived of them in past stories, and what issues will crop up as mechanical intelligences become reality. These essays were written in the '70s and 80s, some apparently for American Airlines' in-flight magazine (again, check the copyright page). These essays are each relatively short, making them good bedtime reading when you're tired. The short stories earlier in the book vary in length, so they don't work as well for that purpose.

This book is a great collection of Asimov's robot stories. Robot Visions was intended to be a companion to Robot Dreams. Both collections have older stories with a few new ones written for the

book. You can really tell how Asimov thought about his beloved creation, the robots. The various stories show every point of view possible, from a robot's view or a man's. In the back of the novel, Asimov wrote several essays explaining his views on robotics. Definitely a pleasurable read, whether you are a sci-fi fan or not.

I have no idea what kept me from reading Asimov decades ago, but I am very glad that I started. What wonderful stories, what brilliance to glimpse so eerily into the future as Asimov did - so many things we take for granted were in his imagination all those years ago. I have been spellbound by his writing and find it very hard to put the books down once started, he wrote with such feeling and sympathy for his characters both human and robot. I wish I could have told him how much I am enjoying his books now . . . better late than never. What an astonishing man.

Including all of "I, Robot"'s stories, a whole new story and some other great series (even features Daneel and Baley!), this is a great robot's collection. Including some articles from the master, it is a must-have for Asimov, robots and sci-fi fans.

The great basis for explaining the Frankenstein Complex that is the human mindset. No other author before or since has done such an excellent job of laying out the mental challenges that face humanity as computers move from simple math machines, to sorting, to deduction, to actual intelligence, to the final awareness known as sentience." The first truly alien intelligence we will encounter is the one we build ourselves".

I fell in love with these stories as a teen. I have subscribed to Asimov Sci-Fi and magazine since 85. I love that Susan was a woman (even to she was loveless) because so few woman were in the "biz" that I loved. Wish Isaac were still alive today. His fiction and non-fiction inspired me to be an engineer.

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