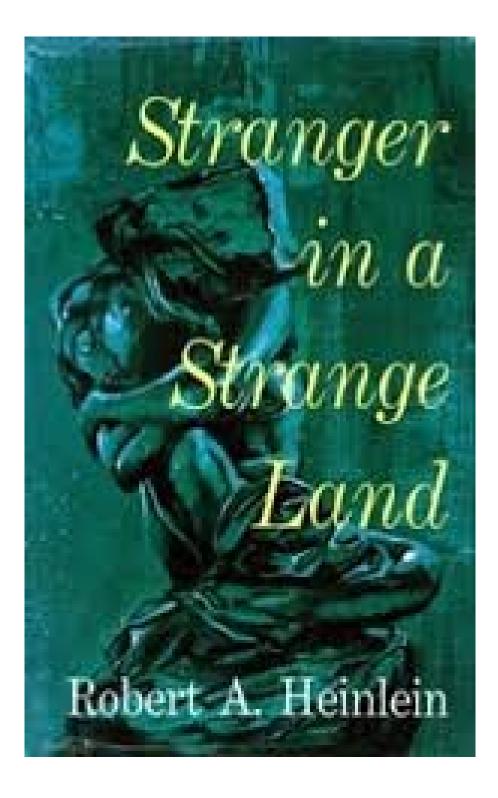


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'The best of his many books and the best in the genre' Washington Post

About the Author

Robert A. Heinlein was one of the greatest science fiction writers of the century and won the coveted Hugo Award on several occasions. He died in 1989.

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Epic, entertaining, Stranger in a Strange Land caused controversy and uproar when it was first published. Still topical and challenging today, the story of Valentine Michael Smith, the first man from Mars to visit Earth, is in the great tradition of stories that endure through the power of the author's imagination that stretches from Gulliver's Travels to 1984

- Sales Rank: #1013126 in Books
- Published on: 1961
- Dimensions: 2.00 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 414 pages

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A grand 'What if?' missing a punch

By Samu Lattu

I was expecting to be more engaged, provoked and moved by Stranger in a Strange Land than I was. Several people that have inspired me (like Peter Diamandis) cite this book as one of their inspirations. To me, however, it's both excitingly different, curiously contemporary and oddly What engaged me most was the first half, where The Man from Mars makes observations of terrestrial life that are poignant today. The second half felt drawn out by comparison. Heinlein's challenge to revisit our thinking on relating to one another, sex, money, the afterlife and what really matters most was on the nose by the end. I didn't finish to find out what happens to the characters or the story, but out of respect for my inspirations and, frankly, to just see if this was all there was to it.

I can see how, in its time, the book would've caused a stir, and a Hugo is deserved if just for the visionary setup of bringing an Earthling born on Mars to Earth and asking him what it was like to be here. Recommended read, but don't feel bad about skimming the latter parts.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

We Should All Be a Little Stranger.

By Jenni DaVinCat

I understand why this book is often cited as one of the most important sci-fi books of all time. While reading it, you might begin to question why it's lumped into the sci-fi category because the themes are very human.

It is science fiction, that cannot be argued, but it's also a coming of age story, a religious story and at its very core, a story about love.

Valentine Michael Smith was born and raised on Mars, but he is a human. He is brought back to Earth to learn what it means to be a human. This causes the reader to be forced to think outside of the box because Michael is not just coming from a different human culture, he has never learned what it means to be a human so any chapter told from his perspective is like an outsider, looking in on human culture. It's wildly fascinating to think about ourselves in this manner.

As Michael progresses in his grokking of humans, he gets out to explore the world and to challenge it. Our concepts of God/religion and sex/love are strange to him. We tend to not really think about it from an outside perspective because this is just the way life is, but being forced to think about it, makes for a very fascinating read. I'd never really considered myself to be a "prude" but there were times that this book made me feel that way. At times, the reader must take a step back and remember that Heinlein did intend for many of the themes to be viewed as satire of what is commonly accepted.

There were a few negatives when reading this book, however. It was written in the sixties, which was a very different time from today in terms of the way women are spoken to/about and how they are treated. Heinlein wasn't too bad in this regard, but there were a few sentences that made me stop for a second. Heinlein also has some of his characters go on these long drawn-out speech tangents that go on for pages and pages. I felt it was a little unnecessary to go on for that long, especially considered the length of the uncut version. It took me a little while to get through this book and normally I'm a pretty quick reader.

Negatives aside, I do feel like this book is important. The story itself is not challenging, but as I stated before, it challenges the reader to think about humans from an outside perspective and that is fascinating. He really doesn't seem to rely too much on Sci-fi elements, preferring to focus on the human elements of the story (love, religion etc.). If you're looking for something long and fulfilling, this may just be the sci-fi book for you!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. who doesn't love Starship Troopers By Stephen L. Lange

A classic from a bygone era.. I am a big fan of Heinlein, who doesn't love Starship Troopers. I was excited to jump into this book because from what I read this was what he considered to be more adult science fiction that dealt into politics and other deeper issues. To me the book read like I was transported back into the 60's, it had a 60's feel that I found I really enjoyed. Without giving an spoilers away I don't know how I feel about the ending. I think this is going to be one of those books I have to go back and re-read to fully digest.

Recently I was in Dallas at the JFK book repository museum and was delighted to see this book references in one of the display areas. I would recommend younger readers give this book a wide berth for a while until you are older. I say that not as a slam against young readers, but as a reality check, this book can be pretty slow and verbose at times. Tackle it if you want, just be for warned.

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