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Rudy Rucker

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Rudy Rucker has seen the future. . .and it is extreme. The Godfather of cyberpunk--a mad scientist bravely meddling in the outrageous and heretical--Rucker created Bopper Robots, who rebelled against human society in his award-winning classic "Software.

Now, in 2053, "moldies" are the latest robotic advancement--evolved artificial lifeforms made of soft plastic and gene-tweaked molds and algae, so anatomically inventive and universally despised that their very presence on the planet has thrown the entire low-rent future into a serious tailspin. So the moon is the place to be, if you're a persecuted "moldie" or an enlightened "flesher" intent on creating a new, more utopian hybrid civilization. Of course up there, there are other intergalactic intelligences to contend with--and some not so intelligent--who have their own agendas and appetites.

This is scientific fabulation at its most brazenly inventive--funny, cutting-edge and deeply informed. No writer alive puts it all together like Rudy Rucker. Artificial life forms made of soft plastic and gene-tweaked mold and algae, moldies are evolved robots in the year 2053--anatomically inventive and universally despised. In a sleazy, low-rent future, sexual fraternization with moldies is strictly taboo--a societal sin that is of no concern whatsoever to Randy Karl Tucker. A Kentucky boy who has seriously strayed from the Heritagist religion's stern teachings about the evils of artificial life, Randy feels a definite something for Monique, moldie bookkeeper and maid at the Clearlight Terrace Court Motel But Monique's sudden and inexplicable abduction from the planet--coupled with unsettling revelations about Randy's own dubious origins--is dragging the degenerate flesher and all those around him into an ugly, conspiratorial mess. . .even as it pulls an unsuspecting humanity ever-closer to a stunning encounter with intergalactic intelligence.

Freeware Details

Date : Published March 1st 1998 by Eos (first published 1997)

ISBN : 9780380781591

Author : Rudy Rucker

Format : Paperback 262 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Cyberpunk, Fiction

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Download and Read Free Online Freeware Rudy Rucker

From Reader Review Freeware for online ebook

Dana Cameron says

Good, but a little tedious.

Natasha Powell says

This was the first book I read when I was able to check out the "Adult Books" in the library and one of the first Sci-Fi novels that stirred my fascination with the weird and uncommon. I enjoyed the complexity of the story plot, and even though I read this book before reading the first two, this book did what most books in a series can't. It could've been a stand alone novel.

Rudy Rucker explained things I might have missed through action and dialogue and didn't waste my time with long paragraphs of exposition. His word play and ability to describe the world was the best part of the book. I embarrassingly enjoyed his description of being inside a biological android. He elicited emotion from me and taught me how to do the same in my writing.

Since it's been a good ten plus years since I've read this, I think I'll start the series again and take a time machine back to 17.

Markus Jevring says

This book was absolute garbage. I quite liked the first book in the trilogy. I had my reservations. The second one was also quite ok, but then for the third, this book, he pulled out all the stops and everything turned to shit. This is one of the few books I have had the dissatisfaction of actually not finishing. It's that bad. Avoid this book if you can. Because of this book, I will never again read Rudy Rucker. If you want to still like Rucker, stop at the first book, Software.

Angela Randall says

Rudy Rucker has reprinted the series as a complete set: The Ware Tetralogy. As a bonus, he's also released the whole Tetralogy as a free PDF available on his site.

Bradley says

I'm still in awe with this series, and here's the plain truth: So much happens, so many huge changes to humanity and the Bobbies, that each novel feels like a completely new universe.

However, we've got a truly delicious continuation of family and an evolution of the same characters we've grown to know and love. Yes, even Stay High is still around, as is his father in a way and now we get to see all about his children. :) It's amazing how things turn out.

Especially the mold.

My god! The moldies!!! They killed off all the Bobbies. Intelligent plastics and mold that are perfect shape-changers, wiping out one whole intelligent species to make a mess of everyone else.

And yes, of course they take over the moon and become second-class citizens (and furniture) on Earth. I really like how they can be space-suits and rocket ships and flying gulls and underpaid dishwashers. But as for the story, I especially love how they can become Indian goddesses and how they laugh at human's sexual perversions.

Want mold? Do you loooooove mold? *laugh*

This review can't do the book justice. Just know that some of the strangest worlds and words in science fiction comes out of Rudy Rucker's works. He's striving ahead of the post-singularity crowd even before the Singularity crowd has gathered. It's pretty amazing. Let's alter reality with each book and make a real mess of intelligent species, a complete revolution of science and life and understanding wit every generation... and we're not far past 2050!

And to make things worse, aliens are transmitting themselves to unprotected moldies on the moon! It's an invasion of smart and some rather dumb aliens! Oh, no! :) :)

Is it going to be another genocide? Something worse? Will Stay High or his son or anyone else be melted down again and cloned or turned into a robot or a moldie or some sort of standing wave function again? Who knows! Maybe all of the above, and maybe they'll have to ride a moldie's skin while sharing time with an intelligent sunspot that wants to eat the moon like a lollipop. WHO KNOWS!

This is some crazy cool stuff. When we're not getting high with all variations of drugs or mathematical transforms we're inundated with math-speak so beautiful it may as well be poetry! And it is. Poetry that is. :) It's beautiful to see and the images in the text will stay in my mind for a very long time.

This is truly weird SF. This is cutting-edge weird and this one is almost 20 years old now! How odd! :)

And totally awesome, dude. :)

KMO says

Here's the review I posted to Amazon:

I loved this book. It's light in style and narrative structure, and Rucker doesn't take himself at all seriously. Rudy Rucker is a brilliant mathematician and science fiction writer, and his protagonist, Randy Karl Tucker, is an uneducated redneck, whose primary passion is for sex with artificial life forms that smell of cheese.

Other characters include a down-to-earth California surfer girl who, along with her stoner mathematician husband, runs a fleabag sea-side resort in the autonomous nation of California, the head of a corporate empire who made his fortune selling burgers made from the cloned flesh of his half-human wife, and a delightful host of "moldies," artificial life forms with the power of gods, short lifespans, and generally no other ambition than to buy enough of the expensive high-tech goo of which they're made to form a child to perpetuate their own software.

This book is an absolute gem.

Florin Pitea says

Read it in preparation of my Ph D Thesis. It was okay, but not up my alley.

Kim Zinkowski says

B.

Miodrag Mitic says

Follows the Software and Wetware books. The bottom line is that the chip mold virus that destroyed the "boppers" has produced a new life form called "moldies". Confused? Well start reading! The series is very funny and most entertaining. Specially, when human "cheeseballs" who have sex with moldies in this latest installment.

Norman Howe says

An engineered mold has wiped out the Boppers", " and incidentally destroyed all chip-based technology on Earth. From the ashes rises a new kind of artificial intelligence", " the Moldies. Now humans and Moldies cooperate", " and occasionally try to control each other's minds. That is", " until aliens arrive", " borne on cosmic rays", " and try to take over everyone.

Derek says

More wtf? than Wetware.

Huge parts of this book are pornographic. Now, I don't have anything against pornography, per se, and I wouldn't even have considered this as such, except that Rucker is trying **so** hard to make you believe that Randy Tucker is a pervert.

The problem with pornography is not (necessarily) that it's vile, but that it tends to be **boring!**

I doubt I'll ever bring myself to read volume 4 (Realware).

Felix Zilich says

האם יש משהו בפורנוגרפיה שמגדיר אותה כ"בoring"? האם זהו תכונה של הפורנוגרפיה עצמה או של הצופים? האם יש משהו בפורנוגרפיה שמגדיר אותה כ"boring"? האם זהו תכונה של הפורנוגרפיה עצמה או של הצופים?

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Susan Rainwater says

How to describe Rucker's *Ware* books? They are engaging, vulgar, addicting, offensive, entertaining, can't put down astonishing, twisted. I can't get away from the twin reactions of "why am I reading this offensive crap" and "I can't wait to see what happens next."

If you are a reader of delicate sensibilities who needs trigger warnings, don't read these books. Have a nice sit down with Jane Austen.

If on the other hand, you are a cyberpunk fan with a sense of adventure, Rucker's *Ware* tetralogy is for you.

Chris Nagy says

This installment in the *Ware* series was a bit longer and more chaotic than the previous two novels. I have to say I was put off at first by the fairly graphic depictions of aberrant sexual behavior. It was disgusting, so I cringed my way through and then it was over. That said, the book picked up steam for me about a third of the way through and then it felt more like a *Ware* novel-comic book like, fun, and yet disturbing. A perfect set of books for summer reading.

Jennifer Seyfried says

Still good if you're a fan of the first two, but maybe not as good as they were. He does keep finding new ways for androids to evolve, to become more "human," and for humans to embrace the process. And to still be oh so human. In addition, now there are aliens. I kind of question that addition, and I think that's why I didn't like this one as much as the first two. You can be sure that I am still hooked enough to read the next one!

Nicole G. says

These just keep getting stranger . . . Now the new robots have formed out of the mold and algae, and are known as moldies. Humans don't like moldies too much, except as menial workers and the like. Although some humans like having sex with the moldies; their smell is a turn-on for the "cheeseballs." Bizarre, but now I have to know how it all ends!

JonSnow says

Loved it! These books just get more and more far out! To begin... my complaints... I will say this one had a different "vibe" to it than the first two. I found the out of sequence non-linearity of the first half+ to be a bit disorientating. It was difficult to follow the timeline because of it's constant jumpings into future/past past/future past/past... etc... despite the chapters being labeled by date...About 2/3 of the way through the book it finally cuts out that non-sense and returns to linearity. It began in medias res so to speak, which I'm generally okay with, and is often considered advisable. But... with this... I was thrown off by it too much.

This story could easily have been made linear. All Rudy Rucker did by going non-linear was confuse me.

This book was also a more complex read than the first two, more technical. Sometimes I would read paragraphs and have no clue what the hell I was reading. He would throw in a thousand mathematical and scientific terms I've never even heard of (or perhaps he made up). This made some parts hard to chew through.

Aside from non-linearity, and technicality of writing style, my last complaint is the uncharacteristically long chapters. I loved the short chapters of Software and Wetware. You jump into book 3 and it's, technical, hour long reads per chapter, non-linear. Made for a very awkward reading experience.

HOWEVER!! ALL OF MY COMPLAINING ASIDE.... WHAT A GOOD BOOK!! Yes... despite it's flaws, this was a fun read. Last night I spent over 7 hours during a 12 hour period of time reading a good majority of this book. So despite the chapters being long, the book being more technical, the non-linearity confusing the hell out of me... I enjoyed it in the end. I'm probably going to have to go back and skim through the book though, because there were a LOT of characters, confusing family trees, and my brain just didn't absorb everything on the first read. I should have taken my time with this book, but I really wanted to plow through it last night and move onto the last one. So I suppose that speaks to the quality of it.

I don't really want to say much about this book... I mean... I do... but I'd spoil everything... and if I put spoils in here, who'll read this? Then again, is this huge rant even worth reading? Just my thoughts I guess.

So what can I say... well... this book delved into some farrrrrrr outttttt ideas that I never would have conceived of. Each book has been like this so far... crazy ideas I have never heard tell of being used before (and I'm a huge science fiction fan, so I like to think I've been exposed to a lot of ideas). All I can say is... I've never read anything quite like these books before.

A dash of humor. A long diatribe of complex science talk. Some crazy twists. Throw in some farr out ideas... and you got yourself a cool book.

Eran says

While these books are not amazing, I like how each book is something different with new concepts, plots, and focus, but still following from previous ideas and continuing the same history in a cohesive manner. Quite a lot of cool tech ideas that are rather well thought out: the moldies themselves (I especially liked the description of how a moldie-bus ripples to get passengers to the back and clear room for new ones), the philters and the ideas of programming the perception of reality (and the use of Wscher and Penrose kind of math), perceiving 2D time, and alien life from that are ascended being decrypted back. So much originality in one book, and despite all the sci-fi it's still mostly comedic and slightly cartoonish (though that is also a slight disadvantage, it gets away with being light, but could also have been amazing delving seriously into any of these ideas).

Christoph says

Rucker is back again in the third part of this tetralogy. This go around, the moldies, a funambulist life-form that, although superior to humans, are living out a mostly subservient life on Earth while a large colony of them are self-exiled deep within the moon. Meanwhile, a fundamentalist religion has arisen opposing their mere existence on Earth blaming them for the debaucherous habits of humans, called cheeseballs, who like to use them for masturbatory purposes. These mysterious Heritagists are seemingly hatching a unimaginable conspiracy to annihilate them once and for all using a virus transmitted through a psychic phone called a uvvy. Or is it a moldie conspiracy to rise up and destroy the Earth once and for all? It all goes down on Halloween 2053, and then things start getting REALLY WEIRD.

This is just a fun little read, the whole series is so far. There are some moral symbolisms in the inhibited civil rights of the different species and different gender/sex lifestyles of the folks who populate these books, but ultimately its just a wild story. Rucker has invented characters, species, and even a patois all his own in this series that is basically, at its best, cyberpunk on acid. At its worst, the graphic sexual scenes between different lifeforms can be a bit weird to the level of harlequin romance but it serves a purpose in the story. Also the narrative does sort of have a sophomoric tone and plot sometimes becomes stretched thin or squished to fit a timescale but it all just lends itself to the Rucker style. If you read the first two and liked them, this one is sure to please!

Mark Schomburg says

Great first half. Then starts picking up the pieces of the earlier novels and gets blocky. Odd that the undersea creatures of one chapter don't also receive the moldie treatment - a little inconsistent, which changes the overall tone of the book, jarringly by its sudden naturalism. The reader shouldn't be temporarily removed from such a strange world as this, because it disrupts the unreality onslaught.
