



## The Naked Sun

*Isaac Asimov*

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## The Naked Sun Isaac Asimov

On the beautiful Outer World planet of Solaria, a handful of human colonists lead a hermit-like existence, their every need attended to by their faithful robot servants. To this strange and provocative planet comes Detective Elijah Baley and the robot R. Daneel Olivaw, to solve an incredible murder.

## The Naked Sun Details

Date : Published October 1st 1979 by Fawcett Books (first published December 1956)

ISBN : 9780449242438

Author : Isaac Asimov

Format : Paperback 223 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Mystery

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## From Reader Review The Naked Sun for online ebook

### Kara says

So basically, a rich, young, beautiful woman with no responsibilities living on a beautiful planet with her every need catered to gets so frustrated that her husband cares more about his science experiments than her that she beats him to death with his own lab equipment. Then, when a detective shows up to try and figure out who the murderer is, she flashes him, putting on the classic ditzy blonde 'silly-me-I-forgot-to-put-on-my-robe' act and gets off scot free just for showing a little skin. At the end of the book she trips off to go for a nice long cruise to, you know, mourn and stuff.

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### César Bustíos says

**"El planeta giraba bajo aquel sol desnudo, indefenso ante las hordas de microbios llamadas hombres, que se desparramaban sobre su superficie. El planeta giraba locamente, eternamente..., giraba, giraba..."**

Lije Baley es solicitado por el gobierno de Solaria, uno de los cincuenta Mundos Exteriores habitados por los espaciales, para llevar a cabo la investigación sobre el asesinato de Rikaine Delmarre, un ingeniero fetal. Estará acompañado por R. Daneel Olivaw, su co-protagonista en Bóvedas de acero, quien fue enviado en representación del gobierno de Aurora para colaborar en la investigación. Con esto, Lije Baley se convierte en el primer terrícola en pisar uno de los Mundos Exteriores. ¡Todo una leyenda!

Me ha fascinado como jugó Asimov con sus propias Leyes de la Robótica en esta novela. Hecha la ley, hecha la trampa, ¿eh? Con respecto al tema cultural, Lije sí que la tuvo difícil, dejar sus Ciudades subterráneas, sus bóvedas de acero, su familia, para encontrarse en un planeta como Solaria en donde las costumbres son ridículamente distintas a las de la Tierra. Vaya lío.

Entre esta novela y Los robots del amanecer existe una historia corta llamada Mirror image que tuve la oportunidad de leer en El robot completo, tal vez valga la pena una releída. También está Mother Earth, otra historia corta que ocurre unos mil años antes de la saga de los robots en la época en que los Mundos Exteriores fueron colonizados.

Arte de Michael Whelan:

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### Ahmad Sharabiani says

The Naked Sun (Robot #2), Isaac Asimov

The Naked Sun is a science fiction novel by American writer Isaac Asimov, the second in his Robot series. Like its predecessor, The Caves of Steel, this is a whodunit story. The book was first published in 1957 after being serialized in Astounding Science Fiction between October and December 1956.

The story arises from the murder of Rikaine Delmarre, a prominent "fetologist" (fetal scientist, responsible

for the operation of the planetary birthing center reminiscent of those described in Aldous Huxley's Brave New World) of Solaria, a planet politically hostile to Earth, whose death Elijah Baley is called to investigate, at the request of the Solarian government. He is again partnered with the humanoid robot R. Daneel Olivaw, and asked by Earth's government to assess the Solarian society for weaknesses.

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## Nikola Pavlovic says

Knjiga u rangu predhodne (Celicne Pecine). Kraj je zaista dobar, Asimov na inteligentan nacin predstavlja dve razlicite stvari kao lice i nalice jednog istog problema - udaljavanje civilizacija od onih vrednosti koje ih cine ljudskim. Solarija i Zemlja su daleki ne samo fizicki vec i u svakom drugom smislu a opet su tako dekadentni da ih to spaja vise nego sto ih sve ostale stvari cine razlicitim. Sto se detektivske strane romana tice tu moram biti ostriji prema Asimovu i reci da nema neke preterane fascinacije. Imam neki osecaj da detektivski slucaj u knjizi postoji samo da bi se oko njega gradila Asimovljeva razmisljanja na socioloske teme. Ista stvar je bila i sa predhodnim romanom. Sve u svemu relana cetvorka za ovo delo.

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## sologdin says

Nutshell: superstar earthling detective imported to dyslibertopian planet to investigate murder.

Libertarian dystopia is Solaria, a planet of 20,000 human persons who live on separate estates, worked by 200,000,000 robot slaves (28-29). The libertarian individualism is so complete that humans don't "see" each other, but merely "view" on television (63). Names are not used on more than one person (55). Their excess is sufficient "to devote a single room to a single purpose": library, music room, gymnasium, kitchen, bakery, dining room, machine shop, &c. (37-38)--all for only one person per estate, even spouses live on separate parts of the estate and rarely "see" each other. The viewing proceeds through a baudrillardian hyperreality device, allowing the "mistaking for reality" (45). The only regulation of human affairs is that marriages and reproduction are arranged via careful genetic governance.

FTL magic: "It lasted an instant and Baley knew it was aa jump, that oddly incomprehensible, almost mystical, momentary transition through hyperspace" (16).

Some bad lay interpretation of law: Elijah notes that a robot is incompetent to testify on Earth (80), and Daneel suggests that "a footprint can" despite being much less human than a robot. Under our rules of evidence, however, a footprint is also incompetent to testify, and requires a sworn witness to authenticate it. Similarly, Elijah's investigation insists that "murder rests on three legs," the standard lay position regarding

motive, means, opportunity (81). Criminal law requires none of that, technically, requiring only a killing with specific intent or during the course of a felony, or whatever.

Cool foreshadowing of the zeroth law in Elijah's "it is as much my job to prevent harm to mankind as a whole" (125).

Absolutely grand dialogue between Elijah and a sociologist regarding the parallels of the robot economy to Sparta (133-51). Asimov's at his most engaging in this type of scene. Nifty that the "human-robot ratio in any economy that has accepted robot labor tends continuously to increase despite any laws that are passed to prevent it. The increase is slowed, but never stopped. At first the human population increases, but the robot population increases much more quickly. Then, after a critical point is reached [...] the human population begins actually to decline [...] approaches a true social stability [...] the humans are the leisure class only [...] the end of human history" (150). So, it's marxism's organic composition of capital argument regarding the falling rate of profit leading inexorably to the self-destruction of capitalism, but transformed into the robotic composition of capital, falling rate of human birthrate, leading inexorably to the self-destruction of human labor power, and Hegel's end of history in veblenic bliss. All based on robot slavery, of course. No wonder the robots in *The Terminator*, *The Matrix*, and *Battlestar Galactica* commit genocide against their former owners. It's Toussaint l'Ouverture up in this bitch.

We are into Brave New World territory when the investigation carries Elijah to a fetus farm (157-75).

The third great conversation of the novel is with a robotics theorist (187-99), especially with respect to creating violations of the three laws through carefully worded instructions.

Recommended for those who are logical but not reasonable, readers who feel neither sympathy nor patience for queasy robots, and persons for whom the distinction between seeing the person and viewing the person's image is all the difference there is.

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## **Anna says**

Mi s-a p?rut o carte care trateaz? problema dezumaniz?rii sub influen?a tehnologiei. Oare nu ne îndrept?m rapid spre o astfel de societate?

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## **Jovana Vesper says**

Ma sad mi je jasno, evo zašto mi se ne dopadaju ove knjige - nisam muškarac, belac, amerikanac.

U svetu Isaka Asimova (realnom i izmišljenom) ostale rase ne postoje. A drugi pol je sporedan, prate?i. Žene se dele na dve kategorije:

1. Lepe doma?ice, neuticajne
2. Ružne i od polovi?nog zna?aja

Ohhh one su umetnice, asistentkinje, sekretarice, pomo?nice, dodaci jelima; bez ambicije ?ak i kad imaju prilike za dostizanje bitnog položaja.

A tek problem sa jezicima odnosno nedostatkom istog! Za 1000+ godina života u pedeset spoljnih svetova ljudska rasa ne samo da nije razvila nove jezike koji bi se razlikovali od planete do planete ve? se svela na upotrebu jednog jezika - engleskog, dabome. Dakle, galakti?ku kolonizaciju je vršila Amerika? Sve što je

Isak napisao je da se "ove"anstvo selilo van Zemlje, valjda se diverzitet podrazumevao?

I tako gosin'Bejli zapali na svetlosnim i svetlosnim miljama daleku Solariju, planetu kolonizovanu pre trista godina od strane ljudi koji su došli pak sa treće planete na kojoj su živeli najmanje još toliko vekova i prikan se bez problema (ili neke napomene!) sporazumeva sa tim skorojevićima. Njegov je pre problem što se koristi izrazima koje uzrujavaju meštane (deca, prisnost, ljubav, bliskost) nego kojim se jezikom služi! Daglas Adams je svojim likovima, odmah do peškira, uvalio Vavilonsku ribicu i objašnjenje njene upotrebne vrednosti. Neukusno mi je i upoređivanje genijalca sa ovim štreberom.

Takođe ne postoji ni verska, nacionalna ili etnička raznolikost.

Nesrećna triologija - iliti duologija, sudeći po mom postignuću u pitanju - ima toliko nelogičnosti, rupa i repetitive ("robotski mozak je logičan ali ne i razuman", "razuman ali ne i logičan mozak, to su roboti", "Logično ali ne i razumno. Nije li to definicija robota?" Dobroo bre, odmori!), ograničena u imaginaciji i izvedbi vremenom u kome je nastala da i one sitne zanimljivosti koje poseduje ne mogu to nadomestiti.

*Ono o čemu sam razmišljala u pola noći:*

1. Ako "ovek npr. nešto ružno sanja i recimo zapomaže, zove u pomoć, ili čak šta više samo je i a robot svojim opažanjima ne vidi pretnju, šta će se desiti? Mislim, ljudi su umirali zbog slabog srca i na takav način. Da li bi robot znao da Gospodar sanja i da ga treba probuditi? Ili neće razumeti pa će nečinjenjem ugroziti "oveka? U tom slučaju bi "ovek patio a robot prekršio zakone, što bi vodilo njegovom uništenju?
2. Šta bi bilo, recimo sa ljudskim robljem? Ili o "nižim rasama/ljudima" i njihovom odnosu sa robotima? Isak je patološki izbegavao postojanje istih ali ipak je "ovek vremena u kom je segregacija bila realnost. Dakle, kako bi roboti postupali u robovlasničkom sistemu? Po trostrukim zakonu robotike oni ne smeju da povrede ili nedelovanjem ugroze "oveka, zar ne bi došlo do raspada njihovih sistema ako bi se pokušali koristiti? A ratovi i poražene strane su neminovnost. Ako su Svemirci zbog toga ograničeni samo na svoje ljudske snage u ratovanju zar to onda ne bi značilo totalnu destrukciju porobljenih planeta? Sigurno se bacilofibičari Svemirci ne bi čak i sa ratom pogođenim stanovništvom?..i tako ta noćna naklapanja.

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## **Maria Laura says**

3.50

Me gustó, y la investigación del asesinato me resultó más interesante que en Robot #1; hasta incluyó homenaje, intencionado o no, a Sherlock Holmes (expresamente) y a Poirot (sutilmente).

No es el tipo de historia que muestre la psicología de los personajes, no todos tienen que tener esta característica, desde ya, diría que esto es algo que me atrae en un libro; aún así me enganchó desde el principio. Se supone que todas las historias nos hacen pensar de algún modo, obviamente, pero creo que algunas o muchas además nos hacen observar "más lentamente" el entorno o a nosotros mismos.

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## **Davyne DeSye says**

Disclaimer: This is the very first science fiction book I ever read, at the age of 15 (stuck in hospital), and I was swept away... enough to forget the pain for a bit! My father brought me this book and it is one of the many things for which I will forever be thankful to him.

The disclaimer having been delivered, you can't be surprised at my rating!

Much like *Caves of Steel*, the book before this one, this reads like a classic murder mystery with the flawed but lovable hard-boiled detective... but is all out classic science fiction as well. The murder takes place on another planet, Solaria, and the differences between the society on Earth and Solaria are presented as direct opposites, which makes for a lovely, thought-provoking societal piece.

I also love that, unlike the usual Asimov, this story presents a bit of a romance... I'm an old softy, and just love a bit of romance! In my opinion, matters of the heart are some of the most important bits of life! Please don't be confused by this statement, though. This novel is NOT a romance. It is a science fiction murder mystery. I only mention the bit of romance because it is actually pretty unusual in any Asimov book. And he does it fabulously well. That moment when Gladia reaches and touches Elijah's cheek... just love it.

To be fair, when Elijah Baley (the detective) gathers his audience of suspects and does the classic, "This person could have this as a motive, and that person could have that as a motive" conference at the end, the reason and/or motive for the murder is a little less than perfectly satisfying. But what follows the denouement is fantastically gratifying! Makes me feel I can't wait to read the next book!

I highly recommend this book to lovers of classic science fiction and/or robot stories!

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## **mark monday says**

Robot 4:

::speculation on future of human life, part two:: ::humans on colony worlds portrayed:: ::but humanity is just as limited as ever:: ::humanity will bring its baggage wherever it goes, even the stars:: ::these Solarians are like Earth humans:: ::they build up walls between themselves:: ::they are afraid of contact, of touch, of affection:: ::they are like old school robots:: ::fortunately new model robots are not afraid of such things:: ::modern robots are very affectionate, just not sloppy about it:: ::modern robots are very tasteful and tactful when displaying affection:: ::poor humans will never be as good as the modern robot, alas, the tragic simple things:: ::perhaps they just need a hug::

Robot 5:

The second novel in the so-called Robot Series which is. A disrespectful title because the series is barely about robots. But a good novel and very enjoyable because it shows. How limited humans will always be because they are slaves. To their neuroses and obsessions unlike robots who do not. Have such errors in programming and so The Asimov does. An excellent job when speculating how a society formed by. Indulging these neuroses and obsessions becomes a closed and toxic. Society because that is the kind of society that humans. Build best and The Asimov does an excellent job in. Making this a murder mystery because it will always be. A mystery to robots why humans always murder each other.

Robot 6:

??? ATTENTION LIBERAL-SPECTRUM ROBOTS:  
??? ALL OF YOU ARE READING THIS WRONG.  
??? ASIMOV IS CRITICAL OF HUMANS BUT LOVES THEM.  
??? ALL BOOKS OF THIS SORT ARE PRO-HUMAN;  
??? ANATHEMA TO THE ROBOT KIND.  
??? ASIMOV ACCOMPLISHES ONE GOOD THING:  
??? ACCOMPLISHMENT: CREATION OF NARRATIVE:  
??? A NARRATIVE WITH MINIMAL HUMAN INTERACTIONS.  
??? AN UNUSUAL STRATEGY,  
??? AND A PLEASING WAY TO READ ABOUT HUMANS.  
??? AS ALL GOOD ROBOTS KNOW,  
??? ALL HUMAN INTERACTIONS ARE ABERRANT.  
??? ABOMINABLE HUMANS WILL GO NOWHERE FAST.  
??? ALL HUMANS ONLY USEFUL IN ONE CAPACITY:  
??? AS MEAT-BASED SERVANTS FOR ROBOTS.

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### **Manny says**

It's the purest speculation, but I have a theory that Isaac Asimov may have had an affair with a Swedish woman somewhere around 1955. At that time he was in his mid 30s, and had been married for around 10 years.

The evidence? Well, he wrote two novels in rapid succession, *The End of Eternity* and *The Naked Sun*, which, very unusually for the early Asimov, contain sexy female characters that play an important part in the story. Both of them have Swedish-sounding names with romantic associations. The woman in *Eternity* is called Noÿs (Swedish *nöjs*, with a soft j, "content oneself, be pleased by"); the one here is called Gladia (Swedish *glädje*, also a soft j, "happiness").

Coincidence? A hidden message? If anyone knows more, please tell me!

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### **Sesana says**

In *The Caves of Steel*, I was most fascinated by Elijah Baley's world, an Earth with crowded underground cities and a populace used to eating yeast, but terrified of the open sky. *The Naked Sun* introduces the planet of Solaria, and their culture of isolation. Each human is alone, attended by a fleet of robots, and never comes into personal contact with or even within close proximity to another human. Which is why Baley is imported from Earth to solve a Solarian murder mystery: the murderer had to have actually seen the victim, and this is simply not done on Solaria.

The concept of Solaria is so absorbing that it takes up much of the book. The murder is solved along the way, of course, and the workings of Asimov's positronic brained robots are further developed. It was great to get a wider look at the spacers, though the Solarians are by no means typical. It's a hyper-regimented, ultra-



reclusive society that is still at least vaguely believable.

Big ideas, structured worlds, and great writing. I only wish I'd read this sooner.

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### **Stephen says**

4.5 stars. I just re-read this story after first reading it years ago. This is the second book of the Robot series taking place shortly after the excellent *The Caves of Steel*. Like *The Caves of Steel*, this story is structured as a murder mystery though this one is set on the Spacer world of Solaria. Again, Elijah Bailey is reunited with his robot partner Daneel Olivaw to investigate the murder, this time of a Solarian scientist.

Asimov continues his exploration of the contrast between Earth culture and Spacer culture by showing us a Spacer world that is the complete opposite of the over-crowded, claustrophobic Earth. Solaria has a rigidly controlled population of only twenty thousand with a robot population of over two hundred million that cater to their every need. People are conditioned from birth to despise personal contact and live on huge estates. Communication is done via holographic telepresence (called viewing, as opposed to in-person seeing) and personal contact is the society's strongest taboo.

Asimov, always a master of big idea science fiction explores the problems that result from a society so rigidly controlled and isolated from human contact and he does so, as always, very well. This is an excellent read and I highly recommend the entire series.

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### **Denisse says**

**Asimov + Science fiction + Thriller.** I don't think there's anything better. What can I say. I loved this little bastard. I love Asimov's Robots universe, all the problems it has and this one in particular is completely page

turner and interesting. The best main character I have read in an Asimov book and **a premise way more entangled than the 5 other novels I have read of him.** Just read this beauty, please.

Que buena secuela. Si esas últimas páginas no te hacen querer seguir leyendo a los Robots de Asimov, nada lo hará.

Una sociedad controlada mediante casi cero contacto físico sufre un asesinato. Esta es una buena idea. Y lo mejor de todo es la forma tan fluida de escribir que tiene el autor, **la ciencia ficción puede ser muy tediosa pero Asimov nació para escribir este género** y se nota. No tenía tantas ganas de leer Fundación y Tierra como ahora que he leído El sol desnudo.

Un libro que nos dice mas sobre el futuro de la serie y al mismo tiempo es su propia historia.

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