



Cadete del espacio

Robert A. Heinlein , Ester Mendía Picazo (Translator)

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LOS SUEÑOS DE MATT DODSON ERAN SENCILLOS: QUERÍA SER CADETE DEL ESPACIO. EL DESTINO TENÍA OTROS PLANES PARA ÉL.

«Uno de los maestros más reconocidos de la ciencia ficción, que mezcla un estilo elegante y de ritmo vertiginoso con personajes fascinantes, unos diálogos ingeniosos e ideas que hacen reflexionar.»—*Diario de Navarra*

«Un relato excitante, extraño, colorista, pero al mismo tiempo muy creíble, pues este autor siempre se ha distinguido por el verismo que sabe dar a sus personajes y a los ambientes en que se mueven.»—*tercerafundacion.net*

«El libro es, sin duda, una buena descripción de la esencia humana. Una buena novela, con unas escenas de instrucción sumamente elaboradas.»—*cyberdark.net*

«Una novela excelente sobre el futuro cercano, con unos detalles científicos tan sutilmente entretejidos en la trama y en la acción que el lector apenas si percibirá tan esmerado trabajo.»—*Locus*

Sinopsis: Año 2075, el joven Matt Dodson decide ingresar en una prestigiosa academia espacial. Allí conoce a otros jóvenes que persiguen el mismo sueño, pero solo los mejores y más brillantes, los más fuertes y valientes, logran convertirse en cadetes del espacio. Guardia de élite del sistema solar, aceptan misiones que otros temen, asumen riesgos que otros no se atreven a correr, y mantienen la paz por el bien de todos. Pero antes de que Matt pueda ganarse su legítimo lugar entre sus filas, su arrojo es puesto a prueba de las formas más duras y extraordinarias; formas que lo cambiarán para siempre, pero que no lo prepararán para las vilezas alienígenas que lo aguardan en extraños mundos muy alejados del suyo. Robert A. Heinlein está considerado, junto a Isaac Asimov y Arthur C. Clarke, uno de los tres pilares de la ciencia ficción pura, y sus libros han vendido más de cincuenta millones de copias solo en América.

Cadete del espacio Details

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From Reader Review *Cadete del espacio* for online ebook

Nikola Pavlovic says

Knjiga je napisana 1948. i prevedena u Srbiji 1952. SVAKA CAST!

Sto se samog dela tice mislim da je sjajno za osobe koje su u srednjoj skoli, ali ni ostali ne bi trebalo da se libe da ga procitaju. Prva polovina knjige podseca na Enderovu igru (Orson Skot Kard). Naucice vas pomalo o moralu i etici, sta je to tezak rad i kako on dovodi do uspeha. A u drugoj polovini videcete kako i zasto treba postovati razlicitosti. Sobzirom da je pisana 1948. odusevljavaju i pisceve zamisli kako bi tehnologija u buducnosti trebala da izgleda. Samo cu naglasiti da svi poseduju privatne mobilne telefone, fin detalj zar ne :)

Joe says

Another of Heinlein's classic juveniles, this book chronicles the adventures of a young man training to become a "Space Cadet" of the Space Patrol, a world wide force keeping peace in the solar system. from arrival at the training facility forward, Heinlein presents many sophisticated ideas while never talking down to his readers. Concepts like world government, a solution to the threat of nuclear war, as well as prognostications of technology such as cell phones. Not the only author to do so but in 1948? Surely one of the first. Last but certainly not least, the actual science behind space travel and space operations is presented in an exciting and understandable manner. In this book you will see the uncredited inspiration for Starfleet Command, in addition to a sprinkling of military psychology. Further, as a Navy man, Heinlein had an intimate understanding of the ideal conduct of interactions between A ship's commander, officers and crew. This is a subtle self correcting culture (bad commanders generally kill themselves along with thier crews) that has evolved over the centuries and is extremely difficult to depict correctly. As a former Navy man myself, my opinion is that Heinlein captures this ideal perfectly. There is a reason a number of Heinlein novels are on the required reading lists of the various United States uniformed services. Read it.

R.a. says

4.0 stars.

At first perusal, Robert Heinlein's *Space Cadet* seems a strange novel. But, upon reflection . . .

October 29, 1929:

The United States Stock Market undergoes its final "crash." Only a few months prior, a hopeful, young man, Robert A. Heinlein, 22-years-old, graduates from the U.S. Naval Academy with a degree in Naval Engineering.

August 1934:

Five years later, in the midst of the Great Depression, Lieutenant Heinlein, 27-years-old, still a young man, spends weeks in a hospital—then to be discharged from military service due to tuberculosis.

September 1, 1939:

Mr. Heinlein turns 32-years-old; and, across the Atlantic, Adolph Hitler's tanks cross over into Poland thereby starting officially World War II, the world's second "total war."

December 7, 1941:

Japan attacks the United States Naval Base, Pearl Harbor. Robert Heinlein, then 34 years-old, sees the installations of his previous military branch devastated and subsequently, his country enter the war.

September 8, 1944:

Germany puts into action the "retribution" or "vengeance" weapon; and the V-2 rocket attacks begin. Robert is then 37-years-old.

From his naval academy graduation and commissioning forward, from the beginning of his adult life to the dawn of his middle-age, Robert A. Heinlein, like his contemporaries, experienced an entire world's furious descent into total war and destruction.

Amidst this, Robert Heinlein begins writing, his then fourth career. And, as he turns 40-years-old, two years after the war's end, his "strange" novel *Space Cadet* heads to the publisher, then appears.

The novel's "strangeness" comes from the incongruity between its genre, (science fiction adventure), its then intended audience, ("juveniles"), and the serious and very mature ideas which the novel presents. But then, this author writing of some fictional future world apparently decided to write *for* some real future people.

And so, given the events that pervaded his entire adult life, Heinlein, in *Space Cadet* pens a possible future where *Peace is the way*. Indeed, given the "atomic arsenal" described in the novel, *Peace is the only way*. And, following this, his young characters, (boys / young men), thereby achieve excellence through selflessness, (care), continual learning / study, and "right" moral action.

This main idea of "peace," the author reinforces by exploring war, (annihilation) and peace, the many and the one, (sacrifice), the self and the other, (racism), and private interest and glory-seeking opposed to the good, the noble, and the just. And, underlying these, Heinlein obliquely lays a foundation of the outward contest aspect of males in relief against the "domestic," familial, and caring aspect of females. Additionally, this early novel seems, in some ways, to be a precursor to the worlds Heinlein later builds.

Given the novel's various accompanying artwork, plot summary, and blurb, a reader may expect a fast-paced adventure story with all the accompanying sci-fi gadgets. Unfortunately or fortunately, the reader learns that Heinlein "weighs down" both with extensive reinforcement of his ideas and technical explanations.

Yet, Heinlein's novel still captivates. The dynamic between the Patrol's ideals and the self-interest of the Federation's citizenry becomes not only timeless, but especially today, prescient. The *very deliberate* creation of Venerian society as matriarchal and "bisexual," (in today's discourse, Heinlein's meaning translates to "asexual"), coupled with dialogue about race and recognition of "a people," anticipates a changing United States, and hopefully, a "better" society and culture. Lastly, Heinlein presents an indictment against human nature itself, describing man, (human), -kind as innately possessing "a cussedness." And, this surprising statement provides an even greater motivation to present and explain the Patrol's inspiring philosophy of excellence.

Despite all the accomplishments, *Space Cadet* still has obstacles for the reader. The author's obscuring of the cadets' ages for over half the novel becomes a *most* frustrating experience, though finally, he does provides

an anchoring clue.

Though many readers may enjoy a novel in which the first two-thirds of the narrative follow a character through a military course, some military or veteran readers may find this *incredibly* boring. The author saves himself and the reader, though, by providing somewhat detailed explanations of the science behind the workable ships and gadgetry.

Additionally, though a sci-fi adventure novel, the author nevertheless stretches believability with a particular major event and the “super-trooper fix-it” abilities of some of the characters. Lastly, Heinlein’s cadet characters suffer from a lack of development. Even a sentence or two more for each cadet could have further distinguished each from the other.

Because he writes “in layers,” Heinlein “saves” his novel from its worn “military coming-of-age” plot structure by giving attention to actual science, creating a specific and prescient political landscape, and balancing the adventure with serious, and even dark, ideas. And, through his “world building,” he suggests a positive future, one hopeful—despite a history of such devastation.

For such a “little young adult,” adventure narrative, Heinlein presents very big, fundamental, and pressing ideas: “What is civilization,” for example. And so, despite frustrations, *Space Cadet* makes quite an impression.

And, given the recent popularity of Collins’ *The Hunger Games* series, *Space Cadet* could return to the bookshelves, then land into the hands of young people, once again. Perhaps then, this novel will not seem so “strange.”

Out of a seemingly driving curiosity, I could not help but check on this novel’s Lexile Level. Unfortunately, those reviewers apparently have not yet “scored” it.

Hmmm.

That is strange.

Buck says

This is one of Heinlein's Juveniles. It's strong evidence in support of the saying "The golden age of science fiction is 12." The science is authentic (except for Venus being hospitable for human habitation and having its own intelligent native species), the characters are simplistic, the story is a little sappy. (Sappy is a word that probably was in the popular vernacular when *Space Cadet* was written in 1948). It's good old fashioned science fiction. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Monica says

Siempre he sido de la opinión que cuando lees al gran maestro de maestros, no debes quedarte con la

“aparente línea narrativa que te expone” en cada una de sus obras, pues las lecturas de Heinlein tienen muchas capas, cual la cebolla. Y dicho esto, con ‘Cadete del espacio’ me ratifico en ello una vez más, pues al re leer ésta ,a priori, narración acerca del reclutamiento, entrenamiento y un par de misiones de los cadetes novatos, el lector adulto, y especializado en Heinlein sobretudo, vislumbrará metáforas asiduas en su obra, y se sorprenderá con otras que no había tenido en cuenta en su anterior lectura.....

‘Cadete del espacio’ parte con un protagonista en especial; Matt Donso, que va a pasar las pruebas para poder formar parte de éste esencial y especial cuerpo estelar, que son los patrulleros de la Galaxia, y por ende, los controladores para que la paz se siga manteniendo en el año 2075. Ya que en ésa actualidad lejana, los habitantes desconocen, afortunadamente, el significado de la palabra Guerra (una utopía que todos quisiéramos, por cierto..y Heinlein el que más a pesar que lo tildaran siempre de pro militar, xd). Allí conocerá a parte de los que serán el trío protagonista de la historia: él, Tex y Oscar, con la añadidura de un antagonista en la ecuación: Burke, y un mini alter ego de Heinlein: su teniente instructor, Wong. Cómo os habréis fijado, aquí, y casi excepcionalmente, no hay mujeres por medio, y no es porqué no puedan ser reclutadas cómo cadetes (pues no se especifica ésa información), sino porqué el autor tenía otro propósito narrativo en mente....(después lo explico).

Así pues, y con ésta triada, además de dos secundarios importantes a nivel argumental, y para el desarrollo crítico de la obra, encontraremos tres principales divisiones o partes en ésta:

La primera parte (que establece las premisas de los principios narrativos del autor) se basa en el reclutamiento y pruebas de los aspirante a cadetes. Aquí se nos plantea y presenta (y escanea) a todos los personajes principales a la perfección, de manera práctica y mediante sus acciones, haciéndonos ver los que ‘pueden aportar valores inherentemente positivos’ a la patrulla y los que son de base malos, codiciosos y por lo tanto, no aptos. Heinlein critica el poder por el poder, y su fanatismo, expone un futuro en el cual, más que las aptitudes específicas para obtener la plaza, es de vital importancia, la bondad del aspirante: “ no basta con que sean expertos, inteligentes y valientes...los depositarios de éste enorme poder deben tener, cada uno, un estricto sentido del honor, autodisciplina por encima de toda ambición[...] respeto por todas las libertades y la dignidad de todas las criaturas ...”

Y por lo tanto, es también un mensaje acerca del respeto por la pluralidad y la empatía con los demás: ‘cuando vayas a Roma, haz como los Romanos’. Ya que los cadetes pueden ser, además, de cualquier parte del universo.

Un dato curioso: en 1948 el maestro escribió acerca de reconocimiento por huella digital y de telefonía móvil..ahí lo dejo.

En su segunda parte, (la más filosófica, y en dónde comienza la crítica Heinleiniana) que abarca la disciplina de la enseñanza (física, matemáticas, historia del universo, valores humanos...) y entrenamiento de pruebas específicas en el exterior (astronavegación, volar por el espacio libre con propulsores...), conoceremos que hubo una revuelta de Coroneles y golpe de estado, previa a la inserción de los Cadetes espaciales como cuerpo disciplinar de la patrulla del espacio, que afortunadamente desmantelaron el arsenal que tenían en poder los militares de cabezas atómicas y que ahora están en manos , y supervisión, de los Cadetes. Heinlein aquí critica abiertamente al militarismo llevado a todos los campos (cómo ya lo hiciera con la famosa ‘Tropas del espacio’; una casi siempre malinterpretada obra, que no hace más que satirizar ,ácidamente, lo que sería un futuro en el cual sólo fuera válido una ciudadanía militar, y los demás la plebe, sin beneficios ni apenas recursos), que bajo su opinión, es necesario tener de reserva, pero en casos excepcionales.

Wong hace una descripción exhaustiva de las diferencias entre Cadetes e Infantería:

“Toda jerarquía militar estimula la conducta conservadora [...] tiende a penalizar el pensamiento original e imaginativo”

Si bien, cabe mencionar, el auto despido de uno de los miembros más antiguos del cuerpo, a la espera de una

misión, por darse cuenta que, al fin de cuentas, su oficio es un arma de doble filo...¿realmente es necesario cubrir un arsenal atómico y utilizarlo en casos mayores, llegado el momento (aún siendo un cuerpo defensivo y no ofensivo como el de los militares) ¿no es posible la paz por la paz?

Pero no sólo tenemos crítica, ya el maestro nos describe la monotonía del espacio, y compara y equipara, el trabajo e inmersión de éste cuerpo especial, al de los pescadores de alta mar, que siempre han sido fundamentales para traer prosperidad a los suyos, pero que deben ser 'de otra raza' para fundirse y aguantar en ésa gran 'cárcel' que es el infinito horizonte, que los absorbe hasta hacerles añorar su 'espacio vital' en las pequeños permisos que puedan disponer, cómo se ve reflejado en un pasaje con la vuelta temporal de Matt a su antiguo hogar.

En éste tramo narrativo hay cabida para el apartado más técnico de la obra (con bastante física de por medio) y algo de Química e ingeniería, pero como siempre al servicio del argumento y no al revés. También para la parte más Space opera: con un tramo espectacularmente visual; cuando los Cadetes en ciernes aprenden a volar en el espacio.

Datos curiosos: tienen un lector vocal como el Google voz, además de un ordenador que se activa por ésta y en el cual puedes estudiar sin los dedos, haciendo anotaciones cuando hablas que quedan registradas...¿el ordenador del futuro?. Y las sesiones principales de estudio se hacen mediante hipnosis y no hay aulas ni horarios que cubrir sino tramos de conocimiento que absorber. ¿La universidad Online en 1948?...ahí lo dejo...:

“ tu verdadera tarea es la de aprender a pensar” [...]“ La idea básica de la escuela es que un hombre piense correctamente, automáticamente se comportará bien moralmente”

En la tercera parte, la triada protagonista (Matt: el instintivo, leal, sensible y disciplinado, Tex: el valiente y enérgico, y Oscar: el diplomático y más inteligente) es enviada a su primera misión a bordo de la Aex Triplex en búsqueda de una nave perdida. Sin embargo, ésa no es la misión importante de éste último tramo narrativo, ya que son avisados de un SOS de una nave en Venus, debido a una revuelta local contra unos mercaderes a bordo de la Gary.

Aquí, ni más ni menos Heinlein plantea una metáfora acerca de la devastación de los auténticos Nativos Americanos por parte de los Pioneros que poblaron sus tierras y los mataron. Sus descendientes. Y con ésta, crítica el abuso de los humanos contra otros seres, y su gusto por el exterminio y la colonización..cuando no los han llamado a la fiesta, especialmente.

En el aspecto técnico se nos habla de Química Catalizadora, y en el más polémico y futurible, acerca de la posibilidad de la auto destrucción de un planeta por fusión nuclear.

Otro punto a analizar, y no cuestionar cómo raro, es que el pueblo Venusiano es básicamente un Matriarcado, en dónde la voz general es en femenino, y dónde el varón es escaso, débil y debe ser protegido. El autor siempre ha defendido la supremacía y superioridad de las mujeres.

Cosa distinta es que éstas, las Venusianas en la obra, sean un pueblo bisexual...sí, cómo lo leéis, y que además, a los Cadetes les parezca estupendo o no les importe...y es aquí es **cuando viene mi auténtico descubrimiento en su re lectura** . Y es que es en la consecución de la aventura, cuando se 'cuaja' todo lo que Heinlein va cociendo a fuego lento durante el libro, y no es ni más ni menos que: la atracción sexual entre dos de los integrantes de la triada...por descontado, es todo sumamente sutil (quizá en ésa época pensó que se lo vetarían si lo exponía abiertamente), ya que en todo momento no hay un 'acercamiento' visible, pero, por un lado, ves la fanfarronería de los integrantes de los Cadetes, pero que no tienen novias ni ligan (¿militares gays que ocultan sus propósitos dándose las de machos?), y las características de éstos dos integrantes, y su inmediata 'camaradería', con un pasaje especialmente escandaloso metafóricamente hablando: cuando uno le comenta al otro que está guapo, aún sin serlo...o sea. Me gustas y no sé porqué, hay química entre nosotros!). Y su ya consecución, con los planes de pasar juntos su permiso extraordinario y presentarse mutuamente a las familias, xd.

Así pues, *Cadete del espacio* resulta una de las obras más metafóricas de Heinlein (que ya es mucho decir), que hay que ir rascando conforme lees para captar sus diversos mensajes, inteligentemente recubierta de una historieta Space para los más jóvenes, y en la que logró comenzar a integrar su aspecto narrativo liberal, sexualmente hablando, en una época en la que era impensable encontrar una 'voz escrita' que proclamase las libertades sexuales de las personas, y más en éste género.

Walter Underwood says

You'd probably pass this one up because of the title, but you'd be wrong. Yes, a lot of the plot is predictable, but there is something interesting going on besides the regular academy and coming-of-age stuff. The Space Patrol is in charge of a global deterrent, orbiting nuclear weapons. The folk on the ground are so used to peace that even talking about the bombs is impolite. Could we make a lasting peace out of Mutually Assured Destruction? What kind of guardians would we need to make that work? The chill of the cold war spawns a bit of hope.

Heinlein's Space Patrol has a lot in common with Doc Smith's Galactic Patrol, but without the all-knowing Arisians to keep them on course. This time, it is all up to the humans.

Of course, *Ender's Game* is the best space cadet novel of all time, but I think it is a lot stronger if you know which direction a space cadet story is supposed to go. There are always a couple of cadets who don't make the grade because they aren't moral enough, but we don't expect them to be psychopaths. Space Cadet stands on its own, but if you haven't read *Ender's Game*, you now have another reason to read Heinlein first.

Shan says

Read in 1969 or so, and reread probably a dozen times in the 70s. Haven't read it since. I loved it, and always went back to my homework feeling energized and determined after reading it.

Lyn says

As *Space Cadet* by Robert A. Heinlein begins, a candidate for a space program takes a phone out of his bag and calls his father. Modern readers may pass by this communication with little notice, but describing a cell phone in 1948, the year this was first published, was at the time the height of science fiction.

The second published of his Scribner's juvenile works, this very early Heinlein displays his talent for telling a good, hard science fiction story. One cannot read this without noticing a similarity to his later book *Starship Troopers* and what must have been an influence on Orson Scott Card's *Ender's Game*.

Astute readers will pick up on early traces of his later libertarianism, though with a paternalistic twist. Heinlein also explores issues of idealism, militarism and even (16 years before Farnham's Freehold and the Civil Rights Act) racism.

This is good for RAH fans as well as a good read for readers just getting to know Heinlein; a very good example of the charisma of his juvenile novels.

Andrea says

Books written about the future inevitably at some point become alternate histories. First published in 1948, "Space Cadet" builds a post-2100 solar system where Venus is not only habitable, but inhabited, where Mars and Ganymede are colonisable, and spaceships are rocket-shaped and can take a couple of years to travel between planets.

Military academy stories share many of the same beats and cadences of boarding school and wizard school stories: newcomer arrives at school, gains an antagonist, builds lifelong friendships, hovers between overwhelmed and over-achiever, increases in competence and then usually encounters a challenge "out of their pay scale", something which adults would normally deal with, but which circumstances mean that the student and his or her plucky band of friends must deal with themselves.

"Space Cadet" hits these notes without any really surprising turns. Our plucky newcomer, Matt, is a sample of a fine and upstanding young man – modest, enquiring, honest to a fault. And that's fortunate indeed because he's trying to qualify for an organisation which emphasises intellectual exceptionalism as a means of creating people of higher moral fibre – people who have the responsibility of keeping the peace in a post-nuclear war world, and who are entrusted with the maintenance and control of a large number of nuclear weapons, ready to enforce that peace in a nuke-the-site-from-orbit fashion (which fortunately hasn't been necessary for many years). The science, the quest for knowledge and understanding while living up to a valorous tradition, is the meat of the story.

There's a strong emphasis in the story on not being racist – with careful displays of the multicultural nature of the Patrol, as well as a need to respect local customs, including the customs of the inhabitants of Venus, who become tangled in the end-game of the story. On the whole, for its time, "Space Cadet" is quite a forward-thinking novel in its intentions. At the same time, this is a multiculturalism filtered through a very American channel. The values of the Patrol are extremely American, the academy is based in the US, the universal language 'Basic' is a simplified variant of English.

And then, of course, there are the women.

The blurb of my edition of this book (published in 1969) tells us "The story is about the young men who are training to be officers in the Interplanetary Patrol ... and reaffirms the glorious interplanetary traditions of bravery, resourcefulness and revolutionary brotherhood."

There are no women in the Patrol. None in the Academy. Indeed, for a while I thought there'd be no women in the book, beyond a couple of glimpses of attractive females not relevant to the story, and given the way early Heinlein talks about women I considered this not necessarily a bad thing. [The Patrol is not primarily a combat organisation - there's Space Marines for that kind of ass-kicking. Qualifying for the Patrol requires smarts, nerve and morals, not physical strength.]

When our young hero goes for a home visit, about a year into his training, we glimpse the women in this universe and perhaps understand why they aren't in the Patrol. The purpose of the visit is the "you can't go home because you are no longer the same" message often encountered in bildungsromans – with an emphasis on the intellectual and general superiority of people in the Patrol.

Then we meet Matt's former not-quite-girlfriend, and learn that she appears to have moved on from him romantically, but Matt considers that no real loss because "Marianne was the sort of girl who never would get clearly fixed in her mind the distinction between a planet and a star."

Indeed. A girl who can't be brought to understand the difference between "like the Earth" and "like the Sun" is probably not life-mate material. One would wonder if she would even be able to tie her shoelaces.

We then move on to Matt's mother, who is apparently incapable of understanding just what it is her son has gone off to join, let alone grasp the concept of "orbit", and displays the nervous temperament and intellectual capacity of a flustered chicken. [Matt's brother and father fare only slightly better – they are Earth-bound and non-exceptional.]

There are better females to meet later, however. The Venusians are a female-dominated society with a highly advanced chemical-based technology, and who become part of the book's message of honouring local customs and cultures. Of course, they're also peace-loving "Little People" who outwardly appear primitive, are incapable of understanding the concept of war, don't actually believe that stars exist (because of the clouds on Venus, y'know) and are kind of nags ("they don't fight; they just argue until somebody gives in". They're still given considerably more respect than any human female in the book, so it's not all bad in Lady-Land.

Manny says

Young Matt Dodson, an all-American 18-year-old from Iowa, joins the Space Academy. Their key task is to ensure world peace by dropping nuclear weapons on anyone who tries to do anything bad.

I know what you're going to say. But many of Matt's classmates come from outside the US! Not only that, they even have a sign up on the wall saying *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?*

So that's alright then.

Jeff Yoak says

This was a solid and enjoyable Heinlein juvenile, typical of his novels in that genre. It was a joy to discover one I hadn't yet read.

2017: This one was another hit with the kids!

Evgeny says

In the fairly distant future a teen named Matt Dodson applied for an organization called Space Patrol - the future versions of knights in shining armor that uphold peace and justice through the known space.

The competition is fierce and only the best and the brightest get in; even the cadets are not guaranteed to get promoted to an officer rank.

We are talking early Heinlien's juveniles here, so I do not think I give a big spoiler when I say that not only Matt succeeded, but he also managed to save a day together with his cadet friends. Once again Space Patrol remained true to its principals.

When I was reading the book I could not help recalling Ender's Game. Take this well-known book, remove all edginess, bleak moments, social commentary and you end up with Space Cadet. Please note I am not saying the book is bad; it was supposed to be a mindless entertainment for young adults who do not care about romances much and as such it passes with flying colors.

The characters are two-dimensional most of the time (although I really like somewhat stereotypical Texan Tex; bad pun is not mine) and are black-and-white with minimal grey shades. On the positive side the author manages to throw in some interesting scientific facts - from physics mostly - while making them fun to read about.

All in all this is a good read lacking any deep morals of thoughts, but fun at the same time. My rating is **3 solid stars**.

Chris Gager says

Dated now but still interesting. There are scenes in this that indicate that the writers of the newest "Star Trek" movie might have read it.

Linda says

It had been a long time since I had read this and after the last few books I had read requiring a lot of concentration I wanted something light and fun. This is classic Heinlein and while it's not spectacular it is exactly what I wanted as a palate cleanser between some SF that required a great deal of attention and the book on the evolution of language that will follow this one.

Yes, it's clearly aimed at young teenage boys from several decades ago and there isn't a major female character in the book but it's still a fun read.

Joan says

This is another Heinlein I had fond memories of from childhood reading. However, this one held up better than my last Heinlein title (Red Planet). Since there were almost no women in this story at all, except for a nonhuman "woman", there was not much sexism. And there wasn't much racism, if any. It did drag a bit in some locations, and I felt it left a crisis without definite resolution. Matt was wondering why he should stay in the Patrol when the Marines were so much flashier and exciting. While answers were given, there was no real indication except perhaps at the very end of the story, whether Matt was satisfied by the answers. There was also a very abrupt transition from being in school to being on a mission. Maybe I missed some kind of

transition there. Nonetheless, I thought this one held up pretty well for over the time, if you disregard the dates Heinlein should have left out of the book anyway. Matt is a pretty likable character and so are his friends. His enemy was rather one dimensional nasty entitled selfish guy without any redeeming characteristics. The story is pretty interesting and a good read. I still recommend this title. I'll be keeping this one.
