



Lucky Starr and the Moons of Jupiter

Isaac Asimov, Paul French

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Sabotage!!!

Agrav. It was the century's most important advance in space travel...and an experiment so revolutionary that only the men who huddled beneath the surface of Jupiter Nine were permitted to know its full meaning.

Yet someone else *did* know--knew *everything*, saw *everything*, had *everything*--and was diabolically sabotaging the top-secret mission.

Who or *what* the enemy was, Lucky Starr didn't know. but one thing was certain. The deadly force was not human...not even remotely human!

Lucky Starr and the Moons of Jupiter Details

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From Reader Review Lucky Starr and the Moons of Jupiter for online ebook

Mark Oppenlander says

Information about a secret research project is being leaked to the Sirians, and Lucky Starr and Bigman are sent to investigate. The research facility on the ninth moon of Jupiter is working on an antigravity drive (or Agrav) which would generate power while dropping into a gravity well, and use that same stored power to push the ship back out of the gravity well. Theoretically such a drive would open up planets and satellites for exploration previously though unreachable. But Lucky and Bigman are not well received by the suspicious residents of the Jovian moons. They must conduct their investigation for a spy while under constant threat. The race is on to solve the mystery before someone decides to do away with them both.

This may be the best of the Lucky Starr novels. The scientific ideas Asimov is playing with in this book are some of the most interesting and the plot is full of fast-paced action and interesting characters with good backstories. Yes, the formula starts to wear thin (must Lucky really engage in yet another duel or fight of some sort to win the respect of the locals?) but the writing is crisp and the scenarios are imaginative.

I confess that I guessed who the spy was before we got to the big reveal. That could be a sign of good foreshadowing, but it may also be that Asimov was not trying very hard to conceal his intentions. Either way, the ending is still rewarding and sets up the series for the big finale - a confrontation with the Sirians - in book number six.

Juan Escobar says

Como siempre Isaac Asimov inventa una historia detectivesca como excusa para dar veintena de datos sobre algo. Este vez es sobre Júpiter y sus lunas.

Si Júpiter fuera hueco, Bigman, podrías meter mil trescientos planetas del mismo tamaño que la tierra y no podrás llenarlo del todo.

Esta vez es el inteligente y audaz de Lucky Starr que es encargado de descubrir un espionaje de los Sirianos, los ex habitantes de la tierra que conquistaron los planetas y asteroides más allá del sistema solar.

Siempre era difícil escoger entre "buenos días", "buenas tardes", o "buenas noches" en el espacio, donde, literalmente hablando, no había ni día, ni tarde, ni noche.

Es la primera de todas las novelas que escribió el Ruso más norteamericano que conozco sobre Lucky Starr. Entonces, será buscar los otros, para divertirme mientras sueño que somos una raza de humanos que alcanzó el conocimiento para llegar a las estrellas y seguirse traicionando.

Había una sensación de "mañana" casi tan fuerte como si hubiera un sol saliendo por el este y hierba cubierta de rocío.

Heather Morris says

Fun read

Marts (Thinker) says

took a long time on this one but I'm finally done, theres a summary of it on wikipedia:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucky_S...

Andrew says

This was another quick read (don't tell anyone but it was so quick i was able to read it while I was supposed to be doing other things this morning) but I will admit that this was not as good as the previous books in the series - yes it shows it age (it was written in the 50s after all) so you have to take in to account the era it was written in after all.

For example you have the social -political landscape to consider - women generally in literature were little more than plot devices and two dimensional, scientists were both revered and distrusted in equal parts and the world was becoming more and more aware of political tensions - so to write a book where the future is more optimistic you do have an uphill struggle.

That said Asimov always tells a great story and with a few considerations this is another great tale from him (yes you have to make some allowances and in this one I feel one or two more than usual) but still I did enjoy it - certainly enough to see me to the end of the series

Jasmine says

If I was told that one day I will give an Asimov written story anything less than perfect I would have thought that person didn't know me at all. But here I'm giving this book a 4.

Compared to Lucky's other books this one contained a bit more science than usual. it's not necessarily bad but there were all in one chapter and I can even say in 2-3 pages. it was all about describing how Jupiter looks like and how its moon moves and how sunset and sunrise look like which made the story boring. other than that, this one wasn't as mysterious as previous ones and it was actually so easy to figure out the spy. it was getting on my nerve how Lucky didn't see it.

also, usually the dangerous part of the story last longer with more detail but here the whole even of sabotage and rescue and repair was only 4-5 pages with vague details about them.

Sofía says

muy bueno! el final me lo esperaba un poco, pero aún así lo disfruté. Hubo algunas partes como el sistema de gravitación AGRAV que directamente no entendí

Joan says

It was interesting to see that even in 1957, Asimov had formulated his famed Three laws of Robotics. It is especially interesting since this was penned by "Paul French", a pseudonym Asimov used early in his career. The title page has Paul French on it. When this copy was rebound, they put Asimov's name on the spine. I suppose Asimov was still unknown enough that people wouldn't have necessarily connected the Three Laws of Robotics with him. I have no idea why my system had this book as juvenile. It is of course, completely clean, sexually, and in terms of violence (mostly) and language. However, so are all of Asimov's titles, except his limericks. Since this is 5th in the series, I do not know how old Lucky Starr is supposed to be. If he is still a teenager, this book would now be considered a YA title. However, there is no indication of age in this title. Addendum: I found I have the complete adventures of Lucky Starr. In the second story, Lucky is listed as at least 25, more likely at least 28 since when he was found he was already speaking in complete sentences. So he definitely should never have gone J in my system!

I guessed, in part, whodunit. Since I rarely manage that stunt, I took off a star for that. Asimov got trickier as he got more experienced. I'll have to check when his other robotics stories were written. The Laws had clearly already been formulated at this point.

I'll have to try and find other Lucky Starr titles. I need to check my own collection first, just in case! This was quite enjoyable.

Liedzeit says

Viel besser als ich die Luckys in Erinnerung hatte. Eigentlich geradezu gut. Einfach gestrickt aber gut. In der Tat so einfach, dass ich doch gleich in dem Hund den Roboter vermuten konnte. Mit ordentlichem Namen und ohne Bigman wäre das ganz okay.

King Ævil says

The world of Isaac Asimov's Lucky Starr is a young science geek's wildest dream come true. Imagine: a thousand years from now, the solar system's secret agents and protectors of the weak are...scientists! —Who don't mind showing off what they know!

Dr. Asimov often lamented the pernicious and ever-growing current of anti-intellectualism in American society. Was his series of young-adult Lucky Starr novels merely the public expression of an escapist fantasy universe, or did he intend to win young, intelligent minds to scientific inquiry by showing just how cool

science could be?

In the fifth adventure of the *Lucky Starr* series, Starr and his spunky sidekick visit top-secret Project Agrav, based on Jupiter IX, to control gravity by storing potential energy. The potential benefits of the technology are enormous, since a spaceship equipped with Agrav could skim the atmospheres of the giant planets without fear of being trapped forever in their mighty gravitational embrace. However, a Sirian spy working on the project threatens the project's secrecy and its very success. Can Lucky and Bigman identify and capture the spy before he—or it—can sabotage the first flight to Jupiter's innermost satellite?

At one time, *Moons of Jupiter* was perhaps my favorite novel in the series, but perhaps too much of my fascination with the story centered on the Agrav technology, since I know consider it one of the weaker ones. Here, a crucial story element hinges on several highly unlikely events surrounding the moon Amalthea (sorry—I can't be more specific without spoilers) that stretched my credulity just a little too far.

It seems that each *Lucky Starr* book contains one glaring factual error thought to be correct when the book was written, which the author later acknowledged and regretted. (The errors don't detract in the least from the stories as exciting adventures, of course.) Dr. Asimov lived to see the moon Io revealed as a tortured, sulfurous hell, home to lakes of liquid sulfur and volcanoes spouting a hundred miles into space. Hardly a desirable destination for a space picnic! Another, minor mistake is that Asimov erroneously called Jupiter IX "Adrastea," actually the unofficial name of Jupiter XII. (Jupiter IX was given the name *Sinope*, but not until 1975.)

Nonethousand Oberrhein says

The gas giant

David Starr, half a secret agent and half the futuristic translation of an “Old West” Marshall, is the swashbuckling hero watching over our Solar System peace! Stretching a bit (but not too much to break it!) the Science to fit the Fiction of a solar system peopled by human colonists and extraterrestrial intelligent life forms, Asimov cooks up a fun, fresh and adventurous space opera saga, peppering it with quite a few Western genre tropes and leaving the tone evolve to a Cold War investigations series (moving with the author’s times, so to say). On a separate note, the saga bears the seeds of the universe explored in the *Robots* and *Foundation* series: an added value for any Asimov enthusiast!

Following the *Big Sun of Mercury* case, David and Bigman travel to Jovian system in an attempt to thwart new Sirians’ plans. The novel takes place before *Rings of Saturn*

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Lucky Starr and the Moons of Jupiter (Lucky Starr, #5), Isaac Asimov

Lucky Starr and the Moons of Jupiter is the fifth novel in the Lucky Starr series, six juvenile science fiction novels by Isaac Asimov that originally appeared under the pseudonym Paul French. The novel was first published by Doubleday & Company in August 1957. It is the only novel by Asimov set in the Jovian system.

Catherine says

Weakest of the stories so far & god knows terribly dated, but the descriptions of the movements of the various moons was sort of interesting

FranklinTV says

Even at the time I read them in my early 20s, I was not greatly inspired by these, but then again, Issac Asimov wrote them in the 1950s as juvenile science fiction novels under the pseudonym Paul French. So, I kept them mainly as a collector, but possible now something to read with my son. As Asimov admits in the 1970s authors note, the knowledge about the planets and moons has changed greatly, and obviously much much now in 2016. So, there is that problem about reading sci-fi when you already know the science knowledge is significantly out of date. Still, that doesn't stop me watching schlock sci-fi movies. I would suggest approaching the reading of this as you would a generic pulp western novel, and it can become a light entertaining read. Review applied to all six books in the series as I forgot the specifics of each!

Kissu says

Imaginaba que el sistema de espionaje tenía que ver con los animales pero la revelación fue toda una sorpresa. Como siempre, muy emocionante.

Mel says

Once again IN THE FUTURE THERE ARE NO WOMEN! I do get disappointed when I read science fiction and ALL the characters are men. Not only are there no women working in space but there are no women mentioned at all. I would have thought better of Asimov. I suppose this was a "boy's adventure" but it still boggles my mind that in that situation they didn't feel the need to include women. The characters are all a bit stereotypical. The plot involves a sabotage attempt and someone secretly a robot. There is an awful lot of the characters explaining the scientific principles of their technology to each other. Really this is not one of his best.

Remo says

Tras mi reciente mudanza he sacado del trastero todos mis libros infantiles y juveniles (Hollister, tres investigadores, Elige tu propia aventura...), y descubrí que de las novelas de Lucky Starr me faltaban dos, que procedí a encargar de urgencia y leer ávidamente. En las lunas de Júpiter Lucky Starr debe contribuir al desarrollo de la tecnología terrestre para evitar una guerra con humanos de otros sistema estelar. Se nos habla de la gravedad y la composición atmosférica de Júpiter, de sus lunas, y de cómo sería el funcionamiento de un hipotético sistema antigravitatorio. Genial introducción a la ciencia para niños.

Alex says

Like all of the other books in the series, you have to remember the knowledge of the things like computers and space when reading it.

Phil Giunta says

On Jupiter's most remote moon Adrastea, or Jupiter Nine, a revolutionary anti-gravity project, known as Agrav, is under investigation—again. This time, the Council of Science has sent their most resourceful troubleshooter, David "Lucky" Starr, and his diminutive sidekick, John Bigman Jones. Though what Bigman lacks in stature, he compensates for in bravery and bravado—a combustible mix that often ignites trouble for the pair.

Upon arrival on Jupiter Nine, Starr and Jones are immediately met with hostility from workers who have been repeatedly questioned and interrogated by government authorities in search of a possible spy from Sirius, an Earth colony settled generations ago that had turned against its planet of origin.

In an attempt to gain an advantage in their search for a possible Sirian infiltrator, Starr brings with him a V-Frog, a small amphibious creature from Venus that possesses remarkable empathic ability. Through this creature, Starr and Bigman hope to determine if the spy is human or automaton.

Unfortunately, an intruder kills the V-Frog in their quarters shortly after their arrival, leaving Starr bereft of his main tool for detection. However, the event raises suspicion that the perpetrator was most likely a robot, for any human that approaches a V-Frog is instantly affected by the animal's empathic projections of affection and benevolence.

Meanwhile, the Agrav vessel Jovian Moon is ready for test flight to Io, Jupiter's innermost moon. Against the wishes of Mission Commander Donahue, Starr and Bigman join the expedition, as Starr is confident that the Sirian robot will also be on board—and quite possibly a human saboteur as well!

The question is, will the Jovian Moon successfully complete its round-trip voyage or will all hands meet their doom when the vessel plunges into the heart of Jupiter?

Lucky Starr and Moons of Jupiter conveyed a more sinister tone than its four predecessors. This was the first time in the series that David Starr did not always have the upper hand in every predicament and was, in fact, foiled on multiple occasions both by his own incorrect assumptions—or inexperience—and by the ingenuity of the Sirians. Of course, Bigman's typical immature and rash antics did little to help the situation, except for a tense anti-gravity brawl at the beginning of the book.

At the time of publication in 1954, the Jovian moon now known as Ananke was called Adrastea (aka Jupiter Nine). In 1975, some of the minor satellites of Jupiter were renamed and Adrastea was assigned to Jupiter XV.

Carlo says

Dopo il mezzo passo falso su Mercurio, le vicende di Lucky Starr riprendono una quota accettabile in questo quinto episodio che trasporta il lettore sui (e fra i) satelliti del più grande pianeta del sistema solare. Ambientare la vicenda su Giove stesso sarebbe stata impresa problematica anche per uno del calibro del Dottore, così eccoci su una delle lune esterne, dove si sta assemblando la prima astronave con motore antigravitazionale. Le relazioni sociali sul pianeta-cantiere sono quelle di una caserma, ma il protagonista, come di consueto coadiuvato da Bigman, ha altro a cui pensare rispetto alle crisi di rigetto da parte di operai e tecnici: è difatti sicura la presenza di una spia intenta a passare informazioni segrete ai Siriani (che sono sempre gli abitanti di Sirio, non gli sfortunati sudditi di Assad). Convinto che il traditore sia un robot, Starr si porta una delle empatiche rane venusiane per smascherarlo, ma l'animaletto viene presto eliminato rimandando il disvelamento del mistero al primo viaggio della nave Agrav, che è progettata per viaggiare fino al satellite più vicino a Giove potendone contrastare l'attrazione. Tra comportamenti sospetti di un po' tutti i partecipanti alla spedizione e qualche spiegone scientifico di troppo (ma attenzione all'"effetto fionda" che ricorda quello usato per riportare sulla Terra l'Apollo 13), Lucky riesce ovviamente a trovare il bandolo della matassa malgrado gli impicci creati dal suo petulante socio in una soluzione che si palesa dapprima la più banale per poi essere ribaltata in un efficace colpo di scena conclusivo. Asimov combina con abilità la fantascienza e le sue amate leggi robotiche con uno svolgimento che più che al giallo si rifà al thriller spionistico in un romanzo leggero a dispetto delle stratificazioni di generi diversi che anzi ne fanno una lettura veloce, ma estremamente godibile.
