



Farthest Star

Frederik Pohl , Jack Williamson

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The Saga of Cuckoo

There was no shortage of danger on Cuckoo.

20,000 light years away, the enormous flat surface of Cuckoo travelling at one-sixth the speed of light aimed arrow-straight at the galaxy.

Sun One sent the space probe Aurora with a crew of replicates, both human and alien, to intercept. It was a doomed ship.

Yet from that mission came Ground Station One, peopled by tachyon transmission, its crew impatient to explore the menace of Cuckoo.

Towards them flee a young nomadic wingman, a redbearded giant, and a replicate Ben Yale Pertin intent only on survival, until a frightened girl screams for help...

Farthest Star Details

Date : Published February 1976 by Pan Books (first published 1975)

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Author : Frederik Pohl , Jack Williamson

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From Reader Review Farthest Star for online ebook

Ysmalan says

I vaguely remember reading this book when I was a teenager. I was very fascinated by the "teleportation" system and what it implied. But that's also about all I remember from it! I had to google for ages before finding the book again. I guess I'll have to re-read it.

Mike says

When you have a book written by Frederik Pohl and Jack Williamson you expect something special, but unfortunately this isn't. The Star Trek transporter when the original does de-materialize is an interesting idea but that's not enough. I can't really say what's wrong with it, the plot isn't bad, the characters are okay for a 70s story, it's just missing something which I can't put my finger on.

I really wanted it to be great, but it was just wasn't there.

Matthew says

The first half was fairly interesting space exploration coupled with different alien races. The second half was confusing (and dull) planetary exploration that focused more on primitive characters. So many issues brought up with regards to characters 'copying' themselves, but nothing was ever made of it. This story really could have had more to it.

Keith says

Book 1 in Series

Dani says

This book took me a whole semester to read even though it's only 246 pages long. It got really boring and ridiculous at times but still the technology in it was fun. Even bad science fiction is still enjoyable sometimes.

Robert says

There was much to appreciate here, but I didn't appreciate this book much.

Aliens that aren't just humans in disguise, some discussion of the psychological impact of a technology that replicates you over interstellar distances and a Mysterious Giant Object which gets more weird the more you learn about it are all good but it's all swamped by irritating problems of characterisation and plotting. The book isn't really a novel; it's a novella which subsequently got a serial of short story sequels, so the pacing is all over the place and you're left at the end with very little explained and a sense of things stopping rather than being resolved. There is a further volume which I assume clarifies matters but I'm not going to go out of my way to find it.

The characters are largely one dimensional and there is no female protagonist for the first half. The one female character up to this point exists solely to give out "hero" someone to pine for in her absence. Then once we get a proper female protagonist she is over the violent death of her husband and fancying a local tribesman in a matter of two days...

It's a shame the execution is so poor because there's a good story buried in here trying to claw its way to the surface.

Kerry says

This review is being written in 2011, and I still recall being embarrassed by this book when I read it in 1975. I was embarrassed not by the content, but by my own preoccupations that caused me to miss what the book is really about. I got so caught up in the tachyon transmission way to explore the galaxy that I totally neglected to see that the book was about a Dyson sphere. In reading a review some months after I had read the novel, after that reviewer referred to the Dyson sphere by that name, I finally figured it out. Pohl and Williamson never refer to the Dyson sphere as a Dyson sphere. I was too caught up in the tachyon transmission to really think it through. Forty years later, I still remember it. Maybe it's time to reread and see if I get it right this time. I bet that I still think the tachyon transmission is cool!

John says

1977 grade C
