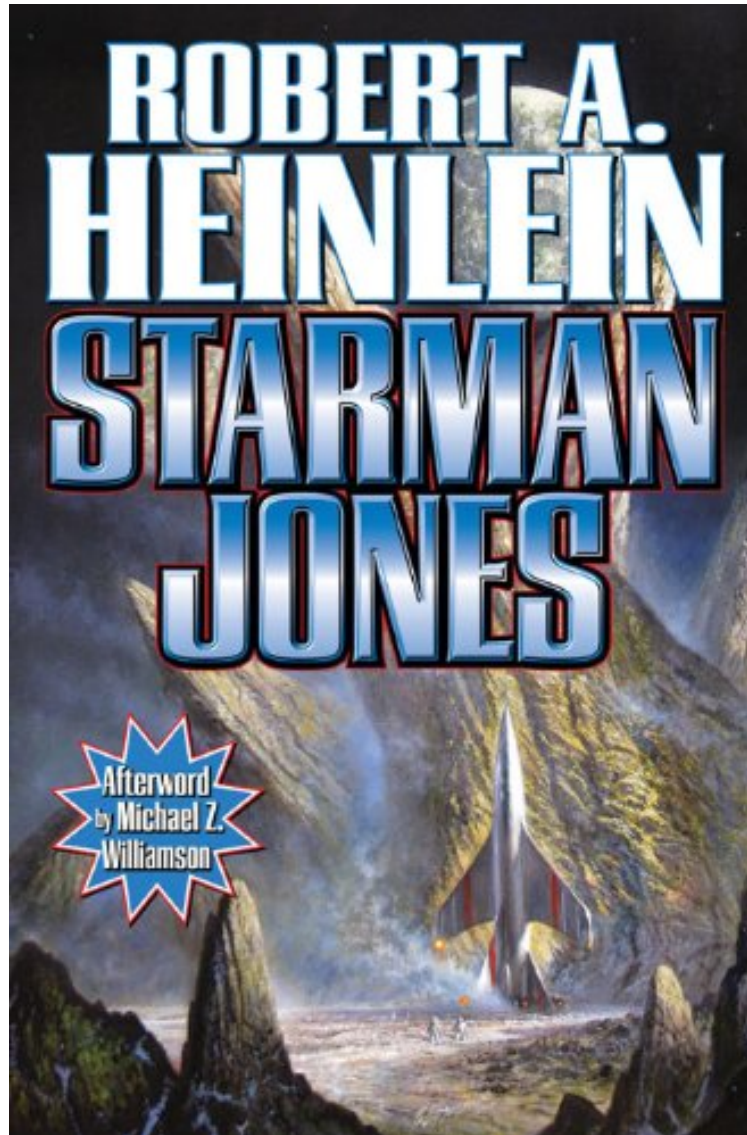


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Von Robert A. Heinlein

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Von Robert A. Heinlein : Starman Jones (Heinlein's Juveniles Book 7) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Starman Jones (Heinlein's Juveniles Book 7) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A great read, regardless of ageVon Robert JamesHeinlein's series of juveniles has never been matched by any other series writer for teenagers, with the possible exception of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, which has much the same

narrative drive and interest for both young people and adults. "Starman Jones" grabs the reader by the neck on the first page, and never lets you go. Although the science has become badly dated (NO science fiction writer predicted what computers would be like by the end of the twentieth century), the situations and surprises still ring true. Max Jones is a great Heinlein character, full of the grit and intelligence that so often marked his protagonists. Yet the character's humility and innocence also come through to the reader. I read this in high school, and loved it; I just reread it, and felt even stronger about this book. A great read. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. ...What Was Set Before Him Von Fairportfan This is just about my favourite of Heinlein's "juveniles". Like other SF authors of the era (particularly Andre Norton), Heinlein realised that the audience he was aiming at would, aside from being younger than the audience he reached through magazines like "Astounding", be just about as literate and as quick to accept and comprehend new ideas as the audience for his "adult" works. So, like Norton (and Edward Eager, to mention another) his sole concessions to the "juvenile" nature of the market were the age of his protagonists and a tendency to slightly less complex language -- not writing down, just speaking a bit more plainly. He assumed that his audience would be familiar with things that, perhaps, the general audience would not -- the discussions of the implications for a "truck" of negative-lift streamlining and an anti-gravity field that varies by an inverse-cube law in this book are a classic example of that. The story here, of a young man's passage into adulthood, is one that Heinlein has told many times in many guises, but I think that this may be the most poignant (except possibly for the relativity-separated twins of "Time for the Stars"), as Max Jones must be, essentially, orphaned twice along the way to that maturity. Heinlein postulates a time when unions/guilds so totally control work qualifications that if you're not a guild member, you can't work. Max Jones, whose father has died, has nothing more to look forward to than a life on a back-country farm with his mother and her jerk of a new husband. That is -- he has nothing to look forward to unless he can persuade the Astrogators' Guild, of which his uncle was a member, to accept him as an apprentice. Taking his uncle's working manuals, Max sets out to hitch-hike to Guild HQ and sign up. Of course, that doesn't work -- along the way he meets Sam -- the only name he'll give -- who attempts to, in essence, steal Max's identity and get himself appointed a Guild Apprentice. But the Guild will accept neither. So Sam -- convincing Max that he wants to get off Earth just as badly as Max does and that, with his connections and Max's money (a legacy from his uncle via the Guild), they can get faked papers and get into space. And they do -- as members of the Stewards' Guild. To this point, a description of the book reads like a lot of other formula juvenile adventure books; but it's the details woven into the story that make the difference -- like the story Sam tells casually about this fellow he knew who wound up accidentally deserting the Imperial Marines... a story that sounds a lot like a first person narrative, though Sam denies it. By a series of unforeseen events, Max is allowed to become an astrogator after all, becomes an officer, and eventually he is the *only* astrogator surviving after a seemingly-hospitable planet upon which the ship lands turns hostile... But he and one of the passengers have been taken prisoner by the nasty centauroids who rule the world... Max Jones is a brave young man who does all that is asked of him and answers the call whenever he is needed. His friend Sam is a probable deserter, a card cheat, a con man and a brawler. It's Sam, the man who "...ate what was set before him" that you will remember forever after you read this book. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Caught between a Rock and a Hard Place Von Ein Kunde Max Jones is blessed with an eidetic memory and dreams of becoming an "astrogator" (Heinlein's neologism for "starship navigator"). Every evening he watches the ballistic train streak by his property, bound for Earthport, the launching facility for the big ships, and wishes that he could go there. But Max is committed to supporting his father's widow by working their Ozark farm, and the requirements for getting into the Astrogators' Guild are strict; most slots are inherited from previous guild members. One evening, Max's stepmother comes home with a new husband, a shiftless, drunken lout who announces that he has sold the farm and threatens to beat Max up when he protests. Max has no recourse but to gather up his reference books on astrogation (left to him by his deceased uncle Chet, an astrogator), and flee for Earthport. But when he presents himself at the Astrogators' Guild hall, he is told that his uncle Chet never nominated Max to the guild before he died, and the reference books are confiscated to "protect trade secrets." Max is in a pickle. Written in 1953, Starman Jones is a solid work of craftsmanship, of interest both to adults and children. It outlines a crowded Earth in which satisfying, interesting work is truly scarce, locked into a strict system of guilds. Faced with that barrier, what is an ambitious, talented boy like Max to do? The book deals in large part with the ethical dilemmas created by this situation, and by Max's subsequent forgery of documents enabling him to land a position aboard the starship Asgard. In the mysterious, wily old starship crewman, Sam, Heinlein creates a memorable, complex character, much in keeping with the Swope Park hobo/hero Heinlein mentions several times in speeches and writing (A good account of this story can be found in Expanded Universe). All in all, Starman Jones is a fast-moving, yet weighty read.

Kurzbeschreibung The stars were closed to Max Jones. To get into space you either needed connections, a membership in the arcane Guild, or a whole lot more money than Max, the son of a widowed, poor mother, was ever going to have. What Max does have going for him are his uncle's prized astrogation manuals books on star navigation that Max

literally commits to memory word for word, equation for equation. When Max's mother decides to remarry a bullying oaf, Max takes to the road, only to discover that his Uncle Chet's manuals, and Max's near complete memorization of them, is a ticket to the stars. But serving on a spaceship is no easy task. Duty is everything, and a mistake can mean you and all aboard are lost forever. Max loves every minute of his new life, and he steadily grows in the trust of his superior officers, and seems to be on course for a command track position. But then disaster strikes, and it's going to take every trick Max ever learned from his tough life and his uncle's manuals to save himself and the ship from a doom beyond extinction itself. At the publisher's request, this title is sold without DRM (DRM Rights Management).

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