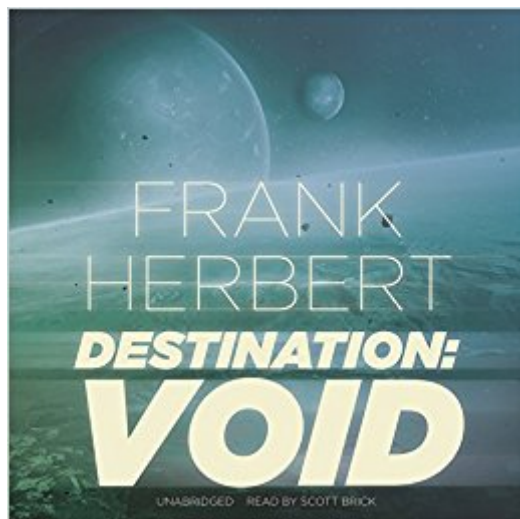


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Destination: Void



Synopsis

The starship Earthling, filled with thousands of hibernating colonists en route to a new world at Tau Ceti, is stranded beyond the solar system when the ship's three organic mental cores--disembodied human brains that control the vessel's functions--go insane. The emergency skeleton crew sees only one chance for survival: build an artificial consciousness in the Earthling's primary computer that can guide them to their destination--and hope it doesn't destroy the human race. Don't miss Frank Herbert's classic novel that begins the epic Pandora Sequence.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Frank Herbert (1920-1986), winner of the Hugo and Nebula awards and a #1 New York Times bestselling author, was born in Tacoma, Washington, and worked as a reporter and later as an editor for a number of West Coast newspapers before becoming a full-time writer. His first science fiction story was published in 1952, but he achieved fame more than ten years later with the publication of "Dune World" and "The Prophet of Dune" in Analog. The stories were amalgamated in the bestselling novel Dune in 1965.

Dune is Herbert's magnum opus and probably one of my favorite, if not favorite science fiction novels. And Herbert wrote many other wonderful books--all among my favorites. So how is "Destination: Void", written the same year (or, at least PUBLISHED) as "Dune"? You can see the same themes--machine intelligence versus man intelligence--in a way, the OMC or the "Organic

Mental Core" which is the artificial brain running the long range expedition ship to Tau Ceti is the evil machine-brains that are in the offing in Dune (the Butlerian Jihad.) The clones are the gholas of the Dune series but in this book--they are cloned people given the job of a sub-light journey to a star 400 light years away. This is a giant problem-solving exercise, but sadly, the characters are not nearly as developed as the Dune personalities, who live and breathe, even minor characters. This is not one of the great Herbert novels but it's better than some and a good solid science fiction novel.

That Frank Herbert wrote this in 1965 (even if it was updated in 78). The information is so cutting edge that it is still little understood by the public. The dialog is a little stiff compared to some of his later books, but as usual the ideas are huge. This is what keeps me coming back to Herbert...not clever quips in dialog, not overly complex plot lines. Rather, a treatment of the big ideas that propel humanity forward. The other aspect I like so far is that I could see how this story could even be considered pre-butlerian, as if these books opened Pandora's box. I just have to see. Looking forward to the rest of the Pandora Sequence.

I wish as a whole our society could say that we regularly produced writers who could write this well. That said, there seemed to be some minor issues with the transfer to digital, based on the overall quality versus specific instances. I'd give the transfer 4 stars. The story itself brings up and considers a few physics and computer theories while refraining from hand-holding. I appreciated Herbert's restraint by not spelling it all out in a redundant fashion. Instead he takes the time to develop explanations and use them as tools for plot momentum and foil. The character development also carries well. Overall, I read for pleasure and simply enjoy how Herbert elevated the story past mindless drivel while keeping it fun.

While I really enjoy Frank Herbert's work (Dune, etc.), he is not casual reading. There are many, many asides where the person is thinking something. This sometimes makes the reading feel choppy and harder to follow. There are also lots of characters doing this so you're forced to keep in your mind, not only the action, but all the subtleties of thought in each of these folks. As a result, I'm finding this a more difficult read than I enjoy when reading Sci-Fi. I'm now on the 2nd book in this quadrilogy.

This is Frank Herbert emerging. I found this book to be stuck between the late pulp of the 50s and early 60s and the initial hardcore sci-fi that defined the genre in the 70s. The plot, the concept and

the resolution are all fascinating. Unfortunately, there are far too many times when Herbert "explains" what characters are doing by using psychobabble and completely manufactured terms and technical references. It all serves to add an unnecessary layer of literary mayonnaise on top of an otherwise good club sandwich.

Great story and writing. I've been going back and reading classic fiction and this is one of the books that really stood out. It's a simple story written with just a few characters and the writing is engaging and exciting. The characters are facing an life-threatening disaster and are working to fix it on the fly. It's got enough technical jargon to feel authentic but avoids sounding trite or silly. It's the first book of a series that I haven't read any more of (yet), but I look forward to.

Very well written and a very good premise but so verbose on the minutiae of construction and ontology of AI that it just got boring for me. It's no Dune.

I didn't know this was part of the Pandora sequence when I started it. Great to discover after 15 years that my favorite trilogy has a fourth book.

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