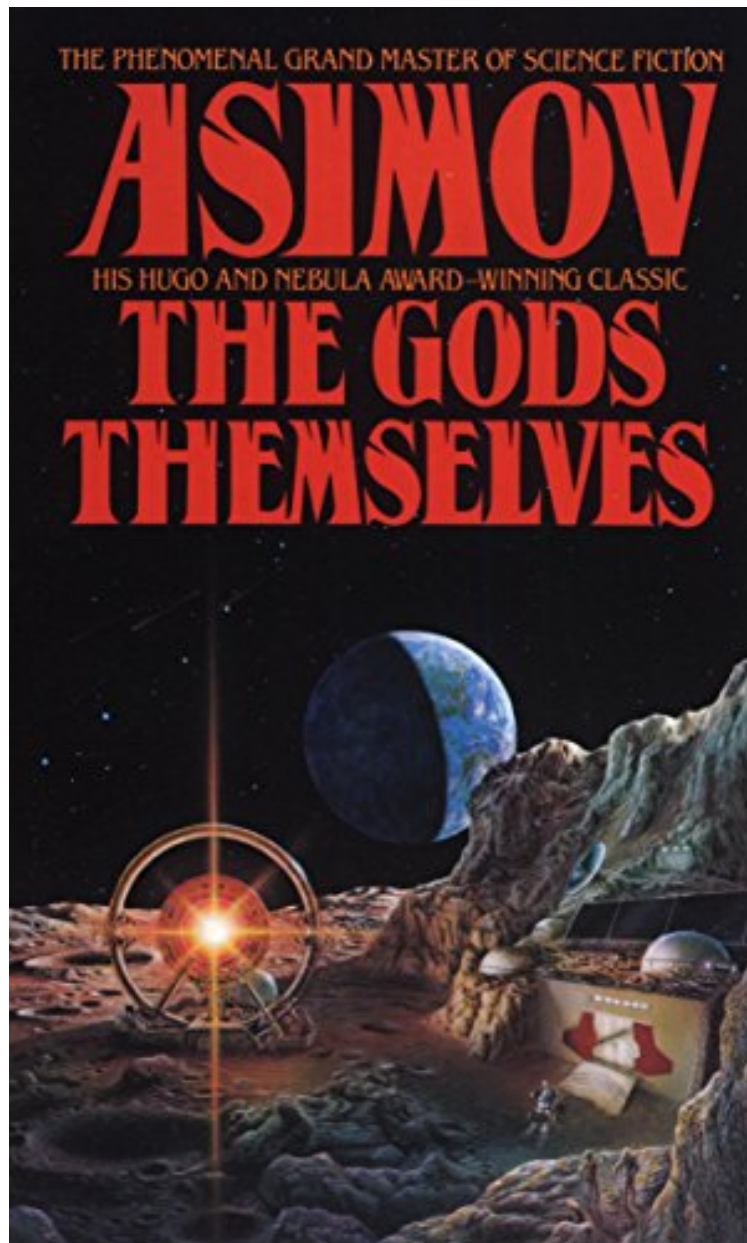


The Gods Themselves

Von Isaac Asimov

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Von Isaac Asimov : The Gods Themselves before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gods Themselves:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Awesome Brain Candy for Physics Students
Von Ein Kunde
The Gods Themselves is both a riveting story and a catalyst for the minds of young science students. If you have taken some physics classes or read up on cosmology you will love this book. The ideas Asimov came up with concerning inter-universal energy transfer and suggesting that our universe was spawned from a "cosmeegg" that had its physical laws altered blew my mind. If you didn't catch these inferences when reading this novel, you didn't read it thoroughly. I couldn't put it down for 5 minutes.
6 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Perhaps Asimov's best novel
Von Ein Kunde
I have been a fan of Asimov's fiction as well as his science essays since childhood. I've read his Foundation novels, Robot novels, and various unrelated fiction and factual material. While most of his works have usually appealed to me, I can say with little reservation that "The Gods Themselves" is my favorite Asimov novel - and certainly earns a prominent spot in my personal "Top 10". One of the things I like about this novel is the way the Friedrich von Schiller quotation "Against stupidity, the [very] Gods themselves contend in vain" is worked into the story. The three phrases that make up this quote - "Against Stupidity...", "...The Gods Themselves...", and "...Contend In Vain?" are used as chapter titles - and, what's more, these titles are quite appropos to the theme of each chapter. One of the most enjoyable parts of the novel is the second chapter, which portrays a most unusual, and wholly believable and consistent alien race. Science fiction authors often struggle with the difficulty of portraying an alien race that is different enough from humans to be believable as aliens, yet similar enough to make their motives and culture graspable by a human reader. Asimov succeeds brilliantly in this task, something I can say for only a few other SF titles. At the risk of sounding PC, I was also pleased that Asimov introduced a strong female supporting character, something not usually found in most of his works. The "Selene" character introduced in the third chapter is reminiscent of the strong female leads found in many Heinlien novels. Any fan of Asimov's works - or, for that matter, any fan of good science fiction should add this book to their essential collection. There is a good reason why this novel was awarded both the Hugo and Nebula awards after it's initial publication. Unlike many modern winners of these awards, "The Gods Themselves" is both a good AND entertaining story. It's clever and stylish enough to appeal to the "artsy" types that issue such awards, while being entertaining enough to appeal to the meat-and-potatoes reader.
1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Asimov's best
Von Ein Kunde
Originally published in the early 70's, it is almost more relevant today than it was when I first read it more than 20 years ago. It is as much a commentary on the influence of politics on pure science (read: culture/society), as on the humanity of believing what is most comfortable for us to believe. As for the other-universe culture, Asimov creates a world so alien as to be based on a triad-sexed species, yet so believable that we can actually identify with each of the three members of the triad. As a fan of Asimov's work, I admit I enjoy all of his works. This work, I believe, truly stands out as one of his best works, if not his best. (Quite a statement for a work of the author of the Foundation series, the Robot stories, his non-fiction work, etc...)

Kurzbeschreibung
Only a few know the terrifying truth--an outcast Earth scientist, a rebellious alien inhabitant of a dying planet, a lunar-born human intuitionist who senses the imminent annihilation of the Sun. They know the truth--but who will listen? They have foreseen the cost of abundant energy--but who will believe? These few beings, human and alien, hold the key to the Earth's survival.
deFor 14 years of a career stretching from 1939 to his death in 1992, Isaac Asimov wrote little SF and instead produced popular non-fiction in enormous quantities. The Gods Themselves (1972) was his "comeback" SF novel, welcomed by both Hugo and Nebula awards. It opens in the world of Big Science that Asimov knew well, full of in-fighting and the race to publish first. The Inter-Universe Electron Pump sucks unlimited energy from nothing, making all power stations obsolete and bringing a new golden age. No one--especially not the scientist who got the credit--wants to listen to the doomsayer Lamont who calculates that the pump's side effects may detonate the Sun. Worse, there's no kudos for him: "And no one on Earth will live to know I was right". Part two moves to the dying parallel universe whose hyper-intelligent aliens actually invented the pump and don't care what happens to our Sun. Asimov cleverly focuses on three immature aliens whose intelligence is less daunting and who slowly learn--with very different personal reactions--about their race's weird analogue of sex, about the pump's moral implications, and eventually about the unexpected meaning of maturity. These are the most original, engaging aliens Asimov ever created. Part three is set in a carefully worked-out Moon colony and grapples with the "para-physics" of inter-universe loopholes. Can a politically acceptable replacement for the pump be developed? Solid, workmanlike SF with far more talk than action: one of Asimov's rare standalone novels. --David Langford.co.uk
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