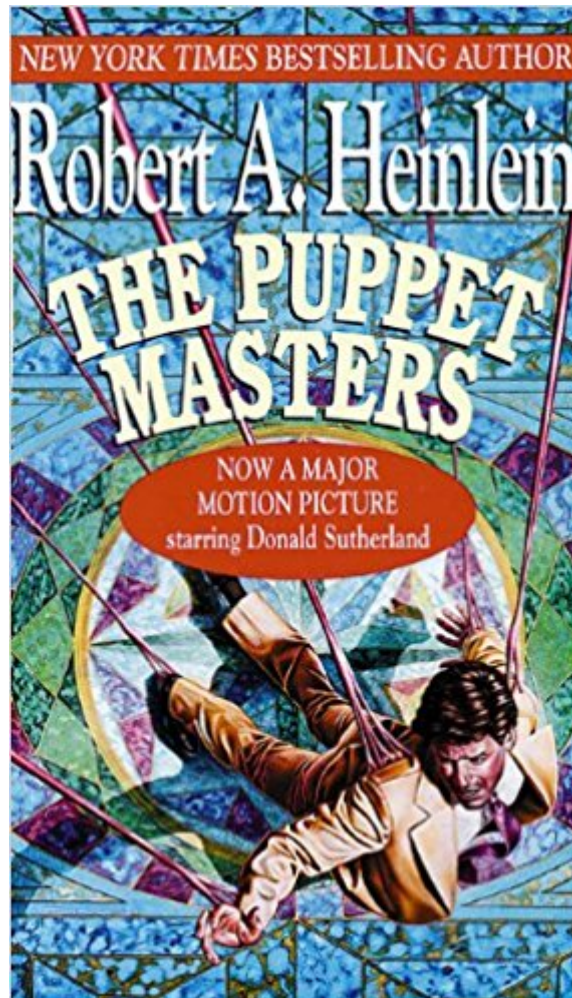




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The Puppet Masters



Synopsis

[MP3CD audiobook format in Vinyl case.] [Read by Lloyd James] First came the news that a flying saucer had landed in Iowa. Then came the announcement that the whole thing was a hoax. End of story. Case closed. Except that two agents of the most secret intelligence agency in the US government were on the scene and disappeared without reporting in, as did four other agents who were sent in. As a result, the head of the agency and his two top agents went in, and they managed to get out with their discovery: an invasion is underway by slug-like aliens who can touch a human and completely control his or her mind. What the humans know, they know. What the slugs want, no matter what, the human will do. And most of Iowa is already under their control. Sam Cavanaugh was one of the agents who discovered the truth. Unfortunately, that was just before he was taken over by one of the aliens and began working for the invaders, with no will of his own. And he has just learned that a high official in the Treasury Department is now under control of the aliens. Since the Treasury Department includes the Secret Service, which safeguards the President of the United States, control of the entire nation is near at hand. Can-do intelligence officer Cavanaugh is the only man who can stop the invaders.

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Customer Reviews

“(Audiobook narrator) James’s voice helps build the drama, tension and suspense . . . This is a good scare for horror and science fiction aficionados and young adults.” --AudioFile

Like many people, I go way, way back with Heinlein. My very favorite book (and one that stands out in my mind--and with much affection--to this day) is Tunnel in the Sky. I really, really wanted to go off to explore new worlds with a covered wagon and horses, like the hero does at the very end of the book. But one of the nice things about Robert Heinlein is that he's got something for everyone. One of my best friends has a different favorite: Podkayne of Mars. Go figure. --Shelly Shapiro, Executive Editor --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Honey, you are about to learn that in the Country of the Blind the one-eyed man is in for a hell of a rough ride." Three themes seem intertwined in this touching work. . . One, how can/should 'authority' (husband, boss, president, scientist) use its power to help and not hurt? Two, how can/should each individual decide when to submit to authority and when to resist? Three, how is understanding found? When and how combine facts/data into wisdom? Who decides? These questions addressed throughout with taste, discernment; so smoothly, so enjoyably, that reader wants more! For example - What is needed to reach past facts to wisdom? "His unique gift was the ability to reason logically with unfamiliar, hard-to-believe facts as easily as with the commonplace. Not much, eh? I have never met anyone else who could do it wholeheartedly. Most minds stall dead when faced with facts which conflict with basic beliefs; 'I-just-can't-believe-it' is all one word to highbrows and dimwits alike." For example, on the choice of freedom vs security. . . "We come," I went on, "to bring you peace." "To bring us what?" "To bring you peace," I blurted out. The Old Man snorted. " 'Peace'," I went on, "and contentment and the joy of surrender." "Let me get this," the Old Man said thoughtfully. "You are promising the human race that, if we will just surrender to your kind, you will take care of us and make us happy. Right?" "Exactly!" The Old Man studied me for a long moment, looking, not at my face, He spat upon the floor. "You know," he said slowly, "me and my kind, we have often been offered that bargain, though maybe not on such a grand scale. It never worked out worth a damn." The challenge of scientific authority arises this way. Sam's wife has been willingly interviewed under drugs to probe her memory. Nevertheless, the results have been concealed from her. Sam confronts the doctors . . . "There was not time for that. We had to use rough methods for quick results. I'm not sure that I can authorize the subject to see the records." Hazelhurst put in, "I agree with you. Doctor." I exploded. "Damn it, nobody asked you to authorize anything and you haven't got any authority in the matter. Those records were snatched right out of my wife's head and they belong to her. I'm sick of you people trying to play God. I don't like it in a slug and I don't like it any better in a human being. She'll make up her own mind whether or not she

wants to see them and whether or not I or anybody else will see them. Now ask her!" Steelton said, "Mrs. Nivens, do you wish to see your records?" Mary answered, "Yes, Doctor, I'd like very much to see them." This demand for personal dignity is the key action that leads to winning the war. Lesson? Personal rights are more than just a feeling, they are a principle that have long range benefits. This kindle edition includes both a forward and an afterword. Both interesting. The afterword notes . . . "Being free was never easy. Our oldest account of freed slaves tells us of their sitting by their fires in the desert and lamenting the lost fleshpots of Egypt, when they had eaten well in captivity and oppression." Insightful. (I first read this 40 years ago. Reread from time-to-time. I always liked the story and the characters. I did not understand why. Now (maybe) I can see the abstract principles Heinlein is presenting. Means more to me now than before.) (For a scholars analysis on choosing freedom vs security, see "The Death of Humanity: and the Case for Life", by Richard Weikart)

Even though dated, this book was 5 stars all the way. Scary story, terrific characterization (for its time period), imaginative, and decent pace. I'm not going to go into the plot because other reviewers have already done so and probably much better than I could. But, I wanted to just comment on books' influence from that time period to today. I doubt anyone will read this, but I just have to comment. As a little girl growing up in the 1970s, I was carefully given all the appropriate books for a girl (Little Women, Black Beauty, the Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe etc). When I was about 13, I started reading my Mom's Harlequin Romances. I think they permanently stunted my growth and distorted my relationships with men! Only once I "snuck" and read a sci-fi by A Keys and I LOVED it and never forgot that story. Now I am a polite, married woman but I wonder what kind of radical hellion I could've been if I'd be able to read these amazing sci-fi stories - stories where the end doesn't come when the h gets married. It makes me sad for that little girl. But, the good news: my daughter was a different story (no pun) and I filled her head with every kind of story (except Harlequins). Now she is getting her Masters (allow a mother to brag) and isn't afraid to tell the world to "F*** off," while I would prefer to bake the whole world a nice batch of cookies. Times change for the better and for the worse, but this author and this book is a terrific tale and stands the test of time. Highly recommended - especially for nice, quiet girls!

I enjoyed The Puppet Masters for the most part. It was absolutely fascinating and creative and a bit horrifying as slug-like aliens began their takeover of the human race. I also enjoyed the political and philosophical underlying themes, which were discussed in both the introduction and afterword and I thought the book was quite clever in having these layers. Overall, it was an amazing story. The

problem I had with it was the way it was written. The Puppet Masters reminded me of an old detective show with bad acting. A lot of older shows seem to be overacted and dramatic and also really simple at the same time. It's hard to explain, but I always felt like there was little subtlety and mystery and reading between the lines in those kinds of shows. It also reminds me of a terrible B movie with a great plot but the acting is as bad as the script, which is terrible. And The Puppet Masters is a simple, straightforward read that left a lot to be desired. The explanations were simple, to the point, and it made for a boring read unless the actual events unfolding were interesting. The introduction made it clear that The Puppet Masters was not a literary read by any means, but I still hoped for a good read. While I haven't seen any of the movies, I'm led to believe this might be one of those stories where the movie is better. After all, the plot is spectacular. It was just the writing that made it a dull read for me. The Puppet Masters has elements that make it a perfect science fiction novel and most of those elements are still built upon today, such as aliens, the taking over of the human race, and mind control. It's the rest of the story that is lacking, such as dialogue, world building, character building, etc. I won't begin to get into the issues regarding the female characters and the male relationships surrounding her because I realize this book is dated. Overall, I would recommend this book to lovers of science fiction. The plot has been done plenty of times since the original publication and ripped off in a few other stories, but I'm glad I read the original. The concept was great and one I could appreciate and made up for the rest of the book.

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