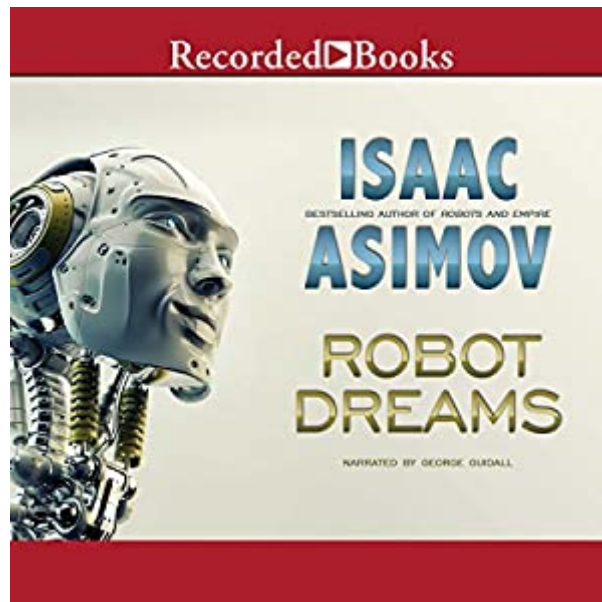


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# Robot Dreams



## Synopsis

In a career spanning nearly 50 years, Isaac Asimov - science writer, historian, and futurist - accurately predicted how technological breakthroughs would be developed and utilized, years before they became reality. His foresight envisioned calculators, computerized cars, and advances in the field of robotics as chronicled in such popular books as *I, Robot*; *Robots and Empire*; and *The Robots of Dawn*. *Robot Dreams* spans the body of his fiction from the 1940s to the mid '80s, featuring all of the classic Asimovian themes - from the scientific puzzle and the extraterrestrial thriller to the psychological discourse. In addition to the title story (a Locus poll winner and Hugo and Nebula Award finalist), this collection features several of Asimov's robot tales. A robopsychologist must outwit a machine determined to stay hidden in "Little Lost Robot"; a woman's talent for "Light Verse" overshadows her true accomplishments with her robot servants; "The Last Question" presented to computer after computer over a hundred billion years may remain forever unanswered...and 17 more future visions from the grand master of science fiction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*Robot Dreams* is one of the basis for all of the ideas we want to develop for our Future Robotic compatriots. IT is important to remember that Good machines can easily outlast their designers. The Panama canal is 100 years old, The Eiffel Tower is still drawing people, and the Brooklyn Bridge still transports over 100,000 people a day. We have moved into higher languages for programming that more closely resemble Human Thought, and as we get faster and better processors involved, and as

we have Machines writing code for Machines, we will come closer to Awareness by our machines. When they do become aware, I hope that they will have Issac Asimov as a pattern for ethical treatment of Humans.

A buddy recommended an Asimov short story so I bought this with the intention of focusing on that one. It's my 1st Asimov reading. I loved it. It's imaginative. But best of all, I have a new fave short story. Not the 1 recommended. And not widely known! It's called The Billiard Ball. And I read the last few pages grinning ear-to-ear. As in all collections of stories, I found some better than others. But I never found 1 that I didn't like outright. (how often can that be said?) And ALL the stories are thought provoking (how often...?) It's robot stories (only a few) made me think "How could they've made 'I Robot' better?" The disclaimer/introduction is interesting too. Written in the 80s as an old man, it's not so much of his mea culpa of things he got wrong, but the timeline of his writing that impresses. 1st story he wrote was in 1939 when he was 19! Think of the (lack of) technology back then and these stories jump off the page!

This book is a collection of Asimov's robot short stories. Each story is a stand alone. It does provide a good background knowledge of the development of robots prior to the Caves of Steel story in which we are introduced to R. Daneel Olivaw, a humaniform robot who works with Elijah Bailey. I would recommend reading this volume if you are going to continue on with the Bailey books and then on to the Foundation series.

All stories were good and thought-provoking. Though science has progressed differently than they imagined, the stories still were very relevant.

I heard "The Last Question" was maybe the best short story ever, so I got the book and was not disappointed. One of those stories that leaves you shivering after you finish it. My gosh, what a story.

The stories are classics. However, the Kindle edition is rife with misspellings, typos, weird spacing and is in general very poorly edited. Avoid - get it on paper or Audible.

I expected this to be a collection of robot stories because of the title, but only two are robot stories. They are the first two, and the first one is also a story from I, Robot (which I just re-read). The

second one is "Robot Dreams" from which the book takes its title, and it is another Susan Calvin robot story like those from *I, Robot* but was written in the mid-'80s (*I, Robot* was written 30 years earlier). It is in the same mold with the earlier stories, but with a nod to advancing technology (small computers, for instance). Many other stories in this collection center on "Multivac," an immense computer. The name is an obvious derivative of UNIVAC, a large, vacuum-tube based computer of the early 1950s. UNIVAC became famous for predicting that Eisenhower would win the 1952 election based on early returns (against pundit predictions that Stevenson would win). That led directly to one story, "Franchise," which takes the ability to sample a small number of votes to predict a total election outcome and drives the idea to an absurd (but nevertheless interesting) extreme. There are a variety of other stories, from ones dealing with beings without bodies to one talking about an alien medical investigator who has come to Earth to find out more about a disease. All are worth the read, and some are truly fascinating and end in very unexpected ways. Ralph McQuarrie provides the cover illustration and several others for individual stories; they are of the style familiar to anyone who has seen original art from "Star Wars" (which he worked on). Asimov's introduction is amusing; he explains what he got right in predicting the future--and what he got spectacularly wrong. He discusses this with respect to both stories in the book (Multivac, for instance) and to other books and stories he had written decades earlier. All in all, this book was a fun read.

It is amazing to see all the things that were seen 40 to 50 years ago. Just now have we been able to play out what was in his mind as every day things.

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