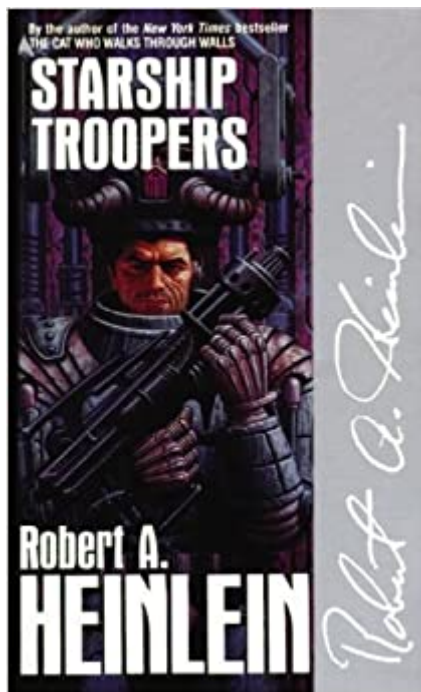


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Starship Troopers



Synopsis

In one of Heinlein's most controversial best-sellers, a recruit in a future world is sent through the toughest boot camp in the Universe to join the Terran Mobile Infantry in battle against mankind's most alarming enemy. Juan Rico signed up with the Federal Reserve on a lark, but despite the hardships and rigorous training, he finds himself determined to make it as a cap trooper. In boot camp he learns how to become a soldier, but it is in war that he will learn why. Many consider this Hugo Award-winning book to be Heinlein's best. Forget the battle scenes and the high-tech weapons; this is Heinlein in his element, talking people and politics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Juan Rico signed up with the Federal Service on a lark, but despite the hardships and rigorous training, he finds himself determined to make it as a cap trooper. In boot camp he will learn how to become a soldier, but when he graduates and war comes (as it always does for soldiers), he will learn why he is a soldier. Many consider this Hugo Award winner to be Robert Heinlein's finest work, and with good reason. Forget the battle scenes and high-tech weapons (though this novel has them)--this is Heinlein at the top of his game talking people and politics. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

"Lloyd James is terrific as the narrator, able to infuse his voice with the wide-eyed innocence of Rico and the gruffness of Sgt. Zim. James' is a voice you can count on, and this is an absolutely fabulous audiobook--to my ears, the definitive version." --SFFAudio.com "A book that continues to resonate

and influence to this day, one whose popularity and luster hasn't been dimmed despite decades of imitations." --SF Reviews "A classic . . . If you want a great military adventure, this one's for you."
--All SciFi

"Starship Troopers" was one of the first Heinlein books I ever read and it still is an enjoyable read some thirty years later. It is hard to ignore (and much has been written in other reviews about) the obvious social and political statement about civic responsibility and government that Heinlein is making and many of the themes are reoccurring elements in his later writings as well. That being said, this is still first rate science fiction when taken at face value. No spoilers from me! The story is told from the perspective of Juan "Johnnie" Rico, a rich kid with a promising future in his father's business. The story follows Rico's change from enjoying a privileged life to experiencing a challenging life in the Mobile Infantry (MI). Unlike many of Heinlein's later leads, Rico is a somewhat self-deprecating and flawed character that often just muddles through the situations he encounters. Those that are expecting the non-stop action of the movie (Starship Troopers (+ BD Live) [Blu-ray], which I liked) may be disappointed and, if having watched the movie before reading this book, will be shocked by the liberties taken with the story line and genders of several characters. It should also be noted that the violence portrayed in the book is relatively tame and mostly glossed over (unlike the movie) and there really isn't much in the way of sexual content (again, unlike the movie and much of Heinlein's later writing). This story does not feel too dated and I enjoyed being able to show it my teenagers after they watched the movie. Highly Recommended! CFH

Best book on the planet! Forget everything that you know about the movie...it was as similar to this book as Mickey Mouse is to a Chicago alley rat. Amazing focus on technology, politics, crime and punishment, and basic training in the future! I have read and re-read this book 50 times over 30 years and still love to pick it up. You will not be disappointed!

Some of the battle and formation descriptions were tedious, like Tom Clancy tedious. Overall it was an enjoyable book and in fact made me like the movie even more. Sure the film is ridiculous, but I think it was a good interpretation of the culture of the Terran Federation and the flippant expendability of troops on seemingly irrelevant campaigns. However the book is not a comedy or humorous.

This is one of the Golden Age of Science Fiction classics. It's a great read for young adults, and a good topic of conversation if you can get them to talk to you about it (haha), since it's topics are eternally relevant. A good book leaves you with good questions, and good science fiction best of all. Enjoy!

I enjoyed it very much. I love the movie too and have no problem with the discrepancies between book and film. I think they complement each other well. Read this book if you enjoy a good military experience story, even if you don't care for sci-fi. Most of the book is focused on the main character's training, which any veteran should be able to relate to. I do wish there had been more combat scenes - the beginning and the end are the most exciting parts! Don't read this book if you find nothing interesting or have no respect for the military mindset. Avoid it too if you have no tolerance for ethical/moral worldviews outside of your own. The culture developed is not authoritarian, yet not progressive or libertarian either. Gets a little preachy, but doesn't bog things down. No sex, no cursing, no graphic violence. Just a smart, quick and enjoyable read.

The writing here is impeccable as any other Heinlein work, it must be said. However the ideological conceits are poorly defended in the work, which they really needed to be. This book was a "Young Adult" book, and it shows, in the focus on action and the simplified and ill-defended ideas presented. This bears pointing out since the rather out there and at times proto-fascist notions are very important to the work, and it's clear the reader is expected to agree. I wouldn't say it's bad, and it's never boring (the fights are amazingly well-written), but it DOES get preachy during some of the classroom sections. It's certainly not Ayn Rand levels of condescending pulpit-mongering, but it's obvious. I guess the gung-ho military fetishism rings a bit hollow, and is obviously written by a former military man in its desperation to denigrate civilians and put the military on a pedestal. These ideas feel like they need more room to grow and present themselves, which simply isn't here, but it is still possible to get enjoyment despite that.

For those of you who saw the movie, forget the whole thing. The only relation with the book was the names of the ships and planets. So much of this book is prescient. A variant of the "Jump suits" is in testing now and will allow auto emergency aid to wounds, and a squad leader to assess his troops in an instant. The suits are an integral part of the book and story. It's also a poignant story of a single human being, warts and all. Not a super thinker, or nth belt martial artist, but a single person with a sense of duty and honor. Spoiler alert....."He isn't a WASP." RAH was no respecter of current

thinking when it came to race or gender he was about 40 years ahead of the great thinkers of the time. If you read it as a child like I did, it is time to read it again so much is forgotten over 56 years.

After reading a long string of sci-fi "classics" that had interesting premises but sub par writing at best, Starship Troopers was a solid relief. The story is well paced, Johnny is very well defined as a character, and the writing is descriptive without diving into purple territory. It can get a bit preachy, but given that it's as much a political philosophy book that's not terribly surprising. For the most part, the diversions into philosophy were well spaced, and largely suited the story as well. If you're looking for a classic of sci-fi literature that will teach you about several modern sci-fi tropes, while also making for a good read, I would highly recommend this book.

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