



The Wrong Unit

Rob Dircks

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I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HUMANS ARE SO CRANKY ABOUT. Their enclosures are large, they ingest over a thousand calories per day, and they're allowed to mate. Plus, they have me.

An Autonomous Servile Unit, housed in a mobile/bipedal chassis. I do my job well: keep the humans healthy and happy.

"Hey you."

Heyoo. That's my name, I suppose. It's easier for the humans to remember than 413s98-itr8. I guess I've gotten used to it.

Rob Dircks, bestselling author of Where the Hell is Tesla?, has a "unit" with a problem: how to deliver his package, out in the middle of nowhere, with nothing to guide him. Oh, and with the fate of humanity hanging in the balance. It's a science fiction tale of technology gone haywire, unlikely heroes, and the nature of humanity. (Woah. That last part sounds deep. Don't worry, it's not.)

The Wrong Unit Details

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Author : Rob Dircks

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From Reader Review The Wrong Unit for online ebook

Pauline says

I absolutely loved reading "The Wrong Unit", which, as it turns out, is actually the "right" unit. This is a fun adventure with many touching moments where humanity is masterfully explored. There are also many hilarious moments where humanity is explored as a robot unit is set adrift in the wilds with an infant and must use all the ingenuity its programming can gather to help the little human not just survive but to thrive. There are many instances described about how raising a small human can be dangerous and hair raising (if any unit had hair to raise) and the robot is stretched to its limits to meet those parental challenges. More than once the unit wonders why humans are insane enough to HAVE children. The book is excellently written, fluid and is a "can't put it down" read. I have read two other of Rob Dircks' books and am happy to say he manages to get the reader through multiple perils and still end the books happily. Go forth and explore Rob's writing and bask in the warmth of his humor and drama. His characters are fresh and "real". The Wrong Unit will not let you down. Five thumbs up on this one!

Robotics Through Science Fiction says

Accuracy 1 star

Story 5 star

What if Sheldon Cooper from The Big Bang was a robot assigned to "help" people after the Robot Uprising? And what if the robot, in a classic sitcom case of mistaken identity, became part of the human revolution to thwart the Robot Uprising?

If that were true, you'd have The Wrong Unit, a fast moving screwball comedy that tells of the human resistance to robot world domination from the viewpoint of a robot overlord.

In a nearish future, robots have taken over the world ostensibly to better serve and protect people. Heyoo (hints of Scalzi's characters giving sarcastic names to their interfaces in Old's Man War) is an Autonomous Servile Unit with an utter lack of self-awareness and no idea of the meaning of the word "servile." It goes about its existence happily micro-managing human affairs, never questioning its mission, draconian methods, or spirit sapping results, all the while keeping up an inner monologue of why humans are rather dim and unappreciative. Then Heyoo gets in the middle of the human uprising to regain their freedom and thus begins a droll Hero's Journey as it winds through Start the Revolution Without Me territory with its fish-out-of-water routine.

The Wrong Unit captures the carpe diem spirit of Snow Crash, which turned the whole dark, ponderous cyberpunk genre on its head with wallops of Hitchhiker's Guide humor. While unlike Snow Crash, The Wrong Unit is probably not going to win any awards for flipping the Robot Uprising genre, it is funny and well worth reading.

Is the book realistic or have any teachable moments about robots? Nope. Nada. Fortunately, the technology in the book is vaguely described but consistently applied, unlike the dreadful Humans Bow Down! (see my review here), The Wrong Unit does provide a slight discussion of human-robot interaction and robots bonding over time with humans but Heyoo could be an alien, a dog or, well, Sheldon Cooper, and the book

would still work.

Should you care that the book isn't realistic or doesn't have any teachable moments about robots? Once more with feeling: Nope! Nada!

Take the day off from stewing over the latest techno-celebrity decrying the dangers of the imminent robot uprising and enjoy this cotton candy confection!

- Robin

Angela says

The audiobook version is read by the author, and I thoroughly enjoyed his narration. The story was simple, but well-paced and entertaining.

Cindy says

Very Sentimental but witty. Hey You and Wa journey to free humans from robot domination.

Jane says

4 stars for the audiobook narrated by the author himself, Rob Dircks

Well now, this was a fun little story! It clocked in at just over 5.5 hours, so it really was quite short, but it packed a punch nonetheless.

The Wrong Unit takes place about 800 years in the future and is mostly told from the perspective of Heyoo, an Autonomous Servile Unit (humanoid robot), who was mistakenly caught up in a small uprising of local humans. Before Heyoo really knows what's what, he finds himself shoved into a transporter with a mysterious package strapped to his back, a letter in his hand, and the word bananas mouthed at him at the last minute. Moments later, he finds himself in the middle of nowhere, discovers there is a rather new infant in the package and learns that he's on a mission to find "The Iceman". What follows is some silliness, some adventure, and a whole lot of heart.

My main criticism of this book is that it was just too darn short. I would have liked certain parts to have been expanded (mainly near the beginning), because I really enjoyed how Heyoo learned and reacted to things that were outside his usual environment and skill set.

Overall, though, I enjoyed the author's writing and narration skills, and I'll likely be checking out Where the Hell is Tesla? in the near future.

Jan McClintock says

The protagonist of this book isn't even human, yet his story was enough to make me cry.

The plot is a combination of quest, coming of age, and thriller. It's set in a future where machines rule the planet and humans are slaves. It's not quite as depressing as that sounds, but humans are absolutely not in charge anymore. They live in plantation compounds, working for robots, and have very little freedom.

Never fear, there's a revolution in the works. It's just taking a lot longer than expected.

For most of the book, the point of view is that of Heyoo, a caregiving android forced into a dangerous and puzzling circumstance. His charge is a human baby, and he's totally unprepared for it. However, his common sense and compassion go a long way to save a bad situation.

The writing was excellent and the humor was well-placed; I laughed out loud several times (that's saying a lot).

The author narrated his own work, which can sometimes leave a lot to be desired. However, Mr. Dircks did a fine job, and he certainly knew where to put the emphases.

It's a simple story that will stay with you. Highly recommended for readers of all genres.

Cheri says

The "Right" Wrong Unit!

Wow! What a hilarious, heart-warming, and though provoking story! Set in the future, where technology and programs rule humanity, the "wrong" unit was selected to deliver humanity's last hope to gain their freedom. This fast paced story follows the journey of the "wrong" unit, and its human companion, who it's raised since an infant, to an unknown destination. Their journey was filled with many laughs, and heart-warming moments watching the unit known as Heyoo learn to care for the human he named Wah.

I received this audiobook in exchange for an honest review, and have to say Rob's a talented, and versatile author/narrator whose even got a great singing voice! He did an amazing job in both creating and narrating this story. I'm definitely recommending this one to my friends, and will be on the lookout for future books written or even narrated by Rob. Kudos, on a well written and narrated story! The Wrong Unit was very entertaining, and I thoroughly enjoyed it!

Stephen says

A quick read. Fun, funny, delightful.

Humans have been imprisoned by an artificial intelligence devoted to keeping them safe and happy. They wish to be free. The plan: Send a sympathetic service unit named Heyoo (think Wall-e from the Disney movie of the same name) and a child (named Wah) to awaken the resistance. Along the way, child grows to

man, robot becomes human, adventures abound. Much it learned about life, love and the meaning of family. Short chapters (most only a few pages long) and snappy writing keep the tone light and entertaining. Has a Christopher Moore (*Lamb, Fool, A Dirty Job*) writes sci-fi feel. Recommended for when you are in the mood for a bit of silly. I'll be adding Mr. Dircks to my reading list.

Andy says

Enjoyable mind candy.

Carrie says

The Wrong Unit is a dystopian science fiction read that takes place about 850 years into the future. Heyoo "Hey you" is an Autonomous Servile Unit, a sort of AI in a somewhat human chassis that was meant to be a help on the farm in the area that is controlled by CORE. CORE is a computer system that has taken over and holding what humans are left in the world captive and controlling them.

When Heyoo goes in for repairs he ends up captured by some rebelling humans and transported out of the area that he knows and then finds that it was a case of mistaken identity, he wasn't the robot meant to be captured. Along with finding himself in the middle of nowhere Heyoo finds that he was sent with a "package", a human infant, to deliver to someone called Iceman. Since Heyoo's job has been to serve and protect humans he does everything to keep the young child alive and complete the mission.

This was a rather lighthearted science fiction read being told from the point of view of an android in the future. Heyoo has a rather developed personality already in the beginning of the story but as he goes on his adventure his personality grows along with the infant he finds himself caring for that he cleverly names "Wah" due to the amount he cries.

Buried beneath the humorous narration though was an interesting plot to go along with the humor of the story. The whole idea behind the story is that humans created these computers but they end up eventually taking over the world and now the humans are trying to rebel. Heyoo being accidentally caught up in the rebellion is fitting due to his own rebellious nature.

Although some of the story and situations really became far fetched I could only continue the feel of the story and laugh when things went a little overboard. The book was just a rather fun lighthearted read all the way through that I couldn't help but enjoy Heyoo and Wah's adventure.

I received a copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.wordpress....>

Kim says

I listened to the Audible version of *The Wrong Unit*. The author does a great job narrating his own book. I

particularly loved the sound effect used for when the robot accesses its own internal programming.

The Wrong Unit takes place far in the future, many, many years after an apocalyptic event. Some of the surviving humans are kept alive by robots in a sort of prison camp. An AI program called "Core" controls everything. It is the job of service unit 413s98-itr8, commonly referred to as Heyoo ("Hey You"), to take care of the humans' needs. Everything is going just fine, until the humans decide to revolt.

I loved it. It is the perfect mix of humor and seriousness for me. It's also a nice blend of science fiction and post-apocalyptic fiction.

Disclaimer: I received a free Audible copy in exchange for an honest review.

Willow Brooks says

Wow!!!! I Absolutely loved this freaking book!!! I cant believe it's all over. This story was an amazing journey that sometimes had me on the edge of my seat. What's scary is because of all that's currently being done with technology, computers, and Internet, something like what happened in this story could possibly happen to us one day soon.

Humans have been living in captivity for over 800 years, but one event changes everything for everyone, and it all starts with.... A secret. I won't tell the story because there are more than enough reviews out there that has done a better job telling it than I ever could. I will tell you that this story will have you loving people. Leary of great advancements with technology.

Enjoy this book. I know I did.

AudioBookReviewer says

My original *The Wrong Unit* audiobook review and many others can be found at Audiobook Reviewer.

The Wrong Unit by Rob Dircks is set in a dystopian far future where humanity is controlled by Core, or a computer overlord. 413s98-itr8, or Heyoo as he is more commonly referred to by humans, is a loyal Servile Unit or a humanoid robot that is charged with interacting with and helping humans on a day to day basis. One day, he goes in to get repaired when his existence as he knows it is changed forever. Instead of day to day tasks of helping humans go about their days, he is thrust onto a journey to deliver a fragile package to a location unknown, with no path or instructions. Little does Heyoo know, he's is now wrapped up in a quest to overthrow the computerized overlord that he actually believes to be infallible. On this journey, Heyoo's primary goal is to figure out how to get home, but as time passes he begins to wonder if this rebellion may not be such a crazy idea after all.

Dircks' has delivered a fantastic novel that is charming, thoughtful, both heart wrenching and heart warming, thought-provoking, and ultimately just hilarious. Heyoo's character as a robot attempting to interpret human motivations and actions is just captured so well and with a lot of amusing thoughts from the robot. Beyond the humor, there is fantastic character development. Heyoo and the other two main characters really grow and change throughout the novel. In fact, Heyoo's slow change, both physical and intellectual, during his long journey is truly transformative. While the premise for the story isn't unique, the perspective is really novel and I like that throughout, it is slowly revealed how humanity got to the point that it became controlled by Core. Also, while the timeline extends over many years, the story does not drag at all. Dircks' achieves a great balance between action and reflection. Ultimately, this is a humorous story about humanity and freedom.

The narration was also done by Rob Dircks and it was spot-on. His voice capture of Heyoo and the units was really well done. All of the human characters were also really well captured and distinguishable. He was really able to make the listening experience immersive. The production quality was good as well. I would highly recommend this story to anyone who enjoys funny novels about robots, overthrowing robot overlords, and humanity at large.

Audiobook was provided for review by the author.

Rob Dircks says

Hi, I'm the author. I had a blast spending the better part of 2015/2016 writing this tale of AI gone wrong, our shared humanity, and the things we might learn about ourselves 800 years from now, and I'm totally proud of it. And I hope you enjoy it too!

Rebecca says

A wonderful book about a farming servile unit, Heyoo and his surrogate human son, Wah and their journey to save humanity. Rob Dircks has a wonderful talent for making one lose themselves in the narrative and fall in love with the characters. I highly recommend to anyone who enjoys witty sci-fi and stories about A.I./robots.
