



# Odyssey

*Michael P. Kube-McDowell*

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**Odyssey** Michael P. Kube-McDowell

A man without memory, stranded on an icy asteroid. His only chance for survival is locked within a band of mining robots who are dutifully searching the surface for a mysterious object known as the Key to Perihelion. His name is Derec. His journey will take him to a city different from any he has ever known. A fantastic metropolis beyond his dreams: Robot City.

## Odyssey Details

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# From Reader Review Odyssey for online ebook

## Víctor Segovia says

hace mucho tiempo leí por primera vez esta obra, de hecho creo que la compré sólo por el nombre de Isaac Asimov que estaba en la portada.

A pesar que el autor mencionado sólo aportó su nombre y muchas ideas, el responsable es otro, que hila la historia de Derec

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## Ana says

Los dos primeros capítulos son los más lentos de todo el libro, debo admitirlo, pero son necesarios para que comprendamos dónde estamos, qué se hace allí y como es este mundo donde los robots, las naves espaciales y los alienígenas están a la orden del día.

¿Qué os encontraréis? Pues misterio y mucha, mucha acción. Los problemas de Derec se solapan en su particular odisea, apenas ha conseguido salir de uno ya tiene que pensar en cómo salir vivo del siguiente. Por fortuna no estará solo ya que nos encontraremos con personajes entrañables como la caninoide Wolruf o la bipolar Katherine.

Otros personajes inspiran directamente antipatía como el cruel capitán Aránimas, el eranio, que a pesar de todo resulta ser un personaje atractivo debido a su inteligencia.

Para comprender mejor la historia y el mundo en el que se desarrolla al final del libro se da un poco de información sobre los personajes, los robots y algunos objetos clave.

Los grandes protagonistas son sin lugar a duda los robots, aprenderemos a tratar con ellos gracias a Derec y a sus amigos y entenderemos un poco su concepto de humano, lo que supone o no un peligro y lo que para ellos puede ser una clara contradicción.

El primer robot con el que establecemos contacto es Darla, que se encuentra en la cápsula de salvamento en la que despierta Derec y actúa a modo de terapeuta. Es ahí cuando comprendemos lo difícil que puede ser en algunas ocasiones tratar con ellos y hacernos entender.

Pese a ser una novela muy entretenida debo decir que en la traducción algunas expresiones suenan demasiado forzadas al menos para mí, pero no son numerosas. También me gustaría que tuviera más profundidad en cuanto a los personajes, sus pensamientos, sus sueños, las luces y las sombras de su psique...

Esta es la primera parte de la saga "Robot City" así que habrá que ver cómo evoluciona en el segundo libro, Sospecha. No olvidemos que las primeras partes suelen ser más introductorias.

En resumen: la novela se lee rápido, es muy entretenida, con grandes dotes de acción y misterio. Perfecta para aquellos lectores que quieran adentrarse en este género, pero quizá los habituales busquen ir un poco más allá.

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## Dev Sodagar says

I struggled to really see what this story was trying to achieve. It felt a little too generic for my tastes.

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## Scott Holstad says

This is an interesting beginning to a series commissioned by Asimov's publisher and with his permission. Indeed, he writes the forward. Of course, the Three Laws of Robotics are in full force here.

A man, who goes by the name of Derec, which is found on the front of his shirt, wakes up on an asteroid with severe amnesia. He has no idea who he is, where he's from, where he was going, who his family is, what planet he's from, what his work is, etc. All he knows is that he's surrounded by robots. Many, many robots. And most of them are pretty darn busy. It looks like they're mining. He starts wandering around the various levels and meets some of the robots and while they're respectful, they won't let him leave the premises for his own safety or rebuild the craft he was in to take off in. After awhile, a space ship is seen coming toward the asteroid and no one knows its intent, but the robots start going wild. They start taking everything on the premises to be burned and once dumped in the incinerator, they jump in after. They're committing suicide. The ship turns out to be hostile and fires lasers at the asteroid and their colony, wreaking terrible damage. Derec outwits a robot, dons a special suit, and makes it to the surface. At the very end, a robot breaks free and shouts to Derec that they've found the key. Derec passes out.

And wakes up on the space ship. Where a very hostile alien is captain of the ship and wants robots for slaves. He's got some blown up parts and insists Derec build him a robot or else. There are several types of aliens on this large ship and one that looks kind of like a dog becomes a kind of friend to him. Derec somehow builds a robot, but gives it instructions to listen only to Derec as his ultimate master, even while following someone else's orders. The captain is happy with the robot and promptly tells Derec he wants 50 more. Derec and his doggie buddy make it to the control center of the ship, where the robot and the dog carry off the captain. Derec starts looking for the hidden key the robots gave him, as he's obsessed with it. As he's looking, a young woman appears and seems to know him. However, as they're talking, he's working on lifting floor boarding and an explosion occurs, knocking everyone out.

Derec wakes up in a hospital room in what he later finds out are weeks later. And his female friend, Kate, is there too, still asleep from her injuries. And they have a robot doctor. They're on a space station manned entirely by robots. And part of the space ship had come loose and the robots had captured it and brought it back to the station. As soon as Kate, the young woman, is able to get around, they start talking about getting back home, wherever that is. And they talk about the key, which the woman knows about too. However, neither of them knows its significance. Odd. The doggie alien turns up, hiding from the robots and the three of them team up to rescue the key, which the doggie knows the location of. And they pull it off! The three of them end up back in a darkened room and it turns out that the alien knows a little about it. Apparently, it's a key to a transdimensional travel ability, which is why it's so wanted. As the robots are closing in on them, Kate and Derec rub it, find a catch, push it and disappear. And appear in the middle of nothingness. They push it again and appear atop a pyramid in a large, beautiful but alien city. They try it again, but it doesn't work, so they figure it needs time to "recharge." So they spend the night atop the pyramid.

In the morning, they go for it again and they're taken back to the land of nothingness. They press the key again, thinking of winding up on Kate's home planet and they're dispatched right back to the pyramid. Odd. Derec decides he wants to go down and look around. Kate follows him down. At the bottom, they're met by robots. They're taken to a house, where they get cleaned up, and then go to meet the city leaders, who they assume are going to be human. But they're wrong. More robots. Because they're in Robot City. There are no humans. They're stunned. And while they want off the planet and to go back home, it turns out that can't happen because of an interesting plot twist that leaves you hanging at the end of the book. Completely unresolved. You have to buy the sequel and probably each sequel after that in order to find resolution. This publishing strategy usually bugs me and I'm encountering that with David Weber's Safehold series, but his books are 800-1100 pages long. This book was only 200 pages and I read it in a day. So I'm not too put off by the idea of reading a few sequels in this series. The writing is simple. The plot is basic. It's pretty easy to understand. The sci fi isn't very original. But it's still fun. It takes you back to a simpler time in sci fi. And if you like robots, you're in for a treat. Recommended.

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### **Dave Warawa says**

Respecting the incredible role of Issac Asimov in pioneering science-fiction, I found this to be a slow paced book. Perhaps I've read my fair share of him. Much of his work was done in a far earlier time, when the realm of imagination was much different.

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### **Stephanie Ricker says**

I'm going to review the first three books of Robot City here, since my complaints are the same for all of them.

I inherited the first three books of the series when I got married, and both my husband and I had assumed that these were actually by Isaac Asimov. NOT SO. Asimov writes the intros, and the stories are very, very loosely set in his universe, but that's it. I was still prepared to enjoy the series...until I realized the quality was terrible.

In all fairness to the authors, a lot of the flaws may well be due to the fact that each author wrote a single book in a sprawling, interminably long story. I can only imagine the frustration in writing a chunk of story that someone else started and a third someone else would finish. The result is some of the dullest, jarring scifi I've read. The characters are, without exception, unlikable, mercurial, and wildly unpredictable and unnatural in their reactions. I never really did get a handle on them. To say the plot moved at a snail's pace is unfair to the speedier varieties of snails out there. Subplots are ignored for whole books at a time (again, understandable when books are written by different authors.) The mysteries put forward aren't particularly interesting, and I had no desire to read past the three books we already owned.

I did read the synopses for the remaining four books--yes, that's right, they managed to spin this threadbare little story out into seven books in total--and was very glad I hadn't bothered to read the rest.

This wouldn't even have warranted two stars if not for the robots themselves, who are by far and away the most interesting characters in the book, which really isn't saying much.

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## Dark-Draco says

My copy actually contains volume 1 and 2, although the cover and ISBN are the same as the one shown.

I wasn't sure what to expect from this, having never read the original books by Asimov, or anything by the authors, but I was pleasantly surprised.

In 'Odyssey', a man wakes up in a life-pod on a asteroid, with no memory of who he is or how he got there. He is rescued by a group of robots that are searching the rock for something, but who won't help him leave. Then they are attacked by an alien spaceship and he ends up on board, only to escape again to a whole new world.

In 'Suspicion', still without memories, he is accused of murder by a robot-run society, who are also in the midst of an unknown emergency. He has to solve both mysteries before he can continue to work out who he is.

Both novels read well, although I prefer the second one. There's a lot of reacting to circumstances and lots of action, but to be honest, Derec doesn't do a lot to help himself and Katherine is just mildly annoying. I really liked some of the themes it introduces and the essay on the Laws of Humanics was interesting. I liked it enough to try tracking down the rest of the series, as I really want to know how it all ends.

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## Michael says

Loved this series. Different authors for each book, too, which was neat. Introduced the reader to different styles while maintaining the plot/storyline.

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## Catherine Vera says

3.5 estrellas

Me es complicado reseñar este libro, ya que ADORO la ficción, pero tengo un pequeño problema con algunos de sus géneros: Denme un libro con 10 razas de dragones y seré capaz de describir con gran detalle cada tipo, denme 2 tipos de robot y seré incapaz de distinguirlos.

Odisea es el primer libro de una saga ambientada en el mundo creado por Isaac Asimov (y el tipo de robot que él creo). Por lo que indiqué antes comprenderán que fue extremadamente difícil para mí lograr seguir la historia, necesité hacer varios descansos para procesar la información, orientarme y entender en qué punto estaba. Además de eso, el libro es muy (MUY!) descriptivo, por lo que a veces estaba en pleno proceso imaginativo de recrear los espacios en mi cabeza, pero eran tantos los detalles que llegaba un punto de colapso, además que los términos técnicos me dejaban igual que si estuviera leyendo en chino.

A lo anterior se suma que podemos dividir el libro en 3 partes iguales, la primera es lenta a morir! Es básicamente el relato de nuestro protagonista que no recuerda ni a su madre y no sabe donde en el universo

se encuentra. La lectura de estas hojas es tortuosa, porque estamos "aprendiendo" al mismo tiempo que Derek, y como este lo único que tiene son los sentidos, entonces nos describe donde está ubicado... Uffff! Si logras sobrevivir de la página 70-80 existen altas probabilidades de que termines el libro.

En la segunda parte empieza a haber más acción, básicamente porque Derek comienza a tomar más decisiones sobre lo que debe o no hacer, lo cual engancha rápidamente, y aparecen más personajes con los cuales se forman interesantes interacciones. Cuando llegamos a la recta final, el rompecabeza se empieza a armar y muestra la "primera figura reconocible"... Las cosas suceden una tras otra y ya no se puede soltar el libro hasta la última página y... ¡VAYA FINAL! Si a este punto has llegado con sentimientos encontrados, lo más probable es que a pesar de lo anterior desees seguir leyendo el siguiente libro.

En pocas palabras, Odisea empieza siendo un asco de libro, pero llega un punto en que la acción empieza poco a poco a aparecer de una manera ascendente, hasta llegar a un punto en que el libro te atrapa.

Si no fuera por ese inicio, claramente habría merecido 4 estrellas.

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### **S.G. Rainbolt says**

This was a reprint by a company no longer in business (ibooks.com) and part of a book series. I was surprised about this series. I enjoyed "I, Robot" from Isaac Asimov so gave this a try. Though the book is entirely about robots and one stranded human adventure through their robot created world, it was actually quite good. As a reader, I felt I could relate to Derek and because of that I followed through to the end. Asimov's Robot world has spawned entire generations of robot writers. This book and series, as I'm finding out, feels very much like what we've come to love from that world. It will be 20 years, in 2012, since Asimov died. I encourage any science fiction reader to reenter the I, Robot world and get a hold of one of these books.

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### **Dane Peterson says**

It was okay. It really is just a setup for the next book, which I may have read if that was the end of the tale, but it looks like there are many more after that. And like many others have said, putting Asimov's name in big letters on the cover is a bit misleading.

I think the point for the series was for different authors to play in "Asimov's sandbox", using the 3 laws of robotics. There were a few such instances in this book, but I didn't think they were crucial to the story. It was just a way for the protagonists to navigate their way out of trouble from time to time.

So all in all, kind of a disappointment. Not terrible, but not great either.

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### **Tiffiny says**

MAJOR cliffhanger - be prepared to start the next book right away

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## David Erickson says

While this novel is written quite like Asimov it was written by two authors under Asimov's guidance, with a forward and a mid-novel commentary by Asimov.

This is quite a story. It begins with a young man, Derec, waking in a survival pod on a frozen asteroid, not knowing who he is or where he is. His personal history is a blank slate, yet he retains his technical knowledge. It ends with Derec saving Robot City from an out-of-control defense system. What happens in between, of course, is the real story.

Robot City is one of the best novels I've ever read. Not that I couldn't set it aside when other demands required my attention or fatigue blurred my vision, but I didn't want to. The situations were fraught with danger, Derec and Katherine (the protagonists) all too real and the story line compelling and all too believable. Along the way Michael and Michael explain the laws of robotics and create human/robot interactions that display the complexity of such relationships and the misunderstandings and miscommunications that entails. The truth is robots are logical and humans are a collection of competing emotions and misguided logic.

I was impressed with the technology displayed throughout and have no doubt whatsoever that the robot/human collaboration will someday make it all real.

Despite the high caliber of the writing, there were a number of issues that I was less than comfortable with. Such as the twenty plus typos any proof reader should've easily spotted and corrected and the consistent, misplaced and inexplicable underlying anger that was so much a part of both protagonists.

Another was the significant number of loose threads that never got tidied up. Michael 2 wrapped it up by writing that Derec still didn't know who he was and where he came from by the end, and there were certain things that would be beyond the protagonists' pov. But then there was the issue of the body and the unknown behind-the-scenes hand, both of which were glazed over, perhaps as not relevant to the story. Still, this lack of closure bothered me.

Would I recommend this to sci-fi and Asimov fans? Absolutely.

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## Osvaldo says

Es más un 3.5, a ver me explico...

ésta es la primer obra en una serie de un aproximado de 10 novelas referidas en el mundo creado por Isaac Asimov y sus leyes de la robótica, Michael P. es el que abre el telón con la primer novela y por lo tanto o al menos así lo pienso yo, es obvio que sea una novela extremadamente lenta e introductoria, llevas 70 páginas y el protagonista sigue sin saber donde está, como se llama, qué hace y todo lo nuevo que descubre es misterio tras misterio tras misterios tras misterio tras misterio... y así a la n potencia... cuando empieza a tomar cause la novela es más o menos por la página 120 como que el autor se dio cuenta de que tanta explicación tan pero tan técnica ya estaba haciendo mucho relleno y quiso empezar a escribir una buena



novela Derec y Kate serán nuestros protagonistas y juntos enfrentarán un universo lleno de robots, alienígenas y aunque se sabe de la existencia de más humanos, al menos en esta novela no hacen acto de presencia, es una buena novela sin embargo me ha resultado amargo leerla porque siento que el autor la arruina, tiene un mundo extenso y maravilloso por delante, sin embargo con tanta y tanta y tanta descripción y tanto misterio que no obtiene resultado en este primer libro siento que me saturó, estuve investigando y dicen que el segundo libro es muchísimo mejor que este y mucho más lleno de acción, entonces espero ponerme pronto con él, porque eso sí.... el final de esta novela es de INFARTO!!!! prácticamente sólo por 4 partes de la novela que son alucinantes!! es lo que se ha ganado la nota.

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## **Kana says**

I listened to an audiobook version of this, and even though I applaud the creativity by using a robotic voice, it made paying attention and distinguishing between characters, very difficult. I could tell the dialog was different for the humans, robots, and aliens. But it took a few seconds to tell, because of the monotone voice. It was nice but distracting.

As far as the story, it was very interesting. A bit dragged out, I'm honestly not sure if I can handle this amnesia story all the way through to the sixth book. Seems as if it could have worked within three books, easily. But we will see how long I hold out.

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