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Isaac Asimov was born on January 2, 1920 in Petrovich. His family emigrated to the United States in 1923 and settled in Brooklyn, New York, where they owned and operated a candy store. Azimov became a naturalized U.S. citizen at the age of eight. As a child he discovered his talent for writing, producing his first original fiction at the age of eleven. He became one of the most prolific writers in the world, publishing almost 500 books in his lifetime. Azimov was not only a writer; he was also a biochemist and educator. He studied chemistry at Columbia University with a bachelor's degree, a doctorate in medical sciences and a Ph.D. in medicine. In 1951, Asimov took up the position of professor of biochemistry at Boston University School of Medicine, despite lack of practical experience in this field. His exceptional intelligence allowed him to quickly master new systems, and soon he became a successful and distinguished professor in Colombia and even co-authored a biochemistry textbook for several years. Asimov has received numerous awards and honors for his books and stories, and is considered a leading writer of the Golden Age of science fiction. Although he did not invent science fiction, he helped legitimize it by adding a narrative structure that was absent from the traditional science fiction books of the time. He also presented a number of innovative concepts, including a thematic concern about technological progress and its impact on humanity. Asimov is probably best known for his Fund series, which includes the Foundation, Foundation and Empire, as well as the Second Fund. In 1966, the trilogy won the Hugo Award for Best Sci-Fi Series. In 1983, Asimov wrote another novel by the Foundation, The Edge of the Foundation, which won the Hugo Award for Best Novel of the Year. Asimov also wrote a series of robot books that included I, Robot, and eventually he tied the two series together. He won three more Hugos, including one awarded posthumously for the best non-fiction book of 1995, by I. Asimov. Nightfall was chosen as the best sci-fi story of all time by science fiction writers of America. In 1979, Asimov wrote his autobiography, In Memory Still Green. He continued to write until just a few years before his death from heart and kidney failure on 6 April 1992. Join LibraryThing for fasting. This theme is currently marked as dormant - the last post is over 90 days. You can revive it by posting an answer. SPOILER for those who have read the book (not the story), maybe you can help me understand. Death on a huge scale threatens, because the only sun left on one side of the planet is about to be eclipsed. On the other side of the planet shines at least 5 suns that will not be affected by the eclipse. Why not go to the other side for half a day? I don't get it. It hasn't even been mentioned once (of course I haven't finished the book yet, but I'm more than halfway in), seems like a huge flaw in history and ruining my reading experience. Am I missing something? Or do the authors simply ignore this obvious decision? Isn't it easy to move so many people? I didn't read the novel; but I observe that many SF writers, even if they may have Cosmic Consciousness, sometimes forget that they live on the globe. The best example that comes to mind? Larry Niven's story Inconstant Moon. People notice one night that the moon has become very, very bright. So bright, in fact, that there can only be one explanation: The sun has passed Nova, and the end of the world may only be a few hours away. I forgot how Niven explained the fact that we would be in touch with the daytime side of the globe - and the story to date the globally wired community - but even with the necessary hands swinging to make the story work, the premise was not colossally compelling. Of course, the Sun has not passed new and there is a rational explanation. And it's been so long since I read it that I don't remember if the purpose of the story was any Orson Velez War of the Worlds broadcast subtext. But this story only works if you suspend disbelief for plot purposes. This can also be the case for Nightfall - like storytelling and romance. (And given that the short story begins with an epigram that sets the entire plot of the device into the words of one syllable, we can safely assume that when Asimov first wrote it in 1941, he just wanted to play with the idea rather than explore the practical effects and soften this particular astronomical configuration, is expected to happen when the final sun is eclipsed.) The story covers that problem as I recall. Well, the impending doom is that everyone's going crazy because of the Darkness. They are not used to darkness; because of the six suns of the planet on this planet is never dark. Also, the dark part of the world must be destroyed by fire, either because there will be an event where there will be a rain fire or people will start a lot of fires because they are afraid of the darkness and desperate for light, any light at all. Because apparently they're all going to be crazy, the fires are going to rage out of control. They won't need to constantly move everyone, the eclipse will only take about half a day or so, and scientists catch on to the impending doom well in advance. In the book, the idea of running to the other side of the planet is not mentioned at all, nor is it considered why this would be impossible. It really bothers me. Maybe I'm jumping the gun and this part of the story will still come up, but it feels like the time for authors to make it has already passed. I also don't understand why they don't just sleep all over or knock themselves unconscious during the entire eclipse, or surround themselves with artificial light, and it also gets no answer. It just implies that all they have, of course, on a solar basis. Sounds like some pretty big missteps for me, or I might just read it wrong...-/ I mean, these are two great science fiction, aren't they? Vonini: Yes, so the novel's short story orders big, because it's the same disaster that's about to befall civilization in a short version, too. Asimov, as I recall, did what civilization destroyed to the level of the Stone Age. No one survives long enough to write a report on what happened last time, leaving archaeologists to start over with the first principles - we keep finding this layer of ash, so it looks like everything is collapsing from time to time, but no one knows why. And very few or no written records survive, because of Fahrenheit 451 and all that. Solar energy is a thing, I'm quite sure. Invention for the novel; although it seems reasonable to assume that if you always have at least one sun in the sky, constant light is given and a supply stoppage is not expected to be a problem. There is another thing that you didn't mention and I hesitate to mention it because it's a big big stonking SPOILER. I don't think Asimov ever believed that people could read a novel without knowing the story at first - or that even with Silverberg's help, his style would get so turgid that people would lose patience with a novel about halfway like you seem to do. I'll give you a hint. On a planet with centuries-old eternal daylight, what do you think the state of astronomical knowledge will be? And if this planet has six suns, what could you conclude about local star systems? I think I'm with you. I remember not buying a room when reading. Everyone's going crazy? No. (Same spoiled many other stories for me :-)) RobertDay: Scientists muse that dozens of other suns that they haven't seen because of the eternal daylight, and they discuss the idea of a planet with just one sun that would be day and night. It was actually the coolest part of the book. I realize that this is something at the center of the story? The problem with this book for me is that there doesn't really seem to be a real emergency. If one half of the world is eclipsed, and that will cause people to go crazy because of the darkness (7 bnielsen; bnielsen, which I can buy, since it is unnatural for them and our ancestors used to fear in winter that the days will only continue to get shorter), why not get around it? Why not all unconscious, sleeping or moved the other way during the entire eclipse? It feels like cutting corners with logic just so they can display their neat ideas. I'm sorry, icons of science fiction or not, it's just bad to write as far as I'm concerned. Vonini: Please understand: a) I've been reading the story (though not recently), but not a novel; I didn't stick out for anything for the quality writing, conspiracy, walking or anything else. I became well aware, from about 20 years or so, that Asimov's writing was - let's say, working and a little more - and that there are aspects of his work that just don't stand up for modern scrutiny. Asimov's most recent book, which I read, is The Gods Myself, which I read shortly after she came out and hasn't read it since. 'Nightfall' is a clever study of the riddle that Asimov himself has put on. Personally, knowing what I'm doing with Asimov, I wouldn't go for a new version, even considering the involvement of Bob Silverberg (someone I usually have a lot of time for). Silverberg must have had a reason to take the job. Sometimes there are sound practical reasons for taking on a project, and if that means sometimes you end up trying to put lipstick on a pig, then so be it and wait for the check to come in. You may well go Was it?, When do you get to it; After you deconstruct the story so far, it wouldn't surprise me if you did. And I wouldn't blame you for that. The blame will lie with Asimov for trying to extract the last drop of the run from what is considered a neat history (for 1941). Or it can still work for you. Only you can decide. Vonini: It's been a long time, but doesn't most people believe that the night is even going to fall (except, like, one scientist and some religious kooks)? In these conditions, it seems difficult to organize any mass action. Very sad is that Nightfall was voted the best sci-fi story written before the 1965 Creation of the Nebula Awards by SFWA. Which tells you that most SF writers know asshole-all about writing. I only read the story, not the novel, but keep in mind that 1941 was not so far from the time in 1910, when there was a planet of all hysteria, that Halley's comet visit would end all life on Earth - people think there will be doom from the sky, panic and there is good scientific evidence of death from the sky not so much different in nature, and as well as Azimov playing on this. (It just wasn't always... great on the social science side of things.) Vonini: I read this topic and nodded my head in agreement, for the most part. I have various books by Asimov and I really loved novels when I read them. I was nine years old, and that was a long time ago. I reread several of his stories; even those are better left as a keepsake. There are writers who, even as the world of science has moved on, can still keep my attention as gifted and elegant authors. I love the early Gina Wolfe (for example) and Tiptree still fills my heart with joy. Asimov was fine and his stories are still OK, but you know if you just want to read the early authors, there's always Ray Bradbury or PKD (although he may be chancy, not everything he wrote fell by obligatory category). Well, I just accept the fact that although the book has some interesting ideas, the story itself is lacking in performance. Maybe I should give a short story a try. Thank you all, I thought it was just me or that I was missing something. Turns out it was a book;-) Vonini: Re Nightfall: Presumably the planet is spinning, so the night will fall on the entire planet at some point. It's been years since I've read the story, but I remember it's essentially like a slow EMP. Carnophile!: Carnophile! doesn't think it's very plausible. Thanks for making a lot more sense! Cool, hope it revives your enjoyment of the novel! Join the post nightfall isaac asimov robert silverberg pdf

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