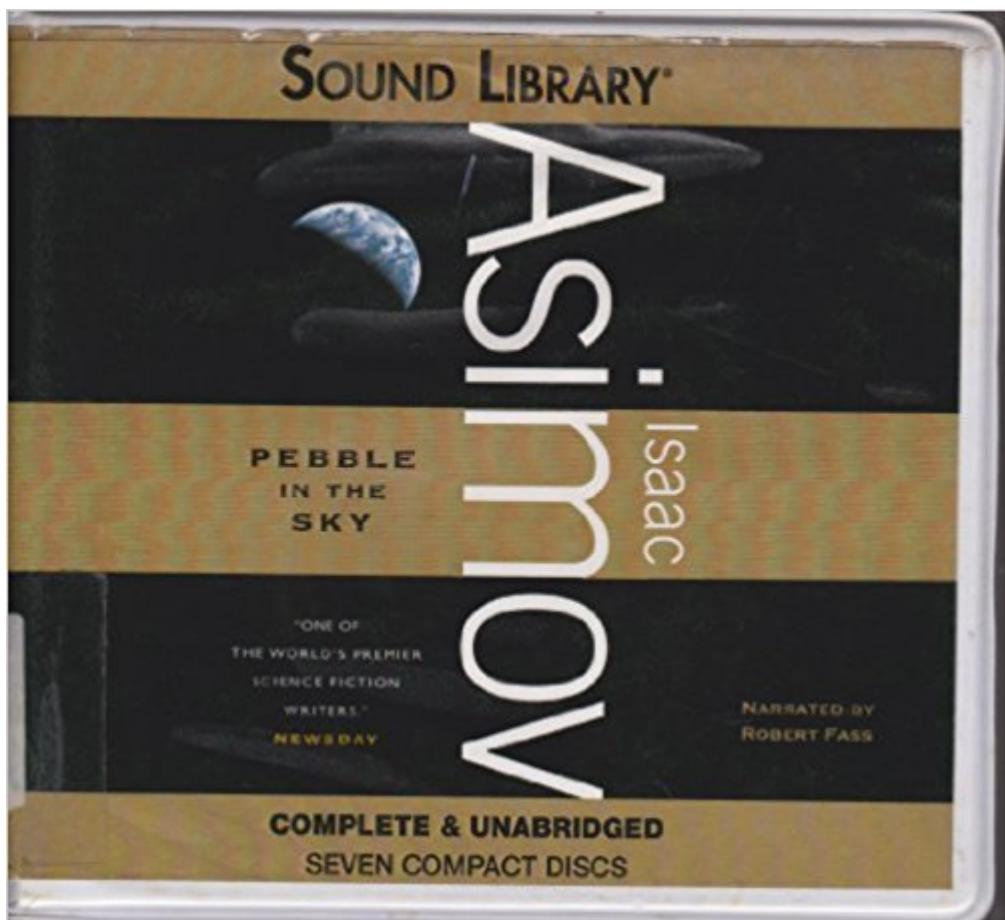


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Pebble In The Sky (Galactic Empire)



Synopsis

One moment Joseph Schwartz is a happily retired tailor in Chicago, 1949. The next he's a helpless stranger on Earth during the heyday of the first Galactic Empire. Earth, as he soon learns, is a backwater, just a pebble in the sky, despised by all the other two hundred million planets of the Empire because its people dare to claim it's the original home of man. And Earth is poor, with great areas of radioactivity ruining much of its soil--so poor that everyone is sentenced to death at the age of sixty. Joseph Schwartz is sixty-two. This is young Isaac Asimov's first novel, full of wonders and ideas, the book that launched the novels of the Galactic Empire, culminating in the Foundation series.

Book Information

Series: Galactic Empire (Book 3)

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Customer Reviews

"Isaac Asimov was the greatest science-fiction writer of all time. No matter how vast his scope, he always put distinctive, memorable characters at the heart of his stories, and he told his tales with flawless, clear prose. Without his ground-breaking work, science fiction today would be radically different--and infinitely poorer."--Robert J. Sawyer, Hugo Award-Winning author of *Rollback*"One of the world's premier science fiction writers." --*Newsday*"Isaac Asimov is the greatest explainer of the age." --Carl Sagan"For fifty years it was Isaac Asimov's tone of address that all the other voices of SF obeyed."--*The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Isaac Asimov (1920-1992) was born in the Soviet Union and came to the United States in 1923. He earned his PhD in chemistry in 1948, and in 1958 became a full-time writer. His writings include the Foundation Trilogy; I, Robot; Tomorrow's Children; and numerous works of nonfiction touching on a range of scientific topics. Among his accolades are six Hugo awards, a SFWA Grand Master Award, and high praise from such luminaries as Kurt Vonnegut, Arthur C. Clarke, and Gene Roddenberry. Robert Fass is a veteran actor and twice winner of the prestigious Audie Award. He has earned multiple Earphones Awards, including one for his narration of Francisco Goldman's *Say Her Name*, which was named one of *AudioFile* magazine's Best Audiobooks of 2011.

Of the three books that make up the "trilogy" of Galactic Empire stories ("The Stars Like Dust", "The Currents of Space" and "Pebble in the Sky") this is the best of the three, although they're all entertaining and bear Asimov's unmistakeable style. Readers familiar with the Foundation Trilogy will encounter elements that form common touch-points between this book and that series. This series was not conceived of as a "trilogy", but clearly are placed along a fictional historic thread that predates the Foundation Trilogy, but don't suffer from the artifice apparent in other, later works that make a deliberate attempt to link to that series (e.g. "Prelude to Foundation" and the many novels that tie together some of Asimov's other series and the original Foundation Trilogy). I believe that *Pebble in the Sky* was the last of the three to be written, and shows Asimov's greater maturity as a writer - the characters are a bit more three-dimensional, and while the first two books are notable for their lack of villains (the antagonists are eventually seen as reacting to historical, political and economic circumstances, an archetype that recurs in Asimov's writing), "*Pebble In The Sky*" introduces a more conventional villain character that represents another Asimovian (is that a word?) archetype that will be familiar to those who have read some of his other works.

How can anyone read Isaac Asimov and not give him 5 stars? I have been reading Asimov since i was a child, and he was for many years my favorite author. I have read every single one of his science fiction stories and novels. In addition to fiction, he also wrote factual books, a fact I learned the hard way. I recall that many years ago, I was in a book store and saw an Isaac Asimov book i had not read. Excited, I bought the book, not opening it until I got home. If I had opened it in the book store, I might have stood there reading it for hours. Nevertheless, when I got home, I opened the book, entitled *Realm of Numbers*. I thought it was an interesting title, but I soon discovered it was a book about math. I laughed and laughed (but I didn't read the book). Isaac Asimov combined

a vast knowledge of the sciences along with a gift of story telling that is unmatched by any other writer living or dead. One can readily tell that Asimov truly loved to write. He had a great wit, and he imbued his stories with scientific wonder, mystery, adventure, love, and humor.

I noticed this book on my shelf the other day and decided to reread it (only I had to buy the kindle edition because I can no longer read physical books). I think I must have originally read this when I was in high school, back in the dark ages. It has held up remarkably well. The book is still entertaining. The characters are interesting, the plot believable (even if a little outdated scientifically). It reminds me of why I started reading science fiction in the first place. Although it is billed as the third book in the Galactic Empire series, it stands very well on its own, something I really appreciate in a series book. If you haven't read Asimov, if you think classical science fiction might be boring, think again. Pebble in the Sky is as good a place as any to acquaint yourself with some of the best writing this genre has to offer.

It is the first novel by Asimov, but his talent is already evident, even if the plot is still rough on the edges. It was interesting to read this novel for the first time after reading all Foundation and Robot series. The Asimov's Galactic Empire is already there and the psychic powers of the Second Foundation wizards as well. No robots though. Written in the 50s, there are no cell phone or other tech that we take for granted, and the inability to be "always connected" provides for some plot points. The protagonist's surname and his attitude remind us that the novel was written in almost immediate aftermath of WWII and the Holocaust. Fascist undertones of villains are evident, and the triumph of democracy is lauded. Some truths never fade, even when more modern books take much more nuanced views on heroism and villainy. Overall, the exciting read, even after 60 years.

I'm an Asimov fan. Even though his hard science may be getting a bit dated these days, his stories remain entertaining and captivating. I love the way he develops his characters and how the stories feel so comfortable to read. He's the sci-fi author I gauge all the others by... an absolute master.... and this tale is among his best!

It's amazing how some of the thoughts Asimov puts down on the page here still very much resonate today, especially when it comes to the mutual and unreasonable hatred Earth and Galaxy citizens feel for each other and how it can be manipulated by men without scruples to achieve power. In other aspects, early Asimov can be quite dated (the traditional love story he feels compelled to fit in

almost every story feels pretty forced here), but it's still a pleasure to read - the final twist isn't on par with several he will showcase in the later Empire books, but it's still satisfying.

Having fun reading the whole series. Another great story. Asimov was a master even his early pieces are great. Thanks

Asimov wrote from each individual's point of view as he developed his characters. He was truly one of the greats.

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