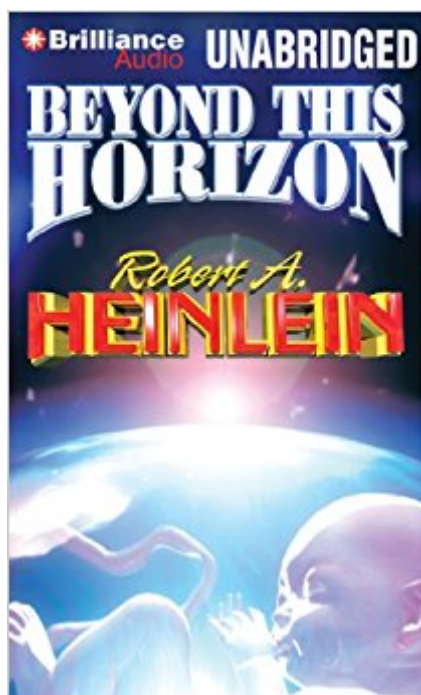


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# Beyond This Horizon



## Synopsis

Utopia has been achieved. Disease, hunger, poverty and war are found only in the history tapes, and applied genetics has brought a lifespan of over a century. But Hamilton Felix is bored. And he is the culmination of a star line; each of his last thirty ancestors chosen for superior genes. He is, as far as genetics can produce one, the ultimate man, yet sees no meaning in life. However, his life is about to become less boring. A secret cabal of revolutionaries plan to revolt and seize control. Knowing of Hamilton's disenchantment with the modern world, they want him to join their Glorious Revolution. Big mistake! The revolutionaries are about to find out that recruiting a superman was definitely not a good idea. . . "Not only America's premier writer of speculative fiction, but the greatest writer of such fiction in the world." Stephen King "There is no other writer whose work has exhilarated me as often and to such an extent as Heinlein." Dean Koontz

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (January 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1469280337

ISBN-13: 978-1469280332

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.6 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 78 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #6,862,280 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( H ) > Heinlein, Robert A. #4471 in Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction #5314 in Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

## Customer Reviews

Heinlein equals kitsch? First published in 1942, this reprint title by one of the masters of modern science fiction is not one of his best efforts, with its dated '40s jargon, a ham-fisted attempt at romance and a plot that really doesn't go anywhere. On the plus side, it does contain good, sound genetics that later scientific advances haven't significantly outmoded. The plot centers on Hamilton Felix, whose genetic makeup has been recorded, tracked and tweaked for over five generations to make his genetic pool one of several "Star line" groups. Hamilton has a body filled with some of the

best characteristics that man can have, and the only problem is that he doesn't give a darn. Nor does he intend to continue with the experiment that his progenitors were so keen on, since he doesn't want children. When he's not avoiding reproduction, Hamilton plays at being a millionaire entrepreneur (his genetic mix gives him great intelligence and he's a whiz with money) and a spy/counterspy for the government (foiling a plot to overthrow the government keeps him hopping). With his traditional hard-boiled detective voice, Hamilton makes an engaging hero. Despite some definite signs of age, as well as a tendency to the pedantic, the book remains highly readable. Heinlein loyalists will ignore the pallid "star child" jacket art as they head for the cash register. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Robert A. Heinlein, four-time winner of the Hugo Award and recipient of three Retro Hugos, received the first Grand Master Nebula Award for lifetime achievement. His worldwide bestsellers have been translated into 22 languages and include *Stranger in a Strange Land*, *Starship Troopers*, *Time Enough for Love*, and *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress*. His long-lost first novel, *For Us, the Living*, was recently published by Scribner and Pocket Books. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Not one of Heinlein's best. It's more like his worst. But, as a history it is interesting. You can see a lot of his later themes. Since is pre-war it is also dated. All the eugenics talk, for example. This is Heinlein in the raw. Worth the read if you are a fan. If not, please skip this, you will just get the wrong impression.

In my opinion, this may be RAH's worst novel. When I bought it, I thought I had never read it. As I was reading it, I realized that it was so unmemorable that I had forgotten that I had read it 20 or so years ago. Although Heinlein presents an interesting future society, the plot is bland and poorly motivated, the characters are not compelling, and the outcome is poorly explained and unsatisfying. In particular, I was disappointed by the characters - they are the flat "cardboard cutouts" that literary professionals always complain about in science fiction stories. I found it impossible to care if any of the characters succeeded or failed, and even had difficulty keeping straight who was who. None of the characters seemed to have any passion about anything, and it was not obvious what they care about or why. If you are a dedicated Heinlein fan, as I am, you will want to read this just to say you have read all of his work. Otherwise, I would recommend you pass.

I first read this book in 1967 and I had been looking for it for many years. I could not remember the author or title. I had looked for Heinlein books written in the 1960s since it was well written sci-fi. I finally found this one and found it was first published in 1942! This is a good look at a possible Utopia where the civilization is looking at answering the question "What is the point of living"?

Is there life after death? Hamilton Felix, the main character in *Beyond the Horizon*, is troubled by that question, as well as one that is equally large and related: What is the meaning of life? Heinlein's novel tackles a simpler question: Are these questions answerable only by faith, or are they the proper subject of scientific investigation? Some reviewers at this site have complained that the novel has no plot. I disagree. The story meanders, it dangles some loose ends that aren't nicely resolved at the end, but in essence, the story follows Hamilton Felix, the recipient of an unusually good genetic structure, as he makes the decision to reproduce, creating genetically designed children whose existence will make a beneficial contribution to the human race. As Hamilton ponders his reproductive decision, he helps foil a plot to rid the world of (supposedly inferior) individuals who haven't been genetically designed, befriends a man from the 1920's who somehow remained in stasis until Hamilton's time (the details of that little accomplishment are foggy), and instigates experiments into telepathy and other areas of scientific inquiry that might provide some insight into the meaning of life and the aftermath of death. Admittedly, some aspects of the novel are a little silly, particularly the notion that this supposedly evolved society has adopted 19th Century formalisms of gentlemanly politeness, complete with duels if offense is given. Heinlein might have thrown that in to explain why his characters are running around armed. And maybe there's just too much going on (genetic engineering, telepathy studies, the possibility of reincarnation, the stasis thing, not to mention differing philosophies of parenting and life's meaning) and a corresponding lack of coherence. Later in his career, Heinlein proved more adept at juggling lots of big ideas in a single novel. Finally, the ending seems a bit out of the blue. But the story is still fun, many of the ideas it advances are still intriguing after more than half a century, and the writing is lively (if occasionally a little clunky).

Almost everything RAH wrote is entertaining and keeps your interest from start to finish.

Unfortunately one of his best works is not available on Kindle. *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress!*

Go back in time to just before WWII and read a story of the future by a man who would become one

of the masters of SF. Read the intro and the essay about Heinlein at the end as well. Especially read the essay first if you are new to Heinlein or have preconceived notions of him being either a radical protohippie or a neanderthal thug. The man was neither. What he was is one of the best SF writers ever.

Good story, very creative

I've been curious about this book, one of Heinlein's early works. Finally took the time to give it a read. As usual, Heinlein builds a fictional, future society that causes the reader to think, imagine, and visualize. The lexicon and syntax used by the characters is dated, but does not detract. In fact, the characters, especially the main character, Hamilton-Felix, have that bold style seen in the classic days of the silver screen. Very fun read.

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