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## Arthur C. Clarke

### ??????? ?? ????? (Rama #1)



Title: ?????? ?? ????? (Rama #1)

Author: Arthur C. Clarke

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## Description

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## Insightful reviews

Darryl Knickrehm: Now this is science fiction. A story which is all about the science. No action, no adventure, just a realistic 'what if' scenario that keeps you glued to the page. Awesome.

Rama is a first contact story, but without all the fear and Hollywood elements. It is a thoughtful, educated look at what might happen if mankind actually met an alien race. And it is by no means the standard 'they-land-on-earth-and-they-try-to-destroy-it.' The idea of Rama is novel. The way the story unravels is intriguing. Everything about the story has a great deal of interest naturally built into it.

That isn't to say Rama is perfect, because it's not. The writing itself is very gray, often clunking when read aloud. It is also lacking many characteristics of good writing. For one, it doesn't evoke the senses, or emotional states. It also doesn't have a tone to the narration (the word choice is extremely academic, as if written by a scientist). There is almost no characterization to any characters (we never get to know or understand them really. They feel a lot like the 'biots' of Rama -- bland constructs to serve a single purpose). And it does a poor job describing things (it tells us measurements and academic details, but I still don't have a clear idea what many things look like.) Basically the writing is a sterile, scientific view of a phenomenon.

But all this is easy to forgive. And that's because the story is so good. It is constructed in short, concise chapters, and in each of these something major happens. Each of these events build upon the last, developing the situation, answering enough questions, but asking two more for each one answered. And ironically, while there is almost little conflict (the Helian rocket seemed like a poor attempt to ratcheted up the tension; this side-plot could be cut out completely, and the story wouldn't change), there is an immense intrigue built into the mystery of Rama. While this curiosity might not be present for those not interested in science, for those that are, man, oh man, will this ever grip you. Because it's all about unraveling the secrets. There is very little inner monologue, there is very little 'telling,' there is, however, a lot of plot and action. That makes a great story.

Clarke might not be the best 'writer' in the world' but brother he is an amazing 'story teller.' The ending especially was satisfying and thought-provoking, and the entire journey was interesting and fun. I enjoyed reading this. It is stories like these that made sci-fi the genre it is today.

Samantha Glasser: I read this book because my dad and I played the Commodore 64 game by the same title when I was a kid, and we never beat it. Now that I have read the book, I don't feel any closer to beating the game (but I haven't yet read the sequels), but I did quite enjoy my reading.

The story is set in the future, when men have settled Mars, Mercury, and the moon, and

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asteroids are a major issue, so men patrol the skies for their safety. That is when they spot Rama, a cylindrical structure so smooth it couldn't have occurred in nature. As it comes closer, its size becomes apparent; it could be its own planet.

They decide to explore it before it gets too close to the sun and outside of the galaxy, and they find a strange world with no immediate signs of life, apparently built for tall oxygen breathers. The more they learn, the more they want to learn, but it seems that Rama's life in our galaxy is doomed to be short.

I couldn't put this book down. It didn't have a lot of action, but it was very exciting to read, and the chapters were pretty short, so I was able to pick it up for a few minutes at a time to read.

Otherworld: Rereading a book you loved as a teenager but haven't read since is always a tricky prospect because it's just possible that you may end up hating that book now. The good news is that I didn't hate this book, but I had to take 1 star away from my original rating because it's not as perfect as I remember it being.

Set in a near future where human beings have colonised several planets and moons in our solar system, this book is the original great big mcguffin story. Rama is a gigantic spaceship that is on a quick flyby through the solar system and there is just a brief opportunity to explore the vessel and learn its secrets before it heads off back into deep space.

The only vessel within range is dispatched to do just that, even though the crew don't have the expertise to handle a possible first contact situation (though then again, who does?). And they do just that - explore the mysteries of the ship until it's time to leave, and that's pretty much the whole story. The crew do a lot of walking around, have a little boat trip, ride a person powered plane, pick a flower, fail to interact with bio-mechanical creatures that wake up as the ship revives, and cut into one building to have a look at their library catalogue. Told like this, the story is bland and almost boring but the sparse economical storytelling and low level characterisations of the crew simply let the wonder that is Rama stand out better than if more had happened.

I can just imagine what might happen if this story was being told for the first time today - there would be mutinies, gun battles, explosions, some of the crew would be kidnapped by the alien machines, a mysterious alien woman that the captain falls in love with and then who dies mysteriously, and so on. Oh, and it would be three times longer with a **lot** more Earth bound stuff to clutter up the story.

So, I'm glad I read it again and I just hope that if the long-planned miniseries ever happens, they do it justice and stick to the story as it is told here (it's a forlorn hope I know but I live in hope). Then of course there is that final line to ponder ... *The Ramans do everything in threes.*

Oh and a final thought - I don't know if I want to applaud or murder the person who created the cover design of this edition. It's basically a rolled up piece of paper made to imitate Rama's shape, with the authors name and title typed on. It's either brilliant or horrible.

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Gregor Xane: i discovered Clarke's journalistic writing kind engaging. This, coupled with short, tight, chapters, made for a singular that moved alongside at a quick clip. Although, i discovered the idea intriguing, total it looked like a little bit a tease. in particular the final line of the novel. It appeared to point out that there will be a trilogy of Rama stories. however it does not look like this used to be ever fairly Clarke's intent. i do know there have been different Rama books penned a number of many years later, yet Clarke wasn't the writer of these books. And from what I gather, they're not so good as the original. And, yes, this publication is a piece dated. i am pondering really of the ordinary meditation at the 0 g effect on girl breasts here. Apparently, those floating, jiggling orbs will be so distracting to male astronauts that they can in all likelihood compromise area missions. other than this rather minor little bit of silliness, the paintings holds up pretty much forty years after its preliminary publication.

Manny: monstrous alien spaceship is sighted. humans pass and money it out. it really is filled with cool stuff. Clarke provides a few intercourse to teach that he is not only a holdout from the Golden Age, yet his heart's no longer in it. once they have finished, he desires to exit and discover the spaceship again. i will be able to see his female friend rolling her eyes.

Kirsten \*Dogs Welcome - People Tolerated": learn for the vintage technology Fiction booklet Club. I desired to like this publication even more than I did. it's a classic. However, there have been a few issues enjoying opposed to me. One, I had a difficult time visualizing precisely what "Rama" appeared like. that is not on Mr. Clarke. He did an outstanding task describing things. i feel my mind seriously isn't geared for yes things. Two, for a few reason, I simply wasn't invested within the characters and felt little clash within the issues they did. Good things: I enjoyed the descriptions of social and political occasions and advancements within the sunlight System.

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