
Philip K. Dick

Dr. Futurity

Title: Dr. Futurity

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Description

Jim Parsons is a talented doctor, skilled at the most advanced medical techniques and dedicated to saving lives. But after a bizarre road accident leaves him hundreds of years in the future, Parsons is horrified to discover an incredibly advanced civilization that zealously embraces death. Now, he is caught between his own instincts and training as a healer and a society where it is illegal to save lives. But Parsons is not the only one left who believes in prolonging life, and those who share his beliefs have desperate plans for Dr. Parsons' skills, and for the future of their society. *Dr. Futurity* is not only a thrilling rendition of a terrifying future but it is also a fantastic examination of the paradoxes of time-travel that could only have come from the mind of Philip K. Dick.

Winner of both the Hugo and John W. Campbell awards for best novel, widely regarded as the premiere science fiction writer of his day, and the object of cult-like adoration from his legions of fans, Philip K. Dick has come to be seen in a literary light that defies classification in much the same way as Borges and Calvino. With breathtaking insight, he utilizes vividly unfamiliar worlds to evoke the hauntingly and hilariously familiar in our society and ourselves.

Insightful reviews

Scott Holstad: Not a bad book by Philip K Dick. An early one, and therefore a little more linear than his later works. Although, truth be told, toward the end of the book it can get a little convoluted, so it was occasionally hard to follow.

Dr. Jim Parsons gets into a car wreck and is thrown 400 years into the future. He is nearly immediately run over by a young driver, who stops to pick him up. Parsons is confused when he can't understand the young man, and this could have been difficult, but Dick took the easy way out by telling us Parsons gradually started picking up the language and everything from that point on is in English.

Parsons is taken into San Francisco and sees the streets teeming with young people, all looking alike, with Native American looks and features. He enters a meeting in a warehouse, where the occupants are attacked and he successfully saves the life of a wounded girl. Only to be arrested. You see, in this world, death is glorified and institutionalized euthanasia is enforced around age 30. He's sent to a prison camp on Mars, but escapes and winds up on a planet where he finds a plaque made out to him, giving him instructions on how to operate the space ship. Weird, I know. It's actually explained on the last page of the book.

Parsons comes across a tribe of these people whose murdered leader is kept frozen in the hope that he can be restored to life. Indeed, these people are the ones responsible for bringing Parsons into the future in the hopes that with his medical knowledge and equipment, he can bring this man back to life. Turns out he died with an arrow to the heart. This group obviously knows about time travel and had gone back to the 16th century to kill Sir Francis Drake and get rid of all colonizers to establish a Native American society that would last to the present time

and beyond. During one of these trips back, this leader was killed.

Parsons travels back in time to witness this and discovers that the man responsible for sending him to a Martian prison is posing as Drake and is there to kill Corith, the leader. However, to Parsons' horror, he confronts Corith to warn him of his impending doom, only to kill him himself in self defense.

Much more time travel takes place and this is when it gets confusing. At some point, there are four time travel ships at Drake's beach with four groups of people observing Corith die. All from the future, but appearing at different times. Parsons wonders which version of himself he'll encounter. He tries to find Corith another time to kill him again, so that when Corith is revitalized, he won't point to Parsons as his killer. Confusing, I know.

At the end, the female leader of the group, Corith's daughter Loris, shows him their two grown children brought about by the one night Parsons and Loris got it on 19 years previously. They ask if he wants to stay with them, but he elects to return home to his real wife and there the story ends.

This is a book about free will, if anything. It's not overloaded with numerous concepts like some of Dick's other works, but it's a good read nonetheless and I read it in less than a day. A must for Dick fans and recommended for others.

Tony: This book inspired me to write a song. It goes a little like this:

*Salagadoola mechicka boola bibbidi-bobbidi-boo
Put 'em together and what have you got
A far more coherent statement than this book
Salagadoola mechicka boola bibbidi-bobbidi-boo
Not even magic can salvage this work*



Mel: This was an early Philip K Dick novel written in 1959. It was a bit more ordinary than most

of his later novels. It followed a man who was brought forward in time to a dystopian future where death was highly prized and euthanasia was practised so that the average age was 15. It was a very different take on a dystopian society, but (I'm guessing cause it was the 50s) the society was also terribly misogynistic for no reason, women were sex slaves, in relationships they couldn't leave, were able to be given to a male guest to fuck, had no vote, and no rights of their own. Not very pleasant! The book was kinda two parts, the messed up future society, and then working with the "rebels" who were trying to alter colonisation and change the future. Somehow it just didn't quite work as well as some of his other ideas. Here the future was set but people still made choices, but it was very fatalistic. The man was very in love with his wife, but still accidentally started another family with a woman from the future. It definitely wasn't one of his best books. I borrowed it from the library and don't think I'll be buying my own copy!

Jason: a regular early Dick novel, "Dr. Futurity" instantly makes the reader uncomfortable through describing a destiny the place loss of life is an important point of life, the govt controls procreating and tribal factions fracture societies. This is nearly varied brief novels. the 1st matters the ethics of saving a existence and no matter if (in this case) a physician is in mistaken for saving a existence even is he does not recognize that is illegal. Then the booklet takes a left flip down time-travel road and it is going thoroughly off the grid. nonetheless interesting, yet many of the causes for the activities and motives for why these activities have to happen wander off within the shuffle. Enjoyable, yet a non-PKD fan most likely would not like it.

David Allen: Twisty time shuttle tale related to a California surgeon who's plucked from 2010 (Highway one hundred and one is sixteen lanes; autos are driver-less) to 2405, whilst physicians are outlawed, to save lots of a man's life. Early PKD, from 1960, and quite conventional, yet enjoyable to read, and Dick's confident view of a racially combined society is sooner than its time.

Denis: Dr. Futurity is, from my understanding, PKD's moment technological know-how fiction novel (written in 1953, released in 1960). it's the type of time shuttle tale i love best; the point of interest at the mechanics and play with time commute instead of it being a ploy for a historical past lesson. With this novel, the younger PKD performs with the probabilities of time travel, as RAH did together with his vintage story, "By His Bootstraps". but this was once novel size with all of the I's meticulously dotted and the T's... and written basically the way in which that PKD could. It is a time commute tale that is going to the farthest destiny and the previous ahead of white males stumbled upon the beaches of America, with a brief journey to Mars thrown in (just for the hell-ovit). usual for PKD even at such an early date, it comprises enjoyable and engaging discussion among nice characters and a crazy unpredictable plot-line. A nice early attempt through person who could quickly turn into a grasp of the genre.

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