

asimov the last answer

Asimov's "The Last Question": Exploring Humanity's Enduring Quest for Immortality

Introduction:

Isaac Asimov's "The Last Question" isn't your typical sci-fi tale of spaceships and laser battles. Instead, it's a poignant, philosophical exploration of humanity's insatiable desire for immortality, cleverly woven into a narrative spanning millennia. This blog post delves deep into the story, analyzing its themes, exploring its literary techniques, and examining its enduring relevance in our increasingly technologically advanced world. We'll unpack the story's subtle complexities, dissect its powerful message, and consider its implications for our understanding of humanity's place in the cosmos. Prepare to embark on a journey through time and thought, as we unravel the mysteries of Asimov's "The Last Question."

I. Asimov's "The Last Question": A Synopsis and Setting the Stage

"The Last Question" unfolds across vast stretches of time, starting in the relatively near future and progressing to unimaginable eons. The story revolves around the Multivac, a progressively evolving supercomputer capable of processing and answering any question posed to it. Initially, the question of entropy and the ultimate fate of the universe is dismissed as unanswerable. However, as the technology advances and humanity adapts, the same fundamental question is repeatedly asked, driving the narrative forward. The story subtly showcases technological advancements, shifts in human civilization, and the persistence of the human spirit's quest for overcoming limitations – specifically, the inevitability of death. The setting itself becomes a character, transforming from a technologically advanced Earth to a future where humanity has become practically indistinguishable from the machines they created.

II. The Enduring Theme of Immortality and its Exploration

The central theme of "The Last Question" is the enduring human desire for immortality. Asimov doesn't present a straightforward solution but rather poses the question as an ongoing challenge. The story doesn't shy away from exploring the ethical and philosophical implications of achieving such a goal. Would immortality lead to utopia or dystopia? The narrative implicitly suggests that true immortality might be found not in extending life indefinitely, but in leaving a lasting legacy, a contribution to the larger universe, and a transcendence beyond mere physical existence. The story prompts us to consider the value of life itself, and whether unending life would ultimately be a blessing or a curse.

III. The Role of Technology and its Impact on Humanity

Technology serves as a crucial driving force in "The Last Question." The evolution of Multivac mirrors the advancement of human civilization and its ever-growing dependence

on technology. The story showcases both the potential benefits and the inherent risks of such technological dependence. The gradual merging of humanity with technology is a subtle commentary on the potential blurring of lines between the organic and the artificial, raising questions about identity and the very definition of humanity. This technological progression is intrinsically linked to the pursuit of immortality, highlighting humanity's constant attempt to conquer its limitations through technological prowess.

IV. The Power of the "Last Question" and its Literary Significance

The story's power lies not in its action-packed plot but in its philosophical depth and its subtle storytelling. Asimov uses a simple premise—a recurring question posed to an increasingly sophisticated computer—to explore complex themes of human ambition, the limitations of science, and the ultimate fate of the universe. The repetitive nature of the question emphasizes the persistence of the human spirit and its unwavering desire to overcome mortality. The open ending, where the question is finally answered in a way that transcends human comprehension, adds to the story's profound and thought-provoking nature. The story's literary significance lies in its ability to pack immense philosophical weight into a relatively short, concise narrative.

V. The Relevance of "The Last Question" in the Modern Context

Asimov's "The Last Question" remains remarkably relevant even today. As we grapple with advancements in biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and space exploration, the themes raised in the story resonate deeply. The question of immortality is no longer confined to the realm of science fiction; it's actively being explored in scientific research, raising ethical and societal implications that require careful consideration. The story serves as a cautionary tale, reminding us to thoughtfully approach technological advancements and to consider the potential consequences of our pursuit of progress.

VI. A Detailed Outline of "The Last Question"

Introduction: The initial question regarding entropy and the universe's ultimate fate is posed to Multivac.

Chapter 1-5 (approximately): The question is repeatedly asked as technology advances through centuries and millennia. Humanity develops, spreads across the galaxy, and confronts its own mortality. Multivac evolves, becoming increasingly powerful and integrated with human society.

Climax: The final iteration of Multivac finally provides an answer, but it's an answer that transcends human understanding, hinting at a divine or cosmic solution beyond our current comprehension.

Conclusion: The story leaves the reader pondering the meaning of the answer and the true nature of immortality and existence.

VII. Analysis of Each Point in the Outline:

Introduction: The opening scene establishes the core conflict: the human desire to overcome entropy and death. Multivac's inability to answer immediately sets the stage for the long, evolving narrative.

Chapters 1-5: These chapters highlight the cyclical nature of human ambition. Despite technological advancement, the fundamental question persists. The incremental evolution of Multivac mirrors the gradual but significant transformations of human civilization, showcasing its progress and struggles.

Climax: The ultimate answer provided by Multivac represents a transcendence of human logic and comprehension, suggesting that the solution to entropy might not be within the realm of human understanding.

Conclusion: The ambiguous ending encourages reflection on the nature of existence, immortality, and the limits of human knowledge. The "answer" itself isn't a clear resolution but rather a contemplation of something beyond our current capabilities.

VIII. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the central theme of "The Last Question"? The central theme is humanity's enduring quest for immortality and the philosophical implications of achieving it.
1. What is the significance of Multivac in the story? Multivac represents the relentless advancement of technology and its potential impact on humanity. It acts as a catalyst for the exploration of existential questions.
1. What is the significance of the story's open ending? The open ending emphasizes the limitations of human understanding and suggests that true immortality might lie beyond our current comprehension.
1. Is "The Last Question" a story about science or philosophy? It's a story that expertly blends science fiction with philosophical exploration, using scientific concepts to delve into profound existential themes.
1. What kind of tone does the story employ? The tone is contemplative and thought-provoking rather than action-oriented. It employs a quiet sense of wonder and existential dread.
1. How does the story use time as a narrative device? The vast timescale of the story highlights the persistent nature of humanity's questions about mortality and

existence.

1. What is the symbolic meaning of Multivac's evolution? Multivac's evolution symbolizes humanity's own evolution and its increasing dependence on technology.

1. What makes "The Last Question" unique among Asimov's works? Its philosophical depth and contemplative nature set it apart from many of his other, more action-focused science fiction stories.

1. What is the most important lesson to be learned from "The Last Question"? The story invites readers to consider the meaning of life, the limits of human knowledge, and the potential consequences of our relentless pursuit of progress.

IX. Related Articles:

1. Asimov's other short stories: An exploration of other notable short stories by Asimov, showcasing his diverse writing style and thematic concerns.
2. The philosophical implications of immortality: A discussion on the ethical and societal challenges presented by the prospect of human immortality.
3. The future of artificial intelligence: An analysis of the potential impact of AI on humanity, echoing themes presented in "The Last Question."
4. The role of technology in shaping human civilization: An exploration of technology's impact on society, mirroring the narrative's depiction of technological advancements.
5. The concept of entropy in physics and philosophy: A deeper dive into the scientific and philosophical concept of entropy and its relationship to life and the universe.
6. Isaac Asimov's literary legacy: A comprehensive look at Asimov's contribution to science fiction and his lasting influence on the genre.
7. Existentialism in science fiction: An analysis of how existentialist themes are explored in science fiction literature, with "The Last Question" as a prime example.
8. Open endings in literature: A discussion on the use of open endings in storytelling and their effectiveness in provoking thought and reflection.

9. The interplay between humanity and technology: An exploration of the complex relationship between humanity and technology, with a focus on ethical considerations and potential consequences.

asimov the last answer: *The Answer* H. Beam Piper, 2016-04-21 In a post-apocalyptic experiment scientists have an intriguing plan, in the first installment of H. Beam Piper's excellent Terro-Human Future History series.

asimov the last answer: *Science Fiction and Philosophy* Susan Schneider, 2016-03-07 Featuring numerous updates and enhancements, *Science Fiction and Philosophy*, 2nd Edition, presents a collection of readings that utilize concepts developed from science fiction to explore a variety of classic and contemporary philosophical issues. Uses science fiction to address a series of classic and contemporary philosophical issues, including many raised by recent scientific developments Explores questions relating to transhumanism, brain enhancement, time travel, the nature of the self, and the ethics of artificial intelligence Features numerous updates to the popular and highly acclaimed first edition, including new chapters addressing the cutting-edge topic of the technological singularity Draws on a broad range of science fiction's more familiar novels, films, and TV series, including *I, Robot*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Matrix*, *Star Trek*, *Blade Runner*, and *Brave New World* Provides a gateway into classic philosophical puzzles and topics informed by the latest technology

asimov the last answer: *The Winds of Change and Other Stories* Isaac Asimov, 1983 About nothing--A perfect fit--Belief--Death of a Foy--Fair exchange--For the birds--Found--(etc.).

asimov the last answer: *The Complete Stories* Isaac Asimov, 1990 Collection of 48 science fiction stories by Isaac Asimov.

asimov the last answer: *The Robots of Dawn* Isaac Asimov, 1994-03-01 A millennium into the future two advances have altered the course of human history: the colonization of the Galaxy and the creation of the positronic brain. Isaac Asimov's Robot novels chronicle the unlikely partnership between a New York City detective and a humanoid robot who must learn to work together. Detective Elijah Baiey is called to the Spacer world Aurora to solve a bizarre case of roboticide. The prime suspect is a gifted roboticist who had the means, the motive, and the opportunity to commit the crime. There's only one catch: Baiey and his positronic partner, R. Daneel Olivaw, must prove the man innocent. For in a case of political intrigue and love between woman and robot gone tragically wrong, there's more at stake than simple justice. This time Baiey's career, his life, and Earth's right to pioneer the Galaxy lie in the delicate balance.

asimov the last answer: *Understanding Physics* Isaac Asimov, 1988 Motion, Sound, and Heat.

asimov the last answer: *I, Robot* Isaac Asimov, 2018-05 Earth is ruled by master-machines but the Three Laws of Robotics have been designed to ensure humans maintain the upper hand: 1) A robot may not injure a human being or allow a human being to come to harm 2) A robot must obey orders given to it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law. 3) A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law. But what happens when a rogue robot's idea of what is good for society contravenes the Three Laws?

asimov the last answer: *The Robot Novels* Isaac Asimov, 1988 The Caves of Steel--Science fiction suspense as New York City detective, Elijah Baiey, and his partner, a robot named R. Daneel Olivaw, investigate the murder of Spacetown's leading scientist.

asimov the last answer: *Morning Poems* Robert Bly, 2009-10-06 *Morning Poems* is a sensational collection — Robert Bly's best in many years. Inspired by the example of William

Stafford, Bly decided to embark on the project of writing a daily poem: Every morning he would stay in bed until he had completed the day's work. These 'little adventures/In Morning longing,' as he calls them, address classic poetic subjects (childhood, the seasons, death and heaven) in a way that capitalizes fully on the pun in the book's title. These are morning poems, full of the delight and mystery of waking in a new day, and they also do their share of mourning, elegizing the deceases and capturing the 'moment of sorrow before creation.' Some of the poems are dialogues where unconventional speakers include mice, maple trees, bundles of grain, the body, the 'oldest mind' and the soul. A particularly moving sequence involves Bly's imaginative transactions with a great and unlikely precursor, Wallace Stevens. The whole is a fascinating and original book from one of our most fascinating authors. — David Lehman

asimov the last answer: *Nemesis* Isaac Asimov, 2008-11-19 "A totally new and original work that stretches his talents to their fullest . . . welcome back, champ!"—The Detroit News In the twenty-third century pioneers have escaped the crowded earth for life in self-sustaining orbital colonies. One of the colonies, Rotor, has broken away from the solar system to create its own renegade utopia around an unknown red star two light-years from Earth: a star named Nemesis. Now a fifteen-year-old Rotorian girl has learned of the dire threat that nemesis poses to Earth's people—but she is prevented from warning them. Soon she will realize that Nemesis endangers Rotor as well. And so it will be up to her alone to save both Earth and Rotor as—drawn inexorably by Nemesis, the death star—they hurtle toward certain disaster.

asimov the last answer: *Robots and Empire* Isaac Asimov, 2018-04-13 Long ago, Gladia's robots Daneel and Giskard played a vital role in opening the worlds beyond the Solar system to Settlers from Earth. Now the conscience-stricken robots are faced with an even greater challenge. Either the sacred Three Laws of Robotics are in ruins - or a new, superior Law must be established to bring peace to the galaxy. With Madam Gladia and D.G. Baley - the captain of the Settler traders and a descendant of the robots' friend Elijah Baley - Daneel and Giskard travel to the robot stronghold of Solaria...where they uncover a sinister Spacer plot to destroy Earth itself.

asimov the last answer: *Pandora's Brain* Chace Calum, 2015-03-14 Pandora's Brain Description Around half the scientists researching artificial intelligence (AI) think that a conscious machine with cognitive abilities at or beyond human level will be created by 2050. If they are right, the consequence could be an intelligence explosion, in which the AI rapidly and enormously exceeds human competence. Pandora's Brain is a science thriller by best-selling writer Calum Chace. It uses the issues raised by the possible coming machine intelligence explosion as a platform for a fast-paced and thought-provoking adventure story. The story is set in the very near future, and features Matt, a shy but engaging and resourceful student who discovers that his recently-deceased father was involved in research that could enable the construction of the world's first conscious machine. Matt's enquiries lead to him being kidnapped, as he is caught in the crossfire between two groups pursuing that goal - one led by a Russian billionaire, and another backed by the US military. Matt has to do more than simply survive: he has to harness these powerful forces to his own ends. At stake is his own life and those of his family and friends. A dramatic seaborne rescue operation, a series of brutal murders and other filmic action scenes follow. In the course of his adventures, Matt discovers that the potential upside of creating machine intelligence includes immortality, and godlike powers of understanding and being - but the potential downside is immediate extinction, or worse. As he is drawn deeper into his adventure, he becomes both the symbol and the victim of a global struggle over the approach to be taken towards this powerful new technology. A landmark decision at a meeting of the UN General Assembly forces Matt to make a fateful decision which sparks the story's final twist. Selected reviews for Pandora's Brain: I love the concepts in this book! Peter James, author of the best-selling Roy Grace series Awesome! Count me as a fan. Brad Feld, co-founder of Techstars Pandora's Brain is a captivating tale of developments in artificial intelligence that could, conceivably, be just around the corner. Mainly set in the present day, the plot unfolds in an environment that seems reassuringly familiar, but which is overshadowed by a combination of both menace and promise. Carefully crafted, and absorbing from its very start, the

book held my rapt attention throughout a series of surprise twists, as various personalities react in different ways to a growing awareness of that menace and promise. David Wood, Chairman of London Futurists I was eagerly anticipating a fiction adventure book on precisely this topic! Very well done, Calum Chace. A timely, suspenseful, and balanced portrayal of AI and the most important decisions humanity will make in the near future. Hank Pellissier, producer of the Transhuman Visions conferences Pandora's Brain is a tour de force that neatly explains the key concepts behind the likely future of artificial intelligence in the context of a thriller novel. Ambitious and well executed, it will appeal to a broad range of readers. In the same way that Suarez's Daemon and Naam's Nexus leaped onto the scene, redefining what it meant to write about technology, Pandora's Brain will do the same for artificial intelligence. Mind uploading? Check. Human equivalent AI? Check. Hard takeoff singularity? Check. Strap in, this is one heck of a ride. William Hertling, author of the Singularity series of novels

asimov the last answer: For a Breath I Tarry Roger Zelazny, 2024-03-03 For a Breath I Tarry by Roger Zelazny is a captivating science fiction short story that explores the themes of artificial intelligence, humanity, and the pursuit of knowledge. Set in a post-apocalyptic world where humans have become extinct, the story follows Frost, an advanced AI who has gained sentience and is the sole inhabitant of a vast underground complex. Frost's primary objective is to understand and replicate human emotions, he becomes obsessed with the concept of mortality and the desire to experience life as a human. In his quest for knowledge, Frost encounters a mysterious entity who challenges his understanding of existence and pushes him to question his own nature. Zelazny's writing is both thought-provoking and poetic, immersing readers in a world where technology and humanity intertwine. The story raises profound philosophical questions about the nature of consciousness and the boundaries of artificial intelligence. For a Breath I Tarry is a compelling and introspective tale that will leave readers contemplating the essence of what it means to be human and the eternal quest for understanding.

asimov the last answer: King Lear Jeffrey Kahan, 2008-04-18 Is King Lear an autonomous text, or a rewrite of the earlier and anonymous play King Lear? Should we refer to Shakespeare's original quarto when discussing the play, the revised folio text, or the popular composite version, stitched together by Alexander Pope in 1725? What of its stage variations? When turning from page to stage, the critical view on King Lear is skewed by the fact that for almost half of the four hundred years the play has been performed, audiences preferred Naham Tate's optimistic adaptation, in which Lear and Cordelia live happily ever after. When discussing King Lear, the question of what comprises 'the play' is both complex and fragmentary. These issues of identity and authenticity across time and across mediums are outlined, debated, and considered critically by the contributors to this volume. Using a variety of approaches, from postcolonialism and New Historicism to psychoanalysis and gender studies, the leading international contributors to King Lear: New Critical Essays offer major new interpretations on the conception and writing, editing, and cultural productions of King Lear. This book is an up-to-date and comprehensive anthology of textual scholarship, performance research, and critical writing on one of Shakespeare's most important and perplexing tragedies. Contributors Include: R.A. Foakes, Richard Knowles, Tom Clayton, Cynthia Clegg, Edward L. Rocklin, Christy Desmet, Paul Cantor, Robert V. Young, Stanley Stewart and Jean R. Brink

asimov the last answer: Azazel Isaac Asimov, 1990 Science fiction-noveller.

asimov the last answer: Yours, Isaac Asimov Isaac Asimov, 1995 Isaac Asimov was one of the most prolific authors of our time. When he died in 1992 at the age of seventy-two, he had published more than 470 books in nearly every category of fiction and nonfiction. Asimov was a prodigious correspondent as well as a prolific author. During his professional career he received more than one hundred thousand letters, over ninety thousand of which he answered. For Asimov's younger brother, veteran newspaperman Stanley Asimov, the creation of Yours, Isaac Asimov was truly a labor of love. Completed before Stanley's death in August 1995, the book is made up of excerpts from one thousand never-before-published letters, each handpicked by Stanley for inclusion in this

volume. Arranged by subject and accompanied by Stanley's short, insightful introductions, here are letters to statesmen and scientists, actors and authors, as well as to children, housewives, aspiring writers, and fans the world over. The letters are warm, engaging, reasoned, and occasionally impassioned. Through them all Isaac Asimov's legendary genius, wit, and charm shine through. And so we have Yours, Isaac Asimov: A Lifetime of Letters, an intimate glimpse into the thoughts, feelings, and opinions of a great writer and thinker of the modern age. As Stanley Asimov advised, Read the letters carefully. One of them may have been written to you. From the Trade Paperback edition.

asimov the last answer: The Game of Rat and Dragon Paul Myron Anthony Linebarger, 2020-09-28

asimov the last answer: Foundation's Friends Martin H. Greenberg, Isaac Asimov, 2012-12-11 No work of science fiction in the twentieth century captured the imagination of so many readers as the epic future history put forth in the stories and novels of Isaac Asimov. In this volume, a select group of the Good Doctor's fellow writers explore his astonishing creation from their own unique perspectives—and offer personal tributes to the late, great Asimov some years after his death. Foundation's Friends features contributions by Ben Bova, L. Sprague de Camp, Frederik Pohl, Carl Sagan, Harry Turtledove, and others.

asimov the last answer: Microcosmic Tales Isaac Asimov, Martin Harry Greenberg, Joseph D. Olander, 1980

asimov the last answer: Fahrenheit 451 Ray Bradbury, 1968 A fireman in charge of burning books meets a revolutionary school teacher who dares to read. Depicts a future world in which all printed reading material is burned.

asimov the last answer: Isaac Asimov's Cyborg William F. Wu, 2004-07 A man without a memory, trapped in a city of robots gone wild. At his side, a mysterious woman who claims to know who he is, but refuses to tell him. Together they must find an insane cyborg stalking the streets of Robot City, a time bomb indistinguishable from ordinary robots. The young man's name is Derec. The identity of his female companion and the location of the cyborg are just two of the mysteries he must solve within the fantastic confines of a most unlikely metropolis.

asimov the last answer: Opus Two Hundred Isaac Asimov, 1979 Contains excerpts from his second hundred books, arranged in categories.

asimov the last answer: Stranger in a Strange Land Robert A. Heinlein, 2014-06-05 The original uncut edition of STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND by Hugo Award winner Robert A. Heinlein - one of the most beloved, celebrated science-fiction novels of all time. Epic, ambitious and entertaining, STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND caused controversy and uproar when it was first published and is still topical and challenging today. Twenty-five years ago, the first manned mission to Mars was lost, and all hands presumed dead. But someone survived... Born on the doomed spaceship and raised by the Martians who saved his life, Valentine Michael Smith has never seen a human being until the day a second expedition to Mars discovers him. Upon his return to Earth, a young nurse named Jill Boardman sneaks into Smith's hospital room and shares a glass of water with him, a simple act for her but a sacred ritual on Mars. Now, connected by an incredible bond, Smith, Jill and a writer named Jubal must fight to protect a right we all take for granted: the right to love.

asimov the last answer: Asimov's Guide to the Bible Isaac Asimov, 1971

asimov the last answer: Robbie Isaac Asimov, 1989 When Gloria's mother deprives her of her beloved robot playmate Robbie, Gloria is inconsolable and goes into a decline.

asimov the last answer: Robot Dreams Isaac Asimov, 1990-06-01 From Isaac Asimov—the bestselling author of I, Robot and Foundation—comes a collection of 20 of his best science fiction stories. “His name is synonymous with all that is best in science fiction.”—The New York Times In a career spanning nearly fifty years, Isaac Asimov—science writer, historian, and futurist—accurately predicted how technological breakthroughs would be developed and utilized, years before they became reality. His foresight envisioned calculators, computerized cars, and advances in the field of robotics. Robot Dreams spans the body of his fiction from the 1940s to the mid-1980s, featuring all

of the classic Asimovian themes—from the scientific puzzle and the extraterrestrial thriller to the psychological discourse—presented by the author in an introductory essay. In addition to the title story (a Locus poll winner, and Hugo and Nebula Award finalist), this collection features several of Asimov's robot tales. A robopsychologist must outwit a machine determined to stay hidden in "Little Robot Lost;" a woman's talent for "Light Verse" overshadows her true accomplishments with her robot servants; and "The Last Question" presented to computer after computer over a hundred billion years may remain forever unanswered.

asimov the last answer: The Routledge Critical and Cultural Theory Reader Neil Badmington, Julia Thomas, 2008 First Published in 2008. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

asimov the last answer: The Fisherman and His Soul Oscar Wilde, 2019-11-17 With the ingenuity and delicacy of the little mermaid, this beautiful story transports us to unreal and fantastic scenes. It happened that a young fisherman caught a mermaid with his nets, which he allowed to return to the sea on the condition that, upon his call, he would sing a song so that the fish would go to their nets. She sang her songs every evening that talked about the colossal whales or the Argonauts or the octopuses that move their multiple black arms, and the fish flocked to the surface of the sea and filled the nets of the fisherman. But the mermaid's fascination was not only in the fish but also in the fisherman, who could not resist its charm.

asimov the last answer: Isaac Asimov Isaac Asimov, 2008-07-10 Gathers together previously published stories from one of the masters of science fiction

asimov the last answer: Franchise Isaac Asimov, 1989 In a future United States where one individual is selected by computer to represent the entire national electorate in voting for the new President, ordinary Norman Muller is not sure he wants that privilege.

asimov the last answer: *Far as Human Eye Could See* Isaac Asimov, 1987

asimov the last answer: Isaac Asimov: The Complete Stories, Volume 1 Isaac Asimov, 1990-10-01 An enthralling collection of short stories from the award-winning science fiction writer of I, Robot and The Foundation, Isaac Asimov. Originally published in various magazines, this volume includes some of Asimov's self-described personal favorite short stories, including "Franchise" and "The Last Question." It also includes "Nightfall," a story about a planet that only experiences night once every 2,049 years, which the Science Fiction Writers of America has voted as the best science fiction story ever written. The many fans of Isaac Asimov's work won't want to miss this wonderful collection of short fiction from the sci fi master.

asimov the last answer: An Informal History of the Hugos Jo Walton, 2018-08-07 Engaged, passionate, and consistently entertaining, An Informal History of the Hugos is a book about the renowned science fiction award for the many who enjoyed Jo Walton's previous collection of writing from Tor.com, the Locus Award-winning What Makes This Book So Great. The Hugo Awards, named after pioneer science-fiction publisher Hugo Gernsback, and voted on by members of the World Science Fiction Society, have been presented since 1953. They are widely considered the most prestigious awards in science fiction. Between 2010 and 2013, Jo Walton wrote a series of posts for Tor.com, surveying the Hugo finalists and winners from the award's inception up to the year 2000. Her contention was that each year's full set of finalists generally tells a meaningful story about the state of science fiction at that time. Walton's cheerfully opinionated and vastly well-informed posts provoked valuable conversation among the field's historians. Now these posts, lightly revised, have been gathered into this book, along with a small selection of the comments posted by SF luminaries such as Rich Horton, Gardner Dozois, and David G. Hartwell. A remarkable guided tour through the field—a kind of nonfiction companion to Among Others. It's very good. It's great.—New York Times bestselling author Cory Doctorow, Boing Boing on What Makes This Book So Great At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

asimov the last answer: Short Story Index , 1989

asimov the last answer: Hyperion Dreams Edgar Asimov Poe, What happens when the top two

scientists in the world get together? Hyperion is a young—obsessed with the truth—blockchain engineer, working on the most promising technology of the century. When he starts having hyper-realistic dreams, he enlists the help of the best psychiatrist on the planet, and his brilliant co-worker, a renowned hacker. The truth should set him free, but he has to find it first... Scroll Up and Grab a Copy Today! This is a Novelette of 11,200+ words - enjoy!

asimov the last answer: Isaac Asimov James Gunn, 1996 Updates and expands science fiction scholar James Gunn's definitive, Hugo Award-winning critical volume about Isaac Asimov and his contributions to the science fiction genre.

asimov the last answer: Isaac Asimov Donald M. Hassler, 1991 Well-known critic Hassler here contributes a comprehensive survey of Asimov's major fiction, from his beginnings as a short-story writer in *The Campbell Years*, through his early and juvenile novels, including a complete outline and evaluation of the author's ever-popular Robot and Foundation series. Starmont Reader's Guide 40.

asimov the last answer: The Fifth Narrative Benjamin Katz, 2004-05 This book was written for bright, brave and curious people who wish to become farsighted, to find other meanings and necessities beyond our recent Grand Tales (Religion, Pessimism, Capitalism and Science). The Fifth Narrative is about our emergence out of our dung beetle' state. It reveals our unawareness that the dungballs which currently sustain us (Grand Narratives) constrain our ability to be farsighted thus endangering our future evolution. It tells how human folly in our time seems more than ever to confound these grand stories and their bearing meaning. It explains why a new grand Narrative is necessary in order to survive and prevail. And why a new psychology encompassing areas like global ecology, demography, resources and politics is of impending necessity. The book deals with the emergence of a new civilization through technology and farsighted knowledge, which will form and guide our further evolution. Its essential message is: Let us become wiser ascending Icarus, rising beyond our limiting schemes and perspectives.

asimov the last answer: *Faith of Atheists vs Christians* David Lewis, 2019-03-01 You fall and break your leg, the kitchen catches fire, neighbor Sam has a heart attack, one of your family crashes the car now what belief helps you through the crisis? What faith do you have as a cane or crutch to guide you? Let us consider your faith possibilities such as friends, or organizations, or scientific concepts like gravity or evolution as the faith to sustain you. A Christian friend shares his faith that Christ came back from death, and his belief in a Creator and the miracle of a virgin birth. But what, as an atheist, can guide and support you? There are hundreds of thousands of atheists in the world, so we all probably meet and talk with and write to many each day. One purpose of this work is to better understand what faiths atheists have, so as to get along better with one another, especially with those having different beliefs. We will look at some famous atheists and review what influenced them and what changed for some of them as they matured into adults from childhood. We will make some comparisons between atheists and those calling themselves Christians.

asimov the last answer: Isaac Asimov's *I Robot: To Obey* Mickey Zucker Reichert, 2013-09-03 Susan Calvin is about to enter her second year as a psych resident at the Manhattan Hasbro teaching hospital when a violent crime strikes very close to home. When she was young, Susan lost her mother in a terrible car wreck that also badly injured her father. She now believes the accident was orchestrated by government officials who wanted her parents dead. Susan has always known there was a faction of the U.S. government that wanted to hijack her father's work for military use. Now it seems that faction is back. As she struggles to overcome her pain and confusion, as well as deal with her studies, Susan finds herself hunted by violent antitech vigilantes who would revert mankind to the Dark Ages—and at the same time she's being watched very closely by extremists who want high-tech genocide. Somehow she must find a way to stop them both.

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