

I'm human



Isaac asimov the end of eternity pdf

Isaac asimov the end of eternity. The end of eternity isaac asimov summary.

In this thought-provoking science fiction novel by Isaac Asimov, time travel and social engineering converge in a complex narrative that delves into the nature of humanity and its quest for improvement. The story revolves around Andrew Harlan, an Eternal who lives outside the confines of space and time. His role within Eternity is to carefully plan and execute Reality Changes, small but significant shifts in human history designed to better the future of humankind. However, during one of these assignments, Harlan's life intersects with Noys Lambert, a woman living in real time and space. Their love blossoms, but fate has other plans for them. Noys is set to cease existing after the next Reality Change, prompting Harlan to risk everything by sneaking her into Eternity. Unfortunately, their actions are discovered, leading to a severe punishment: Harlan must kill the woman he loves before a paradox they've created threatens the destruction of Eternity itself. The "downwhen" period is characterized by the inability to travel back in time before the 27th century, when the temporal field powering Eternity was established. The future remains uncertain as humanity's fate hangs in the balance, with Earth being empty by the year 15 million. A mysterious block at the 100,000th century prevents access to the world outside Eternity during the Hidden Centuries. Andrew Harlan, a skilled Technician and reality changer, is fascinated by Primitive times. Meanwhile, he is tasked by Assistant Computer Finge to spend a week in the 482nd century, where he falls in love with Noys Lambert, a non-Eternal aristocrat. However, Harlan removes her from time and hides her in Eternity's empty sections. Harlan later discovers that the kettles cannot travel to the time where he hid Noys due to a block at the 100,000th century. He confronts Finge but is told that it was not his doing. Harlan is summoned to the council and deduces that he must be serving a larger purpose. He shares his findings with Senior Computer Laban Twissell, who reveals that Cooper's true identity is that of Vikkor Mallansohn, inventor of temporal mathematics. However, this knowledge must remain hidden from Cooper to ensure Eternity's founding as it historically was. Harlan blackmails Twissell, demanding Noys' return in exchange for not revealing Cooper's true identity. But he is outwitted and locked away with only the lever to send Cooper back. Harlan changes the power output, sending Cooper to an unknown time in the early 20th century. Twissell theorizes that he can undo the damage and sends Cooper back correctly for his mission. They assume that Cooper might try to communicate using a magazine advertisement, which would stand out only to an Eternal. In 1932, a mysterious advertisement caught attention with its four-line message "All the Talk Of the Market" spelling out ATOM. However, Harlan refused to share this discovery with Twissell until they retrieved Noys from the Hidden Centuries, a time period where humans allegedly evolved into something greater and blocked off Eternity's access to time. Twissell speculated that these future humans might have feared an invasion by Eternity, leading them to retaliate and create a kettle block at the 100,000th century. As they traveled back in time to retrieve Noys, Harlan and Twissell passed through the 100,000th century without incident. Upon arriving in 1932, Harlan revealed his suspicions about Noys being from the Hidden Centuries and demanded she accompany him on a mission to prevent Eternity's founding. Noys confessed to being from that time and explained her people had also developed time travel, but their method showed multiple possible futures rather than just one. Her mission was to make the minimum change to history, which could be achieved in various ways. She chose an approach involving herself and Harlan together. Noys offered Harlan a choice: kill her and preserve Eternity or let her live and allow a different future to emerge. After witnessing the unhealthy relationships between Eternals and the sociological damage caused by altering timelines, Harlan began to agree with her. Suddenly, a reality change occurred, and the kettle disappeared, indicating that Eternity never happened. The story concludes with the phrase "the end of Eternity - and the beginning of infinity". Twissell, a senior computer and dean of the Allwhen Council, appoints Harlan as his personal technician. Unbeknownst to Harlan, this role was previously held by Vikkor Mallansohn, who wrote memoirs describing himself in that position. The true purpose behind Harlan's appointment is to complete the "circle," ensuring that events unfold as they have in the past and establishing Eternity as it was meant to be. Laban Twissell oversees the Allwhen Council, responsible for ensuring the accuracy of Mallansohn's memoirs. Hobbe Finge serves as an assistant computer, harboring a strong dislike and distrust towards Harlan. Noys Lambert, a human from the Hidden Centuries, is initially introduced as a non-Eternal aristocrat but secretly aims to destroy Eternity for humanity's benefit. Vikkor Mallansohn, also known as Brinsley Sheridan Cooper (the Cub), develops the Temporal Field in the 24th century, paving the way for the founding of Eternity in the 27th century. After his death, Cooper assumes Mallansohn's identity to complete the mission and ensure Eternity's establishment. This narrative is set against the backdrop of Asimov's own creative process, as he drew inspiration from a 1932 Time magazine issue featuring an illustration of Old Faithful that initially resembled a mushroom cloud. This sparked his idea for a time travel story, which evolved into The End of Eternity novel. The novel "The End of Eternity" by Isaac Asimov is set to be reimagined as "Nova Sol", tapping into the energy of an exploding Sun. Interestingly, scientists now know that the Sun is too small to explode. The book can also be seen as a prequel to the Empire series, which forms part of the Foundation Series. Asimov had previously explored time travel in his 1950 novel "Pebble in the Sky", but it was a one-way trip. The original "The End of Eternity" appeared in 1986 as part of the collection "The Alternate Asimovs". Critics praised the novel, with reviewer Villiers Gerson stating that it has suspense on every page and exhibits plot twists for which Asimov is famous. In a 1972 review, Lester del Rey declared that no one has wrung so much out of time travel or developed its possibilities as well as Asimov. John Crowley's award-winning novella "Great Work of Time" shares the same basic outline as The End of Eternity, featuring a secret society of time travelers trying to remake history. In both books, the society's operations come to a halt due to people from the future intervening for reasons related to that future. Susan Young notes similarities with Poul Anderson's "The Corridors of Time", which also depicts complex societies of time travelers struggling to access inaccessible sections of the future. Charles Stross has stated that his 2009 novella "Palimpsest" is effectively a rewrite of The End of Eternity. There are also parallels drawn between Asimov's work and John Brunner's "Times Without Number", where the time-policing organization struggles to prevent its own annihilation. The mechanism of time travel in The End of Eternity may not be the same as that stumbled upon in "Pebble in the Sky" due to Harlan's words about the energy requirement for the Temporal Field. Asimov's science fiction novel The End of Eternity has been subject to various interpretations, with some suggesting its human-like robots may have played a pivotal role. Asimov himself noted the inconsistencies, which were also discussed by Alasdair Wilkins in an article on Gizmodo. Notably, The End of Eternity features non-chronological narratives, a trait also present in three other science fiction novels by Asimov: The Gods Themselves, Nemesis, and The End of Eternity. Interestingly, the novel has been translated into over 25 languages, including Russian, where it was heavily censored due to sexual references and sociological discussions deemed unacceptable by Soviet ideology. The book's popularity was revived in 2011 with Tor Books' hardcover reissue and subsequent e-book editions. A Hungarian TV movie adaptation of The End of Eternity titled A halhatatlanság halála (1977) explored the themes presented in the novel, while a 1987 film directed by Andrei Yermash took creative liberties with the story, particularly its ending. In contrast to the novel's conclusion where Noys and Harlan decide against Eternity's suppression of spaceflight, the Soviet film adaptation ends with a more cynical note, implying that Harlan was used as a pawn in furthering materialistic gains. In recent years, New Regency acquired the rights to The End of Eternity for a possible film adaptation, marking another step towards revisiting Asimov's classic novel. In this section, various statements from different sources are brought together to provide a comprehensive understanding of the novel "The End of Eternity". The book explores themes related to time travel and human history, with characters known as the Eternals being tasked with selecting a reality that would be most suitable for humanity. According to one account, these Eternals chose a universe where Earth was the only planet in the galaxy with a complex ecological system and an intelligent species capable of developing high technology. The story also mentions robots establishing Eternity somehow and becoming the Eternals themselves. They aimed to create a reality where human beings could be as secure as possible, alone in the galaxy. However, it is said that these robots then ceased to function of their own accord. References from different sources support this information. For instance, a video from 1976 titled "A halhatatlanság halála" (meaning "The Death of Eternity") provides further insights into the novel's themes and characters. Additionally, articles such as "Isaac Asimov, time travel and The End of Eternity" offer analysis on how Asimov's work follows and expands upon his earlier writings. The novel itself has been adapted and referenced in various other works. A book titled "The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy" by Donald H. Tuck provides a detailed account of the novel, including its publication history and critical reception. This section also references external sources such as IMDB and Open Library, which provide additional information on Asimov's work and its impact on popular culture. Overall, this collection of statements and references aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of "The End of Eternity" and its significance within the context of science fiction literature.