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Beacon 23: The Complete Novel



Synopsis

[This work contains the five Beacon 23 stories, originally released in serialized form. The full novel costs 4 cents more than the set of five stories, but saves you 4 extra clicks of the mouse. I hope you enjoy.]For centuries, men and women have manned lighthouses to ensure the safe passage of ships. It is a lonely job, and a thankless one for the most part. Until something goes wrong. Until a ship is in distress. In the 23rd century, this job has moved into outer space. A network of beacons allows ships to travel across the Milky Way at many times the speed of light. These beacons are built to be robust. They never break down. They never fail. At least, they aren't supposed to.

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Customer Reviews

This book hurt to read. I am a former member of the US Army and spent a year in Iraq, and came back with more than souvenirs. This book addressed the hurt and brokenness of PTSD better than I've ever seen before. The sheer anxiety and mistrust you have towards your own mind, the fear of

failure and desire to shut yourself away from humanity. The terror at the prospect of loving someone, of having emotions once again after that particular point of weakness in your personal armor was blown open. I had to put this book down because it hurt to read. I'm glad I picked it back up.

Not my first Howey novel, but this is the first time I cared about an author and his work enough to sit down and write a review. I just finished putting the book down and frankly I'm still too anesthetized by Howey's bold idea to write something truly helpful. But I'll try anyway. In this review I'll refrain from commenting on the plot, on narrative or writing style. These are all done in beauty and elegance, although such judgements are really subject to the eyes of the beholder. However, I will try to write about something more elusive: what the book is really about; the book's soul. I expected a sci-fi dystopic future along the lines of the Wool Omnibus. However, what I got as I delved deeper into Beacon 23 was a magnificent and mind-numbing exploration of the human mind and human nature - naked and raw in all its beauty and shortcomings. Howey, in a straightforward and effortless manner, digs deep into the very fabric of human emotions. The entire novel serves a single purpose: to allow the author to pose a grand question. A beautiful and inspiring question. Some might say that the tone of this novel is too dark and gloomy, albeit I found myself laughing out loud at certain points. I hope those who would say that stuck to the end of the book and were rewarded by the feeling of hope and peace which pervaded my thoughts as I put my kindle down. I honestly hope you will agree and that Hugh Howey continues surprising us with his writing.

The author did a great job of letting you inside the character's head. It was a bit confusing at times as I tried to sort through what was relevant and what wasn't...and to decipher what was real and what wasn't...but then I think that was the point. This book was released in 5 parts, but I agree with other reviewers that you should really just bite the bullet and get the "complete novel" from the get go. Based on the first part of this book, I too probably would have given up on it. The build was slow, but steady and the end was unexpected, yet extremely satisfying and rewarding.

Great book(s?)!! This was a very interesting read, the multiple book style was a little scattered but it all came together in the end. It did a great job of dealing with real human thoughts and feelings in a way that was still entertaining and interesting, with some humor thrown in there. I would call this book a space satire with strong anti-war sentiment, in the theme class of Enders Game. It takes you into the mind of a broken soldier just trying to cope with his own doubts, while also talking to himself

like a crazy person. I would recommend this to anyone who wants a quick read with a satisfying ending and who loves sci-fy and enjoys some good first person writing

4.5 out of 5 So far at the edge of Sector 8 (so far out that it should be Sector 9) sits Beacon 23. Each beacon has a "keeper" in them to make sure that if anything goes wrong it can be fixed quickly. This is where we meet Digger. He is alone at the edge of space with just his thoughts and memories. Follow five stories (that were originally posted as serial fiction). I have to start the "my thoughts" part of this review out admitting that I am a Howey fan even though I never finished Wool (I started reading it during a dark period in my life and couldn't bring myself to finish it). After reading this, I remember why I liked Howey's stories so much. The character development is great. The point of view was drastic, but in a good and heartbreaking way. The story revolves around a former war hero who has requested to be the keeper of a Beacon way out on the edges of space for NASA. Throughout the story you find out bits and pieces of the story as to why he is considered a hero, why he doesn't think that he is, and exactly what happened to him on that day. His aloneness reminded me of The Martian. His humor reminded me a bit of Watney from The Martian too, but this was a totally different story. The story took a dark turn and weaved in serious mental issues (like PTSD and severe anxiety) in with humor that would have me one minute almost in tears and the next clutching my stomach and laughing. The story is dark and tragic, but I am really glad that I read it. I really felt like I knew Digger by the end. I am also glad that I didn't read this as the different "episodes" came out. Only because I would have wanted to whole story, not just bits and pieces of it. Summary of enjoyment by Parts Part Two: Pet Rocks is easily my favorite story. It's funny and sad. I flew through this one. Part Four: Company is just made me happy. You needed all the parts to understand the full story, so after those two parts it would go: 5, 1, and then 3 for the level of enjoyment. Though if I individually rated each story none of them would have gotten under a 4 out of 5 stars.

First I will say part one was like a horror story for me, all the sounds, ticks and clicks. I cannot be in the same room with a ticking clock without having an internal struggle and mental freak out, so this part stressed me out and made me fall for the MC. Next, I am a Slaughterhouse Five fan, and though I haven't seen anyone else make the comment I will in that I felt like I was stepping back into

that same mouth wide open shock and emotion explosion as the first time I read slaughterhouse. The narrative is fantastic, and though this was written as 5 short stories then combined into one novel, there is an overall theme. The conclusion is yes, a bit fantastic and optimistic, but the road there is highly believable to me, because in my gut I know humans, and I know overall they are not capable of finding peace with ease.

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