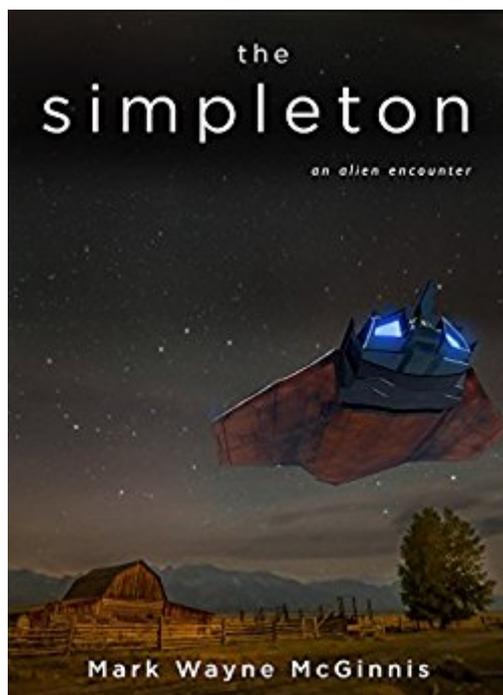


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The Simpleton



Synopsis

First Contact: Assess human with the flawed, rudimentary, mind. Unbeknownst to simpleton Cuddy Perkins, his dependable, uneventful, life was about to be turned completely upside down. It's a moonless summer night when a severely damaged intergalactic spacecraft enters Earth's upper orbit. The alien pilot is desperate. Needs to hold up long enough to make repairs before his pursuers find him. Cuddy Perkins lives a simple life with his mother, his dog Rufus, and a scattering of farm animals that still inhabit their old, dilapidated, Woodbury Tennessee ranch. He was used to the insults; retard simpleton village idiot. Momma says to just ignore them people can be heartless. But Cuddy already knew he had been different, ever since the accident back when he was seven. He didn't know how long ago that was, exactly, but he did know he was pretty big now taller than his older brother, Kyle who was in prison, and the Woodbury Sheriff the man who put him there.

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Customer Reviews

The Simpleton is about a young man, who, at age seven was injured in an accident and mentally, never progressed beyond that age. He, Cuddy, lived a life without worry or responsibility, being only the equivalent of seven years of age. He's been bullied and picked upon by cruel children and adults alike. One day he wanders into the woods near his mother's farm, to discover an alien being and his damaged starship. The two become fast friends over the course of a few days and eventually the alien, Tow, decides he needs the simple young man's assistance. You see, the alien is being pursued by three enemy ships, bent on his final destruction and the destruction of the 'Heritage Pod', a collection of deceased beings like himself; their life essence all encased within, awaiting a chance of resurrection. What follows is an exciting, touching and funny story of friendship, love and redemption. Follow along with another winner from Mark Wayne McGinnis. This story has a few swear words that seem so innocuous that they are hardly noticed. This character-driven tale is one well told. There are few, if any spelling or grammar errors. The book is well edited, as are all of McGinnis' works. One fault that I find in this, and most other stories involving space ships, is that of the "Inertial DAMPENER". The word you want is "DAMPER"... look them both up in a dictionary, you'll see the obvious difference. A DAMPENER makes something damp or moist. A DAMPER is something that reduces or eliminates vibration or physical shock. It makes a difference! In any case, this is a very nice book with a moral about life and friendship. Read it. You'll like it!

A very interesting story about a mentally challenged teen named Cuddy that discovers an alien spacecraft and its sole occupant near his rural family farm and forms a friendship and understanding with him. Cuddy, with the help of the alien Tow and his technology, transforms himself both mentally and physically, much to the surprise of his friends and family. This is the ultimate underdog story, with the former village idiot now empowered, teaming up with friends and an older brother to help protect Earth and then a distant alien culture, from a now common alien enemy. A very fun and easy read.

As an avid SF reader, I was delighted to find this jewel. Cuddy is the "simpleton" who regains his abilities plus more through the efforts of the last member of a pacifist alien race. The story was well-constructed and actually has an ending, although another book could be in the works. I have grown exceedingly weary of cliff-hangers that try to force us to buy the next installment. This is a far

more elegant and less irritating way of doing that. I want to know what our gang of misfits does next. I was worried about a "Flowers for Algernon" ending. However, the author graciously gave a far more satisfying conclusion.

McGinnis is one of my favorite sci-fi authors. This latest book, Simpleton, grabbed my interest right away. The story is fascinating as well as providing an interesting perspective on the human race. Very original and fun.

I've enjoyed several books by McGinnis and like this one best so far, probably because the characters seemed more complex and the concept is a little off-center, making you want to read on to see how the author resolves things. Who would think to combine sci fi/technical elements and a potential end-of-world scenario with a look into the brain and emotions of a mentally challenged young man? There's something here for everyone I think--interesting presentation of technology, alien invasions, the concept of sister planets, the hint of a love story. The story is earth-based rather than space-based, making the technical aspects a little easier to access for someone like myself who's not a huge fan of classic space operas and tech-drenched tomes. McGinnis gives his villains some shape, and the scenes involving them are often the most skillfully developed. And the principle alien, he's wonderful.

I actually read the second installment of the story first. I almost didn't read the first installment, "The Simpleton". I am glad I did. It was better than the second in the series. The first book was engaging with lots of character and plot development. The second became a "Raiders of the lost Ark" quest and dragged as if the author was trying to figure out where to go next or took one book and split in two creating a third in the series. This series may be of more interest to teens and pre-teens. It has an interesting premise and good potential but I won't be reading any further in this series.

Predictable story line with flat characters. Gratuitous sex scene that was totally unnecessary to story development. The starting chapters were interesting and held promise but the author seemed to run out of ideas, characters, and story telling steam about half way through. Light reading for a rainy day when you can do nothing else .

I enjoyed the latest story "Simpleton" from Mark Wayne McGinnis, I have read the "Scrapyard Ship

Series Books" some time back and just went through Simpleton and enjoyed the story line and how much farther it could really go and hope it will.

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