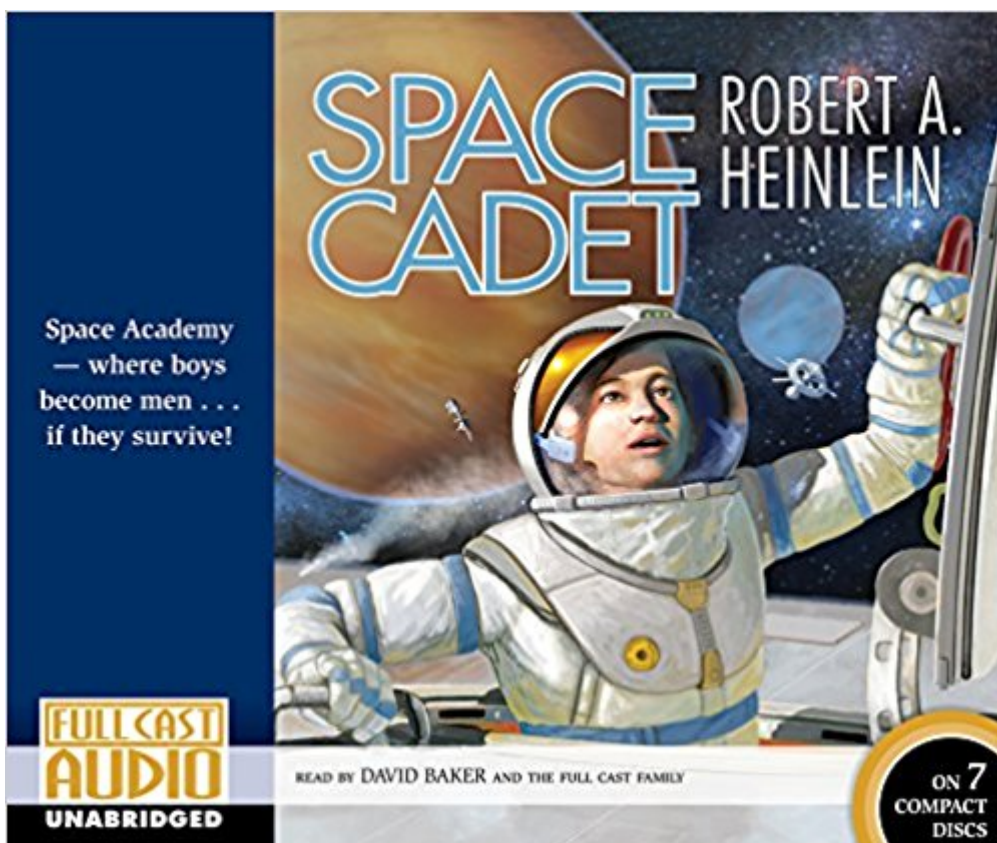


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# Space Cadet



## Synopsis

Matt Dodson arrives at Space Academy little prepared for the rigorous program he is about to enter. But that's the point of the academy: to take young men and steep them in a demanding tradition of honor, courage, and sacrifice until they have earned the right to join the Patrol as guardians of the solar peace. Unfortunately, even the academy's high power training can't completely prepare Matt and his friends Tex and Oscar for the harrowing test of both survival and diplomatic skills they will face when a mission goes disastrously wrong. A classic coming-of-age tale, and one of the most influential audiobooks in the history of science fiction, *Space Cadet* features the compelling mix of wit, action, and a clear vision of the future that are the hallmarks of Heinlein at his best.

## Book Information

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Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

• The lively story of a group of boys--Matt and Tex, from Terra; Oscar, from Venus; Pierre, from one of Jupiter's moons; and others--who train to uphold the peace of the solar system. This account of their training and their subsequent adventures is good, colorful fiction by an author who can write it ably and entertainingly. • Chicago Tribune on *Space Cadet* • Throughout the story there is a constant stream of Heinlein's noted wit and satire, superbly told . . . The Hugo Award committee need look no further. • San Francisco Chronicle on *Glory Road* • Heinlein...wrote adventure stories grounded in credible scientific speculation. Even the wonderful stories collected here feature his trademark cool reasoning. . . . Superb stories - old friends, really - that are well worth the book's price. • Booklist on *The Fantasies of Robert A. Heinlein* --This text refers to the Paperback

edition.

Like many people, I go way, way back with Heinlein. My very favorite book (and one that stands out in my mind--and with much affection--to this day) is Tunnel in the Sky. I really, really wanted to go off to explore new worlds with a covered wagon and horses, like the hero does at the very end of the book. But one of the nice things about Robert Heinlein is that he's got something for everyone. One of my best friends has a different favorite: Podkayne of Mars. Go figure. --Shelly Shapiro, Executive Editor --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This story, though written for what are now called Young Readers, is good for any age. It starts with a boy, who isn't even sure he'll make it into the Academy. And ends with a young man well on his way. In between he fights his way through cynics, sarcastic people, and learns what it means to be human. He doubts, tries to give up and he and his friends end up accomplishing the nearly impossible. What? How? Why? READ IT!

Heinlein is always good for a great, thoughtful read. I have a hard time describing him as anything but "thoughtful" because he always gives me something interesting to think about. This is a classic story, from before the days of the internet and grey ooze stories. This book is from when sci fi was really sci fi!

How I went so long without reading this book I'll never know. Astoundingly ahead of its time, but yet so prescient that it could have been written today. You can't read this book without thinking of nearly anything in today's sci-fi universe: Star Trek, Thunderbirds, Babylon 5, Firefly, Halo, you name it there's hints everywhere that all come from Heinlein's seminal work. I loved the story itself, it had great flow and a genuine sense of plotting. Enjoyable.

RAH wrote the times in a manner that appealed to all ages. I can still remember the sadness upon hearing of his death. He was one of the very best.

"Space Cadet" is a wonderful novel I first read over 50 years ago when I was a young teenager. I loved it then and I still enjoy it today. It is a story of a young man growing into a future military force which is both interesting and well-written, predicting many future technologies (microwave ovens),

years before they were actually invented. Heinlein developed a unique perspective on life that evolved through his books over the decades.

First published in 1948, *Space Cadet* is one of Heinlein's earliest sf juveniles. I remember loving it when I was a teenager. Those years are long past, but when I recently reread the novel, I recaptured at least some of the sense of wonder I felt when I read it as a kid. Science fiction has become more sophisticated in the intervening years (at least some of it has), but the art of storytelling never grows old, and Heinlein was a master storyteller. *Space Cadet* has a tight, engaging plot that begins with Matt Dodson joining the Space Cadets and ends with an adventure on Venus. Dodson is a strong character who would be especially appealing to teens--he's able to overcome self-doubt, gains maturity, and learns (while making use of a leave to visit his parents) that "you can't go home again." The only other character in the novel with any personality is Matt's fellow cadet Tex, who likes to repeat his Uncle Bodie's tall tales, adding some humor to the story. The aliens Heinlein envisions living on Venus are credible (at least by 1948 standards, and in any event more credible than most of the lizard-like aliens that dominate sf movies), and the novel has something useful to say about prejudice against those who are outwardly different. *Space Cadet* hasn't lost much of its charm in the six-plus decades since its first publication. I would give it 4 1/2 stars if offered that option.

Good Product.

It's a great read, and I remember it fondly from my childhood. Matt is a boy who wants to join the space patrol. He and his New friend, Tex, have a series of adventures at the space academy, and then out and about in the solar system. The solar system reflects science and hopes of the era, so Venus and Mars both have breathable atmosphere and intelligent natives. The asteroid belt probably got there when the natives of the fifth planet blew themselves up. All of that stuff is unimportant. The story telling is fun, and scenery internally consistent.

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