



The Parasite

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The Parasite, a science fiction novella (40,000 words) by Neal Asher

After mining complex ices deep in the Solar System, Jack Smith is concerned about his profit margin, but is it him who doesn't want to face quarantine or something squirming inside him? The Cryon Corporation Director, Geoffry Haven, is also concerned about the bottom line and might consider Jack an expense he can no longer afford, though perhaps suitable for a starring role in a snuff movie. Meanwhile, the human and unhuman agents of World Health must investigate. Perhaps it's time to deploy vat-grown killers and an anti-photon weapon, because the parasite is coming to Earth, and it's hungry.

The Parasite was first published by Tanjen Ltd as an illustrated novella back in 1996. Tanjen closed down a number of years later and since then the novella has been difficult if not impossible to obtain. There are copies out there, but checking recently I haven't seen one for below \$50.00, which is a hell of a lot for something only 130 pages long and perhaps only for completists. I've edited it again, thought I haven't been too heavy-handed since I didn't want to deliver something that had completely ceased to be the original. This is my first attempt at self-publishing through Amazon Kindle. I hope you all enjoy it!

– Neal Asher

“Once again, Neal Asher gives his reader a meal of such exquisite taste that you're left like Oliver, desiring more.” – Authortrek

The Parasite Details

Date : Published March 10th 2011 by Amazon Digital Services (first published 1996)

ISBN :

Author : Neal L. Asher , Neal Asher

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From Reader Review The Parasite for online ebook

Bill Ramsell says

A very good early novella. I read this one mostly during the eclipse of August 21, 2017.

Ian Leslie says

This was my first Experience of Neal Asher. This story captivated my imagination and introduced me to the Polity Universe. I read it in one sitting. If I sound like a fan, I am, and this story is responsible.

Dean says

I'm a big fan of Neal Asher, I've read several of his books and found them all very well written and very enjoyable. Science fiction based around strange organisms and biology in general.

Trying to locate this book was difficult until the advent of ebooks and able to get it online, hence why this book (one of his first) came later.

If you've never read his stuff before, I wouldn't recommend this as a first read by this author. The Skinner is a much more in-depth book and a good introduction to his Universe.

This however is a short story and told reasonably well, but doesn't really go far enough. The premise is based on an alien organism that infects an astronaut and gets taken back to Earth and the resulting mayhem. A good quick read which could have been taken further. If you have seen the movie "Species" then it gives you a general idea.

Ryan says

Quite nifty :) Pre-Polity, first contact in more ways than one I think :)

Nick says

This one is fascinating because it was written about 16 years ago yet contains a number of Asher signature tropes: golems, artificial intelligence, alien mycelia invading human bodies, soulless corporations. It seems to me like the template for many of the more recent novels Asher has written

Miki Habryn says

A light and fast read, but the reality of it being an earlier work from a less developed author shows through.

The lead character's self-awareness post-infestation is a bit hammy, and the resolution seems a little odd in the broader context of the universe that has developed since this was first published. Still fun, though.

Doug says

I was introduced to Asher through a recommendation from Iain M. Banks, by way of my Kindle. You know, "if you liked this author you'll like 'Author X'". That sort of thing. I've heard of the Polity Universe, but have not checked it out. After reading this self-published novella from Asher's distant past, I'm more inclined to do so. While *The Parasite* is messy and ends incredibly abruptly, I enjoyed the majority of the read. It's violent and action packed with some fun cyber punk ideas thrown in. Bonus point for being able to finish it during a short domestic flight! Will be picking up *Prador Moon* or *Gridlinked* in the near future.

Robb Merrill says

It's good classic Asher. I recommend it.

Ross Johnson says

Short but sweet

Some of the basics of the Spatterjay virus, nicely laid out. Good story, a couple typos, but worth the time and money for sure.

Vegard says

Loved it!

Geoff Lynas says

I have had this book for many years. Finally got round to reading it. Remembered why I enjoyed Neal's stuff back in the 90's. A good read.
