



The Secret of the Ninth Planet

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From Pulpville Press. On the day that the theft of the solar system's light begins, Burl Denning is with an archaeological expedition in the Andes. Within hours the U.S. Air Force has ordered the expedition to investigate the strange phenomenon that is causing a dimness and a drop in temperature throughout the world. This is the start of a fantastic adventure that takes Burl on the first circumnavigation of the solar system on the Magellan. Each planet-fall brings unexpected hazards, as the ship draws closer and closer to solving the mystery of the theft.

The Secret of the Ninth Planet Details

Date : Published (first published 1959)

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Author : Donald A. Wollheim

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From Reader Review The Secret of the Ninth Planet for online ebook

Amy (Other Amy) says

Nine: the dream will not die. It is meant to be.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-envir...>

(Don't worry, Pluto. We still love you.)

Richard says

The Secret of the Ninth Planet by Donald A Wollheim is a YA science-fiction novel from 1959. Reading it was an exercise in nostalgia. It's a space adventure set in the solar system as it was conceived in the fifties. Most of it is now completely wrong--though it was accepted as being plausible theory when written. Mercury keeps one side to the sun all the time. Asimov wrote a science fiction mystery based on that assumption. We now know that it rotates slowly. Venus in the Fifties and before was frequently imagined as a hot, wet world not the violent poisoned maelstrom we now know it to be.

Mars, in the novel, of course has canals and even cities and inhabitants. This, in my opinion, is the most interesting section of the novel with its hive mind creatures. Even Neptune has an odd kind of life, but Pluto is described as a moonless planet the size of Earth which has been robbed from another star--far from the dwarf planet that we now realise it is.

Don't look for any psychological depth and be advised that all the characters are male--

Randy says

An alien race has put a sun tapping device on Earth. Burl Denning and his father find, Burl being imbued with an energy that allows him to shut down the device. Now he's a crew member of an experimental ship visiting all the planets looking for these machines.

As they destroy each one and move farther out in the solar system, booby traps start to show up. Also, each projector seems to be beaming energy toward Pluto. The enemy is there, knows they are coming, and is moving to greet their desperate mission.

Charles says

What an excellent book. Definitely a bit of a Young adult book but I enjoyed it immensely. This ranks up there with "The Secret of the Martian Moons" by Wollheim, and is far better than "The Secret of Saturn's

Rings."

A great fun adventure.

Darron Huntzinger says

wow despite the cheese news that was an inter tainting book and I think it would make a good movie too with some changes of course

Sean says

This was one of the first science fiction books I read at around age 9. It is, of course, a children's book and superficial in many ways but it still reads well 51 years later.

Janelle says

Unfinished. I liked it but the librivox audio had issues.

Janet says

Simply written, yet gives satisfying descriptions and adventures at each planet! Interesting ideas about space travel and imaginative descriptions of the planets and their inhabitants. Did I learn more about planets than I had already known? (elementary school knowledge) Not really. But I did enjoy reading a book with technical terms which is also imaginatively fun and liberal. One doesn't come across that too often in the scholarly life. In the scholarly life, hints of personality in writing style (usually arrogance, other times silliness) and grammatical/punctuation errors are looked at with glee and much distraction! So imagine how much glee this simple book must bring me.

The moral justification for waging war was loose, but it was also necessary for good action and thus forgivable. Another interesting thing to throw into this miscellaneous paragraph: Wollheim, the author, concludes that Pluto was not an original planet of the solar system but a planet jettisoned off from another solar system, thus not apart of our solar system as we believe today! He was ahead of the curve (not really since we have known Pluto was odd for a while, probably a basis for this book). I know the word "jettison" was not used in perfectly fitting context, but I really wanted to use it so spare me the criticism!

Ending this review on a relevant note, Wollheim's ninth planet novel is a palatable science fiction space snack if you're looking for that dehydrated astronaut ice cream to munch on.

Barry Haworth says

I found this book via Project Gutenberg and found it to be pretty bad. The story is a 1950s juvenile novel about a young lad who through blind luck becomes uniquely qualified to join a secret military mission to explore the solar system in search of the hostile aliens who are planning to blow up the Sun. The storyline is quite implausible, though I kept reading to the end. Probably the things that kept me going was the fascination of seeing how he imagined the different planets of the solar system in this grand tour, and that aspect of the story is certainly of interest.

If I had read it at age ten I probably would have enjoyed it a lot more. Reading it in my fifties it doesn't work nearly so well.

Douglas says

Juvenile sic-fi story of solar system exploration and defeating a solar system enemy. Pretty good story, even if a little simplistic.

Ray Daley says

Apparently I've read this before?

I don't recall it but it was a decent little read.

Zoltán says

Hogy is harangozta be George Lucas az új Star Wars trilógia nyitó epizódját? "Every generation has a legend" - ez a bet? sor ragyogott fel a Baljós árnyak els? trailer-ének kezd? képkockáin. Nos, amint a Csillagok Háborúja (szigorúan saját kez?leg kiszínezett!) képregényei egy folytonosan táguló fantáziabirodalom Nagy Bummját jelentették sokunk számára, akik a '80-as évek elején élték meg szellemi ébredezesüket, a sci-fi novellák terén valamiért és valahogyan, ki tudja mi okból és mi véggett, de Donald A. Wollheim A kilencedik bolygó titka c. írása vált gyermekkorom egyik emblematikus olvasmányává.

Szeretek nosztalgiázni, csak id?m nincs rá. Ez már a vénülés csalhatatlan jele volna? Meglehet. Bárhogyan is légyen, de amikor alkalmam nyílott rá, hogy egy kell?képpen felszerelt antikvárium s némi anyagi ráfordítás segítségével újra összerakjam teljes gy?jteményemet a legendás Robur magazin köteteib?l (egykoron ezekt?l külös? kényszer hatására kellett megválnom), pillanatnyi kétség sem merült fel, hogy ne A kilencedik bolygó titkával kezdjem a sok kiváló novella újraolvasását. A megelevenedett gyermekkori emlékképek hatása alatt, a rám váró gondtalan szórakozás ígéretével nedvesítettem meg ajkam, mint egy pályát tévesztett szatír, és hirtelen ötlett?l vezérelve emeltem a tétem: olvassuk csak ezt a remek novellát most szimultán, s az egyébként kiváló magyar fordítás mellé találjuk köretnek az angol eredetit.

Persze a történet ezúttal is olyan véget ért, mint máskor. Mint például amikor az ember harmincöt évesen leül a tévé elé, s arra számít, hogy Nils Holgersson Márton lúd hátán tett csodálatos utazása heteken át tartja majd izgalomban ?t magát, s az egész munkahelyi kollektívát - és aztán mégsem; vagy mint amikor feln?tt fejjel napokon keresztül azon morfondíroz, hogy mi volt olyan baromira izgalmas egy Willy Fogg-ra keresztelt cilinderes oroszlán föld körüli útjában, vagy hogy miért szereltetett mindenki villogó fénysort Skodájának

h?t?rácsa elé, miközben a képerny?kön a göndör mellsz?rzet? Hasselhoff barátunk egy beszél? autó társaságában aprította a rosszfiúkat.

Természetesen, nem azt kívánom bizonygatni, hogy A kilencedik bolygó titka egy rosszul megírt, gyermeketeg történet lenne. Távolról sem! Inkább rá- mintsem lebeszélni szeretnék bárkit is, hogy belekóstoljon a sci-fi irodalom h?skorának jellegzetes varázsát hordozó m?be. Gondoljunk csak bele, a novella 1959-ben jelent meg nyomtatásban. Szabad-e csodálkoznunk akkor, hogy a történet magán viseli a hidegháború, a fegyverkezési verseny, az amerikai és az orosz ?rprogram ?rült tempójú vetélkedésének lenyomatát?! Lehetett-e pusztítóbb fegyver az emberi elme, s így a sci-fi író fantáziája számára, mint az atom- és a hidrogén-bomba ilyen-olyan variációi? Miért is számított volna túlzásnak az elméleti fizika forradalmi elméleteinek fényében, hogy az embert évtizedeken belül antigravitációs hajtóm?vek repítik a Naprendszer bolygóira, s még azon is túl? S miképpen vélekedett akkortájt a tudományos közvélemény a közeli planéták lakhatóságáról, amikor javában dúlt a vita a Mars-csatornák körül?

A kilencedik bolygó titka, mely voltaképpen egy pszeudo-trilógia egyik története, mindenek garantált szórakozást fog nyújtani, akik szerettek gyermekek és fiatalok lenni, s még nem felejtették el ma sem, hogyan is kell azt csinálni.

Joel Foster says

This was a very disappointing read. The characters were one-dimensional and the plot was very flat and boring.

PSXtreme says

A classic Hard Sci-Fi selection...even though the "facts" are different today with the new information that we've acquired.....nevertheless, it's STILL a quality version of work that compares favorably to the old school Barsoom series of Edgar Rice Burroughs. Highly Recommended....

Andrew says

I bought this book for one reason: three years ago, Mike Brown did a signing in Boston for _How I Killed Pluto_ and I wanted him to sign a copy of this book. But I didn't own one. Now I do. If Brown ever does another signing, I'll bring it along.

I took the opportunity to read it (which I hadn't done since I was in elementary school). It's exactly what it tries to be -- a boy's-own adventure (written in 1959) in which a teenager tours the solar system. Invent the minimum possible plot which could require this; you've probably replicated this book's gimmick.

The author is optimistic about the invention of antigravity, which he admits in the foreword is probably necessary for manned travel to other planets. Sadly, still waiting.

