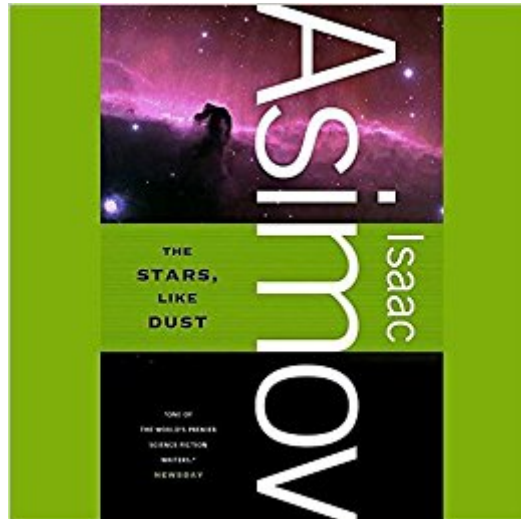




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# The Stars, Like Dust (Galactic Empire)



## Synopsis

Biron Farrell was young and naive, but he was growing up fast. A radiation bomb planted in his dorm room changed him from an innocent student at the University of Earth to a marked man, fleeing desperately from an unknown assassin. He soon discovers that, many light-years away, his father, the highly respected Rancher of Widemos, has been murdered. Stunned, grief-stricken, and outraged, Biron is determined to uncover the reasons behind his father's death and becomes entangled in an intricate saga of rebellion, political intrigue, and espionage. The mystery takes him deep into space, where he finds himself in a relentless struggle with the power-mad despots of Tyrann. Now it is not just a case of life or death for Biron--it is a question of freedom for the galaxy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Science fiction on the larger scale is Isaac Asimov's specialty. The scene of his new book, a rousing adventure story of the remote future, is the Galaxy, which, with its hundreds of inhabited planets, has been taken over by a dictatorial race called, appropriately enough, the Tyranni. A small group of rebels wage a determined battle against the dictators, giving Mr. Asimov plenty of opportunities to plot those involved and subtle twists for which he is known. Its clear writing and excellent suspense make this book a welcome addition to the science fiction lists.”

The New York Times “This little novel will transport you back to a simpler time, when story lines we are jaded towards today were fresh and intoxicating, and that gosh-wow! sense

of wonder covered science fiction like a layer of fine, gold dust. — SFReviews.net  
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Isaac Asimov (1920-1992) was born in the Soviet Union and came to the United States in 1923. He earned his PhD in chemistry in 1948, and in 1958 became a full-time writer. His writings include the Foundation Trilogy; I, Robot; Tomorrow's Children; and numerous works of nonfiction touching on a range of scientific topics. Among his accolades are six Hugo awards, a SFWA Grand Master Award, and high praise from such luminaries as Kurt Vonnegut, Arthur C. Clarke, and Gene Roddenberry.

I read this book when I was 10 years old, and not quite sure what science fiction was. I think this is one of Asimov's most under-recognized works, written in the grandest tradition of space opera, and possibly one of the inspirations for Star Wars itself. Also, it overflows with a boyish optimism missing from most of what came later in the genre, sadly.

The Galactic Empire series both entertains and illuminates today's reader to sci-fi as it was written in the 50's. While it is still an enjoyable read today, the real value lies in the perspective it provides to both life and literature today and how both were influenced by Asimov's style and creativity.

I really want to give this classic a higher score. Asimov was not at the height of his storytelling powers when he wrote this. Save you reading time for the "Robot" and "Foundation" series' books.

Reads like a spy novel, a multitude of twists and turns. The ending was *not* what I was expecting something different.

Fun. Was quit a adventure. I have read the robots and the foundations so catching up. Looking forward to the next one.

Biron Farrill wakes early one morning at his university dorm room on Earth to find a radiation bomb planted in his closet and that his father, the influential Rancher of Rhodia has been executed by political enemies. Biron is forced to seek out his father's true killer while fleeing from the Tyranni - rulers of the Nebular Empire planets. Seeking sanctuary with nobles on another planet, Biron encounters Aretmisia and Gillbert, daughter and uncle of the ruling house who both share his desire to break free of Tyranni rule. Together they seek the "rebellion planet" and a revolutionary

document, both of which might not actually exist. Almost a novella by today's standards, *The Stars, Like Dust* still has an amazing capability to stand the test of time (despite the fact that some of the popular opinions on science in the early 50's proved false). In fact these early Asimov novels really paved the way for future authors and others involved in Science Fiction entertainment. Common themes include things like dictatorial monarchies as the normal form of planetary government (which we'd often see later in the Star Wars universe and in the Klingon and Romulan empires of the Star Trek universe) and elements of star spanning space operas. Biron and Aretemisia could be the forerunners of Han Solo and Princess Leia in their dramatic love/hate relationship. Like many of Asimov's Robot novels (*Caves of Steel*, *Robots of Dawn*), *The Stars Like Dust* blurs the lines between mystery/thriller and Science Fiction - a futuristic mystery/thriller, if you will. Occasionally character interaction and dialog dips towards the cheesy but changes to common usage of language when this novel was written (over 60 years ago) may have something to do with that. *The Stars, Like Dust* paves the way for where so much good (and sometimes bad) science fiction would go over the next six decades.

Great book. A sci fi classic. This is the third or fourth time I've read it.

Good book, was not sure I would like at first, but, it grew me. Can't wait to continue the series

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