



If I Were You

L. Ron Hubbard, L. Sprague de Camp, Nancy Cartwright (Reading)

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Explore exotic new worlds. Circus midget Little Tom Little is the king of midgets, loved by crowds and carnival folk alike. Only he doesn't just want to be a bigger circus star, he wants to be just like the circus' tall and imposing leader.

Trouble begins the moment that a set of ancient books containing the secret of switching bodies finds its way into Tom Little's tiny hands. When he magically trades his small frame with that of the circus chief, he finds himself in a giant-sized heap of trouble—his craving for height has landed him smack in the center ring surrounded by forty savage cats! ALSO INCLUDES THE FANTASY STORY "THE LAST DROP"

"...wonderfully entertaining ... excellent audio quality, the cast of talented performers, great sound effects (growling lions and tigers, murmuring crowds, etc.), and intervals of dramatic, ominous music that draws listeners into the tales and holds their attention to the end." —School Library Journal

If I Were You Details

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Author : L. Ron Hubbard , L. Sprague de Camp , Nancy Cartwright (Reading)

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From Reader Review If I Were You for online ebook

Andy Dill says

If I Were You by L. Ron Hubbard is another great multicast performance from Galaxy Press. In this story, circus midget Tom Little is bequeathed with the belongings of the circus gypsy who Tom thought hated him. He thought this proved the gypsy liked him. He finds out that he was right in the first place. When Tom learns the spell to switch his mind with that of the ringmaster, a position he coveted, he gets in way over his head, not knowing all the details he needed to know. The spell leads him in and out of trouble throughout the story. I enjoyed this performance, both because of the suspense of the story and the fact that Nancy Cartwright did the voice of Tom. It was entertaining because it was like Bart Simpson was playing Tom, which I found to be humorous but well acted. Overall, it was a well-done performance.

The 2 CD set included a second story entitled, "The Last Drop". In this story a potion was used that caused the person who drank to grow. One of the people in the bar came up with a plan that would make the potion work the opposite way, causing shrinkage. Because of his refusal to pay protection to the mob, the bar owner is forced to drink the shrink potion. He then has to go find his friend who has grown to immense proportions to give him the shrink potion. In the process he has to deal with the mob boss. I found this story to be funny and well performed.

I enjoyed both performances and recommend this audiobook set to all.

Lance says

In the book "If I were you" you really become interested in the circus business. I never knew that there were honors in becoming say the lion tamer. I thought every part was just as important, but in this book you really get into depth on how important someone really is. Little Tom little is the king of the midgets and loved by everyone, but he doesn't feel like he's loved for his work but for just being a freak in his opinion. And with a little help from a professor this story takes off! This story was written by Lafayette Ronald Hubbard. He is an extremely interesting man and I want to talk about that.

He was the world's youngest Eagle Scout just at the age 13. He is the founder of scientology. He liked to live his stories, and by that I mean he when he wanted to right about something he did it. That's when he wrote this story he went out and joined the circus. He did this with many of these stories. Many people who have came to see him talk about his life and his stories have written he is a very interesting man and some say he's just hilarious. Enough about him on to the story.

Now this story starts off with the professor inviting Little Tom Little to his room. He gives Tom credit for messing and making fun of him when no one else would do to fear of him. He told Tom that he was weak and his time in this world was done. He wanted Tom to have his books which were his greatest possessions. In one of those books was the magic to change into someone else's body. And Tom has always thought of himself as a freak more than just a happy go lucky guy. He does all that's required to change into someone else's body and soon BOOM! He's into the body of the great ring leader Jerry Jordan. But what he doesn't realize is he has to do a show in 5 minutes after he has switched bodies. Tom wasn't prepared for this. He is in the ring with over 40 deadly jungle cats who want to rip him in half! What will happen next, well you'll just have to read the book yourself.

Tom Johnson says

“A Fun Fantasy Romp.”

This book actually contains two stories: *IF I WERE YOU*, originally published in the February 1940 issue of *FIVE NOVELS MONTHLY*, and *THE LAST DROP*, co-written with L. Sprague de Camp.

IF I WERE YOU is a circus setting. Little Tom Little is only 30-inches tall, and wants to be bigger. Well, not just bigger, but he wants to also be the Ringmaster of the Johnson Super Shows circus, but standing in his way is Hermann Schmidt, a huge, powerful ruffian that currently holds that possession. Tom has made the Professor mad, because he won’t bend to his will. On his deathbed, the Professor call Tom to his bed, leaving his trunk of magic and books of evil knowledge to the little man, knowing that Tom will use the books to get into trouble. Which, indeed, he does. Learning the power of switching minds with anyone, Tom chooses Hermann Schmidt, and then everything starts going wrong for the diminutive fellow.

In *THE LAST DROP* begins in the Hole In The Wall bar, where bartender Euclid O’Brien has received another whiskey bottle from his brother in Borneo. Euclid’s assistant, Harry McLeod decides to make his own mix with the strange brew, but nobody will take a chance, so Harry swallows it down, then leaves the bar. He’s not gone long before a fly lands on the mixture, sips the nectar and instantly begins to swell to enormous size. They also learn that Harry is now the size of a building, and one of the wise men figures out an antidote – if that mixture makes them bigger, then his mixture will reduce them in size. Yes, it works, but the local mob enforcer gets shrunk instead, and now the mob is involved. It can only get worse from here. The stories are definitely odd, but totally fun. I highly recommend the book for its fast-paced entertainment.

Craig says

This is a quirky little volume containing two stories from the pulps. The title story is, of all things, a wacky trading-bodies-at-the-circus tale, funny in spots, completely creaky and crazy, but with a kind of cute charm nonetheless. The other, "The Last Drop" which was written in collaboration with L. Sprague DeCamp, is a typical pulp romp in which laughs abound. It was a quick, light diversion. By the way, I suspect that the long biography of Hubbard that's at the end of all of these Galaxy volumes is more imaginative than most of the stories they collect.

Nick says

The main story is good, but the backup story is one of my favorites of the pulp fantasy genre. The second story, entitled "The Last Drop" and co-authored with L. Sprague deCamp, is a goofy tall-tale fantasy about a bartender who experiments with the wrong ingredients, leading to a wild ride of a story.

The main story, "If I Were You," is a surprisingly clever wish-fulfillment story, about a circus midget who gets his wish to be big, but not in the way he wanted.

Neither one is great literature, but both are fun page-turners.

Bruce Deming says

Oh man I loved these stories in this audiobook. Both If I Were You and The Last Drop are hilarious fun.

L Ron Hubbard's fantasies are some of the most fun because for me there are a lot more laughs and comical situations.

Nancy Cartwright is great as the Circus Midget in If I Were You.

The Last Drop has not failed to make anyone who I know who has heard it laugh and get that twinkle in their eye remembering Mr Hubbard's sense of Humor.

Great Audio book. If you don't laugh you should check your pulse because your might be dead.

Shayan Foroozesh says

A poor story BUT a great performance by Galaxy Audio team. All these three stars go to Galaxy Audio which by their theatrical performance kept me company in bloody traffic of Tehran. Next one is: Spy Killer by Hubbard. I wish I had bought more of their audio books from Tehran National Book Fair.

Shawn says

The two stories (totaling only 83 pages) in this book were very good examples of speculative fantasy of the early 30s. The first, If I Were You, was both a fantasy adventure story and a morality tale. It has good characterization and is a fun story to boot. The second, The Last Drop, is more just light fantasy adventure with a few interesting ideas about what might happen if you change someone's size and weight but not the strength of the bones and muscle making the up. Pretty good stories.

The rest of the book is a preview of some novel, a glossary, and an essay about L. Ron Hubbard writing in the Golden Age of pulp fiction.

Stewart says

The kind folks at Galaxy Press have given me a few copies of their audiobooks over the years at semiannual ALA conferences. I promised one of their booth reps this summer that I'd post reviews of them on Goodreads to repay their generosity.

"If I Were You" is one of L. Ron Hubbard's old pulp novels. It's a full-cast, two-disc audiobook with all the bells and whistles, including Bart Simpson himself (Nancy Cartwright) playing the lead role, a carny dwarf.

"If I Were You" is a mystical little tale reminiscent of a Twilight Zone story. Tom Little (the dwarf, or "midget" in the book's parlance) is a carnival performer who dreams to be the Ringmaster. Through a paranormal twist, he gets his wish, but things don't go quite as planned.

At first, I found the soprano voice of Bart Simpson a bit jarring, but I eventually settled into the story and now approve (I assume Nancy Cartwright's connection to the Church of Scientology played no small part in her casting). The story was predictable but entertaining. You can't expect too much plot and character development in less than two hours.

A coda to the main feature is "The Last Drop," a short story co-written by Hubbard and L. Sprague de Camp. It's a lighter cautionary tale to bartenders who are willing to throw practically anything into a cocktail.

If you like audio theatre, and, really, you should, "If I Were You" should be on your to-listen list.

Lyssa says

Very suspenseful story. Wasn't sure I would enjoy because I'm not a big circus fan, but Hubbard made the characters all come alive and the sound effects and music definitely held my attention!

My mom listened with me and she said as a retired school librarian, I think this would be a good story to share with middle school students because of the moral of the story....the size of your character is way more important than your actual physical size.

I enjoyed the short story, The Last Drop, better. It was hilarious!

Shannon McGee says

This book has two pulp stories by L. Ron Hubbard first published in magazines years ago. The first one:

If I Were You -

This a fantasy stories about a little person, named Little Tom, and a black magic magician at a circus. The magic dies but Little Tom inherits his books even though the magician hated him. Thing of course go awry and body switching ensues.

I enjoyed this one a little. I do like Hubbard's fantasy more than sci fi.

The second story is :

The Last Drop-

A bartender drinks adds a strange syrup to his drink and his head inflates and mob boss comes in. The Mob Boss whole body begins to shrink after he drinks the syrup.

This one was strange and remind me of the scene in Alice in Wonderland. I do not remember how it ends but I am sure it was strange because that is what Hubbard does well strangeness.

If you think of it these two stories are centered around plots that we have had in movies before and get redone after time. Like the first story we would probably think of Freaky Friday and the second story as I said Alice in Wonderland. Of course the ending is different for each. Decent stories but stuff I have seen before.

Skjam! says

Before L. Ron Hubbard got involved in...you know, he was a middling-good and prolific pulp author. The Golden Age Stories line is reprinting many of his stories in attractively designed paperbacks. This volume contains two short stories, , a preview of another, a glossary (really needed this time because of heavy circus slang) and a hagiography of Hubbard that does not mention...you know by name, just calling it "serious research." Hee. It's double-spaced in a largish typeface for easy reading.

The title story concerns a little person, "Little" Tom Little, who works as a circus midget, and then discovers a mystical method for bodyswapping with other people. He promptly decides to use this to swap with the tall, imposing ringmaster Hermann Schmidt. But Schmidt has troubles of his own, which could get Tom killed regardless of which body he's in!

There's a nice bit of foreshadowing early in the story, with what seems like random cruelty to Tom, but is actually a hint of what Schmidt's issues are. The lion phobia, on the other hand, was a bit too telegraphed. The payoff to that is a very exciting scene, mitigating the obviousness. There's a nice bit of ambiguity, too, in the motives of the Professor, who leaves Tom his books of magic.

The second story, "The Last Drop" is co-authored by the much better L. Sprague de Camp. A bartender foolishly creates a cocktail with some untested syrup from Borneo; growth and shrinking hijinks ensue. A fun story that at least waves at scientific plausibility as it goes by, in the form of the square-cube law. (The glossary explains it for the benefit of anyone who might have forgotten.)

While it's a handsome package, and the stories are fun, the book is thin on content for the price. I'd recommend looking for used copies at a steep discount, or checking it out from the library.

See more pulp reviews at SKJAM! Reviews <http://www.skjam.com/tag/pulp/>

Evelyn says

What an imagination!! L. Ron Hubbard has come up with some of the most fantastical, entertaining ideas I've had the privilege to enjoy! If I Were You was 1 1/2 hours of pure intrigue. There was also almost a moral to the story, and I'm a sucker for those. Little Tom Little discovers that his true strength lies within, and that size (on the outside) isn't nearly as important as the size of your character. I loved every minute of it. The vocal performances were AWESOME! The talent used to portray the characters was so great that even my 10 and 6-year olds wanted to sit down and listen along with me. It was great!

I think the additional short story included on this audio CD, The Last Drop, was my favorite L. Ron Hubbard story yet. It was absolutely hilarious, and I literally laughed out loud! I had children asking me what was wrong with me as they heard me chuckling and/or giggling. If you have 30 spare minutes in your day (driving to work, taking a walk, or just relaxing at home), I'm telling you, this is a story you've got to listen to...I'm laughing right now just thinking about it!

Jo Stallworth says

With the loss of the greatest generation author Ray Bradbury, there is a new spotlight on Sci-Fi's Golden Age. This particular audio set surprisingly combines the best of the written and the visual, the great sound effects calling to mind The Twilight Zone and The Outer Limits. The voicing is perfect also, with multicast performances, some discs featuring well-known Sci-Fi/Fantasy actors. Some younger readers who are used to the modern Space Opera with stellar effects and character development, may be surprised by this procedural, man vs. machine approach to storytelling, but it is representative of the Age. All-in-all, this is a very entertaining series and the beautiful packaging is a plus.

Amy Allen says

I'm not sure how to begin this review other than to say Hubbard's writing is absolutely terrible. Never have I read anything worse, published or not. At first I thought the writer sounded like a high school student trying too hard to sound smart by breaking open the thesaurus every few minutes. When the glossary takes up a large chunk of the novel, something's wrong. Circus jargon I can live with and even appreciate (after all, reading should increase one's vocabulary), however the convoluted, ridiculous sentences are too much. Plus, silly character names, Little Tom Little, and brothers Aristotle and Euclid, detracted from the story's flow.

For those of you who do not know, L. Ron Hubbard is the founder of Scientology and Galaxy Press only publishes Hubbard's fiction. Galaxy Press did a wonderful job marketing the book by providing an attractive cover, a good audio version (according to other reviewers), and appeal towards unsuspecting teachers and students. Teachers, DO NOT have your students read this book. Somehow class sets of Hubbard's books have found their way into public schools. Not only is having students read fiction by the founder of a religion questionable, but the grammar and sentences are horrid. Besides confusing sentence structure, several paragraphs begin with "and." Not only is the book a poor example of writing, it is inappropriate for students below high school. Adultery is quite evident in the first story and the second is gross. At one point someone's arm gets stabbed to the table during a bar fight.

I cannot understand why there are so many 3, 4, and 5 star reviews of this novel. I suspect many are from Scientologists. One reviewer said they were given books for free and asked to write Goodreads reviews on them. Bribery and marketing schemes keep these books in people's hands.
