



The Hollow Man

Dan Simmons

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Jeremy Bremen has a secret. All his life he's been cursed with the ability to read minds. He knows the secret thoughts, fears, and desires of others as if they were his own. For years, his wife, Gail, has served as a shield between Jeremy and the burden of this terrible knowledge. But Gail is dying, her mind ebbing slowly away, leaving him vulnerable to the chaotic flood of thought that threatens to sweep away his sanity.

Now Jeremy is on the run--from his mind, from his past, from himself--hoping to find peace in isolation. Instead he witnesses an act of brutality that propels him on a treacherous trek across a dark and dangerous America. From a fantasy theme park to the lair of a killer to a sterile hospital room in St. Louis, he follows a voice that is calling him to witness the stunning mystery at the heart of mortality.

The Hollow Man Details

Date : Published September 1st 1993 by Bantam Spectra (first published September 1992)

ISBN : 9780553563504

Author : Dan Simmons

Format : Mass Market Paperback 342 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Horror, Fiction, Fantasy, Science Fiction Fantasy

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Chris says

Essentially, the only thing that recommends The Hollow Man is the one quick reference to a much better novel in Alfred Bester's The Stars My Destination.

I am an avid fan of Dan Simmons, but this is likely the worst of his novels. I was quite excited to read it, given the content being similar (per description) to Robert Silverberg's Dying Inside... but, The Hollow Man leaps all over the place. While Dying Inside is a fairly continuous downward slide into an awful depression, Hollow Man instead tries to fiddle with all kinds of genres, fails, and then ends on a weird note.

I get it - but it's not great. There's definitely a reason it took me so long to read this one.

Kelly says

As always, this is a (not-so) big book of ideas. As always, I appreciated the way Simmons communicated these ideas. I felt like I learned a lot, and I came away with a lot to think about. This one felt kinda personal to the author, too. Right or wrong, it seemed like there was a lot of Dan Simmons on the page here.

Story notes: um, wow. Okay, so Simmons always puts a lot of literary references into his books and this one is no exception. This is a journey into Hell and the parallels with Inferno and Huck Finn are very clear. As noted above, there is a lot of what I perceived as personal commentary in this one. At first it made me sad. It's a very bleak outlook. Understandable, really, but still not the optimistic point of view I personally favour. But there is light in the love between Jeremy and Gail, in the mathematic possibilities, and in the final chapters.

Jeraviz says

Abandonado. Y una pena porque la premisa y el primer capítulo parecían interesantes. Hubiera sido un buen relato corto pero no funciona como novela de 300 páginas.

Cesar Leon says

Este libro no es recomendable para iniciar en la ciencia ficcion ya que te puede parecer que el autor esta algo muy loco sin estar acostumbrado a leer sobre el genero.

La forma en que este libro toma esa sensacion de vacio que puede sentir una persona al perder un ser querido sumado a aplicar la ciencia en la telepatia lo hacen una historia interesante por partes para una persona abierta ademas de esto tiene escenas muy locas que toca leer dos veces para saber que estas leyendo

bien.

Gilda Felt says

There are several of Dan Simmons' books that I love; others, not so much. If at all. This one falls in the second category.

A book ostensibly about telepathy, in many ways would have been a better book without it. Because, rather than really focusing on the telepathy, Jeremy Brennen goes from one adventure to the other (many of which I thought, "what a coincidence,") with his telepathy of little to no use. Has he lost the knack of reading people after so many years of having his late wife, who was also telepathic, as a buffer, or is something else going on? We never actually find out.

On top of being psychic, Brennen is also a genius, and time after time we're given short lessons in physics just so we can see just how much of a genius he is. Brennen almost seems to revel in his intellect...which does him little good because he's positively clueless when it comes to other people, while at the same time making the book truly boring in parts.

Either way, it's hard to care if Brennen manages to survive all his trials. Which turns out not to matter at all, because "the mystery at the heart of mortality" seems to make the matter moot, while at the same time only seeming to apply to him and his wife.

Tim says

A nightmare descent through madness. Another 5 stars for Dan Simmons who is one of my favourite authors. This man has such a diverse body of work and everything I have read from him has been of a very high quality: the man knows how to write.

The use of telepathy as a main basis for a novel is nothing new, but what Simmons does here is inherently different from anything I have come across before. After Bremen loses his wife and telepathic mindshield - She also has the telepathic ability and is able to protect Bremen from all the thoughts of anyone he encounters - he sets out on a journey of aimless self destruction, leading to some truly mind warping set pieces including a Goofy suit at Disney World.

The writing here is top notch and it is really infused with that nauseous nightmare feeling that things are starting to get out of control for Bremen. But through this there is also the very sad story of Robby the deaf, blind and retarded boy whose drug addict mother puts through such neglect it really does break your heart (especially if you have children of your own).

Now even though I am giving the novel 5 stars there is a side story involving chaos mathematics and waveforms and such. While this explains with scientific and mathematical theory how Bremen and Gail have their abilities, gives backstory to the couple and really builds the foundations for why you should care about these characters it is also rather wordy and expository. But I found it all quite interesting and it really gave me something to ponder on, especially the idea that by being able to view the universe at work we force it to

chose the path it takes (you will have to read the novel to really understand what I mean there).

All in all another great novel by Simmons and highly recommended.

J.K. Grice says

I don't think this book from Simmons gets the attention it deserves. Perhaps an homage to the seven deadly sins, THE HOLLOW MAN IS full of both triumphant life and pathos. This is a novel that demands to be discovered by a wider audience. I loved the absolute genius of this story. I will definitely read THE HOLLOW MAN again someday.

Bruce says

Sometimes brilliant, often irritating, in sum, disconnected, this novel can't decide what it wants to be: soft SF (the travails of a telepath in a non-telepathic world), hard SF (an attempt to explain life, the universe, and everything through standing wavefronts, chaos theory, and higher mathematics), horror (about a serial-killer woman rancher who has dentures with razor blade teeth and a cold storage room full of her victims' bodies), a tragic love story (by way of Erich Segal). At the level of syntax, the writing is always decent and sometimes excellent, vivid, and convincing. Yet the plot is rife with deus ex machina and the actions of the protagonist often make little sense, even in retrospect. The conclusion is pure sunshine fantasy and also hard to buy. Simmons can be a wonderful writer, but I think he let this one get away from him. Yet all in all, despite its many faults, it is an interesting read.

11811 (Eleven) says

I don't care for Simmons when he does the Sci-fi thing. I love his horror, particularly the historical horror like The Terror and The Abominable. I didn't dig his Hyperion books either so take that for what it's worth.

Bryce says

For me, Dan Simmons is a safe bet. He's such a good writer that, even if I'm not on board with the plot and characters, the writing itself is strong enough to keep me reading to the end.

This particular novel is one that is extremely well-written, filled with haunting images and scenarios that stayed with me for hours, but has a weak concept. Simmons doesn't seem to know whether to make this book horror or science fiction, so it ends up straddling the line between the two genres and not serving either one particularly well. As this book was the sophomore effort between Song of Kali, which was creepy as all get out, and Hyperion, it's easy to tell that Simmons hadn't chosen his favorite genre yet. (And looking at his most recent offerings -- Drood, The Terror and The Black Hills -- it seems that favorite genre turned out to be... historical fiction horror. Fun!)

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Robert says

I'm a big fan of Dan Simmons and keen to read his fairly extensive back catalogue, rather than just pick up the new releases as they come out. I was therefore excited to find this (imported from the USA) on the shelf in a local book store.

THIS REVIEW HAS BEEN CURTAILED IN PROTEST AT GOODREADS' CENSORSHIP POLICY

See the complete review here:

<http://arbieroo.booklikes.com/post/67...>

Ivan Lutz says

Postajem gun?avi starac, ali super je po?elo da bi knjiga postala dosadna, ne?itljiva i bez ikakvog smisla.
Kraj malo izvla?i cijeli prazni hod i fizikalna naklapanja gdje ih treba i ne treba... Ne znam...

Kristen says

Let me begin by saying that for the most part, I LOVE Dan Simmons. I was very excited when this book

arrived and dug right in. That's when my disappointment hit... I couldn't wait for this book to end. Within the first 3rd of the book I caught myself skimming, throughout the rest of the book I struggled with the fact that I was not enjoying the story and had to force myself to read.

This was a book that should have been about telepathy and mind reading, should have been a very exciting read, and could have been brilliant. Instead Simmons spends large parts of the book dropping the plot and spending page after page explaining the physics behind mind reading, and it doesn't make a whole lot of rational sense. Jumping back and forth between a plot that could have been entertaining, and a lecture on the physics of mind reading wore out my brain... especially since the physics part was completely unnecessary to the story. Then you throw in the completely out of nowhere idea that a mind reader would end up in all the different situations that occur in this book from serial killers to gun wielding Mafioso none of it came together. I struggled with this book, not because it was overly difficult, but because it was completely unengaging to me

Cameron says

Perhaps the best love story about the pain of telepathy, mass murders, crack addiction, and the mathematics of consciousness that I have ever read.

Rebecca McNutt says

This book was neither original nor well-written, but it does have its intense and eerie moments. I didn't really care about the characters though, they were generic and there was no character development at all.

Nahibya says

Vídeo Reseña <3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFiXb...>

Este libro comenzó siendo algo aburrido y cursi, algo que hablaba de matemáticas y no entendía nada, poco a poco se fue transformando en una lectura increíble, impresionante, una obra maestra. Habla sobre el caos, el vacío, dios, DIOS, esto es hermoso <3

Sub_zero says

En *El hombre vacío*, Simmons nos habla de Jeremy Bremen, un prodigioso matemático que comparte con su mujer la habilidad de escuchar pensamientos ajenos. En principio es todo de color de rosa. Pero cuando su esposa muere a causa de un tumor cerebral, el curioso don de Bremen se convierte en una maldición: la cháchara mental de todo aquel que le rodea se infiltra de manera hostil en su propia cabeza. Y como consecuencia, Bremen se acaba interponiendo en el camino de gente bastante indeseable. De forma paralela, Simmons ameniza un poco la trama a través de flashbacks que nos permiten conocer más profundamente,

entre otras cosas, el tipo de conexión neuronal que el protagonista mantenía con su mujer o las farragosas teorías metafísicas (lo de Schrödinger es nivel principiante comparado con lo que se cuece en este libro) que Bremen elabora para comprender a grado cabal el origen, las repercusiones y las hipotéticas aplicaciones de su telepatía. Una lectura amena e interesante, sí, pero un poco irregular para mi gusto.

Jelena Joši? says

This surely is a book that will stay in your memory forever, so dark, deep and emotional. This is no ordinary book and Dan Simmons is such a great writer!

T.L. Barrett says

I just finished reading Dan Simmon's The Hollow Man. I know, it's 17 years after it first came out, but I feel compelled to recommend this book to anyone who has a soul (or a holographic waveform).

This book tells the story of the telepath and math professor, Jeremy Bremen, as he copes the death of his wife, Gail (the only other telepath he has ever met). His journey of grief and loss sends him across a suffering and depraved American landscape. There are many twists and turns, and there may be many times the reader thinks, 'I can't take anymore of this', but in the end I can only say that the journey is worthwhile and the outcome is, too. The story has such pathos and heart, that it never surrenders to a cynicism seemingly demanded by the nature of the individuals that cross Mr. Bremen's path; nor does Mr. Bremen surrender.

I am in awe of Dan Simmons. Once in a while, as a writer myself, I like to find a book of his I haven't read and humble myself before the work of true master. He has earned a place as one of my top five favorite authors of all time. This is for many reasons. He writes with heart, while exploring scientific concepts that rearrange my view of the world. He evokes terror and beauty with his masterful style.

Finally, Dan Simmons has written a book that will haunt my memory for the rest of my life. That's not faint praise. This book just entered the list of the very best I have ever read. Enough said.
