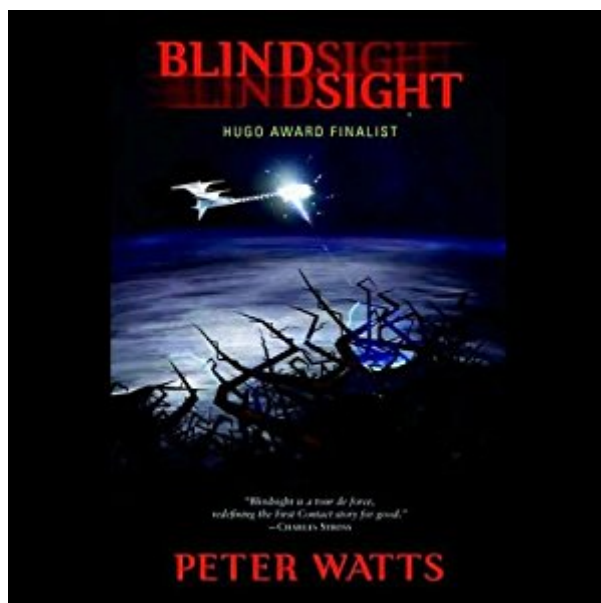


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Blindsight



Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

Blindsight is a wonderfully imaginative and cerebral story of First Contact. This is the first book I have read by Peter Watts and I'm disappointed in myself that it took me this long to discover a sci-fi author of this caliber. The story is filled with Big Ideas but I wouldn't be dissuaded by other reviewers suggesting the plotting is thin or too slow. The mystery of the alien object that the narrator and his fellow crew of (mostly) post-humans investigate is quite compelling and it only gets more fascinating as the details are revealed. There is certainly a philosophical element to this book, and a touch of deep space horror as well (though it never overwhelms). I highly recommend Blindsight to the hard sci-fi fan looking for something profoundly original and thought-provoking.

First off, I don't write reviews, as I'm a writer (ok, 21st Century "Content Developer"), so you know, what do *you* do in your spare time -- more of what you already do all day, before you come home to your twin 11-year olds who have just come home from Sixth Grade with more questions about

their writing assignments... However, as I've told the twins over and over again, there are rules, exceptions to those rules -- which save you from doing homework -- and then there are those rare exceptions which make new rules. *Blindsight* is that rare exception that's written in a sea of the very difficult to understand, yet floats right there waiting for you to finally grasp it's mind-numbing, deer-in-the-lights, genius. If Stanley Kubrick ever comes back (as a post-human bicameral with the tastes of a vampire?), *Blindsight* is the movie he'll direct to better *2001: A Space Odyssey*. By the way, I love reading hardback novels. I have a library of them. There's something about holding, reading, and re-reading a hardback novel which you treasure, and replay over and over in your mind's eye. The "movie" your mind plays when reading *Blindsight* captures you in a way most novels never approach. Even now, I can see the utter alien landscape and gasping terror when the crew enter Rorschach in deep space. In *Alien*, you can at least identify with the lurking acid-drooling monster as your mind screams bloody-murder at you. In our own backyard -- in the Outer Solar System -- there's no one to hold your hand when your mind becomes someone or something else and joins in the conversation.... A delicious, ferocious, terrifying, and real odyssey waiting to happen when something finally hears what we've been broadcasting to the rest of the galaxy since the advent of radio and television...

Peter Watts weaves another amazing tale of the human condition. I love the way he writes clearly, but the psychology is such that you are not really sure of what happened, until you think about the narrative and the structure and your own experience in reality. I am always left with the feeling that more has transpired than I initially recognize. I love Peter Watts and his imagination. Would highly recommend this book to anyone who love Hard Sci-fi and explorations of reality and the inner spark.

A creative book full of interesting ideas. However, writing is highly user-unfriendly -- key pieces of information in character and story development emerge in a backwards way, leaving the reader guessing, backtracking, and generally confused. Perhaps this is a sophisticated writing device, but I just found it irritating and detracting from what in many ways is a great hard SF read. The characters are complex and interesting once one can figure out their unique and complex nature, but relationships among characters seem grim, nihilistic, and ill-fated. Not a feel good book, by any means.

I consume science fiction books at an alarming rate, and most of them are so inconsequential that I forget what they were about the day after I finish them. When I was done reading this book, I went

right back to the beginning and re-read it a second time. Moreover, the book made me go looking for material by Thomas Metzinger, the philosopher of consciousness that inspired much of Peter Watt's concepts in the book. In fact, I encourage anybody to look into it, not only will it blow your mind, but it will explain much of the book. The reason I say this is to give you an idea that this is definitely not your average sci fi book. I won't get into the plot, which has been eloquently explained by others. Compared to other sci fi books, this one may seem slow, not much happens in terms of action, and much of the book is dedicated to discussing the philosophy of consciousness and self awareness. So if you have the attention span of the average Twitter user, this book will probably not appeal to you. Also the author is a scientist, and he makes ample use of scientific concepts and terms that may be incomprehensible to the non scientific reader. I personally would encourage people to look them up and learn about them, but if you just read books for quick and easy entertainment, this book is probably not for you. So what does this book have going for it? An ensemble of very original characters for a start. Truly alien aliens, which are probably the hardest thing to get right in science fiction. And mind blowing concepts on which I guarantee you'll ruminate for weeks. I would have given the book five stars if the story wasn't a bit hard to follow. In his attempt to give the readers credit for their intelligence by not spoon feeding them and spelling everything out, the story can get a little murky and leave you wondering what exactly happened. I feel the author could do a bit better in this respect.

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Blindsight

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