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All Systems Red (Kindle Single) (The Murderbot Diaries)



Synopsis

A murderous android discovers itself in *All Systems Red*, a tense science fiction adventure by Martha Wells that interrogates the roots of consciousness through Artificial Intelligence. "As a heartless killing machine, I was a complete failure." In a corporate-dominated spacefaring future, planetary missions must be approved and supplied by the Company. Exploratory teams are accompanied by Company-supplied security androids, for their own safety. But in a society where contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder, safety isn't a primary concern. On a distant planet, a team of scientists are conducting surface tests, shadowed by their Company-supplied android • a self-aware SecUnit that has hacked its own governor module, and refers to itself (though never out loud) as "Murderbot." Scornful of humans, all it really wants is to be left alone long enough to figure out who it is. But when a neighboring mission goes dark, it's up to the scientists and their Murderbot to get to the truth. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

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Customer Reviews

I've been anxiously awaiting The Murderbot Diaries, ever since the first teaser chapters were released. As expected, Martha Wells did not fail to deliver another phenomenal story. Our hero is SecUnit, an AI robot that has hacked its own governor module and found this universe's answer to Netflix. Bored with the mind-numbing security detail for a routine geological survey, it just wants to get back to base so it can watch the latest episode of its favorite serial show. And, as Wells would say, that's when everything went to ****. SecUnit/Murderbot is an intelligent and compassionate being, with a healthy dose of social anxiety. It has reservations about its human companions, but still works tirelessly to ensure their survival. Woven throughout the plotline, though, is the not-so-subtle discussion about whether S.U. is merely a tool, to be utilized and then cast aside, or a being worthy of the same dignity and respect as any other human. I can't wait to see what the future holds for S.U.! An excellent start to this new series!!

I was honestly startled by just HOW MUCH I loved this novella. I was expecting it to be sharp and smart, which it was; I wasn't expecting just how funny it would be, with a dry humor that was often absolutely hilarious, all narrated with an incredibly compelling voice. And there's so much emotion running underneath - the ending was truly moving. I can't wait for novella #2 in this series!

Great book, terrific story and action. It starts at a quick pace (a sentient, half human half robotic security android - SecUnit - charged with protecting scientists surveying a planet they think is safe and uninhabited. Or is it...? (No, it's crazy dangerous as it turns out). Our protagonist (nicknamed Murderbot) is an excellent character piece. As hard as he/it tries to avoid being human, he's clearly as human as the rest. I had to pace myself and read it in a few sessions otherwise I would have devoured it easily in one sitting. More please, and soon! BTW, for those who care, this is a perfectly stand alone story. While it certainly could be continued, it begins and ends cleanly. (I'm always wary of starting a potentially never ending book series).

This was a short book, only 160 pages. I wanted to continue reading, I really did. In that universe, there are humans, augmented humans, and constructs (which are part organic and inorganic but not easily divided). The story is about a SecUnit (security construct) who has managed to disable its governor. Now that it's autonomous (or as the company likes to call it "rogue"), it discovers that one reason for the governor is boredom and perhaps a bit of apathy which it chooses to fill with entertainment feeds, removing documentation it should've read to make room for more media.

Being a free agent is not all its cracked up to be. The universe is consistent. Survey teams representing companies or organizations contract with the "company" to go out and survey planets. Sometimes there's more than one survey team on a planet. The "company" provides all of the equipment from the habitats to the supplies to the "hoppers" (surface transports) to the scientific survey equipment. All of the equipment, while working together, doesn't always work well (as equipment manufactured by the lowest bidder tends to do). The computer systems (the HubSystem, SecSystem, and MedSystem) are all interconnected and wireless. You can dip into the "feed" as if you were checking Twitter. There's a nice twist at the end which I'll just mention here for you to discover. Back to this book being short. Frankly I'd love to continue reading about this nameless SecUnit. I'd demand that the author keep writing more novellas about it (him?) but she's already prolific, so I'll just make an appeal: "More, please."

Martha Wells always seems to do things a little different from everyone else. So much I read seems to fall into a few set categories...Vampire Romance/Urban Fantasy hybrids, Psychedelic Post-Singularity Stuff, Cyberpunk, Tolkien Rip-Offs...this was something different. In some ways it harks back to "old School" space sci fi, but with a unique slant. The protagonist is a cyborg "Security Bot" rented out by an insurance company as a condition for getting interplanetary expeditions insured. He's hacked the governor module that keeps him following orders, and uses his freedom to download serialized dramas. He is snarky and cynical and apathetic. It has an interesting unreliable narrator...the narrator is actively trying to deny certain things about himself, sees himself as more robot than he probably really is. There are hints he probably looks very different to others than the image we get from his internal monologue. On the surface this is a fun goofy book with a funny narrator. If you stop and think about it there is a certain amount of fridge horror and poignancy. The main character is actually one of the more alien minds in sci fi, but doesn't seem that way because we see through his eyes.

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