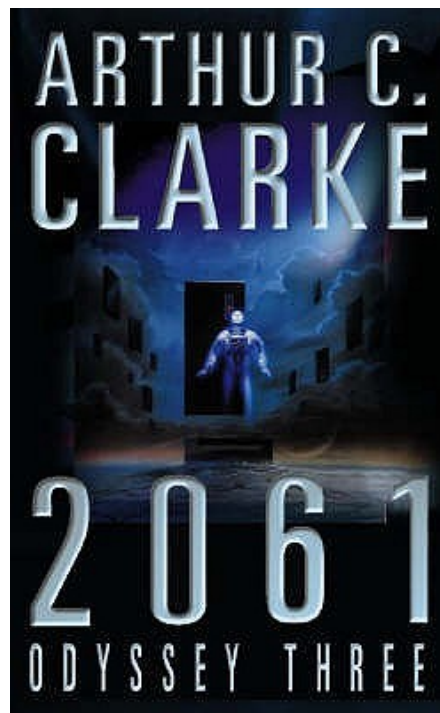




2061: Odyssey Three

Arthur C. Clarke

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2061: Odyssey Three Arthur C. Clarke

Arthur C. Clark, creator of one of the world's best-loved science fiction tales, revisits the most famous future ever imagined in this NEW YORK TIMES bestseller, as two expeditions into space become inextricably tangled. Heywood Floyd, survivor of two previous encounters with the mysterious monoliths, must again confront Dave Bowman, HAL, and an alien race that has decided that Mankind is to play a part in the evolution of the galaxy whether it wishes to or not. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

2061: Odyssey Three Details

Date : Published November 1997 by Voyager (first published December 1987)

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Author : Arthur C. Clarke

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Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction

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From Reader Review 2061: Odyssey Three for online ebook

Efka says

Not as wonderful and gripping as 2001, but still better than the 2010. Not a very long and complex adventure, but great world-building and it's reasonable shortness makes sure you don't get bored by the lack of action.

Stuart says

There really wasn't any reason to write this book besides cashing in on its very well know predecessors 2001 and 2010, both of which are supported by two very different but decent movie adaptations.

I don't remember a single event from the book, but just remember getting it for Christmas and being excited by the cool cover. Fairly disappointing, really.

James Parsons says

Have not read all of the books in this series, but of course this one is in the shadow of the original. 2001 was such a realistic yet profound SF book. So can the following sequels still feel fresh and surprise? After the second book, which I did not feel gripped me as much (the film either), this next one again is similar. The writing style of Clarke is always a good crafted standard, but is dating now. There is mystery in this next book, though it does move along a little slowly until becoming more entertaining near the end. If you like 2001 or other well known Arthur C. Clarke books, you will probably enjoy this.

Perry Whitford says

2061 may seem like a random date in which to continue the Space Odyssey story into a third book, but there is a very good reason for it - the return of Halley's Comet.

Amazingly Dr Heywood Floyd, middle-aged in the first two books, is still going strong aged one hundred and three, thanks to half a lifetime spent in low gravity, orbiting Earth in a space hospital after a bad fall.

His grand-son is also an astronaut and they are about to meet up after a space-jacking in the Jovian system as all eyes are again turned to Europa, the moon that the makers of the monoliths had warned the people of Earth to leave alone.

I really enjoyed *Odyssey Two*, which Clarke never thought he would write and which came a long time after 2001. Despite the delay, the plot was superb, the ending spectacular and the overall scope of the story was enhanced.

This third part, however, which came soon after the second, is a pretty feeble effort, adding little to the legacy. The plot is a flimsy, tensionless affair, the resolution wholly underwhelming.

The inclusion of a landing on Halley's Comet is interesting enough in itself I suppose, but it has nothing to do with the wider narrative. Worse yet, whole portions are simply lifted verbatim from the previous book!

A lazy disappointment.

Daniel says

Jos jedna ineresantna knjiga prepuna originalnih ideja i lepih scena (citav deo oko Halejeve komete je izvrstan) ali sve ukupno ipak ostavlja daleko slabiji utisak nego prethodne dve. Jednostavno mi nekako fali na osecaju velicine, monumentalnosti. Ka SF roma je odlican ali mi je nekako suvise konvencionalan za gosn Klarka. Vise mi dodje kao neka medju prica nego pravi nastavak.

Nemojte me razumeti pogresno knjiga je vredna citanja, naravno, ali treba smanjiti ocekivanj sto ja nisam odradio.

ocena bi pre bila oko 3 ili 3.5 ali ipak je to Klark pa ne mogu :P

Tomislav says

third read - 29 September 2010 - This is a choppy story set on two different spaceships in the Space Odyssey universe. It came out about the time of the return of Halley's comet in 1986, and is set at the time of the comet's next expected visit to the inner solar system in 2061. One spaceship brings a very elderly Heywood Floyd along on a visit to the comet itself, and Clarke's descriptions are, as usual, quite vivid. Then the other spaceship is hijacked and crashes onto Europa, giving some members of the crew a chance to uncover the mystery of Mt. Zeus. This book just doesn't really add anything to the themes or concepts introduced in the earlier books, is probably the weakest link in the series.

second read - February 1995 - Arthur C. Clarke's 2001: A Space Odyssey was made into a movie. The sequel 2010: Odyssey Two is also a movie. However, the next sequel exists only in book form. This is it. If you remember, Jupiter has been started up as the second sun of our solar system in 2010. This is the story of the next expedition to the moons of Jupiter after that.

first read - February 1988

Pam says

THIS REVIEW HAS SPOILERS!!!

Very elderly Dr Floyd is invited to join a pleasure cruise to land on Halley's Comet, which suddenly turns into a rescue mission when his grandson's ship is hijacked and crashes on Europa. According to the first two books, this was supposed to be a really bad deal.

So I kept waiting for the ship to be destroyed or the people to get eaten by the previously malevolent Europeans.....but nothing happens. The hijacking plan is never explained and no one is ever held responsible. The celebrities were worthless. We don't even get to hear about the actual rescue. Dr Floyd doesn't hook up

with the actress celebrity (which at his age probably would have killed him, but still---why spend all this time talking about how he was crushing on her and do nothing with that???). It's like Clarke got bored writing the book and and said "The hell with it. Let's just wrap it up". There were a lot of interesting directions this book could have gone, and unfortunately for me he really dropped the ball.

It makes me a little afraid to read 3001 but I probably will still check it out.

holy_fire says

third book in Clarke's Odyssey-Saga...

short plot description: set (obviously) 51 years after the events in "2010: Odyssey Two" we meet again Dr. Heywood Floyd, now 103 years old. Mankind has build bases on the moon and Ganymede (where a scientist makes an astonishing discovery about Europa) and advances in science have made interplanetary space travel economical feasible, which paved the way for private enterprises. One of them is Tsung Spacelines where Chris Floyd, grandson of Heywood Floyd, works on one of their space ships (named "Galaxy"). Tsung Spacelines has finished building another ship (named "Universe") and invited several celebrities, among them Heywood Floyd, to the maiden flight which includes a stop-over at Halley's comet. But things take a turn for the worse when the Galaxy is hijacked and crash-lands on Europa...

my thoughts: I felt a bit disappointed since the story dealt only marginally with the mystery of the Black Monoliths and their builders and the overall story-arc doesn't get advanced that much.

That out of the way we get some typical Clarke: enthusiastic and optimistic about space exploration, the science as always accurate. The characters are more varied than usual, instead only a crew of capable scientists and officers we get some colourful civilians on a pleasure cruise thrown into the mix.

But all that (including the plot sometimes) takes a backseat to Clarke's imaginative descriptions of some places in our solar system: Ganymede, Europa, Halley's comet and some developing lifeforms are brought vividly to life.

Add some funny musings about the problems on the more mundane aspects of future space travel (e.g. you can get an insurance policy from Lloyds but is hijacking covered?) and you have a good and actual believable book on the exploration of space.

my advice: can be read stand-alone (Clarke dedicates a couple of pages at the beginning of the book to get the reader up to speed) but it's better to start with "2001"

Txe Polon says

Una tercera parte que supera a la segunda y casi se pone a la altura de la primera, con una muy sugestiva estructura que enlaza diversas expediciones, con las adecuadas dosis de ciencia, acción e intriga (quizás con algunos personajes secundarios superfluos), para terminar de tal manera que la lectura de *3001* se hace imprescindible.

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David (???) says

4.5 Stars. Loved it !! :D

Just like its preceding book 2010: Odyssey Two, this is a book full of wonder, awesomeness, vivid imagery and adventure.

Preferring to rate books independently, I really liked this one. The landings on Halley's Comet, and Europa, along with their vivid descriptions of the landscape and life-forms make it an engaging read filled with wonder! Based on certain facts and conjectures, Clarke has written some good stuff using his wide imagination. Celestial mechanics seem to be authenticate enough. But I would not worry about that.

As a sequel to 2010: Odyssey Two, I liked the progress of the storyline. Although the monolith is not shown to be involved much in this part of the series, all else was nice, including the space hijacking part. (view spoiler)

Also, I liked that technology has not been largely focussed upon as could have been in 2061, because that is nearly irrelevant to the main storyline. Of course however, the necessary technology has not been ignored.

Low on action (hence I liked it more), more on exploration and imagination [:D], which made the novel really a very good read to me.

Thoughts that I could pick up from the book:

1. Mankind's responsibilities (probably) do not stop with his own upliftment (while at the same time taking care of other creatures on her planet). It extends to uplifting primitive life-forms on other worlds as well, of which we should be knowing about in the future.
2. Fear is an attribute by which anything can be made to not-happen.
3. Whichever way in which man is told to restrict his venture, his curiosity and desire will always want to go beyond the necessarily available boundaries. Just like eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.
4. Not all mysteries can be solved by man. Some mysteries have to be left to themselves. The acts of wonder needs to be appreciated and absorbed by man, making him realize that she is a part of that same Wonder. :)

A great read, only if read with an open-mind (especially to possibilities of wonder and awe outside our own world), read as a part of the series in its proper order. One needs to drop one's expectations to enjoy this one, and certainly not make oneself to compare it with any previous titles in the series. In any case, what would be the point of it being different and unique, if it was written just like the first book ! :D

Nathan Dehoff says

It took me a while to finish this one. That's mostly due to the fact that I usually switch between books at a certain number of chapters, and the chapters in this are very short. The year was chosen as that is when Halley's Comet will again be visible from Earth, and part of the story is concerned with a crew landing on the comet itself. As the book was written before the fall of apartheid, Clarke predicts a revolution in South Africa that results in much of the white population leaving the country, and the resulting politics play a role. Most of it, however, deals with the exploration of Jupiter's moon Europa. Heywood Floyd, now 103 years old, reappears as a major character, and ends up reuniting with Dave Bowman in energy form. Overall, though, the plot seemed a bit disjointed. There's a stewardess who tries to hijack the ship, but we never learn her motivations, and her name isn't even consistent. While it had some interesting ideas, it's my least favorite of the series so far. I'll have to see if 3001 is an improvement.

Henry Avila says

Dr. Heywood Floyd, is back for the third installment of the 2001 series, still vigorous at the ripe old age of 103. Apparently the good Dr. requires excitement to live. His next mission is to land on Halley's Comet, in the year 2061. When the most famous comet there is, comes back, past the orbit of Earth, which it has done for 20,000 years. AS A CELEBRITY, HE GETS A FREE RIDE ON THE Spaceship Universe, a luxury liner, Heywood has been in a lot worse crafts in his trips. The best feature in the space liner is a swimming pool! Yes, you read right... Because of the continuous thrust of the rocket, there is gravity on board. The passengers, a mixed group, a movie star, science commentator, musician, astronaut, the first to land on Mercury and even a lowly writer. The five celebrities, are ironically not as well known as the sixth Floyd, who doesn't consider himself one anymore. Dr. Floyd calls Universe a "Ship of Fools". Captain Smith has his hands full trying to control these egomaniacs. Oh, and some men of science are around too. The touchdown on Halley's is surprisingly dull, just the way the captain likes it. This dirty snowball, has a few interesting things to see. Geysers, that shoot out water, which quickly turns to vapor and ice and goes out into endless space, never to return. Natural structures that look unnatural. Caves are found and the scientists, of course, need to explore them. The real reason for this voyage, knowledge, the naive men believe. A strange light at the end of a cavern is spotted but a message has been received, an emergency. They have to leave this colorless but novel place immediately. Their sister spaceship, Galaxy, crashed landed on cloud covered Europa, a former moon of Jupiter, which aliens have turned into a second Sun, Lucifer. A Forbidden World, that no one for fifty years, has had the courage to visit. With weird Mount Zeus towering miles high above the surface of the satellite. And also an ocean, formed there, with giant sea creatures, below, the Galaxy floating on top. Nearby enormous Jupiter/Lucifer, warms the sphere, as strange a place, as exists in the whole Solar System. Something doesn't make sense about the accident. The rescue ship Universe, will demand a thorough investigation. But how will the aliens react? By the way, Dr. Floyd's estranged grandson, is on board the Galaxy.

Dan says

More Odyssey and at first glance set in a completely random year! However, when you know that 2061 is the year that Halley's Comet is next due to pass Earth it begins to make sense. Heywood Floyd is now a centurion but thanks to huge lengths of time in space has the body of a sixty year old. In 2061 he is invited on a trip aboard the Universe, a space tourism trip that will land on Halley's comet. Meanwhile his grandson Chris is aboard sister ship Galaxy and is headed for a fly-by of the not to be touched Jovian moon Europa. Things go very wrong though and the crew of the Galaxy find themselves stranded on the moon, hoping that the Universe can reach them for a rescue.

All of the Odyssey books so far have seen a major space expedition as the main part of the book with a dramatic ending involving the monoliths and creepy super alien goings-on. This one really tones the latter part and focuses almost entirely on the humans in space aspect. It's the comet landing and the stranded on Europa parts that the story focuses on and as with all of Clarke's work they are very much based on fact. Whilst the idea of landing on Halley's Comet seems a little unlikely, at least at the next fly-past, the science of what is there is perfectly sound and the same can be said about Europa. This is a book about humans in space and it feels very possible.

The ending does focus on the monolith side of things but unlike in the last book things are very small-scale, serving little point but to set up the next book. I expected to enjoy the book less because of the lack of the alien-side of things but like the original 2001 it was the space travel that I enjoyed most. For me, up to this point in the series, the monoliths serve as a plot to make stories of travel into space a novel.

Reading this book makes me wish our space travel abilities were as advanced as in the odyssey universe, it brings the theoretical to dramatic real-life.

Andreas says

This series started as a one-off book released in conjunction with the Stanley Kubrick movie of the same name. The series consists of:

- * 2001: A Space Odyssey
- * 2010: Odyssey Two. (Also made into a film)
- * 2061 Odyssey Three
- * 3001: The Final Odyssey

The first and second books are enthralling. 2061 is more of the same, and thus decent but somewhat pointless as part of the arc. 3001 is an attempt at closing up all the loose threads, and does so in a satisfying way.

For a long time, these books frustrated me because I just didn't get them. On the surface, they are hard SciFi, but there is quite a bit of existential pondering about the nature of life. When I finally just relaxed and accepted the fact that there are mystical things going on, I realized that this is the whole point. The reader is supposed to be in awe, and there are some things that mankind is not meant to know (yet). Just remember to accept the mystery and embrace the sense of wonder.

<http://www.books.rosboch.net/?p=561>

Zuza says

Chudák Clarke už podruhé skončil jako moje ?tení na zkouškový, takže jen proto jsem T?etí vesmírnou odyseu m?la roze?tenou 25 dní, a?koliv byla naprosto skv?lá.

Nep?estávají m? udivovat Clarkovy nápady a vizioná?ství. Možná proto je mu p?ipisována první myšlenka využití geostacionární dráhy pro telekomunika?ní družice, které by se navíc podle jeho ?lánku z roku 1945 daly použít i pro účely meteorologie (celý ?lánek k p?e?tení zde).

Helix says

3,5 stars (Goodreads really need a half star rating).

It was an enjoyable ride, and compared to the previous book, a walk in the park. Sir Arthur C Clarke's writing had been as captivating as when I first read *A Space Odyssey*, but I guess this book suffers from a rather severe case of technological advancement: since it's the future, and now everything is easier, some of the thrills (well, almost all of them) that made me love the previous novel so much (I think this series peaked at *Odyssey Two*) had been thrown out of the airlock. *Odyssey Two* claims that it is about the romance of space, and it delivers, with a witty, colourful, likeable cast of characters, and a thrilling, dangerous mission. *Odyssey Three* was child's play. Space only serves as a backdrop, now that humanity has invented better spaceships and has colonized the inner Jovian satellites (sans Europa) and the Moon. I found it rather ironic.

The characters aren't as likeable nor anywhere as fleshed-out as the cast of *Leonov*. Floyd is still his same old self, and Chris Floyd, Woody's grandson, might have been a likeable guy (and my fave), but there's too much characters floating around, so he doesn't really get that much attention. Concerning the crew (including the guests) of the *Universe*, and, by extension, its sister-ship *Galaxy*: alas, they really can't beat the Russians in the previous book. Sorry. They just aren't that fleshed-out, and I don't really grow attached to them.

I'm also rather disappointed about some things, like the storyline. The *Galaxy* rescue mission was ostensibly being *ex machina*-ed (pretty much), despite it being framed like an important plot point. Bowman and Hal disappeared, despite them (and Floyd, but he has taken over the spotlight as the protagonist, so he doesn't count) being the connecting thread between this book and the previous books in the series, and only appearing (MINOR SPOILER) at the end. Just a little and easily forgettable cameo (if I remembered correctly) about the Europeans despite them playing a rather vital importance in the grand narrative of the series ever since the previous book dropped that bomb. The narrative being pretty much everywhere but the places where it needed to be. Even the "secret" (van der Berg's discovery) turned out to be not even half as exciting as the ones in the previous books (or maybe it's just me, since I don't dig rocks that much, even precious ones--pun intended). On second thought, I don't think *Odyssey Three* suffers from technological advancement, it suffers from a highly inefficient and vague narrative. The plot is clear, it's just the storyline that's messy.

Maybe it's unfair to compare *Odyssey Three* to its predecessor, but honestly, I can't help it. The second book sets the bar high and the first book is iconic, full of poetic imagery, but sadly, I don't think this one can live up to its siblings' shadows. I wonder if the next and final book would be better, and I certainly hope so.

However, all criticisms aside, this isn't a terribly written book; on the contrary, at this point I think Clarke can't write anything bad. The writing is still as good as ever, I love the author's ideas and concepts and what he envisioned human beings would be like (sadly those on Ganymede are still ironically homophobic--wondered if that was intentional), I'm terribly jealous of Floyd (I, too, would love to "accidentally" wake up in the future in a space hospital, but not like, you know, Khan), and I definitely appreciate the humour, the science, and even the attempt on diversity (the racial diversity arguably kind of works, though we've had better gender diversity and better written female characters in *Odyssey Two*, but the LGBT diversity is still up for debate, although I do enjoy Floyd's really gay couple bestfriends back on the Moon, though they're a bit stereotypical), not to mention the pop culture references (we've had *Star Wars* here after *Star Trek* in the previous book, and some others, I think). It took me a long time to finish this because I procrastinate on stuff (and also because I'm applying for a Master's degree), not because *Odyssey Three* is badly written, god forbid.

Anyway, this is getting long and I should be in bed, but I liked this, although there's definitely plenty of

room for improvement and it's kind of bland compared to the previous two installments in the series. I'm still excited to read the finale, though.

Kimber says

This was incredibly slow moving. It also felt confusing, and the characters don't come alive very well. Clarke has two plots going at the same time and the effect (of going between the two ships) is confusing. There isn't much of a plot and nothing of very much interest happens. (Even the hi-jacking feels cheesy.)

Having said that, Clarke is more of a scientist than a writer and what captivates me is the astronomy, the science, the feeling of space travel and descriptions of outer space as well as future technology some of which has come to pass that he had predicted in 1987, such as the internet and social media.

Here is Floyd observing a fellow passenger : "He found it both sad and fascinating that only through an artificial universe of video images could she establish contact with the real world." What a prediction for our time!

Clarke sprinkles his knowledge (sometimes even insider knowledge), his scientific expertise and his humor into this minor story as part of the Odyssey series. But the plot limps along and then doesn't really go anywhere. He has lost the wonder and majesty of 2001: A Space Odyssey. Perhaps he answered too many questions, and the answers are actually dull. Once he lost the mystery, this story became merely second-rate science fiction. But I do need to read the final installment, hoping for closure with these themes and characters *sigh*.

Kadir K?l?ç says

Serinin ilk iki kitab?na g?re aksiyon az olmas?na ra?men k?t? bir kitap de?il.

Inga says

Viduv?ji. Š?iet š? b?s v?j?k? s?rijas da?a, ies?ku jau ceturto un t? pagaid?m ?oti pat?k.
Šoreiz st?sts ir taka sadal?ts div?s da??s - par diviem kosmosa ce?ojumiem, kas beig?s apvienojas vien?.
Bet tas kas bija dom?ts k? lielais p?rsteigums par Eiropas plan?tas kalnu, gal?gi nenostr?d?ja, jo iepriekš?j?
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p?rsteigums.
