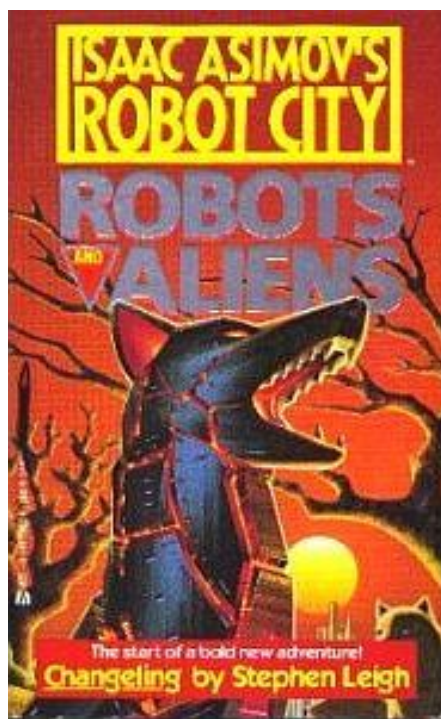




Changeling

Stephen Leigh

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A man without memory, tied by blood to a city of robots. At his side, a mysterious woman whose life and memory he saved, whose love he has won for a second time. His name is Derec; hers is Ariel. And their story has only begun to be told...

In *Robot City*, the late science fiction genius Isaac Asimov challenged a talented group of science fiction writers to resolve the conundrums he set for them in the context of his famous Three Laws of Robotics. In *Robots and Aliens*, a new challenge was put forth: What would happen if the robots of Asimov's universe were to meet alien races? Would the Three Laws that protect both humans and robots still apply when dealing with a species that is neither...?

This pair of adventures, enhanced with a pair of essays by Asimov himself, continue the saga of Robot City, where the finest minds in science fiction enter the most futuristic landscape in robot history!

Changeling Details

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Author : Stephen Leigh

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From Reader Review Changeling for online ebook

Jeremiah Johnson says

I really wanted to like this book, but I couldn't.

The first quarter of the book was incredibly dull and slow. For such a short book it took a long time to get into the actual story. I also really didn't care about the kin, so it made it a bit hard to get through.

The writing had some awkwardness to it that made it tough to read also. For example, Derec constantly said Mandlebrot's name while talking to him even though they were by themselves with no one else around. The dialog just wasn't natural.

Once the story itself started developing, I was still hard pressed to care about what was going on. I didn't know where this series was going to go, but frankly I was disappointed.

Philip Athans says

What is "space opera"? THIS is space opera! I read the first series, ROBOT CITY--how do I pass up the second series? Well, I'm not going to! SF as light, fun entertainment.

Sheldon says

While short and somewhat of a pulp scifi novel, it asks an interesting question. Based on Asimov's Robot novel, it asks what would happen if a robot is given the Laws of Robotics (a robot protect humans, a robot must serve humans, and robot must protect itself), but isn't told what a human is, then abandoned on a supposedly uninhabited planet. An interesting thought experiment in scifi robotic theory.

Dexter says

Having read the initial Robot City series many years ago, I didn't exactly have that high hopes for Robots & Aliens. Although it did manage to exceed my expectations, it's not great, but still somewhat enjoyable and interesting. The first quarter of the book does drag somewhat, but it does wind up picking up once you rejoin Derec and get some differing perspectives. I know that most of the plotlines that were started will wind up coming back in one of the other novels, but they felt like they were just completely dropped and forgotten about in this book.

John Loyd says

Changeling (1989) 151 pages by Stephen Leigh.

Isaac Asimov's Robot City, Robots and Aliens. There is a prefix that gives a synopsis of the six Robot City novels. This picks up at the end of those stories.

A robotic engineer, Janet Anastasi who just happens to also be Derec's mother, sends a robot onto a planet

with just the three laws, but no notion of what a human is other than being intelligent. The planet just happens to have another robot city, as well as an intelligent species of wolf-like creatures. The robot's first experience is meeting the wolf beings (the kin), which he decides are human. The robot joins the pack and takes their form, she is named SilverSide by the pack. A lot of the story centers around the mores of the kin society.

There happens to be another robot city on this world, and the city is encroaching on the territory of the kin, making game scarce, and the kin no where else to go without going into the territory of another pack resulting in loss of kin life. SilverSide decides that the course of action to take is to battle/destroy the alien invaders. When the city is attacked it sends a distress call which is picked up by the chemfets in Derec's body. He goes to investigate.

There is the obligatory mention of the laws of robotics. Maybe I was a little more relaxed on the weekend and that's why the story picked up and last half seemed so much more interesting. I feel happy and pleased, and I'm a quarter the way in to book 2 of Robots and Aliens.
