

The Caves of Steel Study Guide

The Caves of Steel by Isaac Asimov

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Plot Summary

The Caves of Steel by Issac Asimov is the story of an unlikely pairing between a New York City police detective, Elijah Baley and Spacer robot, R. Daneel Olivaw. These two must work together to solve the murder of a Spacer, bring the assailant to justice, and hide the investigation from the general public. The Caves of Steel addresses the struggle between people still living on Earth and the Spacers who want to continue colonizing new worlds in the face of overpopulation. Spacers are attempting to move emigration processes along by integrating robots with the City dwellers. This occurrence creates human declassification from jobs because robots are capable of working more efficiently. It is questionable whether humans are capable of being completely succeeded by robots.

The novel is set in a future world, in which 49 Outerworlds have already been colonized by humans emigrated from Earth. The world is vastly overpopulated and depends on a strict cycle of resource supply and demand. Food is no longer eaten naturally from the ground, but processed and fixed genetically. People live inside Cities with conditioned air and controlled amounts of UV radiation. The Cities expand over states with no definable boundaries other than its limits where Spacetown resides and the countryside where almost no one ventures.

Lije first meets Daneel at Spacetown and on their way back to the City they encounter a riot at a shoe store. They stop and try to control the commotion between six women and a store manager over robot employees. The mob of people watching from outside suddenly flood the store and Daneel is forced to take action, threatening them with a blaster and silencing the crowd. The officers return to Lije's apartment where they meet his wife, Jessie, and son, Bentley.

The next day they travel to Spacetown to meet Dr. Fastolfe, a colleague of Dr. Sarton's. He has many theories about emigration and colonization he wants Lije to hear. Lije instead, accuses Daneel of actually being Dr. Sarton, and not a robot at all. Dr. Sarton made Daneel in his exact likeness. The accusation is false and Daneel proves it by breaking his arm in two.

Later back at Headquarters Lije feels defeated and Daneel is busy tabbing people that he recognized at the shoe store, checking their records. Lije is hungry so the partners go to the Section kitchen to discuss the case over food. During their meal a few men are staring intently at them. The officers quickly get up and begin running the strips. Some of the men are ones Daneel identified from the shoe store riot the day before. The officers spend the night in a new apartment for just the two of them.

The next day Lije's friend Dr. Gerrigel comes from Washington D.C. to inspect Daneel. Lije again accuses him of being the murderer, and he proven wrong again when Daneel shows his blaster was never charged during the riot. Lije's wife Jessie enters the office and confesses to being involved in a conspiracy group. She identifies one of Daneel's tabbed men as Francis Clousarr. The officers track down Clousarr and bring him into the



office for questioning. Before they can, the Commissioner's assistant R. Sammy is found murdered. Lije is a prime suspect, but he is being framed. Commissioner Enderby suggests Clousarr framed him, but Lije's accuses Enderby himself for the murder of both R. Sammy and Dr. Sarton. Enderby admits to the murder once Lije adds up his facts and finds a shard of Enderby's concave glasses at the murder scene. The case is solved and Lije is a changed man. He now believes that colonization is the only way to save the human race.



Conversation With A Commissioner

Conversation With A Commissioner Summary

Elijah Baley is a hard-working City dweller and policeman with a wife and son. R. Daneel Olivaw is a Spacer humanoid robot created for the purpose of providing justice. Lije Baley at the New York City police Headquarters notices that Commissioner Julius Enderby appears uneasy and distressed about something. Enderby broke his glasses three days earlier and the circumstances relate directly to what the Commissioner is about to tell Baley.

Enderby tells Lije that three days ago a Spacer died from a blaster to the chest. The Spacers in Spacetown believe an Earthman committed the crime and Enderby assigns Lije to work on the murder case. The Spacers allow an investigation and will not send a report to their Outerworlds if Lije takes on a Spacer robot as his partner. A robot partner will be an immense challenge. Enderby offers Lije an extensive raise if he agrees. Lije will have to live with the robot. Lije is trying to control his anger. If the robot solves the case without humans, then it would justify not having humans as cops and Baley does want that to happen.

Conversation With A Commissioner Analysis

The beginning of the novel establishes the relationship between Lije and Enderby. They are colleagues and college friends. Enderby still dictates what Lije does in the workplace, but is looking out for him by considering the ways he can get promoted and gain familial privileges. Their friendship in the workplace is something that is apparent throughout the rest of the novel. The relationship does not stay the same however, and morphs into something quite surprising as the investigation concludes. The simple notion that Enderby enjoys having a window in his office reflects Medievalist views. Lije has barely seen rain in his entire life. The sentiments of these two men differ and will become more varied later on.

The feelings Lije shares for robots are clearly defined as dismissive. He finds them a source of irritation. He has no desire to work with a robot, and does not even like the fact there are robots already in the police Department filing papers. The robot he will be paired with is possessive of the qualities of a required policeman, which in turn means his job could be on the line. The theme of man versus the machine/robot is a major thread throughout the story.



Roundtrip On An Expressway

Roundtrip On An Expressway Summary

Lije goes to Spacetown to find the robot. A force barrier instated by the Spacers 25 years earlier makes it difficult for humans to enter Spacetown. Anyone wishing to enter Spacetown must pass a medical inspection; this initially caused riots and the Spacers erected a barrier, which was eventually lifted. Dr. Sarton's murder has been assigned to the Commissioner's office because Spacetown is still under City jurisdiction.

In modern-day Earth, there are new meanings for things like cities and expressways, which are explained as Lije travels to Spacetown. Lije wonders how his Spacetown robot partner will adapt to life in the City. R. Daneel Olivaw has none of the characteristics of an Earth robot but is quite humanoid, which shocks Lije. Lije is in shock and feels uneasy at the likeness of the robot to humans. On the way to Lije's home, the robot and he encounter a commotion outside department store. Lije participated in the Barrier Riots and knows these some unrest happens from time to time. The government fondly refers to these situations as growing pains, but they are the result of men being declassified with robots taking their jobs. Lije quickly intervenes trying to subdue the commotion.

Roundtrip On An Expressway Analysis

Lije is introduced to his new partner for the murder case, R. Daneel Olivaw. The circumstance is rare because Lije has never been partnered with a non-human officer before.

The plot foreshadows Lije's growing discomfort with Daneel as he is clearly intimidated with the idea that a robot may be a better police officer than himself. Once again the theme of man versus the machine arises.

The other substantial point revealed in this chapter is that Earth has morphed drastically and is now one of 50 planets bearing its likeness. The New York City which Lije inhabits is actually the second one of its kind. The new definition of a modern "City" means optimum distribution of food, switching mainly to the use of yeasts and hydroponics instead of petroleum. An extremely small percentage of people live outside the Cities yet mines and farms still exist, producing necessary means of survival such as water and certain minerals. These places are commonly run by robots. Robots are simply more efficient and productive. At this point Earth has strictly used these robots on the outer parts of the Cities, cultivating the mines. It is the other worlds, the Spacers, which have insisted upon the idea of slowly infiltrating the robots into the Cities. The theme of infiltration between robot and man is another major subject in the storyline.



Incident At A Shoe Counter

Incident At A Shoe Counter Summary

Lije and Daneel find a hostile situation between six women and the store manager about the fact that robots are store clerks. Lije feels awkward listening to someone bashing robots when he is about to work closely with one. Lije reminisces about his own unfortunate situation with robots as a child. His father, a nuclear physicist, lost his job when an accident occurred at the power plant. His family lived meagerly until his father died when Lije was eight, leaving him and his two older sisters to the Section orphanage. It is difficult for Lije not to side with the outraged women, but he has his job to worry about. He explains that the robots are just doing what they have been created to do, so the women can accept it or leave the store. As the crowd grows, Lije thinks he should call a riot squad, but Daneel disagrees. Daneel orders the store manager to open the entrance of the building and the crowd pours in.

Daneel raises his voice firmly stating that the next person to move or take action against a robot will be killed. The crowd is silenced. Daneel explains that he will walk to the entrance and anyone who touches him will be shot. He says the woman who instigated the argument will be waited upon. Within minutes, the store is back to normal. Lije is speechless believing Daneel should never threaten humans with a blaster, especially since a robot is unable to use one against human beings. A police squad appears and Daneel steps aside, allowing Lije to explain that everything is calm and under control. Lije suddenly realizes they are late to meet Jessie. The two partners hurriedly rush back onto the expressway and make their way through the City.

Incident At A Shoe Counter Analysis

This chapter introduces the negative public opinion of robots that can exist within the City. Up until this point the reader is only aware of Lije's personal viewpoint of Daneel, and the incident at the shoe store provides a broader outlook. People are not only threatened with declassification, but of being waited upon by machines rather than humans. Human interaction is lost and efficiency overrules personal assistance. It also demonstrates how people can be persuaded in large numbers. A mob of people become riled up and enter the store, then the same mob of people are all silenced when Daneel threatens violence with a blaster. This City is tightly controlled and people perhaps live in fear they did not even realize exists. This highlights another theme—whether or not structure and human control is the answer to a functioning society.

The riot shows the reader that Lije not only identifies with the women's feelings of discomfort but has had personal experience which explains his distaste for robots. To heighten his feelings of discontent, when Daneel overtakes the situation Lije feels more threatened than ever. His loss of control and personal vendetta against robot infiltration

in the City, make it seem impossible that these two will ever make their partnership work.



Introduction To A Family

Introduction To A Family Summary

Lije first met his wife, Jessie at a Section Christmas party. Her full name was Jezebel and his, Elijah, who were "enemies" in the Bible. They have been married 18 years. At the apartment, Lije introduces R. Daneel as his new partner. Jessie asks Lije about the shoe store incident, which was on the news and Lije explains nothing had happened. Jessie gets more acquainted with Daneel and finds his demeanor pleasing. Lije wonders what Daneel will think about Jesse, who is quite different from female Spacers. The family eats in their quarters tonight, although they are required to eat at the Community Kitchen most of the week. The food is nutritious but quite uninspiring. Daneel watches a book film while the family dines. Bentley, their son, warms quickly to Daneel, even knowing he is a robot. Daneel promises to talk to Bentley later and reminds Lije they have much to do tonight.

Introduction To A Family Analysis

This chapter provides a look at the futuristic happenings inside a family's apartment. The rules and restrictions people live with, such as bathing in communal areas and eating in community kitchens, leave little time for privacy and intimacy as a family. The amount of structure people are living with in the City is evident by these restrictions, yet Lije and his family adhere to them like there is no other way to live. The theme of using control and structure as a way to create a functioning society is evident here.

Bentley is against the idea of robots, which may be a reflection not only of how he has been raised in their household but also of how his friends and teachers perceive the situation. This brings up the question of just how many people are actually supportive of robot infiltration and colonization of the Outerworlds? It is also evident that Lije wants to keep his professional business as far as possible from his household. He is not a man who brings his work home with him, especially to such a paranoid and gossipy wife. He clearly wants to protect his family against any situation that may arise from working with a robot for a partner. He cannot control what other people outside of the apartment say or think about a potential robot policeman running around, but he does have a say in how his family handles the situation.



Analysis Of A Murder

Analysis Of A Murder Summary

After Jess and Bentley leave the apartment, the two cops discuss the murder. The victim is Roj Nemennuh Sarton, a citizen of the planet Aurora and a resident of Spacetown. The Spacers believe this murder is linked to a terrorist group in response to an attempt to unite humans and robots in society. R. Daneel refutes Lije's statement that it could be a single psychotic murderer by saying there is evidence against that theory and shares his information.

Dr. Sarton specialized in robotics and believed integration with Earthmen was the only way to make the Earth as the Spacers envisioned it. Dr. Sarton was unable to bear integration into the City. Spacers fear human disease, and are unable to deal with the huge crowds in Cities. Dr. Sarton is unable to personally continue his research but he was the pioneer behind engineering Robots with human-like traits, who could then integrate Earth society and learn about that society. Dr. Sarton's combines carbon, which is the basis of human life and iron, the basis of robot life to create the life-like robot, of which R. Daneel is the first and only prototype. Enderby and Sarton were in agreement about infiltrating robots into society.

Lije sees one problem with the idea that Medievalists killed Sarton to stop the building of more robots, which is Earthman cannot walk legally through the barrier of Spacetown. Daneel has a contrasting theory—while the barrier may be the only direct connection between the two places, it is feasible that a Terrestrial may exit a City to the countryside, and from there enter Spacetown with no barriers. Lije is shocked; an Earthman alone in the countryside is rare. The murderer would have to walk, which seems simple to detect. Daneel reveals that the Spacers only have guards at the barrier and nowhere else along the entrances of Spacetown. Spacers found 502 unguarded entrances from the countryside to the City, far more than Lije anticipated. Robots working in the countryside are programmed to harvest the fields and are incapable of planning an elaborate murder. Daneel wants to focus on New York City and find any organized groups which may have a motive. Daneel has been tested and possesses an overwhelmingly strong hard drive which promotes justice. Lije's disgust for the robot mounts as he talks about his hard drive.

Jessie returns home but has left Bentley in the Youth Hall to spend the night. Sensing something is about to happen, Lije looks at Daneel. Jessie looks at Daneel and declares she thinks he is a robot. Daneel agrees.

Analysis Of A Murder Analysis

The reader is introduced to the murder victim, Dr. Sarton, whose work plays a significant role in the circumstances that occur throughout the novel. Not only was the doctor at the



forefront of integration between Spacers and Earthmen, but created Daneel to further his research, due to his fear of crowds and disease. Robots could be infused into Earth's society, without the risk of sickness and come closer than ever to studying everyday likenesses of human nature.

Daneel is the first of this model of Robot, and the only one so far to be completed by Dr. Sarton's construction. Dr. Sarton's theory is to combine carbon, which is the basis of human life and iron, the basis of robot life. The doctor's approach to this conversion was a new perspective on merging robot and human life.

Dr. Sarton's driving force behind his research was Earth's certain extinction if the growing sentiments of the Outer Worlds by humans are fed any more by the Spacers failure to integrate. The Earth's population is around eight billion, while the 50 Outer Worlds combined contain a population of approximately five and a half billion. Dr. Sarton believed that infiltrating with Earthmen was the only way to remake the Earth as the Spacers envisioned it, thus saving resources and life on the planet.

Jessie comes back from her night out and abruptly reveals she knows Daneel is a robot. This may be a dangerous sign that Daneel is too recognizable as a robot and may put Lije and his entire family in danger. It could also mean that Jessie has heard a rumor or talked to someone about the shoe store incident where people guessed he was a robot. Either way the fact she was able to distinguish Daneel from an Earthman is questionable.



Whispers In A Bedroom

Whispers In A Bedroom Summary

Jesse wants Daneel gone and Lije off the case because of Daneel being a robot. Jesse is afraid of public backlash against her family; Lije says she is childish. Their family would lose everything if Lije resigned in the middle of a case. Jessie accuses Lije of being Enderby's lackey for years, and Lije says he does not mind letting Enderby deal with the Spacers, with whom Enderly is comfortable and they trust him. Lije is quite content with his position, although it is always nice to have a promotion and a guaranteed seat on the expressway. Daneel has left the apartment and will not be back until tomorrow. He can finally sleep, and is not worried about anything.

Whispers In A Bedroom Analysis

When night falls in New York City only the exclusive and wealthiest areas of Sections where the natural Solariums are held can behold the change in light. The majority of the City is allotted UV-Solariums, which subjects itself to "arbitrary cycles of hours." Even though the possibility for light at all hours of the day may occur, it is still inherit in man to sleep during night. This control of light source is a way to save energy and a way to allow people to work during the 24 hour cycle.

Jessie's nervousness about Lije's relationship with a Spacer robot is most likely a sentiment shared by most of the population. Earthmen are not accustomed to Spacer robots, only the kind manufactured on Earth and used for manual labor and machine-like tasks. Daneel has power and capabilities beyond the other robots. Jessie has no idea what he is capable of and naturally assumes he can create some pretty harmful situations, putting her husband at risk.

Lije feels helpless and stuck in the situation. Putting his family and privileges he has worked diligently to attain on the line is not something he is willing to risk. Therefore resignation, as Jessie suggests, is not an option. This conversation between husband and wife in the privacy of their home is an intimate look into the relationship Lije has with Jessie. He seems to constantly be the provider, the comforter, the stable one. The reader gets a sense that Lije is slightly annoyed with his wife and it is not the first time. It is safe to assume that Jessie commonly reacts like this during Lije's investigations due to the way he just shrugs off her hysterics and goes to sleep.



Excursion In Spacetown

Excursion In Spacetown Summary

The next day Lije discusses R. Daneel with Enderby saying Lije wishes he had been warned about how human R. Daneel appears. Enderby apologizes but assures Lije he is perfectly safe allowing R. Daneel in his home. R. Daneel arranges for Lije and him to visit Spacetown. Lije invites Enderby along, who declines, but will be present as a witness via trimensional personification. At the entrance to Spacetown, the guards greet Daneel with a nod and address Lije with a Salute and request for his identification card. Lije must shower before entering Spacetown. After the shower, blood is drawn to check Lije for disease. Lije notices that R. Daneel is anatomically correct everywhere. Lije must also leave his blaster behind. Lije feels lightheaded as he breathes the "real" country air, and he gazes directly into the sun for a second. Dr. Han Fastolfe leads the officers into a Spacetown dome, which provides conditioned air, allowing Lije to breathe more easily. Lije is given a real apple to eat, which is startling.

Dr. Fastolfe is in charge of the murder investigation on Spacetown's end, and he wants to solve the murder quickly and quietly and offers Lije any assistance. Lije requests Enderby join the conversation and after the Commissioner is tuned in, Lije states he has solved the case and believes Dr. Sarton is still alive and points to Daneel.

Excursion In Spacetown Analysis

The journey into Spacetown reveals another world functioning right outside of New York City limits. There is a complete juxtaposition between Spacer life and Earthman life. The detoxification of Lije's belongings, including a required shower, symbolize the need for overstated cleanliness. When Lije finally enters Spacetown he is disturbed by the feeling of wind and breathing in of real air. It is a reminder that this man along with his fellow Earthmen are living in a world secluded and sectioned, where air is processed, not natural. The fresh air seems dirty to him. Another example of City life is Lije's inability to recognize natural fruit. His food is processed and the idea of consuming something directly from the ground, without being treated first, seems unsanitary as well. This again brings up the theme of total structure within the City environment. In Spacetown there is controlled structure as well, but it completely contradicts everything the City controls. They eat and breath from opposing systems of structure. Spacetown's is natural and the City's is processed.

Lije's reason for wanting Enderby to be present in the coversation but from a safe distance is only revealed at the end of the chapter. At first the reader is allowed to presume Lije is simply worried for his safety in unknown territory. Ultimately Lije wants his boss present so he can make a prediction about the case itself. This is an example of how Lije trusts Enderby. He desires him as a witness because he assumes Enderby will have his back in any circumstance.



Debate Over A Robot

Debate Over A Robot Summary

Enderby disagrees and says he saw Dr. Sarton's corps. Lije points out the uncanny resemblance between Daneel and Dr. Sarton and wants to know why examinations of organic tissue had not been done, which is now impossible because the alleged Dr. Sarton was cremated. Lije believes that Daneel being anatomically correct makes no sense unless he were actually a human. Dr. Fastolfe counters saying the Spacers would not do something part way. Lije points out that Daneel threatened humans in the shoe store and robots are programmed not to be able to do that and that Daneel is "programmed" for justice, an abstract feeling that a robot cannot have. Dr. Fastolfe says Daneel's entire make up is different from the average robot. Lije asks why Daneel went to the Men's Personal the night he did not stay with Lije in the apartment. Daneel responds that he was investigating a possible bug plant, thinking Lije and Jesse's conversation was bugged. He found nothing.

Lije unleashes his entire theory upon the group. He believes Dr. Sarton made a robot copy of himself, blasted it, and arranged for the Spacers to send a robot into the City, threaten a mob of people and begin the rumor that a robot is on the loose. As things worsen for Spacetown, the more space ships will come down and infiltrate the Cities. Daneel suddenly pulls his arm off in two pieces revealing metal. Enderby who has been watching silently the whole time, is on the screen laughing hysterically.

Debate Over A Robot Analysis

Lije makes it known in this chapter that his partnership with Daneel is not amicable. He distinguishes their relationship as such by accusing Daneel of really being Dr. Sarton. Lije has no trust whatsoever in the robot, and feels it is his duty as an officer to crack the case. It appears that Lije may want Daneel to be a fraud more than the facts demonstrate. Lije has a personal vendetta against robots, he is unhappy that his wife is in distress, he is in Spacetown breathing unfamiliar air. The man is simply out of his element.

If he was clear headed he would have thought to test Daneel as a real robot before accusing him of being human.

For being so lost in his thoughts about robots, Lije does bring up some key points about the murder scene that do not make sense. There was no examination of organic tissue and now it is impossible because Dr. Sarton's body has been cremated. Lije is a good officer but he seems to be losing himself and the investigation to his concerns with his robot partner. On top of that Enderby does not support his accusation at all, but instead laughs on the trimensional at him. This display perhaps downgrades Lije's opinion of his friend and reminds him that above all Enderby is his boss.



Elcidation By A Spider

Elcidation By A Spider Summary

Enderby is no longer on the trimensional and Lije wakes up, vaguely recalling the recent events. Lije knows Enderby will be furious with his behavior. Dr. Fastolfe suggests Lije sit down and view some book-films of the crime scene. Lije is a little shocked that the doctor is keeping him on the case. Apparently Lije's behavior and obvious dislike of robots and Spacers intrigue Dr. Fastolfe. The Spacers have no natural antibodies necessary to fight off given diseases. Lije questions if Enderby knows this is why Spacers are so distant from the City dwellers. Fastolfe has never told Enderby and fears the general public think Spacers are afraid of Earthmen, which is the primary reason Dr. Sarton began his project with humanoid robots. Lije asks why Spacers want to infiltrate Earth, and Fastolfe explains how Earth and its contemporary Cities are so dependent on Spacer's input/output ratio with supplies. New York City could not survive for more than an hour if something like a natural disaster were to occur.

Fastolfe is currently one hundred and sixty three years old, and on Fastolfe's home planet, Aurora, the average life expectancy for a male is three hundred and fifty years. The Spacers' motive for infiltrating robots with humans is to create a group of declassified and displaced men to provide the nucleus for colonization, which has not occurred in two and half centuries. Fastolfe dreams of a cross-breeding between robots and men, to create new colonies outlasting the old worlds like Earth and even the newest of the colonized planets.

Lije did not find the meeting very helpful and Daneel reminds him that this case is not just about solving a murder but saving Spacetown and in turn, the human race. Lije wishes he could have seen the book-films of the crime scene and is disturbed at finding no possible suspects. Daneel forgot to mention it before, but there was a suspect in the beginning. The only Earthman on the scene, Commissioner Enderby.

Elcidation By A Spider Analysis

Lije is regaining his senses and realizing how much of a fool he was for blurting out accusations at his partner. There were expected consequences for his actions, including being taken off the case and demotion. To his surprise Fastolfe now approves of Lije's position on the case more than ever, due to his book-films and evident interest in robots and humans. Fastolfe relays a wealth of information to Lije, stressing the importance of sustaining the human race.

The men of the Outer Worlds are so exclusive when compared to the Earthmen. When the Outer Worlds were colonized the planets did not contain any form of Terrestrial bacteria. All they had were a small community of micro-organisms but no "immediate" hosts. This meant no mosquitos to spread malaria or any other sort of carrier. Without



these hosts, symbiotic bacteria began to form. Eventually the Outer Worlds had no disease whatsoever. This in turn heightened the strictness of emigrant laws from Earth because of the potential for disease. Fastolfe explains he has never had a parasitic disease or virus such as a cold, and that if he did contract one it could kill him. The idea that Earthmen can colonize new planets has been engulfed by the self-reliance of the City and its efficiency.

Surprisingly, as Lije reenters the City it is apparent much of what Fastolfe said has struck a chord within him. So much information is running through his brain—robots, new colonies, a murder scene. This overload of new experiences continues to sidetrack Lije's thoughts from what is truly important, finding suspects and solving the case.



Afternoon of A Plain Clothes Man

Afternoon of A Plain Clothes Man Summary

There is a story Lije heard as a child about a man in London who committed a murder and then got lost in the never-ending roads, mazes and alleyways of the City. The story became a type of folklore and is known as the "Wandering Londoner." This memory makes him uneasy and he presses Daneel about Enderby being a suspect. Daneel assures him of Enderby's innocence, along with everyone else in Spacetown, leaving the obvious suspect a City dweller. Lije cannot imagine how strenuous it must have been for Enderby, being investigated, especially since he is known for getting along with the Spacers.

Enderby surprisingly calm about Lije's outburst in Spacetown. Lije wants a two-man apartment for Daneel and himself and wants his family protected if a riot erupts about a robot in the city. Enderby assures Lije no rumors exist. Enderby admits that Dr. Sarton discussed his idea for robot and human coexistence briefly, but Lije assumes it not an in-depth description like the doctor provided Lije with earlier. Enderby as not heard of cerebroanalysis. Lije returns to his desk and makes a call to Washington and convinces his contact to come to New York City.

Daneel has compiled a list of over a million names of people who have had disorderly conduct cases with robots in the past twenty-five years. Lije invites Daneel to have dinner and discuss the case. Daneel, who is able to eat but not digest, accepts. At the section kitchen, the two officers are placed in the transit seating and Daneel inquires if it is considered rude to stare at a man while he is eating. Lije says staring is rude, but conversation is alright. Lije wonders why Daneel would ask such a thing, and he replies that eight people have been staring at them since they sat, and six of them were onlookers from the shoe store the night before.

Afternoon of A Plain Clothes Man Analysis

The cerebroanalysis that Daneel performs on Enderby is the measuring of the electromagnetic fields of the living brain cells and concerns the temperamental and emotional "makeup" of an individual. It is determined that by this process there is no need for further investigate Enderby. The problem with testing multiple people this way is that tons of them would have the temperamental and emotional makeup to commit this crime. That is why the officers need to find someone with more than just a motive for killing the doctor.

The reader sees the inner workings of a Section kitchen. Approximately 200 City dwellers can enter the kitchen per minute, usually waiting ten minutes on the triple line that parts to the right, left and center as the kitchen doors open. People are tagged to prevent kitchen jumping, ration stretching and meal jumping. Eating at an out of section

kitchen is awkward for anyone. A home kitchen means eating among family and friends, and for most young people it is the highlight of the day. This structured way of eating is another way to control the population and create less of a sense of individualism and more of a community.

Lije and Daneel are noticeable out of section guests, and when they realize they are being watched by men from the night before, the situation escalates. They are no longer two officers simply trying to solve a murder. They are now targets of a Medievalist conspiracy group. Suddenly Lije and Daneel have a common thread that unites them. Even though one is made up of genetic human cells and one of metal rods, they are both enemies of the same cause.



Escape Along The Strips

Escape Along The Strips Summary

The two officers rise from the table and as they do so Daneel notices the men staring at them also stand. Lije's mind goes to something youngsters refer to as "running the strips". They begin to run, and Daneel informs Lije that only one man is left following them. They quickly work the expressway, abruptly getting off at a power plant. Their tracks are covered here. Lije tells Daneel to stay away from the red lines as they move along the plant. He is not sure if the radiation will harm Daneel since he contains no human genetic makeup. Gamma radiation is indeed deadly to the postironic brain.

At their apartment, which is nothing more than two rooms and a trash disposal pipe, Daneel opens his chest and grabs a sack of food, which Daneel informs Lije is still good to eat. Lije looks horrified and instructs Daneel to dispose of it. Lije was considering their options for tomorrow and wonders if Daneel should stay on the case. Suddenly the door signals a visitor and Lije sees Bentley outside the door. He pulls Bentley into the apartment, looking to see if there are any onlookers. Bentley has been sent by his mother, who is worried about Lije.

Lije phones Jessie at his mother-in-law's and makes the conversation short by telling her to stop being so concerned and cuts the connection. He returns to the apartment and the father and son go to bed while Daneel sits near the door. Lije dreams that night that Jessie is falling into the fission chamber of a nuclear power plant and he does nothing to save her. He is the one who pushes her.

Escape Along The Strips Analysis

Running the strips establishes the leader who wins as someone to respect and honor. Lije last played the game twenty years ago, successfully leading a gang of twenty through the city and ending up alone in the end. When he lost some of his agility he became a police officer, which was looked upon as a noble thing. Lije's experience running the strips with Daneel reminds him of the days when he was a boy and more carefree to the consequences of life. He feels a sense of competition with Daneel, since the robot's agility and speed easily match Lije's step by step. Even though they are running from the same thing, the sense of intimidation and fear of losing his place to a machine is still present.

When Daneel shares the information that gamma radiation can kill him, Lije is surprised. No Earthman is aware of this because Spacetown does not want humans knowing a robot's vulnerabilities, especially because of their plans for infiltration. Daneel only tells Lije because they are partners and believes it is necessary to know each others' strengths and weaknesses. This belief may appear later in the novel when Lije reveals

some of his weaknesses to Daneel, or when the two partners need to rely on each other to solve the murder.

Jessie's paranoia at the end of this chapter is overbearing to Lije. He is not pleased that their son was sent, into a potentially dangerous situation, to come and find him just so she would feel better. His nightmare reflects his frustrations with her, and his desire to handle the situation with Daneel and the murder case on his own. This is another example of how Lije's relationship with Jessie is strained because of his line of work.



Words From An Expert

Words From An Expert Summary

The next day Enderby asks Lije about the call he made to Washington D.C. to Dr. Gerrigel, a roboticist specialist. Lije is frustrated that Enderby questions his motives. He returns to his desk just as Daneel approaches him with two of the men's files from the shoe store and the kitchen incident. The first is Francis Clousarr, an employee at New York Yeast, who was arrested when he was 32 years old for participating in a riot. The second is Gerard Paul. This information is not useful to Lije. Even if these men had been at both events they could not be arrested on the grounds of being observers. Daneel does not understand why they cannot be arrested for physiological reasons, but Lije does not have the patience to answer. He is waiting for Dr. Gerrigel, who is supposed to arrive at the office in thirty minutes. Gerrigel arrives twenty minutes late, and Lije escorts him and Daneel to Conference Room D, a spy-insulated chamber.

Dr. Gerrigel explains a fear of flying in planes, so he took the expressway from D.C. to New York. Lije wonders if the doctor ever considered exiting the city and traveling across country on foot. Gerrigel is obviously fearful at the thought of such a trek. He cannot imagine how a human would voluntarily do that. Lije proposes that perhaps a robot may have conducted the act of murder and have done it by foot. Dr. Gerrigel refutes this idea immediately. It is impossible for a robot to harm a human being or let them come in harm's way. It is the First Law of Robotics. In order to have a robot capable of committing these acts, new laws would first have to be created, to create a new kind of positronic brain. It will take approximately fifty years to create a non-Aesion positronic brain, which dismisses the Three Laws. Dr. Gerrigel does confirm that knowledge of the positronic brain only applies to the robots on Earth. Robots on the Outer Worlds are made with the same Three Laws but Gerrigel hypothesizes the possibility of robots being made with a non-Aesion positronic brain there.

Lije delves further, questioning why robots need to appear in the form of human likeness, why not another machine? Gerrigel states that the human form is the most generalized form in all of nature. It is an issue of economics and efficiency. Lije turns the doctor's attention to Daneel. Dr. Gerrigel stares at him and realizes Daneel is a robot, although he has never seen one bear such a likeness to human form. He wants to examine him and Daneel happily obliges. Lije is in agreement but wants to focus on the murder before getting carried away with the advancement of robotics discussion. Lije requests they test the Second Law of Robotics with Daneel, requesting he hand Lije his blaster. Without question Daneel hands it over.

He reveals to Dr. Gerrigel that Daneel drew his blaster at a mob of people, threatening to shoot them. Although he did not shoot, the fact that he threatened to do so is highly unlikely in robots. If Daneel was at the scene of the murder, and had the idea that an Earthman crossed the country alone, then there is only one possible explanation for



hiding the murder weapon. The doctor is perplexed. Lije points the blaster directly at Daneel and accuses him of hiding it in his food sac.

Words From An Expert Analysis

The Three Laws of Robotics are what the positronic brain is designed around and why it is successful. Without the laws a robot is unable to function in a harmless and productive manner. Lije's assumption that Outerworld robots may have a non-Aesonion positronic brain is conceivable but not proven. In Daneel's case Lije is unable to let go of the incident that occurred at the shoe store. It is the only hard evidence he has against his partner and he is unwilling to yield until he has an explanation. That is the real reason he called Dr. Gerrigel to New York City.

This is the second time Lije has accused Daneel of being the murderer, once as a human and once as a robot. He is looking for ways to find his partner guilty of the crime. They may appear as the most blatant and obvious answers to Lije because it is what he distrusts the most. It is not necessarily the right place to be looking for clues yet he cannot focus on anything else. The more Lije learns about robots the more he appears to question their consistency and makeup. He has trouble believing they are only programmed for production and fighting justice, specifically a robot created in Outer Space.



Shift To The Machine

Shift To The Machine Summary

Dr. Gerrigel pulls out his Handbook of Robotics and begins a series of questions. They are simple and concise, and the doctor concludes that Daneel is perfectly equipped with the First Law. Lije is not in the least bit satisfied. If Daneel had been equipped with the First Law at the shoe store it would have thrown him into some sort of neurosis afterwards. However, he is fine. Dr. Gerrigel finds this odd, but Daneel disagrees. He instructs Lije to open his blaster. Daneel is not carrying an armed weapon. The simple reason he carries the blaster is to fit in as a Plain Clothes man. The investigation against Daneel is once again over.

Lije wonders how he can accuse Daneel twice of being a murderer. Philip Norris, Plain Clothes Man C-5 asks Lije about his closeness to Enderby and wants Lije to help out an office mate if Lije has any pull with Enderby. Vincent Barrett recently moved out of his office to make room for R. Sammy. Barrett was declassified, along with so many other men of the modern day Earth. Lije can do nothing to help his situation.

When Norris leaves, Daneel approaches Baley's desk with the request to use Enderby's office for greater privacy and to further discuss their investigation. Daneel reveals that since last night, Lije's mental aura is altered. The robot was originally built to study human psychology for the people in Spacetown and conducting cerebroanalysis. Daneel reminds Baley that this attribute was used when he confirmed that Enderby was incapable of committing the murder. Daneel is a self contained unit and does not require the use of needles or graphs to complete an analysis. Somewhere in Lije's mind a chord is struck. This is the only loophole he has noticed since the murder. However, he quickly pushes it out of his mind, Daneel has told the truth and therefore Enderby is innocent.

Lije shares his nightmare with Daneel about Jessie being in danger. Daneel questions how Jessie knew he was a robot. The rumor that Lije thought was the reason for Jessie knowing Daneel's identity does not exist. Daneel checks incoming reports to the office and no rumor is apparent. If there was a rumor, the City would be in a state of unrest. Daneel believes Jessie is a member of the conspiracy and should be questioned. At that moment R. Sammy is calling Enderby's line. Jessie is waiting outside.

Shift To The Machine Analysis

The First law of robotics is fundamental and if it is absent in a robot, there are a variety of actions that would not occur correctly. The test that Dr. Gerrigel performs on Daneel proves he has the First Law. This proof is not even necessary however, after Daneel reveals his blaster was never charged. Lije is once again proven wrong, and that his partner is innocent and perhaps trustworthy. Lije's reluctance to give in to Daneel's innocence is finally being broken.



When Lije is approached by Norris and they discuss the situation with their office mate, it is an example of declassification—men being replaced by robots. This occurrence is something that is a real threat to these men, their jobs and their families. It reminds the reader how Lije feels personally threatened by Daneel and his potential for doing a better job than a human officer. The theme of man versus machine is always present between the two officers.

Daneel's analysis of Lije is correct. There is a conflict of motivations within the officer. Lije is trying to listen to his logical side when his instincts are pulling him in the opposing direction. His nightmare about Jessie is an example of this occurrence. He has a dream she is in danger, and he is pushing her into a fission chamber. Yet when Daneel accuses her of being involved in a Medievalist organization, Lije is outraged.



Power Of A Name

Power Of A Name Summary

Jessie enters the room in a torrent of tears and sobs, apologizing over and over again for what she has done. Lije is in shock and does not want Jessie revealing anything in this office where there are always people around, plus Enderby will be back at any moment.

They take a squad car onto the highway and Lije, Daneel and Jessie are soon discussing whatever caused this sudden outburst. Jessie begins to explain, in a calmer demeanor how she has always been surrounded by these Medievalists. Her friend Elizabeth used to talk about how the Spacers wanted to make Earth weaker and that she was part of some sort of meetings that discussed these issues. When Jessie married Lije she stopped conversing with Elizabeth until the night she and Lije fought about her name being Jezebel and how she was too conservative to own it. Foolishly she wanted to identify herself as Jezebel, and realized the Medievalists were right. She contacted Elizabeth again and has been attending meetings ever since.

Jessie is nervous on the motorway as she speaks. She reveals to the detectives that this is the very place the local meetings are held. They sit on chairs, have refreshments and make speeches about the old ways. Nothing was more than speeches and refreshments until Lije and Daneel entered the situation. The talks at the meetings have turned into pressuring the government and eventual work stoppages and bans on robots. They want to make an example out of the rumored officer and robot partner. Although they do not know it was Lije, if they find out Jessie is terrified he will be killed.

The leader of their group is Joseph Klemin, and once or twice a year people from other places come and make speeches as well. Lije requests Daneel search the people he tabbed at the office earlier and see if Jessie recognizes any of them. She cannot remember what they look like. The only one that stands out is Francis Clousarr, an employee at New York Yeast. Jessie remembers someone's stench of yeast at a meeting a while back, so strong she had to move seats.

Lije drives Jessie to her mother's and instructs her to stay there until further notice. Back in the car with Daneel, he presumes this organization is built up on two levels. A group level, to create mass support and a much smaller elite level that they need to find. He also instructs that Jessie's name be left out of the reports. She has told them everything she knows, and has not committed any crime.

Power Of A Name Analysis

This chapter features a direct conflict of interest between Lije's personal and professional life. He is suddenly learning about his wife's secret participation in conspiracy meetings. This admission by her shakes Lije to the core. This entire time his



trust issues have been with Daneel, when it appears his wife is the one who has been untruthful. Lije handles the situation calmly and professionally, focusing on how much information they can obtain from Jessie.

This is the first time since Lije has been assigned to the case that he appears to be thinking clearly and blocking out his unruly emotions. On a personal level this may be a sign he is closing himself off to Jessie, but the murder investigation is the first thing that needs to be taken care of. His relationship with his wife is finally coming to a point where the trust has been broken, just as he is slowly building a trust with with his partner, Daneel.

This is also the first evidence of potential suspects in Dr. Sarton's murder. taking the focus away from Lije's accusations of Daneel, and finding real City dwellers to investigate.



Arrest of A Conspirator

Arrest of A Conspirator Summary

Lije and Daneel make their way to Yeast-town, more commonly known as the areas of Newark, New Brunswick and Trenton. Without yeast and the yeast farms, which one fifth of the City's population works in, six of the eight billion people on Earth would starve in a year's time.

The partners soon enter New York Yeast and ask for Francis Clousarr, who is on shift. Lije borrows a rod from Personnel and allows it to guide him to Department CG, Section 2 where Clousarr is working. Lije yells his name, and Clousarr looks up without flinching. He is a zymologist, or yeast specialist, hard at work on his shift.

Lije requests they speak in private. Instead of obliging like an obedient citizen, Clousarr is cold and sarcastic with the officer. He obviously has little regard for authority. They agree to conversing in the balance room. Lije requests that Daneel have Clousarr's meal brought up to him during the interview and begins questioning the worker's whereabouts the previous few nights. Clousarr has no alibi other than to say he was out walking.

When Daneel finally enters the room with a tray of food, Lije introduces the two. Clousarr refuses to shake hands with him or even make eye contact. He knows Daneel is a robot. Lije promptly instructs his partner to contact Enderby and prepare to take Clousarr down to the station. All the while the yeast specialist is verbally slinging his Medievalist ideals and disdain for robots in Daneel's direction.

When Daneel exits the room to contact the Commissioner, Lije and Clousarr enter a heated debate over the current state of the world. Suddenly Lije finds himself echoing almost verbatim the sentiments of Dr. Fastolfe. He mentions the benefits of colonizing other worlds, saving resources and potentially the human race. In the midst of his furious ranting with Clousarr, Daneel reenters the room. He has had trouble reaching Enderby who is still in his office because a corpse had just been discovered in the police Department. It is R. Sammy, and he is believed to have been murdered.

Arrest of A Conspirator Analysis

The visit to Yeast-town demonstrates how dependant the Earth's population is on the production of massive supplies. Without these areas the population would cease to exist. It strengthens the argument of the Spacers in Lije's mind, that one miscalculation or broken machine could send the Earth's carefully balanced system into chaos.

It is questionable whether Clousarr is actually a malicious character when he is working in a factory to help sustain the human race. This character provides insight to the other point of view, the Medievalist opinion. While it may be old fashioned, there is something



to be said for reverting to simpler ways of living. Perhaps things have advanced too far and humans have no other option than to abandon Earth, but Clousarr and many others want to make the Earth work for them. Whatever his opinion, Clousarr is a suspect in the murder case and Lije has no problem delving into it with the zymologist. It makes it easier for him to confront the Medievalist because Lije, now more than ever, agrees with the modern way of thinking.

Clousarr also knows instantly that Daneel is a robot; whether he is aware of this upon first sight or he saw him at the shoe store and Section kitchen has yet to be revealed. The idea that he has such disdain for the robot, exponentially more so than Lije, compliments his Medievalist attributes.

R. Sammy is found murdered in the police department just as Daneel tries to reach Enderby. This occurrence is certainly a roadblock in continuing with the investigation—another murder has taken place inside the City jurisdiction, and the victim is a robot. This opens up a number of new possibilities within the case, meaning a murderer has struck twice, or they are separate occurrences.



Questions Concerning A Motive

Questions Concerning A Motive Summary

Lije replaces his blaster that he has pointing at Clousarr and instructs that they leave the company immediately. Clousarr does not get to eat his meal, and sulks the whole way out onto Seventeenth Street, Exit B where they approach the squad car. Just then Clousarr turns and attempts to punch Daneel in the jaw. Lije does not move fast enough, but Daneel grasps the man's hands. Clousarr is grinning as he is placed inside the car. On the drive to the station Clousarr tries discussing emigration and how Lije feels about possibly losing his job to a robot. The officer remains silent, sure that Clousarr is in agony having to sit beside a robot the entire way to the department.

When they arrive Lije signs a detention certificate for Clousarr and he and Daneel make their way to Headquarters. Clousarr is now in proper hands and will be dealt with and they can go assess the situation with R. Sammy. As they make the journey to Enderby's office, Daneel inquires what the conversation was between Lije and Clousarr in the balance room. Daneel sensed cerebriic quality changes in Clousarr when he was riding with him in the squad car. Lije preached to the zymologist about emigration, robots and how they cannot harm a human being even if one strikes them. It explains Clousarr's attempt to hit Daneel outside New York Yeast.

They can hear Enderby before they see him. The night shift employees are being questioned downstairs and the Commissioner looks drained. Someone in the Department is to blame for R. Sammy's murder and even Enderby himself has to sign a statement. Lije is not expecting to see Dr. Gerrigel beside Enderby, but there he is. Dr. Gerrigel wandered around the City after their meeting earlier and ultimately wished for another examination of the fascinating humanoid robot. He tried to contact Lije, but they were obviously talking to Clousarr at the time. Enderby instructed Dr. Gerrigel to come and wait in Lije's office until his return. As Dr. Gerrigel tried to find the office he got lost and wandered into a small room, where he found R. Sammy deactivated.

In R. Sammy's hand was an alpha sprayer, pointed towards his head. Enderby implies that Vincent Barrett is a suspect because R. Sammy took his job. He also tells Lije that the alpha sprayer was stolen from a power plant, in Williamsburg. The same power plant Lije and Daneel were spotted at trying to escape from the men from the Section kitchen the night before. Lije suddenly realizes he is a potential suspect in R. Sammy's murder. Enderby knows Jessie came earlier that day, and she is going to be questioned as well. Enderby thinks Lije has a motive, and that is to keep R. Sammy from saying what the real reason is Jessie came to the office.

Lije needs support from Daneel, but he simply responds the way he is programmed to. He reveals to Lije that he has been in contact with Dr. Fastolfe and that Lije is going to have to find an answer for R. Sammy's murder separate from Dr. Sartan's. Dr. Fastolfe



informed Daneel that his people of Spacetown, as a result of the robot's information, plan to leave Spacetown and Earth and the investigation will be closed.

Questions Concerning A Motive Analysis

The conversation between Lije and Clousarr reveals that the officer still feels the desire to distinguish between Daneel as a machine and emphasize his own humanity even though his point of view is changing rapidly. It is morphing from a cynical, slightly-Medievalist notion, to supporting emigration and perhaps even robots.

The events that unfold in the police Department completely alter the course of the investigation. R. Sammy's murder makes Lije a suspect and it is assumed he is being framed by someone in the Department. This situation practically forces Lije to express his desire for Daneel to be a friend to him. He looks beyond the metal rods and no longer cares if Daneel does not possess actual cells. This is the closest thing he has to a confidante at the moment. Lije has evolved as a human being, and it is because of a machine.

The theme of man versus the machine may in fact be more along the lines that man and the machine influence one another. The partners both know that Lije is innocent, and yet Daneel is unable to testify as a robot in Lije's defense. Somehow Lije has to find a way to keep Daneel on Earth a while longer and finish the investigation before the Spacers leave for good.



Conclusion Of A Project

Conclusion Of A Project Summary

Lije is conflicted and confused. Daneel is telling him that now the Spacers are calling off the investigation because they believe Earthmen will colonize and that was their goal. The conclusion of Dr. Sarton's murder makes no difference to them. Their plan has succeeded and apparently Lije was their experiment. They were able to open his mind to colonization with the help of a mild drug. Lije's memory flashes back to the hyposilver Dr. Fastolfe gave him in Spacetown. Once he opened his mind to it, he demonstrated to Daneel he was able to change Medievalists' minds like he did with Clousarr. Daneel detected cerebriic changes, due to Lije's fervent discussion about emigration. Daneel concluded from his cerebroanalysis of Clousarr, that a Medievalist's mind was open to change.

The entire investigation was an excuse for the Spacers to study humans in the field, and Lije was their guinea pig. Now Daneel is going to leave him with an open murder case, and another one in the Department of which Lije himself is about to be accused. He needs to find a loophole, a weakness in Daneel, one that will make him want to remain on Earth and help Lije solve the crime. Daneel is always trying to learn more, that is why he first inquired about Enderby's spectacles upon meeting him. Lije instantly realizes what he has to do.

The day is not yet over, there is an hour and a half until midnight. Daneel said his orders are to close the case after today. He has found his loophole and Daneel agrees to remain his partner until the clock strikes midnight. Lije requests the film of the murder scene he recalls Dr. Fastolfe mentioning. Daneel has it ready to view within minutes and while the two officers prepare to view the remnants of the scene, Enderby interrupts.

They are instructed to go to the Commissioner's office where Lije is questioned about their whereabouts at the Williamsburg power plant. Lije vehemently denies even having time to obtain an alpha sprayer from the premises, let alone murder R. Sammy. He cannot believe Enderby believes he is guilty. Enderby has talked to Clousarr who gave him Jezebel Baley's name as a member of a conspiracy organization. Lije is trapped. He will surely be demoted and declassified. Thinking quickly he fires back at the Commissioner. He is being framed and he knows who is doing it, who killed Dr. Sarton and he has only one hour to prove his case.

Conclusion Of A Project Analysis

Lije has finally broken Daneel. He manages to find a loophole that will make Daneel comply with what Lije wants. It is a theory of using Daneel's desire of knowledge to show him that as long as time is still available, the case has not been closed. Logistically they still have an hour and a half left. Lije realizes at this point that he



cannot solve the case alone. He needs Daneel's help, no matter if he is a machine. The theory which has morphed from man versus the machine to man and machine influence one another, is completely proven. Lije is able to find a way to manipulate Daneel to help him, without using force.

This is also a scene of desperation for Lije. He has put his career, his morals and his family on the line for Enderby and now Enderby is accusing him of murder. Although the elements of timing and circumstance make him seem like a perfect candidate, they are all coincidence. Enderby is adding up the facts against him instead of defending him and supporting his reasons for being at the power plant and Jessie coming to visit. The friendship between the two men is revealing itself as competitive and undermining. What was once a congenial and professional relationship has been totally altered due to Enderby's lack of respect and willingness to help Lije.



End Of An Investigation

End Of An Investigation Summary

Lije needs to talk quickly if he wants to complete the investigation in an hour, and they still have to view the film of the murder scene. Enderby is humorously waiting to hear Lije's newest accusation about the murderer. This time Lije is careful to not give too much away and slowly starts working his way from who knows he was at the power plant to how Clousarr knows Jessie's full name. She gave up that name long before she joined the conspiracy group. Enderby becomes flushed, admitting he must have used Jezebel when talking to Clousarr, and filled it in automatically. He thinks it outlandish that Lije is suggesting he lied about Clousarr, but Lije keeps going. The Commissioner was missing at lunch for two hours, when he could have been at the Williamsburg power plant obtaining the alpha sprayer. Enderby threatens to arrest Lije and send him to jail for twenty years. Lije points a cocked blaster at Enderby. He needs to finish his thoughts. Daneel explains to Enderby that he is in direct contact with Dr. Fastolfe at that very moment and it will be to his advantage to hear Lije's theory.

Enderby chose Lije for the case because they were old college friends. He knew Lije's wife was a member of a Medievalist group and intended to blackmail Lije with that information if necessary. Being the murderer controlling the murder investigation was the best way to remain a free man. Lije wonders how Jessie knew Daneel was a robot, and the people at the shoe store. He theorizes Enderby was the informer, alerting them to Daneel's arrival. Enderby wanted Daneel to feel the extent of anti-robot sentiment. Furthermore in order to kill Dr. Sarton, Enderby used R. Sammy to conceal the blaster, delivering it to him in Spacetown by crossing the land on foot. This was Enderby's motive for killing R. Sammy. Daneel is still unconvinced.

Lije takes the aluminum cube and places it on Enderby's desk. The image inside is of the murder scene. The scene fills Enderby's office as a micro-projection and displays Dr. Sarton's body on the ground. Lije is looking for something in particular, concave lenses—the same lenses Enderby broke the day of the murder. Enderby never meant to kill Dr. Sarton, as Daneel clarifies through his cerebroanalysis he was incapable of killing another human. However, he was capable of killing a machine. Enderby went to Dr. Sarton's to kill Daneel and when he arrived he dropped his glasses, breaking them on the floor. Before he could reassemble them, he saw Daneel's image and blasted him. Unfortunately Dr. Sarton had created Daneel in his own physical likeness, meaning Enderby killed the doctor instead. Lije finds the image of the lenses on the floor. The case is solved.

Enderby admits his accidental crime and Lije and Daneel both agree he will not be prosecuted if he assists in promoting emigration into Space. Lije wants nothing more than to return to natural existence with his family. Surprisingly he requests that Daneel remain on Earth for the time being. He can safely say he considers the robot a friend.



End Of An Investigation Analysis

The conclusion of "The Caves of Steel" reaches its climax when Lije finally accuses the rightful murderer of Dr. Sarton's death, Julius Enderby. Throughout the story Enderby's mood has shifted based on how Lije was coming along with the case. He was never a suspect after Daneel dismissed him as being incapable of killing the doctor and Lije never considered his college friend a murderer. Enderby and Lije no longer have any basis of trust or admiration for one another. These two men could not be further apart in likeness and their friendship is dissolved.

It is unclear how long Lije has been pondering this outcome, but it seems as though all of the pieces come together right at the end. Lije and Daneel experience the opposite effect as Enderby and Lije. They begin their partnership as two strangers who are worlds apart, and end up friends and confidants. Lije evolves in his ideas about Space travel, emigration, colonization and mainly the theory that man and machine can coexist. Surprisingly Lije believes that it is a necessity for them to coexist if the human race is going to survive and adapt to new environments, and that robots can actually help with the process.

The relationship between Lije and Jessie is left undetermined. It is obvious they love one another or they would not put their own lives at risk throughout the story to alert the other. It can be assumed that Lije returns home, and once the commotion of the investigation calms down, he and Jessie return to functioning as a normal, happy couple.

As for Space travel and the future of the Cities of Earth, Lije feels the responsibility to spread the word about the advantages and urgency behind colonization. He is certain now that it is the only answer for the human race.



Characters

Elijah Baley

The main protagonist of the story, Elijah Baley is a police officer and native of New York City. He led a tumultuous childhood, growing up with just his father who was declassified after an accident occurred at the power plant where he worked. After his father's death at the age of eight, Lije and his two older sisters are sent to live in an orphanage. In his teen years he was known for being an excellent "strip runner", once leading a pack of twenty others and claiming victory when he was the only one standing at the end of the expressways. In adulthood he worked diligently to move through the ranks as a policeman and was college friends with Commissioner Enderby, who is also his boss. His current ranking at the police force is C-5 which allows privileges like eating at home a few nights a week instead of the Community Kitchen. He also receives specific seating privileges on the expressways. Once the murder of Dr. Sarton is solved, the Commissioner guarantees Lije a promotion to a C-6 ranking. This provides even more privileges than he and his family have already attained. He is married to Jessie and has one son, Bentley. Lije's personal interests include medieval studies, specifically watching book-films on the Medievalists. He also wants to learn as well about robots and how they work. Lije is stuck between the old fashioned ways and trying to adjust and evolve with new age technology. This murder case takes Lije through an array of emotions. He begins the case dead set against the infiltration of robots into the Cities of Earth, and believing that Medieval ways are the better ways. By the end of the case he has completely changed his outlook on colonization and truly believes the only way to save mankind is through space travel and finding more planets to colonize.

R. Daneel Olivaw

Daneel is a humanoid Spacer robot, highly advanced in comparison to the robots of Earth. Designed by Dr. Sarton, in his exact human likeness, Daneel's similarity to an Earthman allows him to inhabit the City without being recognized as a Spacer robot. His anatomical makeup is complete from head to toe. He possesses a makeshift stomach referred to as a "food sac" where swallowed food sits until he opens his chest and empties it into a receptacle. He is capable of smiling and breathing at a consistent rhythm, yet does not require sleep or food. His skin is remarkably human-like to the touch, and the only that seems to be missing is an Adam's apple in his throat. Daneel is assigned to be Lije's partner in the murder case of Dr. Sarton. He proves to be a worthy addition to the case with his ability for cerebroanalysis and unprecedented memory. Daneel is able to remember all of the faces at the shoe store riot and the hostile moment in the Section Kitchen. Showing his intentions are noble and simply to promote justice, in turn allows a friendship to develop between the robot and the human detective. Daneel's programming does not allow him to truly understand human emotion, only identify it by reading brain waves, but the two officers form a bond stronger than human flesh or metal and rods. They have experienced something



together, and even as a robot with no capacity to feel, Daneel expresses a loyalty to Lije when the case concludes.

Julius Enderby

Enderby is the Commissioner of Police in New York City. He is the only human present right after the murder of Dr. Sarton. He is an old college friend of Lije Baley's, and a very competitive and driven man. He is friendly with the Spacers as well, although he has Medievalist tendencies. He wears spectacles, which are considered Old worldly, and has a window in his office, which is odd and rare for any office inside the City.

Jessie Baley

Jessie is Lije Baley's wife. She is a former dietician's assistant and performs her duties as a devoted wife and mother. She secretly belongs to a Medievalist conspiracy group. Her full name is Jezebel Baley. Jezebel is the name of a wicked woman in the Bible, and also the enemy of Elijah, her husband's name. Jessie joins the conspiracy group in part to prove to herself that she is not too conservative and has a little bit of Jezebel's tendencies within her.

Bentley Baley

Lije and Jessie Baley's son. He inherits Lije's dark hair, but other than that his features resemble Jessie. He has the same hazel eyes and oval face, and similar upbeat demeanor. Bentley is around sixteen years of age.

Dr. Roj Nemenuh Sarton

Dr. Sarton is a citizen of the planet Aurora and a resident of Spacetown. He is the murder victim. He specialized in robotics and was the creator of Daneel. Dr. Sarton's goal was to understand the psychology of the Earthman in order allow Spacetown to succeed in the future. He possessed no immunity to Earth's many bacterias and could easily die from a common cold. This was his reasoning for creating Daneel, in order to be able to finish his research from within the City using a robot.

R. Sammy

The robot assistant to Commissioner Enderby. The robot is murdered near the end of the story.



Dr. Han Fastolfe

A colleague of Dr. Sarton, he has a degree in Sociology, specializing in robotics. He is in charge of the murder investigation on Spacetown's end just as Enderby is in charge on the City's end. Dr. Fastolfe is the first one to really convince Lije there are advantages to colonization and emigration.

Dr. Gerrigel

A robotics expert, living in Washington D.C. Dr Gerrigel is requested by Lije to come to New York City and inspect Daneel as a possible murder suspect. He also has slight agoraphobia.

Francis Clousarr

A yeast specialist at New York Yeast. A member of a Medievalist conspiracy group to overthrow Spacers and ban robots. Lije and Daneel question Clousarr and take him into detention at Headquarters just before the investigation is solved.

Philip Norris

Plain Clothes Man C-5. Norris is practically the same position as Lije and is naturally watching for obvious competition.

Joseph Klemin

Leader of the small Medievalist group Jessie is a part of.



Objects/Places

Spacetown

The area Spacers inhabit around Cities. It is closed off to New York with barriers, not allowing people to enter without a sequence of disinfections and tests. This place is open to fresh air and it is where the murder of Dr. Sarton occurs.

The Outer Worlds

49 planets colonized by Earthmen, who were transported there and created self-sustaining populations.

The Spacers

Beings from Space which have overtaken areas of the world, such as New York City's Spacetown.

Aurora

Aurora is the home planet of Dr. Fastolfe. It is an underpopulated society, where the individual leads a life of comfort, as well as having the ability to study the aging process at length. The native children are screened for physical and mental defects before being allowed to mature. They are painlessly killed if they do not meet healthy expectations.

Yeast-town

The areas of Newark, New Brunswick and Trenton. The land was once residential and is now taken over by many-layered farms, producing thousands of varieties of yeast.

Balance Room

A laboratory of New York Yeast, producing cultures of every strain of yeast.

Alpha Sprayer

Lead-alloy casing with a narrow pit dug into it longitudinally. The bottom of it contains a tiny amount of plutonium salt. Hard radiation sprays out of the tip of it.



Blaster

Weapon used by police officers, and carried at all times.

Expressway

The contemporary version of the subway, it consists of connecting strips that link 60 mile per hour lines to one another. This is the primary mode of transportation and the expressway connects people to every single part of the city. There are different levels within the expressway, if you are a ranking of C-5 or above you have no seat rights east of the Hudson River and west of Long Island. If the case is solved, Lije's new rank as a C-6 would allow him to be eligible for a seat on the upper deck.

Personal

Where humans go to wash up, use the toilets, brush their teeth, and do everything else related to hygiene. They are communal.



Themes

Man Versus the Machine

One major theme is the idea that man is conquerable by the machine. Robots replace men who do a variety of jobs, most commonly manual labor, but also civil services. The notion that the human is no longer necessary to perform everyday tasks begins to tear away at the human soul. Officer Baley struggles with this theme more than anyone, as he is forced to work with a partner who is a robot. This man has spent his entire adult life serving, enforcing laws of justice and righteousness and working towards making New York City a safer place. The idea that a robot is equal or better than him at his own job directly threatens Baley's own existence. Why is he useful anymore if a machine can do his job better than he can? Being dispensable creates lackluster effort and feelings of frustration.

The one thing humans have that robots lack is the urge and impulse for frustration, anger, sadness, love—basic human emotion. While robots like R. Daneel can understand what a feeling means on a cerebral level, they cannot experience emotion. It can be argued that this is an advantage or possible downfall human characteristic. In a matter of crisis such as the riot that takes place at the shoe store, Baley is able to rectify the situation without violence. A robot goes to any necessary length to control conflict, even if that means taking the life of someone in order to save two other people.

Medievalists Versus Colonization and The Spacers

This theme centers around the crisis of finding more space, air and resources than are accessible on Earth. At the time and place of this story the world is already living in controlled environments, where the air is controlled and sunlight is contained. The people of New York City are actually living in the second New York City. The prior was an outside metropolis nowhere near the size or structure that exists in this book.

People consider breathing outside air as practically toxic and roaming open fields as unconceivable. Medievalists are the humans who lived before these controlled environments existed. They lived freely and used resources to no avail. They are also considered extremely old fashioned and stuck in the past. Current time is all about moving forward, creating new colonies on distant planets and enforcing natural selection. People are considered Spacers if they are born on another planet. They have no immunity built up for Earth's many toxins, and therefore have a fear of infiltrating the world. On their planets bacteria does not really exist, and the kinds that do are controlled.

The struggle between the Medievalists and The Spacers is how Earth will survive in the future. Medievalists believe that going back to the way things were is the answer,

while the Spacers want to help minimize resource consumption and colonize even more planets.

The Individual and The Controlled Society

This theme is evident not only in the Cities, but also in Spacetown. No matter where the story takes place there is control and an immense amount of structure imposed on the inhabitants. Whether this is instated to maintain a functioning society, or because it is a survival tactic, it demonstrates lack of an individuality and the strength of a controlled group. There is no sense of individualism allowed the people in the Cities or in Spacetown. They have differing classes and job rankings, but they all operate under conditioned air and eat processed foods. The concept of venturing away from the highways, onto the open countryside is a frightful one.

People have no sense of freedom and there are consequences punishable by law for acting out and expressing opinions about changes in society. When the barrier riots occur they simply gas people to deal with the problem. This obviously subdues voices that are outspoken, which is precisely the reason underground groups begin to form. There is no question that the Earth is divided into groups of people banding together to create change. One individual voice is overpowered. The only way citizens of Earth or Spacers can adjust their lifestyle is by finding a way to conquer the thing controlling their system and abolish it.

Style

Point of View

Point of View of the novel is in the third person and the narrator is reliable about revealing in-depth information not only about the protagonist Elijah Baley, but about various other characters in the story. This story includes the feelings and happenings of individual characters, but it is the overlaying historical information about the Earth and Outerworlds that truly ties this novel together.

Clearly the individuals themselves, whether humans or Spacers, are to Asimov products of their society. Lije has a fear of leaving his City and venturing to the Outerworlds where robots vastly outnumber humans. On the otherhand, Spacers fear the encampment of the Cities because of its excessive amount of bacteria and risk of disease.

The author does a good job of incorporating every character's sentiment and background into the story. Jessie for example, is Lije's wife, and plays a minor role in the investigation, but the reader is given much more information about the meaning of her full name and its relation to her involvement with a conspiracy group. Characters such as these, that may seem minor, are given significant meaning in their moment of glory during the story.

There is a sense the author truly cares for each of the characters and how they relate to one another. The one character it might have been really interesting to understand more deeply is Daneel. The author deliberately does not give him an array of emotions or thoughts because he does not possess any, but he spends the most time with Lije, and is present throughout the entire investigation.

Setting

The story takes place mainly in New York City and Spacetown. There is discussion of the Outerworlds, but the characters remain on Earth.

Within New York City there are many smaller places that the characters weave in and out of including the police Department, its Headquarters, Lije and Jessie's apartment, Yeast-town, the Williamsburg power plant, the apartment assigned to Lije and Daneel, the motorway, expressway and the Section Kitchen. Within Spacetown, Lije and Daneel enter a dome with Dr. Fastolfe and view the scene of the murder.

The setting really relies on where the characters are going with their investigation. Every place besides the domestic settings, such as Lije's apartment and the Section kitchen, are visited in connection with the officer's investigation.



Language and Meaning

The author uses language as if the reader already comprehends future instruments such as "blaster" and "aluminum cube". This allows the reader to become engaged in the story without having to be fed endless descriptions and definitions for words. While it might be helpful to understand some of the terms referring to robotics like "cerebroanalysis," their meanings are incorporated into the rest of the writing smoothly. This creates continuity within the text, instead of stopping the narrative each time an unrecognizable word or phrase appears. The characters use their futuristic instruments in the storyline, so even if the reader can only assume what it is, the general concept is understood.

Occasionally the text becomes long paragraphs of information about the Earth and its dire situation. The need for colonization and emigration is stressed in almost every chapter-this can appear monotonous. This conveys the author's main concern in writing the novel was not necessarily to create a murder mystery, but to discuss the state of the world and its potential to end up in a similar "Caves of Steel" situation.

Structure

The book is structured by elements of time and place. Occasionally some chapters will continue the story in the same space and time, but more often the characters are in a different day or location when the next chapter arrives. This creates a sense of continuity within the story, allowing the reader to sense just how much time has occurred between instances.

The book overall deals with a time frame of approximately 3 days. The main protagonist, Lije, carries the structure of the story through his constant changing of emotions. Each section unveils a new, unpredictable switch in his feelings towards his partner, Daneel, life on Earth or the idea of emigration. If looked at as a whole, the main structure of the book is place and time and the underlying structure is Lije's personal feelings.



Quotes

"My briefing on human characteristics here among the people includes the information that, unlike the Men of the Outer Worlds, they are trained from birth to accept authority," Chap. 3, Incident At A Shoe Counter, p. 38.

"Justice, Elijah, is that which exists when all the laws are enforced," Chap. 8, Debate Over A Robot, p. 104.

"But now, Earthmen are so coddled, so en-wombed in their imprisoning caves of steel, that they are caught forever," Chap. 9, Elucidation By A Spider, p. 122.

"The first law is fundamental. It affects everything. If it were absent, the robot could not react properly in two dozen obvious ways," Chap. 13, Shift To The Machine, p. 177.

"There is a human impulse known as mercy; a human act known as forgiveness," Chap. 14, Power Of A Name, p. 208.

"Did I say back to the soil overnight? Or in a year? Or in a hundred years? Step by step, mister policeman. It doesn't matter how long it takes, but let's get started out of these caves we live in. Let's get out into the fresh air," Chap. 15, Arrest of A Conspirator, p. 219.

"We are here," said the robot, "and by we, I mean our people at Spacetown, to break the shell surrounding Earth and force its people into new expansion and colonization," Chap 17, Conclusion of A Project, p. 239.

"There are degrees of justice, Elijah. When the lesser is incompatible with the greater, the lesser must give way," Chap 17, Conclusion Of A Project, p. 246.

"Go, and sin no more!" Chap 18, End Of An Investigation, p. 270.

"I suppose you can, but I don't think you'll try. I wish you'd forget your name and be yourself," Chap 3, Incident At A Shoe Counter, p. 44.

"In your food sac," he said. "In your food sac, Daneel!" Chap. 12, Words From An Expert, p.175.

"I am quite convinced. I can see now that I was thrown completely off by the scent of the Commissioner's cerebroanalysis. I congratulate you, partner Elijah," Chap. 18, End Of An Investigation, p. 268.



Topics for Discussion

Discuss the meaning and need for human life. Are humans replaceable? Is there something humans offer over machines?

Discuss the state of the world in the novel. Is colonization of other planets the best option to save the population? Or is a more Medievalist approach the answer?

Discuss Lije's relationship with Daneel and how it changes throughout the story. What precipitates these changes? Are they positive?

Discuss the story's version of Earth and its dependency on conditioned air and processed foods. What do you think influenced this drastic way of living?

Discuss Julius Enderby's motives with getting Lije involved in the murder investigation. What do you think Enderby hoped to accomplish?

Discuss Lije's relationship with Jessie. Is it a healthy marriage? Should Lije, being a policeman, have detected Jessie's whereabouts earlier?

Discuss the future of the people on Earth. What does the future hold? What do you think will happen to Daneel and Lije?