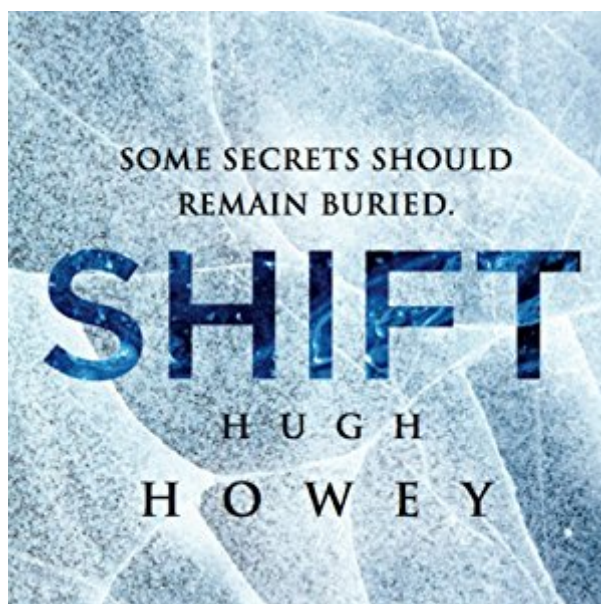


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Shift Omnibus Edition: Shift 1-3, Silo Saga



Synopsis

This is the sequel to the New York Times best-selling Wool series. It combines the three Shift books into a single audiobook in order to save the listener a few bucks. The saga concludes with Dust, which will be available in late 2013. In 2007, the Center for Automation in Nanobiotech (CAN) outlined the hardware and software platform that would one day allow robots smaller than human cells to make medical diagnoses, conduct repairs, and even self-propagate. In the same year, the CBS network re-aired a program about the effects of propranolol on sufferers of extreme trauma. A simple pill, it had been discovered, could wipe out the memory of any traumatic event. At almost the same moment in humanity's broad history, mankind had discovered the means for bringing about its utter downfall - and the ability to forget it ever happened.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 18 hours and 22 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Hugh Howey

Audible.com Release Date: May 28, 2013

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00CPRZB5K

Best Sellers Rank: #29 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction > High Tech #65

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction > Adventure #119 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Hard Science Fiction

Customer Reviews

Shift Omnibus consists of 3 novellas that comprise a prequel off sorts to Wool. It's not entirely a prequel because the story overlaps Wool and essentially ends at the same place that Wool does. Shift has three primary story arcs: (1) A 40-ish man Donald, who is involved in the design and building of the silos and who (through the miracle of cryogenics) hangs around in the story for a few hundred years, (2) a boy name Mission Jones, who is central to the big uprising in silo 18 in the generations before the events of Wool, and (3) Solo, the guy in Wool who lives 30+ years alone in silo 17 after its collapse--the one who Jules meets. In Wool, we learned that we built the silos and then deliberately destroyed the entire world. One of the main purposes of this prequel is to explain

why we did this. The "we" in this case ends up being a small cabal of persons. The Donald story arc explains the building of the silos and tries to explain why any rational person would destroy the world and then hide a remnant of people in silos. This story arc also explains what the ultimate purpose or plan is regarding the silos. Of these three story arcs, only the Mission Jones story approaches the same magic as Wool. Overall the characters and story lines in Shift are decidedly less engaging and compelling than in Wool. The big explanation for the destruction of the world is not entirely convincing and plausible, and the big reveal at the end about the true purpose of the silos really sounded ridiculous and nonsensical, despite the author's earnest efforts to make it all add up. And then there's the Solo storyline. If a person lived alone for 30+ years with not much to do, you'd think there wouldn't be much of a good story to tell...and there's not. The Solo story I found deadly dull.

I liked "Wool" quite a lot and had high hopes for this story, but "Shift" fell flat in the third shift. I fully understand that the author was trying to give a thread explaining how the world of "Wool" came to be, but the first story benefited quite strongly from not knowing the history and allowing the reader to guess what had happened. "Shift" is the Midichlorions to "Wool"'s Force. This is a story that hurts a good concept by being told. For one thing, the "Nanos" instilled in me a ridiculous "oh please." This agent is so perfect that it will attack an environment suit only if it is improperly sealed. What? You heard that right: they can tell if the suit ain't put together correctly, and then they attack it! In "Wool" it was left only as "toxins" and the protective layer created by the suit went without saying. My feeling is that the author wrote the first book without understanding what the environmental catastrophe was, and then mishandled it trying to out-logic why a poorly thought out "perfect" nano-weapon didn't just eat through anything... good suit or bad suit (or Silo sensor mast, for that matter). Making the perfect weapon makes me wonder why torturing thousands of people for hundreds of years made more sense than just wiping everything out year one except a select few people and using that as the start-over point --saying that the nanos _can't_ do that is completely arbitrary. It would have worked much better and been technically more believable if the Nanos weren't as perfect and suits were needed to protect against them... medicinal nanos that undo damage still work here....

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