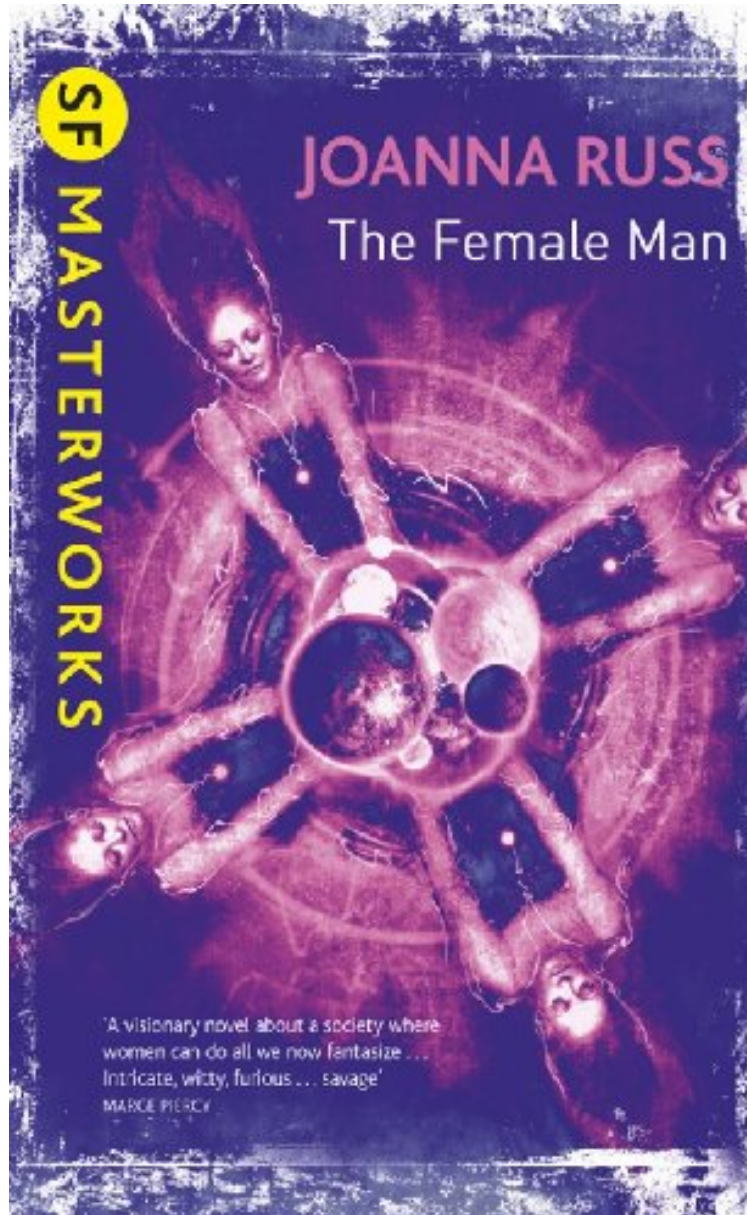


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The Female Man (S.F. MASTERWORKS) (English Edition)

Von Joanna Russ

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Von Joanna Russ : The Female Man (S.F. MASTERWORKS) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Female Man (S.F. MASTERWORKS) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Thought

provoking, for all genders

Von Michael Battaglia I'm a guy. Just thought I'd get that out of the way before I write this. I knew this was considered a classic of science fiction before I even found a used copy, but I have to admit that I wasn't looking all that forward to reading it. For one the cover (the old original one on the paperback) is a garish thing, basically a feathered woman putting on another skin. Plus I knew the book was about female issues and specifically issues that came up during movements that started in the seventies, when the book was written. At least it was short, I told myself. I'd get it over with quick. Boy, was I surprised. Not only does this rank among the best books I've ever read, but it gave me a lot to think about. Part of that has to do with Russ' style, she cascades all sorts of chapters together, bouncing back and forth, her prose is excellent, not just feminist rhetoric, she brings up all sorts of points about everything. And her contrast of the different worlds, there's Joanna's world, which is like ours (she's the female trying to be liberated), and Jeannine's world, where the Depression never ended (she's meek and just wants to go along with the group, essentially), then there's Janet's, where men don't exist at all (my favorite scene is where the newscasters ask how she has sex if there are no men and Janet explains to their dismay). There's one other too but that's a surprise. The style is sometimes confusing at first, sometimes you don't know who is narrating or which character is which but after a while it all starts falling together. Russ peppers it with her own observations throughout, my favorite being when she anticipates the reviews the book is going to get (not good ones). Is it angry? Sure but back then she had a lot to be angry about, and she comes across rationally through, her anger is righteous and not of the "all men should die!" type of rage. Like I said, it gives guys and gals lots to ponder and deserves to be wider read. The style may be off putting but the message is clear as anything. You just have to dig a little with thought to figure it out.

0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Russ Destroys the "Star Wars" Patriarchy Single Handed!

Von Eric Hartlep Most "classic" science fiction uses the devices of the genre - alien monsters, lightspeed ships, evil empires to be overcome - to mask the basic fact that, despite the high-tech window dressing, the books still promulgate the old ways of doing things: man on top, woman making the coffee and changing the diapers (even if she wears a space suit at the time). Not surprisingly, Joanna Russ will have none of that in any of her books, but particularly not *The Female Man*, which may be her best (though "Souls" in her award-winning volume *Extraordinary People* may be an easier read for some - and still just as hard-hitting). In *The Female Man*, Russ uses the very old SF device of time travel to bring contrasting characters together for the sheer pleasure of watching the man-centered universe fly wildly apart.

///Sidebar: What male-centered science fiction universe? Try reading Russ's take on the Star Wars phenomenon (the original episode), in her essay *SF and Technology as Mystification* (in *To Write Like a Woman*, U of Indiana Press): "After the hero's mother (disguised as his aunt) dies, there is only one woman left in the entire universe (Princess L.)." Yes, Star Wars came out after *Female Man*, but it's all-male premise was born many decades before.

///I must dismiss any cries of complaint about the "disjoined" sequence of events in *Female Man*. The time-shifting she used is little different from that in such classics as Conrad's *The Secret Agent* (where anarchist bombs constantly disrupt the PHYSICAL plotting of the book) or Philip K. Dick's *Martian Time Slip* (which is constantly jumping about in time and space); nor is it much different from the movie *Pulp Fiction*, which broke rearranged the narrative at several points. As for Jael, the violent, psychotic assassin of *The Female Man*'s later chapters, it will do the reader good to notice that her earlier incarnations - especially Jeannine, from 1970s earth - find her violence just as horrifying as does any reader! I suspect that if Jael had been male, her combination of "time-travelling secret agent" and "openly sadistic murderer" would not have seemed so out of line. After all, most of the Cyberpunk genre is filled with similar (male) characters, and nobody flinches a bit. No, the beauty and value of a book like this is that it upsets so many on the one side, while making the rest shout "Finally!" *The Female Man* remains unrelenting and unrepentant - attributes many find acceptable (even positive) in males, but dangerous and "anti-feminine" in females. If nothing else, *The Female Man* asks one simple question: Can Science Fiction (and/or the world) progress while still shackled by the rotting corpse of the feminine mystique?

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. complex

Von TammyJo Eckhart Complex, yes that describes the book well. In fact, unless one is highly intrigued by the concept of following several women through different times periods who are also perhaps the same woman (?), this may not be worth the work to read. A classic for its feminist view and controversial statements and images, I found it valuable to read but not enjoyable to read.

Kurzbeschreibung A landmark book in the fields of science fiction and feminism. Four women living in parallel worlds, each with a different gender landscape. When they begin to travel to each other's worlds each woman's preconceptions on gender and what it means to be a woman are challenged. Acclaimed as one of the essential works of science fiction and an influence on William Gibson, *THE FEMALE MAN* takes a look at gender roles in society and remains a work of great power. Winner of the James Tiptree, Jr. Award for best novel, retrospectively *Pressestimmen* 'The Female Man is not only known as a science fiction classic but also as a work of immense significance to feminist literature' *Sunday Times* *Werbetext* A landmark book in the fields of science fiction and feminism.