



The Humans: A Novel

By Matt Haig



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The critically acclaimed author of *The Radleys* shares a clever, heartwarming, and darkly insightful novel about an alien who comes to Earth to save humans from themselves.

“I know that some of you reading this are convinced humans are a myth, but I am here to state that they do actually exist. For those that don’t know, a human is a real bipedal life form of midrange intelligence, living a largely deluded existence on a small waterlogged planet in a very lonely corner of the universe.”

The bestselling, award-winning author of *The Radleys* is back with what may be his best, funniest, and most devastating dark comedy yet. When an extraterrestrial visitor arrives on Earth, his first impressions of the human species are less than positive. Taking the form of Professor Andrew Martin, a prominent mathematician at Cambridge University, the visitor is eager to complete the gruesome task assigned him and hurry back home to the utopian world of his own planet, where everyone enjoys immortality and infinite knowledge.

He is disgusted by the way humans look, what they eat, their capacity for murder and war, and is equally baffled by the concepts of love and family. But as time goes on, he starts to realize there may be more to this weird species than he has been led to believe. Disguised as Martin, he drinks wine, reads poetry, develops an ear for rock music and a taste for peanut butter. Slowly, unexpectedly, he forges bonds with Martin’s family, and in picking up the pieces of the professor’s shattered personal life, he begins to see hope and beauty in the humans’ imperfections and begins to question the mission that brought him there.

Praised by the *New York Times* as a “novelist of great seriousness and talent,” author Matt Haig delivers an unlikely story about human nature and the joy found in the messiness of life on Earth. *The Humans* is a funny, compulsively readable tale that playfully and movingly explores the ultimate subject—ourselves.

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Editorial Review

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Starred Review The alien comes to Earth from Vonnadoria, an almost incomprehensibly advanced world; he comes with a sinister purpose, both to destroy and to collect information, hoping to rob human beings of their future. Assuming the person of Professor Andrew Martin, a celebrated mathematician who has made a dangerous discovery, he sets coldly and calculatedly to work. But there is a problem: though disgusted at first by humans, whom he regards as motivated only by violence and greed, he gradually comes to understand that humans are more complex than that, and, most dangerous to his mission, he discovers music, poetry, and . . . love. Becoming increasingly sympathetic to humans, he will ultimately do the unthinkable. The ever-imaginative Haig—*The Dead Fathers Club* (2007), *The Radleys* (2010)—has created an extraordinary alien sensibility and, though writing with a serious purpose (the future is at stake), has great good fun with the being's various eyebrow-raising blunders as he struggles to emulate human behavior. Haig strikes exactly the right tone of bemusement, discovery, and wonder in creating what is ultimately a sweet-spirited celebration of humanity and the trials and triumphs of being human. The result is a thought-provoking, compulsively readable delight. --Michael Cart

Review

"A literary virtuoso... Matt Haig is a supreme talent and a writer to cherish, and *The Humans* is undoubtedly his magnum opus." (*The Guardian*)

"Funny, poignant and full of heart." (*Entertainment Weekly*)

"Matt Haig is a novelist of stunning talent, with a laser eye for the absurd and endless reserves of compassion." (*Parade*, "Parade Picks")

"*The Humans* is by turns silly, sad, suspenseful and soulful...Haig manages...to burrow beneath clichés as he explores the meaning of sentimentality, loyalty, love, and mortality....Haig's insights are often compelling." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*)

"At its heart, this novel is really about the art of being human and all that entails." (*Fort Worth Star-Telegram*)

"**A surprisingly touching and often hilarious tale....**Haig elevates the premise with his deft, humor-rich storytelling skills. A reverence for mathematics and history also runs through the book, cutting through some of the sentimentality with a healthy dose of intellectualism. *The Humans* is an engaging summer read." (*Bookpage*)

"*The Humans* is a breathtaking novel...eye-opening and endlessly fascinating. Matt Haig has created a masterpiece of fiction that should be required reading for all who inhabit this great big ball we call Earth." (*BookReporter*)

"A thought-provoking, compulsively readable delight." (*Booklist* (starred review))

"Delightful." (*Publishers Weekly* (starred review))

"Quick-paced, touching, and hilarious." (*Library Journal* (starred review))

“[*The Humans*] is a poignant and emotional examination into the value of the human experience, complete with a central character that you care for, root for and perhaps even cry for....engaging....a good read.” (*Amazing Stories Magazine*)

“[Matt Haig has] a keen eye for homo sapien goofiness, spot-on observations on our foibles, and satire you could spread with a knife....There’s cleverness and wit all over each page.” (*Naples News*)

“Haig writes with wit and surety, so convincingly other-worldly that it could cause a person to wonder.” (*Diesel Newsletter, #1 recommended read*)

“Beautifully written...inspiring.” (*Parallel Worlds Magazine*)

“Matt Haig's *The Humans* boasts the best sci-fi concept we've heard in years.” (*Complex.com, "Best Beach Reads"*)

“An engrossing new novel.” (*RedCarpetCrash.com*)

“A funny and touching tale about an alien who visits and experiences the weird and often frightening beauty of being human.” (*Shelf Awareness*)

“Matt Haig’s keen sense of observation stands out....[*The Humans* is] a careful examination of the very things that make us human....Haig has written a book that causes readers to consider the flaws in humanity while also appreciating its powerful beauty.” (*RVAnews.com*)

"*The Humans* is a laugh-and-cry book. Troubling, thrilling, puzzling, believable and impossible. Matt Haig uses words like a tin-opener. We are the tin." (Jeanette Winterson)

"A brilliant exploration of what it is to love, and to be human, *The Humans* is both heartwarming and hilarious, weird, and utterly wonderful. One of the best books I've read in a very long time." (S.J. Watson *New York Times* bestselling author of *Before I go to Sleep*)

“*The Humans* is tremendous; a kind of *Curious Incident* meets *The Man Who Fell to Earth*. It’s funny, touching and written in a highly appealing voice.” (Joanne Harris *award-winning author of Chocolat*)

“Lovely stuff. So heartfelt, touching and funny.” (Patrick Ness *author of The Crane Wife*)

"Utterly wonderful." (Mark Billingham)

About the Author

Matt Haig is the bestselling author of several children’s books and novels, including *The Radleys*, winner of the ALA Alex Award. An alumnus of Hull University and Leeds, his work has been translated into twenty-nine languages. He lives in York with his wife, UK novelist Andrea Semple, and their two children.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donna Gray:

What do you think of book? It is just for students since they're still students or that for all people in the

world, the actual best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that question above. Every person has different personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't wish do that. You must know how great as well as important the book The Humans: A Novel. All type of book could you see on many sources. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Kim Bogdan:

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Bruce Bracey:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love The Humans: A Novel, it is possible to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its named reading friends.

May Davidson:

That reserve can make you to feel relax. This book The Humans: A Novel was bright colored and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book The Humans: A Novel has many kinds or variety. Start from kids until youngsters. For example Naruto or Investigation company Conan you can read and think you are the character on there. Therefore not at all of book are make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book to suit your needs and try to like reading that will.

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