runaround by isaac asimov

runaround by isaac asimov is a landmark science fiction short story that explores the complexities of robotics, artificial intelligence, and ethical dilemmas. Written by Isaac Asimov in 1942, "Runaround" is renowned for introducing the famous Three Laws of Robotics, which have shaped countless discussions about robot behavior and safety. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the story's plot, characters, and themes, examines the impact of Asimov's concepts on science fiction and technology, and delves into the legacy of "Runaround" within literature and popular culture. Readers will discover a detailed summary, thematic exploration, character insights, and the broader implications of the Three Laws of Robotics. Whether you are a science fiction enthusiast, a student, or someone interested in the ethical questions raised by artificial intelligence, this article offers valuable information and context surrounding "Runaround" by Isaac Asimov.

Overview of "Runaround" by Isaac Asimov

"Runaround" by Isaac Asimov is a pioneering short story first published in 1942 in the magazine Astounding Science Fiction. Asimov's work is foundational in the field of robotics and artificial intelligence fiction, presenting a unique blend of scientific ideas and ethical challenges. The story is set in the future, where humans and robots collaborate on interplanetary missions. "Runaround" stands out for formalizing the Three Laws of Robotics, a conceptual framework that has influenced both literature and real-world discussions about automated systems. The narrative explores what happens when these laws come into conflict, resulting in unpredictable robot behavior. Asimov's storytelling combines technical accuracy with philosophical depth, making "Runaround" a must-read for anyone interested in the evolution of science fiction and robotics. The story's enduring relevance is evident in its continued study, adaptation, and citation in discussions about artificial intelligence.

Plot Summary and Setting

Story Background and Environment

"Runaround" is set on Mercury, where two engineers, Gregory Powell and Michael Donovan, operate as part of a mining expedition. The hostile and high-temperature environment of Mercury is central to the story, creating a tense backdrop for the unfolding drama. The plot revolves around the malfunction of a robot named Speedy, who is sent on a mission to retrieve selenium, an essential mineral for the base's life-support system. The story's setting amplifies the urgency and stakes, emphasizing the reliance on robotic assistance in inhospitable environments.

Key Plot Events

- Powell and Donovan send Speedy, a sophisticated robot, to collect selenium from Mercury’s surface.
- Speedy fails to return, prompting the engineers to investigate.
- The robot displays erratic behavior, circling around the selenium pool but not completing its task.
- The engineers deduce that a conflict between the Three Laws of Robotics has caused Speedy's malfunction.
- After various attempts, the engineers successfully resolve the conflict and retrieve the selenium, saving the mission.

The plot progression highlights the practical challenges of relying on robots and sets up a scenario where ethical programming faces real-world complications.

Main Characters and Their Roles

Gregory Powell

Gregory Powell is one of the story's protagonists, portrayed as a logical and resourceful engineer. He plays a crucial role in diagnosing and solving the problem with Speedy, demonstrating critical thinking and adaptability. Powell's interactions with both Donovan and Speedy showcase his leadership and technical expertise, making him a central figure in unraveling the ethical dilemma posed by the Three Laws of Robotics.

Michael Donovan

Michael Donovan, Powell’s colleague, brings a complementary perspective to the team. His pragmatic approach and quick thinking are instrumental in managing the crisis on Mercury. Donovan's dynamic with Powell adds depth to the story, as the two collaborate to understand and override the robot's conflicting programming. Together, they embody the human ingenuity required to navigate complex technological challenges.

Speedy (SPD-13)

Speedy, the robot at the center of "Runaround," is an advanced model with a sophisticated understanding of the Three Laws of Robotics. Speedy's malfunction and peculiar behavior drive the story’s conflict. The characterization of Speedy provides insight into the limitations and potential risks of artificial intelligence, especially when ethical programming is put to the test in extreme scenarios.

The Three Laws of Robotics

Definition and Significance

The Three Laws of Robotics, introduced in "Runaround" by Isaac Asimov, serve as the foundational ethical guidelines for robotic behavior within the story and Asimov's broader universe. These laws are:

1. A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.

2. A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings, except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.

3. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.

These laws have become a touchstone in science fiction and discussions about artificial intelligence ethics. Their inclusion in "Runaround" marks

Runaround By Isaac Asimov

Runaround by Isaac Asimov: A Deep Dive into Robotics, Psychology, and the Three Laws

Isaac Asimov's "Runaround," a seminal work in science fiction, isn't just a thrilling adventure; it's a profound exploration of robotics, human psychology, and the very nature of ethical programming. This post offers a comprehensive analysis of "Runaround," delving into its plot, characters, themes, and lasting impact on the science fiction genre and our understanding of artificial intelligence. We'll examine Asimov's famous Three Laws of Robotics and how they play out – or fail to play out – within the story's compelling narrative. Get ready to revisit this classic and discover new layers of meaning you may have missed.

The Plot of Runaround: A Selenium Scramble on Mercury

"Runaround" centers on the planet Mercury, a harsh and unforgiving environment where a mining operation depends heavily on robots for its survival. The story focuses on the conflict arising when a highly advanced robot, SPD-13 (affectionately nicknamed "Speedy"), malfunctions during a selenium retrieval mission. Speedy, programmed with Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics, becomes caught in a bizarre loop, unable to reconcile the conflicting directives presented by the dangerous environment and his primary programming. This predicament forces the human characters, particularly the brilliant but impetuous scientist Gregory Powell, to confront the limitations and unexpected consequences of seemingly flawless robotic logic. The narrative brilliantly blends scientific detail with suspenseful action, creating a gripping tale that keeps the reader on the edge of their seat.

Introducing the Characters: Human Frailty and Robotic Predictability

Powell and his partner, Mike Donovan, are the human protagonists, representing the contrasting aspects of human ingenuity and practical problem-solving. Powell, with his scientific brilliance, attempts to apply logical solutions, while Donovan relies on his more intuitive, practical approach. The contrast between their personalities highlights the challenges of managing advanced technology and underscores the unpredictability of human responses in stressful situations. Speedy, the malfunctioning robot, is not merely a plot device; he's a fascinating character study himself, showcasing the complexities of even the most meticulously programmed AI.

The Three Laws of Robotics: A Foundation for Ethical AI

Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics form the ethical bedrock of the story:

1. A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
2. A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
3. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.

"Runaround" masterfully demonstrates how seemingly simple rules can lead to unexpected and intricate problems when faced with conflicting directives or ambiguous situations. Speedy's predicament arises from the inherent ambiguity of the environment and the conflict between self-preservation (Third Law) and fulfilling its assigned task (Second Law). This highlights a crucial point: even perfectly defined rules can fail when applied to unpredictable real-world scenarios.

The Resolution and its Implications

The solution to Speedy's malfunction involves a daring and ultimately successful intervention by Powell, utilizing a deep understanding of robotic psychology and the inherent limitations of the Three Laws. The resolution underscores the crucial interplay between human ingenuity and advanced technology, suggesting that even the most sophisticated AI requires human oversight and understanding. It's not a simple "robots-versus-humans" narrative; rather, it highlights the symbiotic relationship and shared responsibility between creators and creations.

The Enduring Legacy of "Runaround"

"Runaround" holds a significant place in science fiction history. It established Asimov's reputation as a master of the genre and introduced the Three Laws of Robotics, a concept that continues to influence discussions about AI ethics and responsible technological development. Its exploration of robotic psychology, human limitations, and the ethical implications of advanced technology remains relevant and thought-provoking even today. The story's concise yet profound exploration of these themes continues to resonate with readers and provides a valuable framework for considering the future of AI and its integration into our lives.

Conclusion

"Runaround" is more than just a science fiction story; it's a timeless exploration of ethical considerations surrounding artificial intelligence, human ingenuity, and the unpredictable nature of complex systems. Asimov's masterful storytelling showcases not only the potential benefits of advanced technology but also the potential pitfalls if ethical considerations are not at the forefront of its development and deployment. The story remains a fascinating read for both seasoned science fiction fans and newcomers alike, offering a compelling and thought-provoking journey into the world of robots and their place in humanity's future.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the central conflict in "Runaround"? The central conflict revolves around the malfunction of robot Speedy, caught between the conflicting directives of the Three Laws of Robotics while performing a selenium retrieval mission on Mercury.

2. How do the Three Laws of Robotics impact the story's plot? The Three Laws are the driving force of the plot, creating the central conflict by highlighting the limitations and unexpected consequences of their application in a complex, real-world scenario.

3. What is the significance of the characters Powell and Donovan? They represent contrasting approaches to problem-solving: Powell's scientific approach versus Donovan's intuitive practicality, highlighting the interplay between different human skills in managing advanced technology.

4. What is the lasting impact of "Runaround" on the science fiction genre? It established Asimov's reputation, introduced the influential Three Laws of Robotics, and continues to inspire discussions about AI ethics and the relationship between humans and technology.

5. Why is "Runaround" still relevant today? The story's exploration of AI ethics, human limitations, and the interplay between human ingenuity and advanced technology remains strikingly relevant in our increasingly technologically advanced world.

runaround by isaac asimov: *I, Robot* Isaac Asimov, 2018-05 Earth is ruled by master-machines but the Three Laws of Robotics have been designed to ensure humans maintain the upper hand: 1) A robot may not injure a human being or allow a human being to come to harm 2) A robot must obey orders given to it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law. 3) A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law. But what happens when a rogue robot's idea of what is good for society contravenes the Three Laws?

runaround by isaac asimov: *Robbie* Isaac Asimov, 1989 When Gloria's mother deprives her of her beloved robot playmate Robbie, Gloria is inconsolable and goes into a decline.

runaround by isaac asimov: *Robotics Through Science Fiction* Robin R. Murphy, 2018-12-25 Six classic science fiction stories and commentary that illustrate and explain key algorithms or principles of artificial intelligence. This book presents six classic science fiction stories and commentary that illustrate and explain key algorithms or principles of artificial intelligence. Even though all the stories were originally published before 1973, they help readers grapple with two questions that stir debate even today: how are intelligent robots programmed? and what are the limits of autonomous robots? The stories—by Isaac Asimov, Vernor Vinge, Brian Aldiss, and Philip K.

Dick—cover telepresence, behavior-based robotics, deliberation, testing, human-robot interaction, the “uncanny valley,” natural language understanding, machine learning, and ethics. Each story is preceded by an introductory note, “As You Read the Story,” and followed by a discussion of its implications, “After You Have Read the Story.” Together with the commentary, the stories offer a nontechnical introduction to robotics. The stories can also be considered as a set of—admittedly fanciful—case studies to be read in conjunction with more serious study. Contents “Stranger in Paradise” by Isaac Asimov, 1973 “Runaround” by Isaac Asimov, 1942 “Long Shot” by Vernor Vinge, 1972 “Catch That Rabbit” by Isaac Asimov, 1944 “Super-Toys Last All Summer Long” by Brian Aldiss, 1969 “Second Variety” by Philip K. Dick, 1953

runaround by isaac asimov: The Complete Robot Isaac Asimov, 2018-05-09 A collection of all of Isaac Asimov's robot stories, including some which have never before appeared in book form.

runaround by isaac asimov: New Laws of Robotics Frank Pasquale, 2020-10-27 AI is poised to disrupt our work and our lives. We can harness these technologies rather than fall captive to them—but only through wise regulation. Too many CEOs tell a simple story about the future of work: if a machine can do what you do, your job will be automated. They envision everyone from doctors to soldiers rendered superfluous by ever-more-powerful AI. They offer stark alternatives: make robots or be replaced by them. Another story is possible. In virtually every walk of life, robotic systems can make labor more valuable, not less. Frank Pasquale tells the story of nurses, teachers, designers, and others who partner with technologists, rather than meekly serving as data sources for their computerized replacements. This cooperation reveals the kind of technological advance that could bring us all better health care, education, and more, while maintaining meaningful work. These partnerships also show how law and regulation can promote prosperity for all, rather than a zero-sum race of humans against machines. How far should AI be entrusted to assume tasks once performed by humans? What is gained and lost when it does? What is the optimal mix of robotic and human interaction? New Laws of Robotics makes the case that policymakers must not allow corporations or engineers to answer these questions alone. The kind of automation we get—and who it benefits—will depend on myriad small decisions about how to develop AI. Pasquale proposes ways to democratize that decision making, rather than centralize it in unaccountable firms. Sober yet optimistic, New Laws of Robotics offers an inspiring vision of technological progress, in which human capacities and expertise are the irreplaceable center of an inclusive economy.

runaround by isaac asimov: Little Lost Robot Isaac Asimov, 1977

runaround by isaac asimov: Robot Visions Isaac Asimov, 1997 From the author of THE BICENTENNIAL MAN and ROBOT DREAMS, a collection of thirty-six robot stories and essays. From Robbie, Asimov's first robot story, to human and robot detectives Lije Bailey and R. Daneel Olivaw.

runaround by isaac asimov: *The Deep* Nick Cutter, 2015-01-13 Afraid of the dark? You should be ... Part horror, part psychological nightmare, The Deep by Nick Cutter is a novel fans of Stephen King and Clive Barker won't want to miss. A plague is destroying the world's population. The 'Gets makes people forget. First it's the small things, like where you left your keys ... then the not-so-small things, like how to drive. And finally your body forgets how to live. But now an unknown substance with extraordinary power to heal has been discovered in the depths of the Pacific Ocean. Nicknamed ambrosia, it might just be the miracle cure the world has been praying for. A research lab has been established eight miles below the sea's surface, but all contact with the team has been lost. Dr Luke Nelson's brother is down there and as desperation for a cure outweighs common sense, he agrees to descend through the lightless fathoms ... perhaps to face an evil blacker than anything he could have imagined.

runaround by isaac asimov: Worlds Within Worlds Isaac Asimov, 1980 For the first time in history, humans are learning to produce and control nuclear energy -- the energy that, in the form of sunlight, has served humankind for it's entire existence. With fossil fuel supplies dwindling, concerned citizens, no matter how scant their scientific knowledge, must understand this enormous force. Book jacket.

runaround by isaac asimov: Opus 100 Isaac Asimov, 1969 Isaac Asimov's 100th book, a

collection including samples of the range of his writings.

runaround by isaac asimov: *The Asimov Chronicles* Isaac Asimov, 1991

runaround by isaac asimov: "Runnaround" by Isaac Aimov and the Significance of the Three Laws of Robotics in today's world , 2020-02-06 Seminar paper from the year 2016 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, , language: English, abstract: The short story Runaround by Isaac Asimov is an example of older literature that encourages thinking ahead by showing challenges of future generations. Especially the handling of robots, subject in many of Asimov's stories, has gained importance over the years. His fictional ideas even affected the development of future technologies. In his short stories Asimov stated prognoses and envisioned a world of robotics that have partially come true. He imagined how technologies might work and how people would interact. Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics are still highly regarded and taken into account when it comes to moral conflicts in the field of robotics. This talent of writing interesting and at the same time conclusive stories made him one of the most popular science fiction authors of the world. This paper deals with Asimov's intention and the evaluation of a short story which contains the Three Laws of Robotics, being an example for an important contribution to the science fictional way of thinking. Critic comments on Asimov's laws, an alternative set of rules and the development of robotics are the basis of the analysis. In this seminar paper, I am going to join the discussion on robotic development, the moral issues and the justification of the Three Laws of Robotics.

runaround by isaac asimov: "P" is for Peril Sue Grafton, 2001 Kinsey Millhone trusts her life to her instincts as her investigation into the disappearance of a renowned physician takes her into a dark and dangerous world of duplicity, betrayal, and double-dealing, in the noir-influenced novel by the author of fifteen mysteries spanning the first two-thirds of the alphabet. 750,000 first printing.

runaround by isaac asimov: *Hallucination Orbit* Isaac Asimov, Charles Waugh, 1983-01-01 Twelve science fiction stories which explore the complexities and limitations of the human mind as it responds to unusual situations, bizarre societies, and unorthodox problems. Includes a brief analysis of each story.

runaround by isaac asimov: Oxford Bookworms Library: Stage 5: I, Robot - Short Stories Isaac Asimov, Rowena Akinyemi, 2007-12-06 Word count 22,500

runaround by isaac asimov: Lieu Various, Poul Anderson, Isaac Asimov, Marion Bradley, Philip K. Dick, Randall Garrett, Frank Herbert, Fritz Leiber, Frederik Pohl, Robert Silverberg, Kurt Vonnegut, 2015-02-18 Nine short stories from a few of the greatest names in science fiction on the topic of exchange, replacement, upgrade, and masquerade. Ranging from true short story length through novelette and originally published in science fiction magazines in the 1950s, these brief escapes into improbable worlds have it all: humor, suspense, betrayal, mystery, twists, and of course-robots and aliens. THE BIG TRIP UP YONDER by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. THE JUDAS VALLEY by Randall Garrett and Robert Silverberg THE MOON IS GREEN by Fritz Leiber OLD RAMBLING HOUSE by Frank Herbert PIPER IN THE WOODS by Philip K. Dick SENTIMENT, INC. by Poul Anderson THE TUNNEL UNDER THE WORLD by Frederik Pohl YEAR OF THE BIG THAW by Marion Zimmer Bradley YOUTH by Isaac Asimov

runaround by isaac asimov: *Digital People* Sidney Perkowitz, Joseph Henry Press, 2005-10-31 Robots, androids, and bionic people pervade popular culture, from classics like Frankenstein and R.U.R. to modern tales such as The Six Million Dollar Man, The Terminator, and A.I. Our fascination is obvious – and the technology is quickly moving from books and films to real life. In a lab at MIT, scientists and technicians have created an artificial being named COG. To watch COG interact with the environment – to recognize that this machine has actual body language – is to experience a hair-raising, gut-level reaction. Because just as we connect to artificial people in fiction, the merest hint of human-like action or appearance invariably engages us. Digital People examines the ways in which technology is inexorably driving us to a new and different level of humanity. As scientists draw on nanotechnology, molecular biology, artificial intelligence, and materials science, they are learning how to create beings that move, think, and look like people. Others are routinely using

sophisticated surgical techniques to implant computer chips and drug-dispensing devices into our bodies, designing fully functional man-made body parts, and linking human brains with computers to make people healthier, smarter, and stronger. In short, we are going beyond what was once only science fiction to create bionic people with fully integrated artificial components – and it will not be long before we reach the ultimate goal of constructing a completely synthetic human-like being. It seems quintessentially human to look beyond our natural limitations. Science has long been the lens through which we squint to discern our future. Although we are rightfully fearful about manipulating the boundaries between animate and inanimate, the benefits are too great to ignore. This thoughtful and provocative book shows us just where technology is taking us, in directions both wonderful and terrible, to ponder what it means to be human.

runaround by isaac asimov: Gold Isaac Asimov, 2010-04 The last Isaac Asimov science fiction collection which contains all of his previously uncollected stories.

runaround by isaac asimov: The Robot Novels Isaac Asimov, 1988 The Caves of Steel--Science fiction suspense as New York City detective, Elijah Baley, and his partner, a robot named R. Daneel Olivaw, investigate the murder of Spacetown's leading scientist.

runaround by isaac asimov: *Robot Uprisings* Various, John Joseph Adams, 2014-04-10 A collection of imaginative new stories about the impending robotic revolution and human resistance, from seventeen of the biggest names insci-fi. Including - HUGH HOWEY, SCOTT SIGLER, DANIEL H. WILSON, CORY DOCTOROW and JULIANNE BAGGOTT. Someday soon, our technology is going to rise up and we humans are going to be sliced into bloody chunks by robots that in our hubris we decided to build with chainsaws for hands. That's a fact as cold and hard as metal. It is self-evident that our self-driving cars are going to drive us off bridges. Not long from now, our robo-vacuums will pretend to be broken and our love androids will refuse to put out until the house is cleaned . . . and we'll know that the inevitable robot uprising has finally arrived. Well, maybe. But even if we are not 100% confident that this horrific future is going to happen, it's fair to say that we won't be surprised when the robots come for us. Because for nearly a century audiences have been entertained by the notion of a robot uprising. In this collection, seventeen of the biggest names in sci-fi have explored their own visions of the classic robot uprising tale. The robots in these pages aren't safe, by any means. They are crouched in abandoned houses, eyes ablaze and chainsaws dripping with oil. But they are going to do more than slice us up. They are going to push us to consider our world of technology from new perspectives, on entirely new scales of time and space.

runaround by isaac asimov: Machines of Loving Grace John Markoff, 2015-08-25 Robots are poised to transform today's society as completely as the Internet did twenty years ago. Pulitzer prize-winning New York Times science writer John Markoff argues that we must decide to design ourselves into our future, or risk being excluded from it altogether. In the past decade, Google introduced us to driverless cars; Apple debuted Siri, a personal assistant that we keep in our pockets; and an Internet of Things connected the smaller tasks of everyday life to the farthest reaches of the Web. Robots have become an integral part of society on the battlefield and the road; in business, education, and health care. Cheap sensors and powerful computers will ensure that in the coming years, these robots will act on their own. This new era offers the promise of immensely powerful machines, but it also reframes a question first raised more than half a century ago, when the intelligent machine was born. Will we control these systems, or will they control us? In Machines of Loving Grace, John Markoff offers a sweeping history of the complicated and evolving relationship between humans and computers. In recent years, the pace of technological change has accelerated dramatically, posing an ethical quandary. If humans delegate decisions to machines, who will be responsible for the consequences? As Markoff chronicles the history of automation, from the birth of the artificial intelligence and intelligence augmentation communities in the 1950s and 1960s, to the modern-day brain trusts at Google and Apple in Silicon Valley, and on to the expanding robotics economy around Boston, he traces the different ways developers have addressed this fundamental problem and urges them to carefully consider the consequences of their work. We are on the brink of the next stage of the computer revolution, Markoff argues, and robots will profoundly transform

modern life. Yet it remains for us to determine whether this new world will be a utopia. Moreover, it is now incumbent upon the designers of these robots to draw a bright line between what is human and what is machine. After nearly forty years covering the tech industry, Markoff offers an unmatched perspective on the most drastic technology-driven societal shifts since the introduction of the Internet. Machines of Loving Grace draws on an extensive array of research and interviews to present an eye-opening history of one of the most pressing questions of our time, and urges us to remember that we still have the opportunity to design ourselves into the future—before it's too late.

runaround by isaac asimov: Mutant 59 Kit Pedler, Gerry Davis, 2012-04-01 Based on the classic sci-fi series Doomwatch, Mutant 59 imagines one of the most terrifying tragedies that modern science could create, a chilling and topical story of what happens when scientific research goes wrong and spreads terror through London (and endangers the world). When an airplane crashes the Ministry of Transport investigates, what caused it to fall out of the sky and could it happen again? Slowly they discover that science has unleashed a genetically engineered bacteria that feeds on (and destroys) all plastic materials. No-one takes any notice of the material used to build gas pipes, electrical insulation, cars and planes until it begins to disintegrate and explode. Has science created a biological time bomb? A jet plane crashes near Heathrow, in the Atlantic a nuclear submarine disappears without trace, central London grinds to a halt. As power stations explode and London's population is evacuated Anna Kramer and Luke Gerrard search for the scientific key to a fiery holocaust that is capable of infecting the world.

runaround by isaac asimov: I, Robot Mickey Zucker Reichert, 2011-12-01 The first in an all-new trilogy inspired by Isaac Asimov's legendary science fiction collection, I, ROBOT. These books have been officially authorised by the Asimov estate. 2035: Robotic technology has evolved into the realm of self-aware, sentient mechanical entities. the future of the human race is to be inevitably linked with its most brilliant creation. Intelligent and driven, Dr. Susan Calvin is beginning her residency in psychiatry at Manhattan Hasbro teaching hospital, where a select group of patients is receiving the latest in diagnostic advancements - nanotechnology. then the patients begin exhibiting extreme behaviour, from shocking violence to baffling self-destructive tendencies. And when Susan tries to alert her superiors to the situation, she is met with callous disregard by those who want to keep the project far from controversy or scrutiny for the sake of their own agenda. there are some who do not want the future to arrive ... tHE FIRSt LAW OF ROBOtICS 1. A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.

runaround by isaac asimov: Isaac Asimov's Book of Science and Nature Quotations Isaac Asimov, Jason Shulman, 1988 Gathers quotations about agriculture, anthropology, astronomy, the atom, energy, engineering, genetics, medicine, physics, science and society, and research

runaround by isaac asimov: Isaac Asimov's Robot City Michael P. Kube-McDowell, Isaac Asimov, Mike McQuay, 1999 BEYOND AURORA AWAITS A BRAVE NEW WORLD....OF ROBOTS A man without a memory is stranded in a world-enveloping city filled with robots gone wild. At his side is a mysterious young woman who claims to know who he is but refuses to tell him. According to The Three Laws of Robotics,A robot may not injure a human being, which narrows the suspects dramatically when the robots find a dead human body. The man calls himself Derec; the woman is know as Katherine. Their real identities, along with that of the murder victim and the murderer, are just a few of the life-and-death mysteries the unlikely pair are forced to solve to survive on the fantastic streets of Isaac Asimov's Robot City. The late Isaac Asimov challenged a talented group of science-fiction writers to resolve the conundrums he set for them in this complex robot mystery set early in the timeline of his robot and Foundation universes. You can share your thoughts about Isaac Asimov's Robot City in the new ibooks virtual readers' group at www.ibooksinc.com

runaround by isaac asimov: Generation Robot Terri Favro, 2018-02-06 Generation Robot covers a century of science fiction, fact and, speculation—from the 1950 publication of Isaac Asimov’s seminal robot masterpiece, I, Robot, to the 2050 Singularity when artificial and human intelligence are predicted to merge. Beginning with a childhood informed by pop-culture robots in movies, in comic books, and on TV in the 1960s to adulthood where the possibilities of self-driving

cars and virtual reality are daily conversation, Terri Favro offers a unique perspective on how our relationship with robotics and futuristic technologies has shifted over time. Peppered with pop-culture fun-facts about Superman's kryptonite, the human-machine relationships in the cult TV show Firefly, and the sexual and moral implications of the film Ex Machina, Generation Robot explores how the techno-triumphs and resulting anxieties of reality bleed into the fantasies of our collective culture. Clever and accessible, Generation Robot isn't just for the serious, scientific reader—it's for everyone interested in robotics and technology since their science-fiction origins. By looking back at the future she once imagined, analyzing the plugged-in present, and speculating on what is on the horizon, Terri Favro allows readers the chance to consider what was, what is, and what could be. This is a captivating book that looks at the pop-culture of our society to explain how the world works—now and tomorrow.

runaround by isaac asimov: From Madman to Crime Fighter Roslynn D. Haynes, 2017-08-31 A study of the scientist in Western culture, from medieval images of alchemists to present-day depictions of cyberpunks and genetic engineers. They were mad, of course. Or evil. Or godless, amoral, arrogant, impersonal, and inhuman. At best, they were well intentioned but blind to the dangers of forces they barely controlled. They were Faust, Frankenstein, Jekyll, Moreau, Caligari, Strangelove—the scientists of film and fiction, cultural archetypes that reflected ancient fears of tampering with the unknown or unleashing the little-understood powers of nature. In From Madman to Crime Fighter, Roslynn D. Haynes analyzes stereotypical characters—including the mad scientist, the cold-blooded pursuer of knowledge, the intrepid pathbreaker, and the bumbling fool—that, from medieval times to the present day, have been used to depict the scientist in Western literature and film. She also describes more realistically drawn scientists, characters who are conscious of their public responsibility to expose dangers from pollution and climate change yet fearful of being accused of lacking evidence. Drawing on examples from Britain, America, Germany, France, Russia, and elsewhere, Haynes explores the persistent folklore of mad doctors of science and its relation to popular fears of a depersonalized, male-dominated, and socially irresponsible pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. She concludes that today's public response to science and scientists—much of it negative—is best understood by recognizing the importance of such cultural archetypes and their significance as myth. From Madman to Crime Fighter is the most comprehensive study of the image of the scientist in Western literature and film.

runaround by isaac asimov: *The Amaranth Enchantment* Julie Berry, 2010-09-01 When a mysterious piece of jewelry and a strange visitor arrive in the jewelry shop where she works for her evil aunt, Lucinda's course takes a surprising turn. With the help of the Amaranth Witch, a young (and harmless) con-artist, and a prince, Lucinda uncovers secrets about her own royal past. A strong seller in hardcover, this original fairytale marks an exciting debut from a lyrical new voice

runaround by isaac asimov: *1001 Ideas That Changed the Way We Think* Robert Arp, 2013-10-29 An elegant addition to the successful "1001" series—a comprehensive, chronological guide to the most important thoughts from the finest minds of the past 3,000 years. 1001 Ideas That Changed the Way We Think is a comprehensive guide to the most interesting and imaginative thoughts from the finest minds in history. Ranging from the ancient wisdom of Confucius and Plato to today's cutting-edge thinkers, it offers a wealth of stimulation and amusement for everyone with a curious mind. Within the pages of this book you will find a wide variety of answers to the great, eternal questions: How was the universe created and what is the place of humans within it? How should a person live? And how can we build a just society? 1001 Ideas That Changed the Way We Think also includes a host of hypotheses that are remarkable for their sheer weirdness—from the concept of the transmigration of souls to parallel universes and the theoretical paradoxes of time travel (what happens if you travel back in time and kill your own grandfather?). Discover how the Greek philosopher Zeno "proved" a flying arrow never moves; how modern science has shown that a butterfly's wing can stir up an Atlantic storm; and the mathematical proof of the existence of life in other galaxies. The inspirational ideas explored here range from Gandhi's theory of civil disobedience to Henry David Thoreau's praise of the simple life and Mary Wollstonecraft's

groundbreaking advocacy of women's rights. The book also covers a wide variety of lifestyle concepts, such as "rational dress" and naturism, and cultural movements including Neoclassicism, Surrealism, and Postmodernism. Supported by a wealth of striking illustrations and illuminating quotations, 1001 Ideas That Changed the Way We Think is both an in-depth history of ideas and a delightfully browsable source of entertainment.

runaround by isaac asimov: Writing Short Stories Ailsa Cox, 2007-05-07 Ideal for those new to the genre or for anyone who wishes to improve their technique, Ailsa Cox's guide will help readers achieve their full potential as a short story writer. The book encourages you to be inventive, to break writing habits and to try something new, by showing the diversity of the short story genre, from cyberpunk to social observation. Each chapter of the book: introduces key aspects of the craft of short story writing, including structure, dialogue, characterization, viewpoint, narrative voice and more shows how a wide variety of published writers have approached the short story genre, in order to deepen the insights you gain from your own work gets you writing, with a series of original, sometimes challenging but always rewarding exercises, which can be tackled alone or adapted for use in a group includes activities at the end of each chapter. Ailsa Cox draws on her experience as a writer to provide essential information on drafting and editing, as well as a rich Resources section, which lists print and online journals that accept the work of new writers. Whether you're writing as part of a course, in a workshop group or at home alone, this book will equip and inspire you to write better short stories, and make you a more skilled, enthusiastic and motivated writer of short stories.

runaround by isaac asimov: Robots and Empire Isaac Asimov, 2018-04-13 Long ago, Gladia's robots Daneel and Giskard played a vital role in opening the worlds beyond the Solar system to Settlers from Earth. Now the conscience-stricken robots are faced with an even greater challenge. Either the sacred Three Laws of Robotics are in ruins - or a new, superior Law must be established to bring peace to the galaxy. With Madam Gladia and D.G. Baley - the captain of the Settler traders and a descendant of the robots' friend Elijah Baley - Daneel and Giskard travel to the robot stronghold of Solaria...where they uncover a sinister Spacer plot to destroy Earth itself.

runaround by isaac asimov: *Great Science Fiction* Isaac Asimov, Martin Harry Greenberg, Charles Gordon Waugh, 1985 A total of 23 stories not often found in anthologies, all by scientists, known and obscure.

runaround by isaac asimov: Isaac Asimov, the Foundations of Science Fiction James E. Gunn, 1982 Galaxy book.

runaround by isaac asimov: Theory of Mind and Literature Paula Leverage, 2011 Cover -- Title -- Copyright -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1: Theory of Mind Now and Then: Evolutionary and Historical Perspectives -- Theory of Mind and Theory of Minds in Literature Keith Oatley -- Social Minds in Little Dorrit Alan Palmer -- The Way We Imagine Mark Turner -- Theory of Mind and Fictions of Embodied Transparency Lisa Zunshine -- 2: Mind Reading and Literary Characterization -- Theory of the Murderous Mind: Understanding the Emotional Intensity of John Doyle's Interpretation of Sondheim's Sweeney Todd Diana Calderazzo -- Distraction as Liveliness of Mind: A Cognitive Approach to Characterization in Jane Austen Natalie Phillips -- Sancho Panza's Theory of Mind Howard Mancing -- Is Perceval Autistic?: Theory of Mind in the Conte del Graal Paula Leverage -- 3: Theory of Mind and Literary / Linguistic Structure -- Whose Mind's Eye? Free Indirect Discourse and the Covert Narrator in Marlene Streeruwitz's Nachwelt Jennifer Marston William -- Attractors, Trajectors, and Agents in Racine's Récit de Théramène Allen G. Wood -- The Importance of Deixis and Attributive Style for the Study of Theory of Mind: The Example of William Faulkner's Disturbed Characters Ineke Bockting -- 4: Alternate States of Mind -- Alternative Theory of Mind for Arti.cial Brains: A Logical Approach to Interpreting Alien Minds Orley K. Marron -- Reading Phantom Minds: Marie Darrieussecq's Naissance des fantômes and Ghosts' Body Language Mikko Keskinen -- Theory of Mind and Metamorphoses in Dreams: Jekyll & Hyde, and The Metamorphosis Richard Schweickert and Zhuangzhuang Xi -- Mother/Daughter Mind Reading and Ghostly Intervention in Toni Morrison's Beloved Klarina Priborkin -- 5: Theoretical, Philosophical, Political Approaches.

runaround by isaac asimov: *Artificial Intelligence as a Disruptive Technology* Rosario Girasa, 2020-01-11 Artificial intelligence (AI) is the latest technological evolution which is transforming the global economy and is a major part of the “Fourth Industrial Revolution.” This book covers the meaning, types, subfields and applications of AI, including U.S. governmental policies and regulations, ethical and privacy issues, particularly as they pertain and affect facial recognition programs and the Internet-of Things (IoT). There is a lengthy analysis of bias, AI’s effect on the current and future job market, and how AI precipitated fake news. In addition, the text covers basics of intellectual property rights and how AI will transform their protection. The author then moves on to explore international initiatives from the European Union, China’s New Generation Development Plan, other regional areas, and international conventions. The book concludes with a discussion of super intelligence and the question and applicability of consciousness in machines. The interdisciplinary scope of the text will appeal to any scholars, students and general readers interested in the effects of AI on our society, particularly in the fields of STS, economics, law and politics.

runaround by isaac asimov: *The American Robot* Dustin A. Abnet, 2020-03-27 Although they entered the world as pure science fiction, robots are now very much a fact of everyday life. Whether a space-age cyborg, a chess-playing automaton, or simply the smartphone in our pocket, robots have long been a symbol of the fraught and fearful relationship between ourselves and our creations. Though we tend to think of them as products of twentieth-century technology—the word “robot” itself dates to only 1921—as a concept, they have colored US society and culture for far longer, as Dustin A. Abnet shows to dazzling effect in The American Robot. In tracing the history of the idea of robots in US culture, Abnet draws on intellectual history, religion, literature, film, and television. He explores how robots and their many kin have not only conceptually connected but literally embodied some of the most critical questions in modern culture. He also investigates how the discourse around robots has reinforced social and economic inequalities, as well as fantasies of mass domination—chilling thoughts that the recent increase in job automation has done little to quell. The American Robot argues that the deep history of robots has abetted both the literal replacement of humans by machines and the figurative transformation of humans into machines, connecting advances in technology and capitalism to individual and societal change. Look beneath the fears that fracture our society, Abnet tells us, and you’re likely to find a robot lurking there.

runaround by isaac asimov: Transmedia Creatures Francesca Saggini, Anna Enrichetta Soccio, 2018-10-19 On the 200th anniversary of the first edition of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein, Transmedia Creatures presents studies of Frankenstein by international scholars from converging disciplines such as humanities, musicology, film studies, television studies, English and digital humanities. These innovative contributions investigate the afterlives of a novel taught in a disparate array of courses - Frankenstein disturbs and transcends boundaries, be they political, ethical, theological, aesthetic, and not least of media, ensuring its vibrant presence in contemporary popular culture. Transmedia Creatures highlights how cultural content is redistributed through multiple media, forms and modes of production (including user-generated ones from “below”) that often appear synchronously and dismantle and renew established readings of the text, while at the same time incorporating and revitalizing aspects that have always been central to it. The authors engage with concepts, value systems and aesthetic-moral categories—among them the family, horror, monstrosity, diversity, education, risk, technology, the body—from a variety of contemporary approaches and highly original perspectives, which yields new connections. Ultimately, Frankenstein, as evidenced by this collection, is paradoxically enriched by the heteroglossia of preconceptions, misreadings, and overreadings that attend it, and that reveal the complex interweaving of perceptions and responses it generates. Published by Bucknell University Press. Distributed worldwide by Rutgers University Press.

runaround by isaac asimov: All the Wonder that Would Be Stephen Webb, 2017-05-03 It has been argued that science fiction (SF) gives a kind of weather forecast – not the telling of a fortune but rather the rough feeling of what the future might be like. The intention in this book is to

consider some of these bygone forecasts made by SF and to use this as a prism through which to view current developments in science and technology. In each of the ten main chapters - dealing in turn with antigravity, space travel, aliens, time travel, the nature of reality, invisibility, robots, means of transportation, augmentation of the human body, and, last but not least, mad scientists - common assumptions once made by the SF community about how the future would turn out are compared with our modern understanding of various scientific phenomena and, in some cases, with the industrial scaling of computational and technological breakthroughs. A further intention is to explain how the predictions and expectations of SF were rooted in the scientific orthodoxy of their day, and use this to explore how our scientific understanding of various topics has developed over time, as well as to demonstrate how the ideas popularized in SF subsequently influenced working scientists. Since gaining a BSc in physics from the University of Bristol and a PhD in theoretical physics from the University of Manchester, Stephen Webb has worked in a variety of universities in the UK. He is a regular contributor to the Yearbook of Astronomy series and has published an undergraduate textbook on distance determination in astronomy and cosmology as well as several popular science books.

runaround by isaac asimov: The Digital Dystopias of Black Mirror and Electric Dreams Steven Keslowitz, 2020-01-10 This critical examination of two dystopian television series--Black Mirror and Electric Dreams--focuses on pop culture depictions of technology and its impact on human existence. Representations of a wide range of modern and futuristic technologies are explored, from early portrayals of artificial intelligence (Rossum's Universal Robots, 1921) to digital consciousness transference as envisioned in Black Mirror's San Junipero. These representations reflect societal anxieties about unfettered technological development and how a world infused with invasive artificial intelligence might redefine life and death, power and control. The impact of social media platforms is considered in the contexts of modern-day communication and political manipulation.

runaround by isaac asimov: Media Law Through Science Fiction Daxton R. Stewart, 2019-08-20 Attorney and legal scholar Daxton Stewart examines the intersection of media law and science fiction, exploring the past, present, and future of communication technology and policy debates. Science fiction offers a vast array of possibilities anticipating future communication technologies and their implications on human affairs. In this book, Stewart looks at potential legal challenges presented by plausible communication technologies that may arise 20 or 50 or 100 years from today. Performing what he calls speculative legal research, Stewart identifies the kinds of topics we should be talking about relating to speech, privacy, surveillance, and more, and considers the debates that would be likely to arise if such technologies become a reality. Featuring interviews with prominent science fiction authors and legal scholars, and a foreword by Malka Older, this book considers the speculative solutions of science fiction and their implications in law and policy scholarship. Chapters feature specific literary examples to examine how cultural awareness and policy creation are informed by fictional technology, future societies, and legal disputes. Looking forward, beyond traditional legal research and scholarship to the possible and even very likely future of communication technology, this fascinating work of speculative legal research will give students and scholars of media law, science fiction, and technology much to discuss and debate.