



Becoming Human

Valerie J. Freireich

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Set against a background of interplanetary war at the far reaches of the universe, here is a sweeping tale exploring what it means to be human. Can the clone of a traitor overcome his legacy, or will he be doomed to repeat it? "Freireich creates a compellingly original situation (and) finds just the right character to react against it".--Locus.

Becoming Human Details

Date : Published January 1st 1995 by Roc

ISBN : 9780451453969

Author : Valerie J. Freireich

Format : Mass Market Paperback 304 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy, Lgbt

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From Reader Review Becoming Human for online ebook

Lee Schuen says

Loved it. But the other books in the series suffer in comparison

Shellie (Layers of Thought) says

I had to add this one just because of the cover...

Rain says

As much as I liked Testament, I disliked this one. In chronology, it should come first, but is not important as it stands alone and doesn't affect the "universe". If I had read this first, I probably would never have read Testament. I will read the 3rd in the series, but if it starts as badly as this one I probably will not finish.

Eve says

Had to order this in paperback as I couldn't find an ebook on Amazon or anywhere else. I enjoyed reading this a lot. Wouldn't really call this the 2nd book of a series since it worked perfectly as a stand-alone.

It's a future where clones are being made for specific purposes - 'toolmen'. They're pretty much slaves to uncloned human beings, have to obey whoever they're assigned to, and they have built in biological clocks that kill them off around 40 or so. Alex is a toolman, made to be sort of a diplomatic aide and liaison, and he's just about to 'flare' and die. The book starts with Alex and his scheme to avert premature death, and moves on to another clone, August. August is a younger clone, genetically identical to Alex, and people keep crediting him with Alex's virtues and faults. This is a very well written future dystopia story. Not really a romance(view spoiler). There's real violence and death and some of the violence is horrific, (view spoiler) but this is also a hopeful book(view spoiler).

Gordon Gravley says

Freireich's "Convert", which I first read in the early '90's in Aldris Budrys' brilliant periodical "Tomorrow Speculative Fiction", is my all-time favorite short story. And this novel is just as good. She has a style that is not ostentatious, nor calls attention to itself, but rather is rich in depth and details that are not always visible - like an iceberg, you only see a portion of something much greater, yet you know it's there. She creates a rich, complex world, but explains nothing; rather, she drops you into it as though it were the very world you lived in. There is nothing two-dimensional about her characters, either. They are as complicated and layered as

anyone you may meet. I look forward to reading more by her, especially from this series.

Velvetink says

donated to The Smith Family charity

Gwen says

Sci fi with a complex plot and some interesting social premises. Will have to get more in the series.

Leigh says

Becoming Human by Valerie J. Freireich (1995)

Lindsey says

Loved this book. I don't usually read sci-fi, but this one held onto me.

George Hahn says

I enjoyed it. It's a book of interstellar politics on a grand scale, with complex and different characters with a strong plot. Recommended.
