



Red Dwarf Omnibus: Infinity Welcomes Careful Drivers & Better Than Life

Grant Naylor

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Here are the first two novels of the cult series *Red Dwarf* in one volume – *Red Dwarf* and *Better Than Life* – plus the first draft of the original TV pilot script. It all begins when Dave Lister is celebrating his twenty-fourth birthday on a Monopoly board pub crawl round London, and somehow ends up three million years from Earth, marooned in the wrong dimension of the wrong reality, and down to his last two cigarettes. Together with a dead man, a senile computer, a deranged sanitation mechanoid with an overactive guilt chip and the best-dressed entity in all six known universes, the last remaining member of the human race begins his epic journey home.

Red Dwarf Omnibus: Infinity Welcomes Careful Drivers & Better Than Life Details

Date : Published November 9th 1992 by Penguin Books (first published 1989)

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Author : Grant Naylor

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From Reader Review Red Dwarf Omnibus: Infinity Welcomes Careful Drivers & Better Than Life for online ebook

Oliver Bradfield says

Dear Rob Grant and Doug Naylor,

I have currently been reading your book Red Dwarf Omnibus: Infinity Welcomes Careful Drivers & Better Than Life. I feel that the book has many cons like the great characters you created but lacks some detail in certain areas for example when at the start of the book when Dave Lister is on Mimas the reader doesn't get much backstory about how he got there. If you provided this, I feel the reader would get a better understanding of what Dave Lister was like back on earth. The book has many cons; the fabulous comedy that isn't forced comes naturally, the choice of characters and the imaginative choice of plots.

Other than that, I congratulate you on creating the fantastic story that has made an excellent BBC TV show we all know and love. I personally love the TV show but I like the book even more. Also, congratulations on the recent success of the newest season of Red Dwarf. I will definitely be recommending this book to my friends

Best regards Oliver Bradfield

Lyndsey Dunn says

Read this more times than I've ever read any other book, could pick it up any day and read it. Hilarious.

Lucy says

When I fell in love with Red Dwarf a few years ago my sister asked if I had read the book. "There's a book?!" I gasped. There is a book, and if you like the show then it will not disappoint.

The characters are just as strong as in the show and it provides so much more detail than was possible on the small budget of the small screen. It even provides extra back stories and further twists.

This book sits perfectly along side the series, neither has the ability to ruin the other.

Tara says

a really good read n a giggle :) if you like the show i highly recommend giving it a read

Michiel says

Aanrader voor elke SF en vooral Red Dwarf liefhebber. De beste novell uit de reeks!

Michael Sigler says

Smegging brilliant!

Felix Foote says

(Warning, minor spoilers for the beginning of Better Than Life)

I am a big fan of the Red Dwarf television series. When I found out that the creators had written novels for it, I was super excited to read them. I got this omnibus hoping to see the show's goofy, witty jokes that I love so much.

The first chapter, a hologram's thoughts on his past life and present circumstances, is cleverly written, yet extremely depressing. The second is surprisingly graphic. This didn't detract from my liking the book, yet it was my first example of what the book had in store for me.

You know what the book made me realize? Just how sad the story really is.

Not only does it have more tragic retellings of what happened in the show, and more tragic explanations for things, but it really shows just how pitiable the whole idea is.

The last human being, a slob, is miles and years away from home, with everything he knew and loved dead and gone, and all he has for company is a person he really hates and who really hates him, a cat-being who only thinks of himself and doesn't really care about the last human, and later on, a robot who, while kind, screws up a lot. Not only that, the person he hates has a very sad backstory, with parents who never supported him and who taught him the absolute wrong way to look at life, and with brothers he could never outshine. In fact, that person's psyche is so messed up that when confronted with a video game that gives you what your subconscious mind ultimately desires, it ends up making his virtual life hell for him because he honestly believes, deep down, that he deserves punishment. It also messes up the virtual lives of his friends, who are playing the game with him, because it is so destructive.

I knew this story was sad, but damn, it is SAD. The sitcom manages to cover it up with a laugh track and wacky jokes, and most of those are still here, (sadly, my favorite jokes 'I still have that library book' and 'Poppycock! It will be happened; it shall be going to be happening; it will be was an event that could will have been taken place in the future. Simple as that.' are not present) but these novels explore the emotional depth of the stories and characters that you didn't realize were there.

All in all, I liked these books. They made me laugh, think, and feel. They had a Douglas Adams-y feel to them too, so you know they gotta be good. This is definitely worth a read even if you haven't watched the show.

Bobby Kostadinov says

I've never laughed reading a book in such a way before! Absolutely amazing piece of work

Alesia says

Let's just start off with saying, I LOVE THIS SHOW! Now, when it comes to book adaptations....well, there is no guarantee that it'll be the same.

In this case, the books improve upon the show by expanding on the characters and situations that the BBC would never ever in a gazillion years be able to do.

Still very funny, but now with some real poignancy to the story.

Sam says

As a committed Douglas Adams fan I wasn't sure I was going to enjoy this book, despite enjoying the tv series (but then I'm not a fan of any adaptation of Hitchiker's Guide...) but I was actually rather surprised by how entertaining this was. It doesn't have the same subtlety as Hitchiker but the jokes are funny and do have you laughing out loud on occasion, although this may have been helped by the great portrayals of each of the characters in the tv series as I tended to picture them when reading this. This book does add a lot more background than you get in the series, which is enlightening and enjoyable and shows how Lister managed to get himself on Red Dwarf in the first place. Although this is a good story I did find it got a little repetitive at times with similar jokes and events used with just minor changes so by the end I was beginning to get a little disenchanted by it all. But overall Naylor's writing is funny and entertaining and the characters are interesting and have a realistic quality to them that helps bring a sense of the real world to the story, as does much of the features of Red Dwarf with its gritty appearance and vending machines that don't always work properly.

Wolfgang says

Someone said that if I liked the Hitchhikers Guide, I would also like this.

There are in fact some similarities: The last living human, a very ordinary character, is hurtling through space.

The rest is different. Not in a bad way, necessarily, but definitely another kind of read entirely. The non-human protagonists are the ship's computer, a mechanoid cleaning robot, the holographic computer simulation of a dead man and a humanoid being evolved from cats.

That said, I enjoyed the book very much and am looking forward to reading the rest of the series. Here is a quote I find typical for Naylor's writing style:

"My grandmother tried to explain. She said he'd gone away, and he wasn't coming back. So I wanted to know where, and she told me he was very happy, and he'd gone to the same place as my goldfish ' Lister

toyed absently with his plaited locks 'I thought they'd flushed him down the bog. I used to stand with my head down the loo, and talk to him. I thought he was just round the U-bend. In the end, they had to take me to a child psychologist, because they found me with my head down the pan, reading him the football scores.'" And:

"Watching Lister thinking always reminded Rimmer of a huge, old, rusty tractor trying to plough furrows in a concrete field."

Alan Fricker says

Holiday fun. Mostly made me want to return to the telly series

Smeg says

I must firstly admit that I am a HUGE fan of the television series RED DWARF. I think it is extremely clever, terribly unique, & roll around on the ground, excruciatingly hilarious, the characters are so well played it's ridiculous..... So I'm thinking reading the book without Craig Charles & Chris Barbie already playing Lister & Rimmer in my head, may have dulled the book a little for me. There is no way I would have picked up on as much comedy reading the book without already knowing the characters.

In saying that, it is still hilarious, especially if your imagination is better than mine.

The genius of the story is the fact that the mining ship Red Dwarf has been floating around space for billions of years with one living sole survivor from earth who has recently awoken from stasis, a cat mutation, a hologram, a service droid, & a computer head with a deminished IQ. Their aim is to get back to earth to see if it really has been destroyed or if Lister can finally buy a farm & settle down in Figi. In all that distance & all the planet's they encounter, they never once run into any conceivable sign of aliens. BRILLIANT!

Ee Cheng Ooi says

No, I haven't seen the TV series. I suspect I'm not quite the right generation to claim authentic nostalgia. But this didn't stop me from thoroughly enjoying the book.

My only disappointment was in googling pictures of the cast after finishing the novel. Everyone was much more attractive in my head. (Except the Cat. My brain had a really difficult time imagining what a cat would look like after a few billion years of evolution towards a human-feline hybrid. Now I know...)

Still struggling a little bit with the marinated giraffes, but I prefer not to think about it.

Andrew Bailey says

I read these two and the third "Backwards" together. So three books which are actually one story. And I don't mean connected. They really do read as one. Pay attention because numbers has a lot to do with these 'devices'. And I call them that because..... well, find out for yourselves.

By far the funniest and most mind bending* novels I have given time to. And in February 2019, 20 years after I did, I will do so again. And then re-write this thread - forwards.

* footnote - I advise all people never to use mind altering narcotics. Especially when already involved with Naylor's reality skewed essays.
