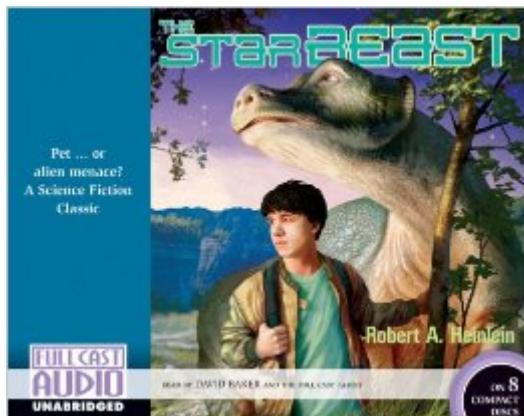


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# The Star Beast [Library]



## Synopsis

Compelling coming-of-age SF adventure from legendary SF master and multiple New York Times best-seller Robert A. Heinlein. A young boy and his friend run away from home to protect a cute (if rather large) alien pet that turns out to be much more than just a pet indeed. Afterword by Wen Spencer. Lummox has been the pet of the Stuart family for generations. With eight legs, a thick hide and huge (and growing) size, Lummox is nobody's idea of man's best friend. Nevertheless, John Stuart XI, descendant of the starman who originally brought Lummox back to Earth, loves him. But when Lummox eats a neighbor's car and begins to grow again, the Feds decide enough is enough. John isn't about to let the authorities take his pet away, and with his best friend friend Betty, determines to save Lummox even if it takes leaving the life he's known forever. An all time science fiction coming-of-age classic from seven-time Hugo winner and Dean of Science Fiction, Robert A. Heinlein. About Robert A. Heinlein: "Not only America's premier writer of speculative fiction, but the great writer of such fiction in the world." Stephen King. "One of the grand masters of science fiction." Wall Street Journal Comprehensive Teacher's Guide available. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (97 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,770,063 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( H ) > Heinlein, Robert A. #1361 in Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > Fantasy #1928 in Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > General

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Heinlein wrote a series of twelve books for Scribner's that are collectively called Heinlein's Juveniles. Some Heinlein historians include "Podkayne of Mars" as one of the juveniles, but

Heinlein himself did not. This 1956 novel was Heinlein's eighth juvenile. John Thomas Stuart XI has a pet named Lummox. When Lummox was little it was the size of a puppy. However, Lummox was older, generations older by human standards, and was now the size of a small bus. Things would have been fine if Lummox had remained in the backyard. Unfortunately, Lummox has a clever way of thinking about things and sometimes Lummox's logic discovers interesting interpretations of property and what John Thomas Stuart XI has told Lummox to do. The trouble begins with nearby rose bushes. Lummox enjoys rose bushes, but Lummox also has a basic understanding of property and Lummox knows that John Stuart has forbidden Lummox to eat rose bushes owned by someone. However, these particular rose bushes appear to have no owner. Things go from bad to worse when Lummox becomes frightened and ends up running from multiple individuals and then the police. Fortunately, Lummox is nearly invincible; bullets bounce off Lummox because of a nearly impervious hide. Unfortunately, a number of people feel that Lummox is a menace to society and want Lummox destroyed. John Thomas Stuart XI has serious issues to resolve. Under Secretary Kiko also has serious issues to resolve. Because his department has responsibility for extraterrestrials, he sends Sergei Greenberg off to determine whether the Department of Spatial Affairs should become involved.

John Thomas Stuart was a young man with a lot of on his mind. He would be going off to college in the fall, his best friend Betty would be at a different school, his mother was still insisting that she knew what was best for him - about everything, and he would be forced to leave behind the pet he had had his entire life. 'Lummox', in fact had also been his father's before that, and his father's before.... Lummox was an ET that great grandfather had brought home from one of the first deep space explorations a century before. At that time Lummox had been about the size of a puppy but had grown considerably over the years and now was about the size of a car, which added to John Thomas' problems keeping him out of trouble. Lummox went out for a walk one afternoon and caused enough destruction that he came to the attention of the Department of Spatial Affairs. As John Thomas and Betty attempt to sort out this mess the situation continued to escalate to truly astonishing situations. Everyone involved had a different point of view about the relationship between John Thomas and Lummox and corresponding opinion on what should be done. This 1954 entry is one of the 'juvenile' novels that RAH was writing at the time. As always with his work it is an exciting and funny novel that could be thoroughly enjoyed on that level alone. Also as always with RAH's work some rather sophisticated ideas are hidden inside that will stay with the reader long after the book has been put down. This also marks a change in RAH's portrayal of women. In his

earlier works women are usually rarely mentioned and when they are it is in a sexist and/or unsympathetic manner. In his later years women are often the main characters of his works and shown as the equals of men in every way.

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