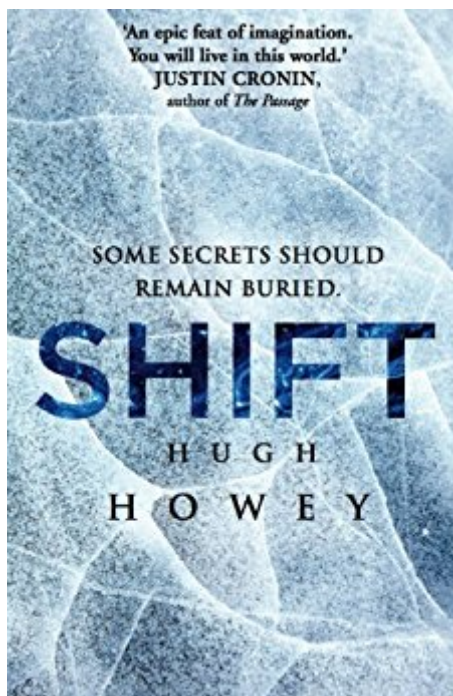


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Shift Omnibus Edition (Shift 1-3) (Silo Series Book 2)



Synopsis

This is the sequel to the New York Times bestselling WOOL series. It combines the three Shift books (First Shift, Second Shift, and Third Shift) into a single e-book in order to save the reader a few bucks. The saga concludes with DUST, which will be available in late 2013. Reading Order: 1. WOOL 2. SHIFT 3. DUST _____

In 2007, the Center for Automation in Nanobiotech (CAN) outlined the hardware and software platform that would one day allow robots smaller than human cells to make medical diagnoses, conduct repairs, and even self-propagate. In the same year, the CBS network re-aired a program about the effects of propranolol on sufferers of extreme trauma. A simple pill, it had been discovered, could wipe out the memory of any traumatic event. At almost the same moment in humanity's broad history, mankind had discovered the means for bringing about its utter downfall. And the ability to forget it ever happened.

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Customer Reviews

After reading "Wool" as part of my Kindle free lending library, I became hooked on the Silo trilogy and so bought the next two books in the series. In "Shift," we learn much more detail as to how the silos came to be. The author used nice imagery in describing the "fifty circles spaced out like the stars on an old flag he had once served" and local color when addressing "Savannah's no-see-ums on summer days." The author made a good point when he quite rightly pointed, "Here was a city charged with governing all the others, and it couldn't even take care of itself." I feel that the author stumbled when he stated that the national political convention was being held in October. Why the nuclear attack occurred was never adequately explained. I also question how the various technical jobs in the silos were correctly filled at the beginning from a seemingly random group of people. Also, the need to demolish "sick" silos was also never explained to my satisfaction. The "blue skies and green grass" near the end was surprise and attention getter. I look forward to reading "Dust."

Shift takes a dive from where Wool concludes; both expanding on the narrative that began to unfold in Wool and going deeper towards maturing observations and realizations. The ambiance is somber, soaking in the inevitable discoveries opening before the protagonists and the reader. Characters and readers have to take account of paths the story unveils and face the responses generated along those paths. The pace slows down somewhat, which I found to be a good thing, as it is congruent with the layers of back story and junctions crossed. The mood is more pensive, yet the suspense isn't lost, it just gains weight. The double perspective allowed in the structure (silo 1 and silo 17, 18) as it is juxtaposed with the events of Wool, lends richness and interest. The story emerges with more realism, and it manages to be more involving. All in all, good go! Now looking forward to getting into Dust.

What can I say? I've spent a pretty penny purchasing most of the Dystopian/PA books on the market, from both self-published authors to traditional authors. I stumbled across Wool one day (The Omnibus edition) and picked it up. It was a few weeks before I cleared my reading schedule and was able to get to it. By the time I was finished reading it I had found Hugh Howey's website, purchased the other two books (Shift and Dust) and set off on an odyssey. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. From the plot to the character development to the story telling, all of it. Wool is a rare book in that it draws you in, makes you feel for the characters and allows you to become immersed in the totality of the Wool Universe. There are a few writers that I will read anything they write. Stephen King, Piers Anthony, Anne McCafferty, David Weber, John Ringo and now Hugh Howey.

This review is cross-posted from Papyrus Independent Author Reviews

First we uncovered the secret behind the Silo - the secret that explains the present. But what will we find if we dig further? What will be revealed when we go back to the start of it all?"Shift" is the second book in the Silo trilogy and the prequel to "Wool", a best-selling novel that I reviewed very favourably in 2012. Where "Wool" landed us in a post-apocalyptic present and slowly revealed a devastating reality, "Shift" takes us back to the pre-apocalyptic past and replays the start of an horrific dynasty. The novel is divided into three parts - or "shifts", spanning hundreds of years. Our key shift worker is Troy and we follow him as he acclimatises to life in the Silo and his gradual understanding of who he is and how he is. The apocalypse has passed. Interspersed with our introduction to Troy is the revelation of how the apocalypse came to be. Having read "Wool", this was a back-story I was very interested in. Threats, paranoia and politics feature as expected, but also some new technology is introduced. It's this piece of technology that starts to give shape to the entire trilogy, and it's at this point I realised the author needed to step backwards in order to move forwards. But our review of pre-apocalyptic history doesn't reveal all of the secrets to be found in this novel. There are "plans within plans" that gradually surface over the course of the three shifts. Some cast a new light on events and phenomena encountered in the previous book, while others help to set up the premise for the final book of the trilogy. Not satisfied in merely fleshing out a background to the idea of the Silo, the author also relates the stories that lead up to and even run parallel to the story of "Wool". To me, this was the most satisfying element of the novel. It gave the original story more life and more excitement when played out from a fresh perspective. While reading the third shift, I was experiencing that familiar excitement and awe that gripped me during the first novel. I wasn't completely impressed with the choices the author made in constructing this post-apocalyptic world. The technology introduced was interesting, but how it was used didn't always gel with me. Additionally, the setting of the stage for the final book was almost too obvious. I'm sure there will be some exciting revelations to come, but I can already see the path quite clearly which perhaps robs the next novel of a few early reveals. Reservations aside, the risk the author took to relate interlocking stories with the first novel showed some courage. It was quite possible for the attempt to have actually lessened the value of the story told in "Wool". However, in my mind, the effort enhances rather than detracts, weaving gracefully and seamlessly between the lines of the first story. Troy is definitely the main character and luckily, a very worthwhile one. I really enjoyed the experience of seeing the Silo through his eyes and walking the corridors in his shoes. I'm always impressed when an author chooses to give the protagonist a few shades of grey, and Troy

presented an interesting study. Vulnerability blends with determination; pragmatism with idealism. And not all acts and choices seem humane. The supporting cast are not really fleshed out in their own right as we see them primarily through the eyes of Troy. However, one of the aspects of the novel that I enjoyed is the idea that the "baddies" are not actually evil. I felt the previous novel hinted at this and "Shift" takes this a step further. The actors all demonstrate both selfishness and a brand of altruism along with a willingness to do what is required for what they believe to be right. Perhaps this is one of the reasons I've been so impressed with the world that the author has created. I find that instead of pointing my finger in blame, I end up wondering how I would cope with that kind of knowledge, that responsibility. At the end of the novel, I don't necessarily feel that Troy's decisions are righteous, just that they will change the path originally set. The writing is fluid and capable, which in my second experience with this author was fully expected; I would have been disappointed if it proved otherwise. While I wouldn't call the effort poetry in prose, it achieves exactly what it needs to achieve without flourish, but also without fault. Even acknowledging the few qualms I have with plot choices, I am sold, sold, sold on the world Hugh Howey has created. It is terrifying, riddled with moral ambiguity and mirrors current reality more than its exaggerated vision initially suggests. I'll be there for the third novel and I already have the rest of his catalogue in my sights.

I reserve five stars for books that I consider works of genius; four stars for books that are incredibly good, & Shift is that in my never-to-be humble opinion. Hugh Howey's writing is both descriptive & lyrical; I enjoyed every word of it. I bought this book with reluctance after reading some of the previous reviews; still I felt as though I HAD to read it before moving on to Dust, which I wanted to do after having enjoyed Wool tremendously. I believed I would find Shift tedious & overlong as others claimed they had, & such was NOT the case in the least! I especially enjoyed reading how Solo adjusted to those many lonely years; his discoveries, thought processes, the way he educated himself & his love of the little cat, Shadow. Also, I think many of us have looked at the way things are in the so called civilized world today & thought it might be a good thing to take it back to square one & try again; a cultural Noah's Ark. And of course, it's quite possible it could happen spontaneously!

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