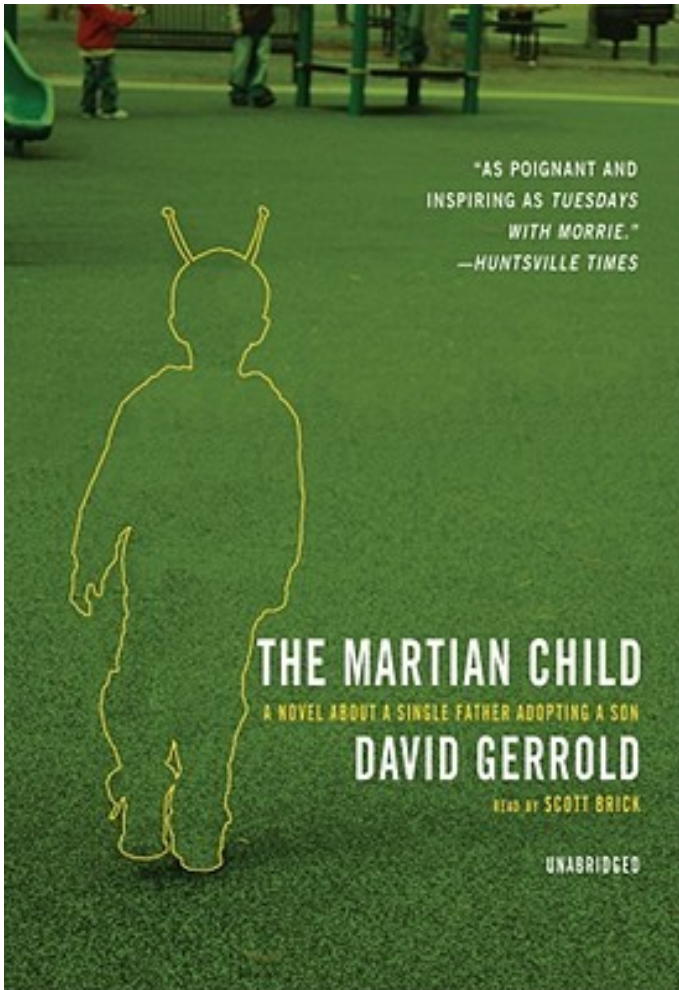


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**David Gerrold**

**The Martian Child: A Novel about a Single Father Adopting a Son**



Title: The Martian Child: A Novel about a Single Father Adopting a Son

Author: David Gerrold

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## Description

In 1995, David Gerrold finalized an adoption process that would end up changing his life forever. As he would discover, however, there were many times ahead when the joy of single fatherhood would be tempered by a single profound thought: What the hell was I thinking? "The Martian Child is a novelized portrait of Gerrold's sometimes exhilarating and sometimes exasperating experiences with his new son. Dennis was an emotionally troubled child suffering from a variety of personality disorders stemming from his turbulent childhood. Born of addicted parents Dennis was shuffled from one foster home to the next with dizzying frequency. Impermanence became his lot. Not surprisingly, he turned inward and began to inhabit a private fantasy world in which he believed he was a Martian. Then David Gerrold -- a single gay man with a dream of becoming a father -- entered his life. Nothing for them would ever be the same.

## Insightful reviews

Luke: It certainly seemed like it would be good, but I was tired of it halfway through and the end, while touching, just wasn't narratively powerful at all. The author seems addicted to bad jokes (and, if it wasn't just me, likes to repeat the same ones).

The storytelling tricks in the second half, like the narrator talking to his old self, or the narrator talking to the supercomputer character in a book he'd written are ham-fisted at best.

But the heart of the story is immensely sweet, and the first half, which describes the adoption process and the son's at least initial acceptance of his gay adoptive father, is quite touching.

Bobby: David Gerrold calls his book a novel. I would like to suggest that he wrote a memoir instead. He definitely touched me. I know this kid, his martian child. I know this kid well. I spent 16 years of my life, more actually when adding volunteer work and additional contacts, with this kid. My martian came in all shapes and sizes and displayed multiple behaviors, but I cared for this kid so tenderly. While I can provide individual names and tell kids stories, I must admit I loved collectively, and truly admire David Gerrold, who adopted his martian, loving day and night, uniquely and individually. It is David Gerrold, not I, who made a real difference. Certainly, I hope that for many, I was part of a process. However, I loved hearing David's voice. The daddy who followed through with all that was taught to allow him to continue the process, yet never lost himself, although he gave himself wholly as any parent filled with love and attachment. I admire and thank David Gerrold for writing his book, for sharing and revealing his heart.

Lis Carey: This is a fictionalized account of David Gerrold's adoption of his son, at the time an eight-year-old boy who had been "in the system" since birth, and had averaged one placement a year over that time.

Having decided to adopt a child, and having cleared the first challenging hurdle of being approved as a potential adopter, Gerrold attends an event that sounds rather like a setting he's more familiar with--a science fiction convention, but with a really, really different focus, both in

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programming and in the "dealers' room." It's not a dealers' room, of course, or an exhibit hall, as those from different hobby or professional backgrounds might label it, but an opportunity to meet with representatives of various agencies, and find out something about the children they are trying to place.

At one of these tables he sees a picture of Dennis, and makes the fateful decision that this boy--ADHD, possible fetal alcohol syndrome, considered "difficult to place"--is the boy he wants to adopt.

One of the first things that Dennis's case worker tells him is that Dennis thinks he's a Martian.

The process of adoption is slow and deliberate, starting with regular visits to Dennis's current group home, leading to day visits at Gerrold's house and outing together.

The next step is supposed to be an overnight visit, but just days before what should be their first overnight, Dennis's case worker calls David and tells him, essentially, that he has to decide Right Now, because the group home the boy is currently in is closing, and a new placement has to be found for him. And there are no new placements for this very difficult child; his next stop is an institution.

Gerrold has been delaying a formal decision, but he's committed, and after a few moments of hesitation he says so. The exciting, challenging, stressful, alarming, rewarding process of convincing a scared little boy so alienated he thinks he's from another planet that he has a home, a family, a place to belong has begun.

I found this a charming, touching story. Recommended.

I borrowed this book from the library.

Kristin: i have never learn a booklet so fast in an extended time. This was once a fantastically written novel concerning the author's actual existence adventure of adopting an eight-year-old boy. Mostly, it was once a narrative of 2 those who wanted love and relatives and their trip together. extra touchy-feely than so much issues I read, yet I enjoyed it.

Tracey: Written within the first person, Gerrold writes in regards to the bureaucratic struggles all for adopting a child, specifically, Dennis. He observed the boy in a social people picture e-book of foster young children and simply needed to meet him. Dennis used to be eight years old, an abused baby who had already been bounced via numerous foster homes. a distinct wishes baby who claimed to be a Martian, he appeared unadoptable; yet Gerrold, with his dog, Somewhere, took up that challenge, and tells us the tale in their first years together. i need to ask yourself how a lot of this tale is true; the emotion, if no longer all of the facts, turns out directly from the heart. i've got mammoth admire if you happen to take youngsters like this into their lives and their hearts; realizing that they are too overdue to save lots of those damaged souls. Gerrold writes with sensitivity and with humour; featuring either the great occasions and bad. The "Martian" reference bargains with a turning out to be suspicion that perhaps there is a fabulous cause that Dennis is as strange as he is; simply because he is not human. My one

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quibble with this novel used to be this theme; he both had to take it a bit extra or tone it again a little. i might prefer to learn the novelette; because it received either the Hugo and the Nebula, maybe this element used to be performed up a bit more. prompt to somebody elevating a child, specifically an followed child.

A.: i actually desired to supply this publication greater than 4 stars yet a conversation was once lower brief in a few elements and a few appear to derail from the idea of the story. Other than that, i discovered the publication tugging away at my heartstrings in this sort of strong way. as a rule i locate tales approximately people's teenagers very frustrating simply because and they all care for a similar factor (that, and possibly simply because i do not need a baby within the close to destiny to be too attracted to the topic matter), yet this ebook used to be different. This was once a few guy who did issues simply because he had to do with no understanding for deep own purposes that he could not clarify at first. He did not provide a sob tale approximately his son's past, he gave a narrative approximately how he desired to make the longer term for his son with no taking a look back. The e-book is considerably diverse from the motion picture yet either have been very good. i feel they praise one another very well.

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