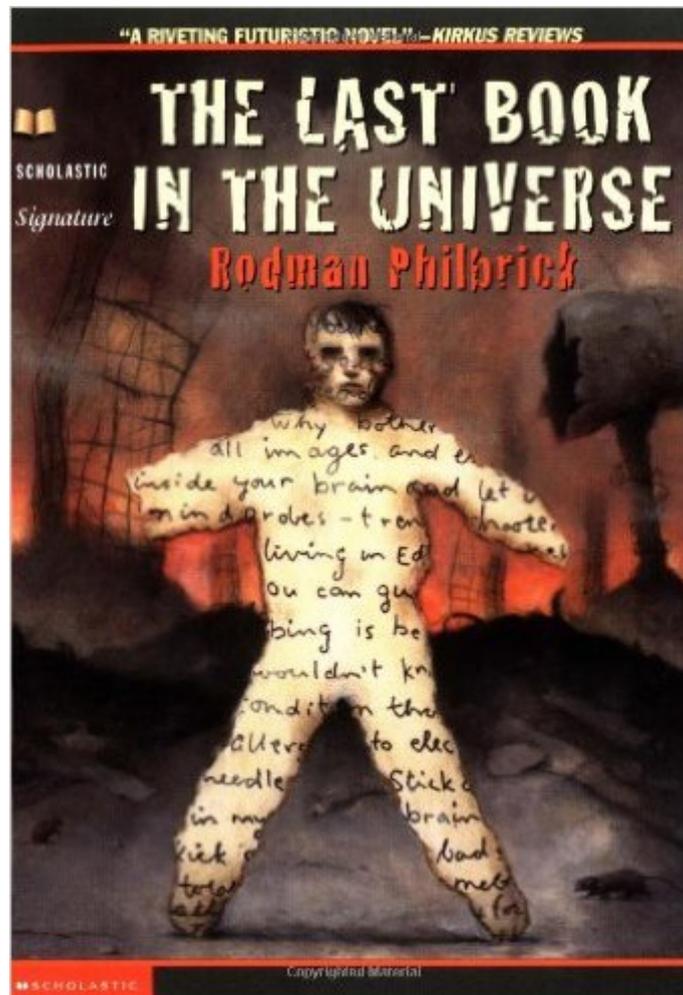


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The Last Book In The Universe



Synopsis

This fast-paced action novel is set in a future where the world has been almost destroyed. Like the award-winning novel *Freak the Mighty*, this is Philbrick at his very best. It's the story of an epileptic teenager nicknamed Spaz, who begins the heroic fight to bring human intelligence back to the planet. In a world where most people are plugged into brain-drain entertainment systems, Spaz is the rare human being who can see life as it really is. When he meets an old man called Ryter, he begins to learn about Earth and its past. With Ryter as his companion, Spaz sets off an unlikely quest to save his dying sister -- and in the process, perhaps the world.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740 (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Blue Sky Press (March 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439087597

ISBN-13: 978-0439087599

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (190 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #53,733 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Epilepsy](#) #591 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction](#) #2182 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

My youngest child (almost 11 as of this writing) often enjoys having books read aloud, in the evening or while we're on vacation far from the television. It can be a challenge to find something we'll both enjoy. My only stipulation is that I get to pick the book (and that they won't come from his favorite horror series books) His stipulation is that we'll stop reading if the first chapter is boring. This book was one we both enjoyed. We read a chapter or two a night, sometimes more when it was really exciting. We always looked forward to reading some more. The main character is an outcast within an outcast society, Spaz (an epileptic loner.) He meets some other misfits -- an elderly writer

in a world without books, a homeless five year old who can only say one word and an advanced (improved) human who goes against the rules of her own perfect Eden. The story, told in first person from the view of Spaz, was engrossing, filling our minds with sometimes horrifying visions of a new futuristic world, where a huge earthquake years ago upset civilization as we now know it. The gray skied, cement grounded cities (Urbs) are run by latchlords, gang lords who make and enforce their own ever changing rules. They can and do eliminate anyone for any reason - or no reason at all. Escape from reality is sought by nearly everyone, including the latchlords. Most people have become addicts to needles inserted into the brain, giving the viewer a realistic mind show with images of a perfect world. Mindprobes have replaced drugs, TV and video games, but they are beginning to disrupt the 'leadership' of the latchlords, bringing anarchy and total destruction to the Urbs.

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