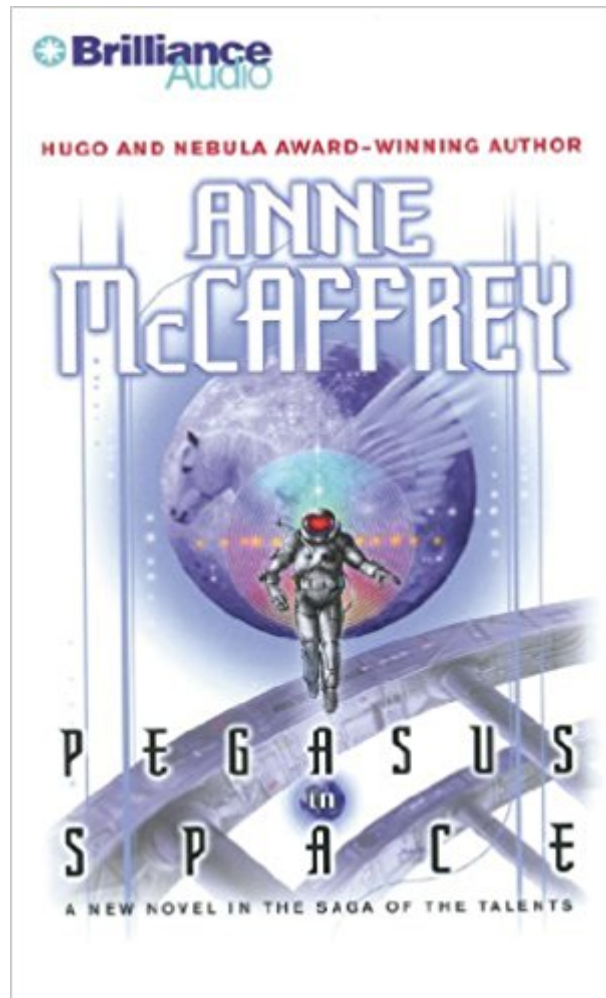


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Pegasus In Space (Talents Series)



Synopsis

For an overpopulated Earth, whose resources are strained to the breaking point, there is only one place to look for relief: straight up. With the successful completion of the Padrugoi Space Station, humanity has at last achieved its first large-scale permanent presence in space. Additional bases are feverishly being built on the Moon and on Mars, stepping-stones to the greatest adventure in all history: the colonization of alien worlds. Already long-range telescopes have identified a number of habitable planets orbiting the stars and distant galaxies. Now it's just a question of getting there. But there are those who, for selfish motives of their own, want Padrugoi and the other outposts to fail. People who will stop at nothing to maintain their power or to avenge its loss. Standing in their way are the Talented, men and women gifted with extraordinary mental powers that have made them as feared as they are respected - and utterly indispensable to the colonization effort. There is Peter Reidinger, a teenage paraplegic who is the strongest telekinetic ever, his mind capable of teleporting objects and people thousands of miles in the blink of an eye. Yet all his power cannot repair his damaged spine or allow him to feel the gentle touch of a loved one . . . Rhyssa Owne, the powerful telepath and mother hen to Peter, and the rest of her "children" - and a fierce, unrelenting fighter against the prejudice that would deny the Talented the right to lead happy and productive lives . . . and Amariyah, an orphan girl who loves two things in the world above all others: gardening and Peter Reidinger. And woe to anyone who harms either one of them - for the young girl's talent may prove to be the most amazing of all. Now, as sabotage and attempted murder strike the Station, it's up to the Talented to save the day. Only, who's going to save the Talented?

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Customer Reviews

First off, let me say that this is not a bad book, even at hard-bound prices. The problem is that it would have been a better book if it had been twice as long. Let me explain. The plot is a series of snapshots of exciting or emotional episodes with very thin connecting material. The "connecting material" in SciFi or any speculative fiction usually describes how the people live and relate to each other when they are not under stress. It's often a better and more rewarding read than the action sequences. The connecting material wasn't used effectively in "Pegasus in Space" and that's a shame because Ms. McCaffrey is one of the best at creating a society and having her characters really live in it. On the other hand, Ms. McCaffrey seems to be concluding her extended plot lines in all her series and "Pegasus in Space" is worth reading just for that. The characters we met in "Pegasus in Flight" return and grow up. The real character problem here is the villains. I just can't buy good ole FlimFlam managing to have the freedom of the space station and arranging the big accident. He's not that smart - all the characters agree. And while our "darling" Ludmilla, Queen of the Space Station would be smart enough to pull off a small coup - no one's stupid enough to believe they could pull off a large coup in a telepathic environment. Space stations don't get "taken over" I don't care how many "top" people are attending the opening and available as hostages. "Top" people don't arrive without their own body guards. And if the body guards can't come, the celebrity doesn't arrive, either. Further, conspiracies that large fall apart under their own weight.

Altogether this one great piece of prose and should definitely be crowed as the best possible bridge between the Pegasus and Rowan/Tower and the Hive series. I thoroughly enjoyed it and consider it to be one of the top ten Anne McCaffrey novels ever written. For this installment of the Talent series, McCaffrey thrilled us with a much longer look into the heart of the parapsychics of the late 21st Century then we got in the first two books. Peter Reidinger's character develops in the ever-expanding psychic realm. From the first scenes in Bangladesh to the heart-stopping last `port, Pegasus in Space keeps you on the edge of your seat. Rhyssa Owen-Lehardt, General Johnny Greene, Boris and Sascha Roznine, Tirla, Madlyn, Dorotea and the rest of the gang make excellent returning roles. Amariyah very much fills a gap that was left open at the end of Pegasus in Flight. Perhaps nothing was more shocking and awe-inspiring then the lasting effect she has on Peter. Great writing all around. Now for the positive technical stuff. I loved the opening "rescue" scene in

Bangladesh and the edge-of-your-seat Padrugoi Mutiny. Beautifully written. Also, wonderful "scheming" on the part of Reidinger throughout. Nothing is funnier than watching General Greene jump from his chair in astonishment at something he himself did. Almost as if he sat on a whoopee-cushion. At 16/17 chapters it has a great length and every chapter blurs into the next, I couldn't put it down. I especially liked the scenes where Cass Cutler and Ranjit are scrounging the underbelly of Padrugoi and the Flimflam "chase scenes." (reminds you of any scenes in Pegasus in Flight? Hmm...). Wonderful use of character mapping. Very "tidy." You can almost see the situations as though you were there.

In the not so distant future, Earth has become so overcrowded that its people are forced to search outer space for planets to inhabit just so they can survive. A space station is erected so ships can be built and launched to other galaxies. Passengers will be in suspended animation until the crew finds a world they can colonize. The Talents, people with scientifically proven psychic powers play a pivotal role in the new world order. They teleport heavy items from earth to the space station, saving a fortune in fuel and transportation costs. The most powerful teleporter is Peter Reidinger, a paralyzed individual who remains mobile because of his psychic powers. The people running the space station eagerly accept Peter as a full team member even though some fear his power. On a space shuttle journey to the moon, someone sabotages the ship computers, forcing Peter to use his powers in ways he never knew he could in order to keep everyone alive. A full-scale investigation occurs to uncover the traitors who would rather destroy Peter for reasons of revenge rather than allow the people of earth to have a future in space. Although PEGASUS IN SPACE can stand alone as a superb work of science fiction, the novel is part of a trilogy (see PEGASUS IN FLIGHT and TO RIDE PEGASUS). This book links this saga with the Rowen collection as it shows the beginnings of a space-based society. Although the story line is classic space opera filled with action, there is great characterization in this work as well. The great Anne McCaffrey makes the people populating her novel feel complete, real and very much alive. The hero is not a marvelous rendition of Professor Xavior though some similar traits exist.

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