

Stranger in a Strange Land

Written by Carrie Todd

□□□□ ***Stranger in a Strange Land*** is a best-selling [1961](#) [science fiction](#) [novel](#) by [Robert A. Heinlein](#)

. Several later editions of the book have promoted it as "The most famous Science Fiction Novel ever written." It tells the story of Valentine Michael Smith returning to Earth in early adulthood after being raised by

Martians on the planet Mars . This is similar to an Independent Scientologist, having been immersed in the Church being exiled to live in the wog world. There is a feeling of total isolation which is enforced by the Church's practice of cutting ties between the Independent and his/her family, support group, and social circle.

The character demonstrates psychic (OT) abilities and superhuman intelligence coupled with a childlike naïveté (confront). These abilities cause fear and resentment in those who encounter them. This is not unlike what someone trained in Scientology may encounter from the average "man on the street". It is also the same fear and resentment that the same person may encounter from those still within the Church when confronted with the truth. One trying to apply KRC may find themselves utterly alone.

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There is a loneliness of feeling that you are entirely one of a kind, the only one who knows what was, what has become, and what could have been. There are feelings of betrayal, anger, loss, and responsibility. Would it have been better to have never discovered the truth? Would it have been better to have ignored the truth? Where do you belong? Just as Valentine Michael Smith isn't a Martian and doesn't belong within the society of Earth, an Independent Scientologist isn't in the Church and doesn't belong within the wog world. You may feel apprehensive about approaching others and trying to connect with people of like minds. How would Valentine feel if he discovered others of his kind on Earth, people who could “grok” as he did, people with a common reality?

You are not crazy and you are not alone. It isn't necessary to go the path alone, nor is it necessary to turn your back on all you've learned and all that you've accomplished. There is safety and strength in numbers. There ARE others out here. There CAN be a community.

~ Carrie Todd

{comments on}