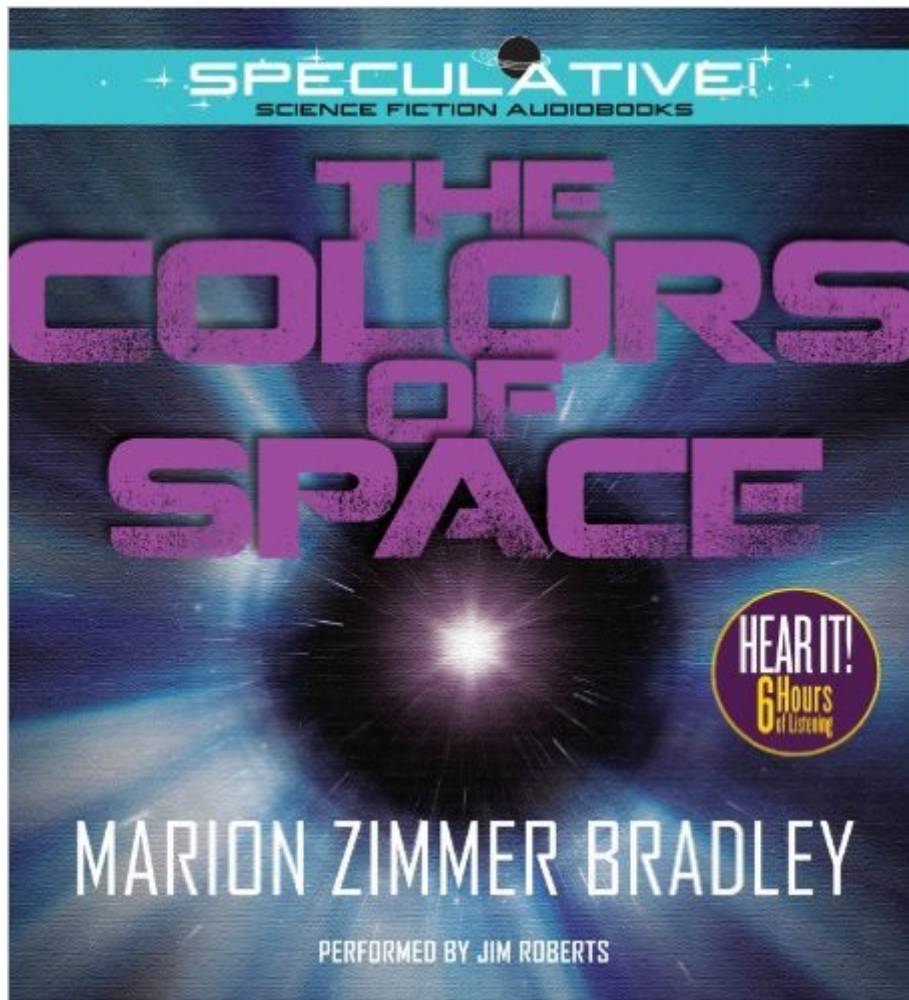


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The Colors Of Space



Synopsis

In *The Colors of Space*, young Bart Steele, Space Academy graduate, is waiting in a spaceport for a ship to take him home when something happens that suddenly thrusts him into the center of a quest for the secret of interstellar travel. The method of faster than light travel, called "warp drive" in later Sci-Fi stories, is a tightly kept secret of an alien race known as the "Lhari." Some humans feel that they should not have to depend on the Lhari to get to far away planets and enlist Bart to help them wrest the secret from the Lhari by undertaking a perilous mission. Bart's survival and the freedom of the human race suddenly depend on his courage and wits.

Book Information

Audio CD: 5 pages

Publisher: Speculative!; Unabridged edition (January 15, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1469259486

ISBN-13: 978-1469259482

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.4 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (66 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

The Colors of Space By Marion Zimmer Bradley I remember reading this a long time ago. Some time after the 1963 edition was published. I decided to read it again and see if it still stood well against time. Bart Steele is a young Vegan who has come to Earth to study at the academy. He is a product of a human and Mentorian pair, although he lost his mother, the Mentorian, early in his life. His father owns a space shipping business that struggles as it must against the monopoly that the Lhari race has over interstellar flight. The Lhari have made it clear that only Lhari can survive while the warp-drive is active and that all other races must go into cold-sleep. This monopoly causes Bart and many others to have a prejudice against the Lhari. On graduation Bart is to meet his father at the Lhari spaceport where he will return home. Bart will never see his father again and will be catapulted into a universe of danger and intrigue. He discovers that his father and several others

have died while trying to obtain the secrets of the Lhari and of the warp-drive. Bart is thrust into his father's world while he's become a fugitive from Lhari authorities. The Lhari are not able to perceive colors the way humans and Mentorians do and this becomes a major plot device or I should say part of several plot devices. This is the only part that my more mature insight has quibbles about during this read. There are some big things that are hinged on this color disability that might not work quite as well as I once believed. One major one is that the Lhari could not tell something was red hot because they couldn't see the red.

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