

out the four thousand some odd years of this (it turns out) first installment of the ACTRON saga. As I say, the built-in index is rather helpful.

I'm not sure how to feel about the Bright father's casual approach to child rearing. Taking the boy into harm's way, taking him into an area where he isn't cleared to be, even if there is no plausible way he could comprehend his surroundings, is problematic at best. For example, what if, years down the road, the boy somehow recalls details of what he's seen that are at that time still classified? How to ensure (or even predict) that his sense of patriotism will withstand the onslaught of teenage hormones? Or that his manifestation of patriotism will embrace obedience to his clearly neglectful father? Lives could very well be at stake.

Space travel -- time travel, to be precise -- is touched upon with maddeningly vague non chance, and precise details of how it is accomplished are never revealed. (SL elevates such non-disclosures to an art-form.) A novel method of propulsion is introduced, the so-called "percept drive," but it is not elaborated upon except for a few offhand, silly allusions to a supposed inverse proportion between the size of a group (in this case, the "percept team") and its aggregate ability to focus on a destination. Micro assures me this is funny.