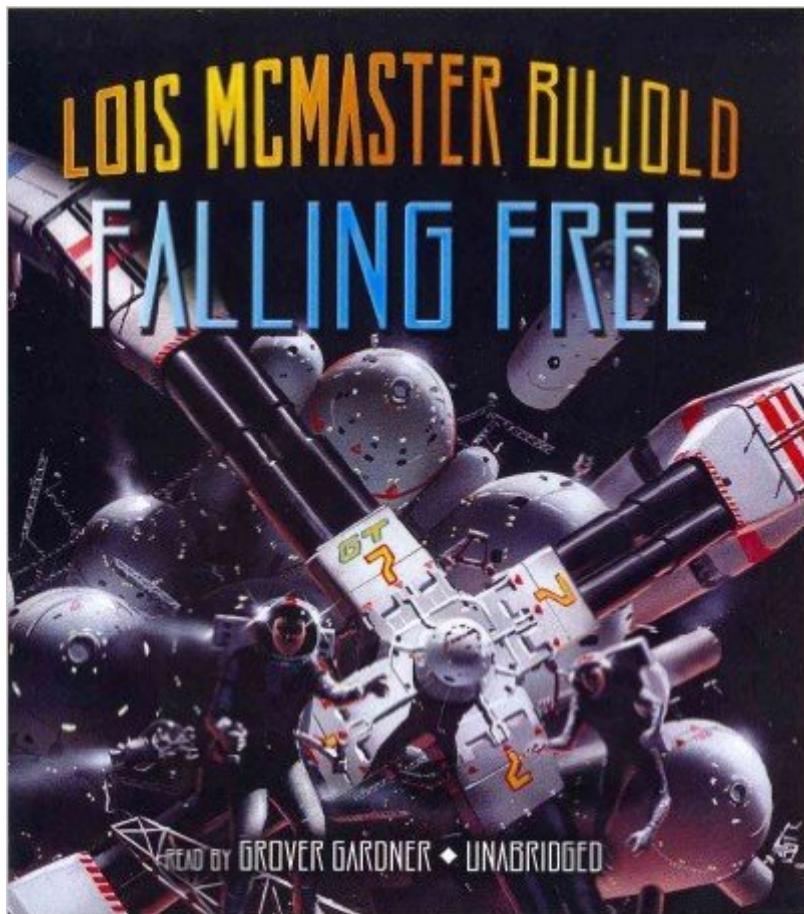


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Falling Free



Synopsis

[Read by Grover Gardner] Leo Graf is confronted with a moral dilemma when he is assigned to work at the Cay Habitat, where a group of humanoids have been secretly bioengineered as workers for capital gain.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Two hundred years before the birth of Miles Vorkosigan, in a habitat orbiting the planet Rodeo, a genetically engineered people, nicknamed the "œQuaddies", have been created as a labor force to work in null gravity, their lower appendages being arms rather than legs as in standard humans, or "œdownsiders". The quaddies are not human in the eyes of their creators, they are "œpost-fetal experimental tissue cultures", raised in a controlled environment and taught not only space construction but also how to maintain a largely self-sustaining environment in their orbiting home. Though many of the quaddies are technically adults, their carefully structured upbringing gives them the attitude and dependency of children. The quaddies are a profitable commodity, their bodies engineered so that they do not need time off in gravity as humans do in order to maintain their health. As "œproperty" of GalacTech they are unpaid labor, dependent on their creators for their every need. Leo Graf is a welding engineer, brought to Cay Habitat to teach a select group of quaddies how to build reliable, stable structures in space. Though only in his 40s, Graf feels like an old man compared to the eager young quaddies who attentively hang on his every word and whose ability to function in a no-gravity environment is far superior to his own. From his arrival, Graf

is set on edge by the attitudes that project manager Bruce Van Atta and psychologist Dr. Sondra Yei demonstrate towards the quaddies and the more he gets to know them the more their condition grates on his sense of what is right and wrong. Leo Graf can teach these young people how to do quality work that will last a lifetime, but can he teach one thousand quaddies, one thousand children, what it means to be free?

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