Stranger in a Strange Land

Stranger in a Strange Land, Robert A. Heinlein (1961)

Winner of the Hugo Award.

The story of Valentine Michael Smith - the first man from Mars to visit Earth - is in the great tradition that stretches from Gulliver's Travels [Jonathan Swift] to 1984 [George Orwell].

Michael was born during, and the only survivor of, the first manned mission to Mars. Michael is raised by Martians, and he arrives on Earth as a true innocent: he has never seen a woman and has no knowledge of Earth's cultures or religions. But he brings turmoil with him, as he is the legal heir to an enormous financial empire, not to mention de facto owner of the planet Mars. With the irascible popular author Jubal Harshaw to protect him, Michael explores human morality and the meanings of love, among other things.

(We will be reading the original uncut version).