

Goldie did not care for jewels or gold. She loved walking barefoot in her simple clothes over grassy fields. She loved the feel of the wind in her hair, roses and bird songs, the light in the sky at dusk and dawn, the scent of wood smoke and lilacs. She often walked alone, wishing that her father would join her and learn to love the world as she did.

The book is disproportionally focused on single and multilayer feedforward networks.

And though the book puts great emphasis on mathematics and even includes a big section on important mathematical background knowledge, it contains too many errors in the mathematical formulas, so they are of little use.

The author hasn't even taken the trouble to put up an errata list.

Finally, for the beginner there are not enough conceptual clues on what is actually going on and it is hard to form any mental model of the underlying processes.

There are better books.

For an introduction read Neural Networks by Kevin Gurney. He puts great emphasis on conceptual understanding.

For further studies there is Neural Networks by Simon Haykin, which has the mathematics.

I began this novel with the greatest of hopes, and finished it in an effort to fully understand what a really bad novel consists of.

It is the story of a man in a mid-western town and a full description of every person he has ever met in the town.

It held the promise of leading off into a sci-fi novel but didn't quite reach anything beyond the mundane until the last couple of chapters of the book.

Reading the introductions to numerous sub-characters that had no relation to the plot (if there was one) was painfully boring and took up a good part of the book.

The relationship between Michael (the main character) and Angela (a complete stranger he hops into bed with in the first chapter) is not only unpalatable and misogynistic it reads like the fantastic pipe-dream of a teenage boy.

When the main character finally reaches something vaguely interesting, the discovery of an alien corridor, he takes a break from uncovering it to go have a day at the art museum and shopping with his girlfriend.

When he gets back to the corridor he is ready to dive in, and when he does so begins the only salvageable part of the book.

Note to author: Reading doesn't have to be as painful as a dentist appointment.