



3 Futures

Peter T. McQueeney

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3 Futures is a collection of 3 short science fiction stories, intended as a sampler of the work of Peter T. McQueeney. Featuring a foreword from the author, this book is also an ideal starting point for the sci-fi neophyte or a quick weekend read for the casual sci-fi fan.

3 Futures Details

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Author : Peter T. McQueeney

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From Reader Review 3 Futures for online ebook

Jonas Lee says

Rating Overview

Writing: ★★★★★

Story: ★★★★★

Characters: ★★★★★ 1/2

Appearance: ★★★★★

Overall: ★★★★★ (4.625)

This book was given to me in exchange for an honest review.

3 Futures is a collection of three stories by author Peter T. McQueeney. I must say that it was an absolute blast getting back into what I find as the epitome of Sci-Fi. Not just hinting at the future or space travel or any other elements therein. Peter takes each story and leaves the reader's mind to run openly through the possibilities of life in the distant future while playing back to the essential qualities of an actual plot running parallel.

Whether the story involved elements of supernatural, to surreal to downright androids, Peter is a craftsman of words and worlds and I see his works rising up to infinite levels of possibility. Everyone who has a love of stories should read 3 Futures and it's a must for Sci-Fi enthusiasts.

The Critical Points

Writing: Peter masterfully crafts his words together, leaves enough room to not explain the technologies to death and had a remarkable editor as I saw really no errors to my untrained eye.

Story: Each story had a different scenario, still sticking to futuristic setting but with different contexts. All three were entertaining to sift through and kept me engaged to come back for more.

Characters: Father Jim Frankenstein was my favorite, I see a little John Constantine in him and hope he resurfaces in another novel. The second story was all that I really had issues with. There wasn't much of a connection to the people and it ebbed & flowed rather quickly from one point of reference to the next. The last story, brilliant job in conveying the lead character and his struggles to stay awake.

Appearance: The cover is the only areas I would take away a full star. It's not that it's bad, I see the reference to the priest, but the three images don't really speak to me in terms of "pick me up and read more" so for that I had to look objectively as when I first received the novel.

Tom says

I can't begin to tell you how many ways I love Peter McQueeney's 3 Futures, but it's definitely way more than three.

In his first novel, McQueeney presents three short stories. He plans on turning each into its own series, making this book essentially a collection of pilot episodes. You'll be happy to know that, while leaving plenty of room for an expanded story and universe, each of the three stories contains its own story arc that ends neatly, not leaving readers feeling like they're sitting through a cliffhanger and just saw the dreaded words "To Be Continued." These stories will, however, leave you checking McQueeney's Facebook pages obsessively for updates on the promised future installments.

The first of the three stories is called "Hidden Deeds," but you're not going to remember that. You'll remember the title of the series, Jim Frankenstein, Rock & Roll Space Priest. It's an absurd title that promises something spectacular, and the story delivers with a noirish style that throws both detective and horror elements into a narrative that channels the adventures of Constantine with a darkly comedic bent. McQueeney follows that story with "Walker, The Prophet," which takes a completely different tone from the first in telling the story of a tribe of surface-dwelling humans living in the ruins of the earth we know today. This tale explores the traditions of oral history being passed from one generation to the next, filled with humility, reverence for the past, and hope for the future, with the setting making it all feel foreign even as the narrative strikes a chord with practices our society has all but forgotten. Of the three, this one is by far my favorite.

Lastly, we are left with "Upon the Summit of the City." Feeling a bit too brief to delve into the deeper themes, this might be the weakest of the three, but only just. However, it also offers the most promise for future installments of the series. The story touches on the nature of love, both lost and found, as well as looking at the way we allow grief to deprive us of life. It ends with what is, at least until we get our noses into the next chapter, a feeling of mystery and uncertainty that the right kind of reader will find more satisfying than loose ends being neatly tied into a bow.

A few last minute notes for those who have made it this far. Maybe because it is a first novel, there are mistakes, but those appear mainly in the punctuation and will only be a distraction to the most rigid of grammarians. Readers like me will certainly be more taken by the way McQueeney discusses technology known only in these pages. More specifically, he doesn't. He treats the reader as though they contemporaries of the characters and inserts the futuristic terms as though they're commonplace, giving just enough context so the reader doesn't feel lost while using these details as setting and backdrop rather than putting them in the spotlight, thus giving the characters center stage. Lastly, all three stories have religious overtones, and while they threaten at times to become "preachy," McQueeney manages to keep it safely within a context that remains true to the characters he's developed so that it doesn't feel out of place or unnecessary.

In all, these stories are deeply satisfying, the kind of writing that makes it difficult to put down and impossible to stop thinking about, even after you've put it away and moved on to the next book. Not a perfect book, but good in all the right ways and a terrific lead-in to whatever the author has in store next.?
