



The Year's Best Science Fiction: Eleventh Annual Collection

Gardner Dozois (Editor), G. David Nordley (Contributor), Mike Resnick (Contributor), Robert Reed (Contributor), Pat Cadigan (Contributor), Greg Egan (Contributor), Charles Sheffield (Contributor), Neal Barrett Jr. (Contributor), more... Mark Rich (Contributor), Steven Utley (Contributor), Jack Cady (Contributor), Joe Haldeman (Contributor), Stephen Baxter (Contributor), Dan Simmons (Contributor), William Browning Spencer (Contributor), Maureen F. McHugh (Contributor), David B. Kisor (Contributor), Walter Jon Williams (Contributor), Ian R. MacLeod (Contributor), Bruce Sterling (Contributor), Nancy Kress (Contributor), Don Webb (Contributor), Rebecca Ore (Contributor), Connie Willis (Contributor), Brian W. Aldiss (Contributor) ...less

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The future, the past, and life today are boldly imagined and reinvented in the twenty-five stories collected in this showcase anthology. Many of the field's finest practitioners are represented here, along with stories from promising newcomers. A useful list of honorable mentions and Dozois's insightful summation of the year in SF round out this anthology, making it indispensable for anyone interested in SF today.

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Author : (Contributor) , Dan Simmons (Contributor) , William Browning Spencer (Contributor) , Maureen F. McHugh (Contributor) , David B. Kisor (Contributor) , Walter Jon Williams (Contributor) , Ian R. MacLeod (Contributor) , Bruce Sterling (Contributor) , Nancy Kress (Contributor) , Don Webb (Contributor) , Rebecca Ore (Contributor) , Connie Willis (Contributor) , Brian W. Aldiss (Contributor) ...less

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From Reader Review The Year's Best Science Fiction: Eleventh Annual Collection for online ebook

Timon Karnezos says

Sterling's piece in this one was pretty amazing.

Mark says

Readability 7. Rating 6. Something I had definitely missed – good, creative, mind-stretching science fiction. While I only rate the overall collection a 6, there were stories that clearly rated higher, among them, “Dancing On Air”, “A Visit to the Far Side”, “Into the Miranda Rift”, “Guest of Honor”, “Georgia On My Mind”, “Cush”, and “Lieserl”. One thing this collection reminded me of is the fact that SF cannot be narrowly defined - the range of material in just this book was amazing. I should probably keep an eye out for the “Twelfth Annual”. [As it turns out, I didn't read another until the Thirtieth! But I can still fill in...]

Darla Ebert says

Sometimes I think the definition of "science fiction" is too broad. There should be sub-genres so fans can pick and choose an interest level that will not disappoint. Crudeness, for example, does not qualify a "space story" as "edgy sci fi". It just makes the author look as if he is trying too hard

John Devlin says

If you read one sci-fi book a year, this is the one. Always stories of high caliber with a few tossed in that will keep you thinking weeks later, not to mention the collection is a primer for what science and technology everyone will be talking about five to ten years from now.

Alexis says

I found this book lying in front of the auditorium when I went to see a concert of classical music. Some generous person had decided to liberate the book and had stuck a Post-it note marked "Free" on the cover of the book.

I thumbed through the book and found that it contained a story by Connie Willis, as well as stories by Bruce Sterling and Maureen McHugh, authors that have been recommended to me.

I finally read some of the stories in this book over the weekend. There were a few gems in here, and some stories that I skipped over because they didn't interest me. I'll probably check out some more of the "Year's best science fiction" anthologies. I like sci-fi, but tend to be really picky about it, which prevents me from

reading more of it. This collection introduced me to some new authors.

Todd says

Here's my review of the individual stories in this collection, using the same number scale as the whole book. My average rating was a little over a 3.

Papa - 2 (I admired what it was trying to do, but I just didn't enjoy the story)

Sacred Cow - 3 (more of an alternate history at this point)

Dancing On Air - 4 (very clever)

A Visit To The Farside - 3

Alien Bootlegger - 1 (really tedious)

Death On The Nile - 3 (minor Connie Willis, but still Connie Willis)

Friendship Bridge - 3 (a sequel to a story I hadn't read, so it lost a little something)

Into The Miranda Rift - 5 (a grand adventure, just a blast to read)

Mwalimu In The Squared Circle - 2

Guest Of Honor - 3

Love Toys Of The Gods - 4 (lots of fun)

Chaff - 3 (great concept, execution a little lacking)

Georgia On My Mind - 4 (lots of fun, but falls apart a little at the end)

Cush - 3 (a very strange tale)

On The Collection Of Humans - 3 (a trifle)

There And Then - 3

The Night We Buried Road Dog - 5 (indescribable, sort of magic realist tale that will definitely stick with you later)

Feedback - 4 (spooky)

Lieserl - 2 (reads like the sketch of a longer story)

Flashback - 4 (Dan Simmons tale, quite horrifying)

A Child's Christmas In Florida - 2

Whispers - 4

Wall, Stone, Craft - 3 (a nice palate cleanser of an alternate history)

As I read these collections from the early '90s, it's funny to see the predictions that didn't pan out and the ones that were way too conservative. Some stories are so dated as to be almost painful to read, but some still have the power to shock or amaze even today.

James says

every single one of these collections is essential reading for true fans of science fiction short stories... each lengthy volume has a stellar array of all mini-genres and areas of powerfully influential science fiction: hard science, speculative, steampunk, alien invasions, apocalyptic/post-apocalyptic, space opera, fantasy, aliens, monsters, horror-ish, space travel, time travel, eco-science, evolutionary, pre-historic, parallel universes, extraterrestrials... in each successive volume in the series the tales have advanced and grown in imagination and detail with our ability to envision greater concepts and possibilities... Rod Serling said, "...fantasy is the impossible made probable. science fiction is the improbable made possible..." and in the pages of these

books is the absolute best the vastness of science fiction writing has to offer... sit back, relax, and dream...

Lord Humungus says

It's been years, but the stories in here I still remember as good were the pieces by Nancy Kress, Robert Reed, Stephen Baxter, Jack Cady. I still remember Dancing On Air and even made my friend read it as an intro to science fiction.

Roberts says

Good set of stories. I received this book as a gift in the mid-1990's, and read probably half the stories in '96-97. The rest I meandered through the past few years, just finishing last night.

Here's the stories I liked best. I don't have details on all of them due to the spread-out time frame over which I read them:

Wall, Stone, Craft by Walter Jon Williams. Alternate history. Interesting period piece.

Dancing on Air by Nancy Kress. Bioenhanced ballerinas.

Guest of Honor by Robert Reed. 'Compilation' explorer.

The Night We Buried Road Dog by Jack Cady. This was the last story I read, and man, did it start off hot. The storyline was one I wouldn't normally like -- a bunch of road warriors living in Montana in the early 1960's. But the writing was incredible, the imagery beautiful, even the descriptions of old cars made me interested despite my lack of interest in cars -- it was some of the best *writing* that I've encountered in a while. But the story trailed off a bit at the end, so I bumped the overall story down a notch.

Georgia on my Mind by Charles Sheffield. Another good story that petered out at the end. This one was about the Babbage engine.

Whispers by Maureen F. McHugh and David B. Kisor. Plague that improves humans. Set in China.

Into the Miranda Rift by G. Davidd Nordley. Inside Uranus' moon.

Michael Sypes says

Some good good, some bad, nothing particularly memorable. Some left me me wondering why they were in a Sci Fi anthology. Some made me wonder why the author had bothered to include any Sci Fi elements.

Josh says

I am a big fan of sci-fi short stories and this book did not disappoint. It has a great variety of stories, writing styles, and settings. My favorites A Visit to the Far Side by Don Webb, Alien Bootlegger by Rebecca Ore, Georgia on My Mind by Charles Sheffield, Cush by Neal Barrett, Jr, and Flashback by Dan Simmons.

Rob says

Either this year didn't have good SF or they were past their expiration date...
