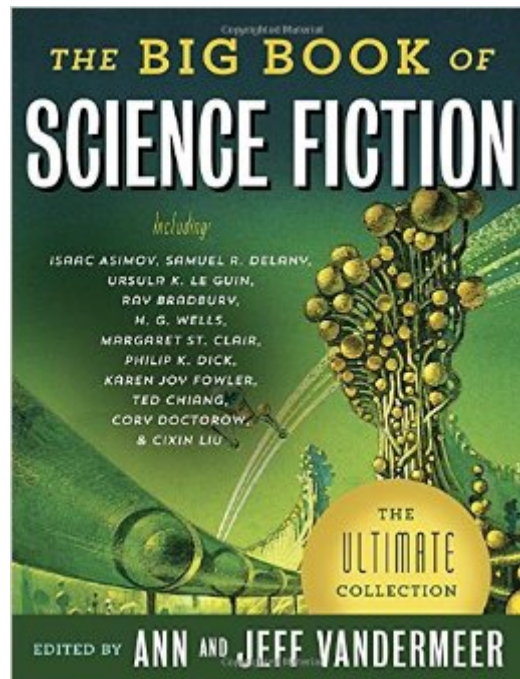


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The Big Book Of Science Fiction



Synopsis

Quite possibly the greatest science fiction collection of all time—past, present, and future! What if life was neverending? What if you could change your body to adapt to an alien ecology? What if the pope were a robot? Spanning galaxies and millennia, this must-have anthology showcases classic contributions from H. G. Wells, Arthur C. Clarke, Octavia E. Butler, and Kurt Vonnegut, alongside a century of the eccentrics, rebels, and visionaries who have inspired generations of readers. Within its pages, you'll find beloved worlds of space opera, hard SF, cyberpunk, the New Wave, and more. Learn about the secret history of science fiction, from titans of literature who also wrote SF to less well-known authors from more than twenty-five countries, some never before translated into English. In *The Big Book of Science Fiction*, literary power couple Ann and Jeff VanderMeer transport readers from Mars to Mechanopolis, planet Earth to parts unknown. Immerse yourself in the genre that predicted electric cars, space tourism, and smartphones. Sit back, buckle up, and dial in the coordinates, as this stellar anthology has got worlds within worlds. • Including: • Legendary tales from Isaac Asimov and Ursula K. Le Guin • An unearthed sci-fi story from W. E. B. Du Bois • The first publication of the work of cybernetic visionary David R. Bunch in twenty years • A rare and brilliant novella by Chinese international sensation Cixin Liu • Plus: • Aliens! • Space battles! • Robots! • Technology gone wrong! • Technology gone right!

Book Information

Paperback: 1216 pages

Publisher: Vintage (July 12, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1101910097

ISBN-13: 978-1101910092

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

I vaguely remembered an internet solicitation for readers to suggest short science fiction, I looked it

back up and it was for this volume and the call for suggestions was put out in January of 2015. They specifically asked for works under 10,000 and desired under 6,000. This is the resultant volume which covers about 100 years of science fiction. The editors include a few pages delineating how they made the decisions about what to include, and I actually found this information useful to understand the rationale. There are about 7 stories which first appear here in translation seven which have been retranslated. There are about 105 stories included. This is a fantastic book for interested in the evolution of SF. There is a short chapter outlining the development and history of science fiction. Each short story starts with about a one page biography of the author of the story which follows. These are well done and succinct. Frankly, I think the copy included in the description, which is full of exclamation marks, gives the reader the impression this will be a collection of pulp SF, and it is not. This is a more literary approach to the genre. I had read about a quarter of these stories previously, some from Analog and Best of SF anthologies. That is probably the lowest percentage of previously read material I have found in a collection and speaks to the wide variety of material included here. Everyone will find something to love (for me it was the surreal tale "The Waves" by Silvina Ocampo, an Argentine writer I had never heard of before and something to hate, I am not a big fan of cyberpunk SF, but here I could get a little dose in "Swarm" which might make me look a little closer at this sub genre.

First and foremost, I have to discuss the overall quality of this book. I buy a lot of books, mostly art related, paperback novels, and hard cover TPB's from the comic industry. Given the size of the book (1216 pages) and the positive reviews posted up on , both by critics and users alike, I decided to take a chance and purchase a copy, although I didn't buy it at . I got my copy through the Science Fiction Book Club. I have been a member of the SFBC for a number of years and definitely think its worth it. You can get some really crazy deals if you keep your eyes open and check back on a regular basis. Anyways, to say I was disappointed in the quality is a bit of an understatement. I openly admit that its partially my fault as I didn't check to see if it was hardcover. 99% of the books on the SFBC are hardcover editions so I just assumed this would be a hardcover, especially given the overall number of pages. I have purchased softcover books in the past that had more than 1000 pages and I swore I would never do so again. The weight of the book, due to the number of pages, puts a lot of stress on the spine and in my experience, they just don't age well at all. I definitely prefer hardcover books and am willing to pay more to get them. What makes the quality of the book even more disappointing is the quality of the paper used. Honestly, this is some of the cheapest quality paper I have seen in a book in a very long time. The fact that the book is so large makes the

choice of paper all the more mind boggling and ultimately just that much worse. This is not a book that is going to age well as the years go by, that much I can guarantee.

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