



Earth is Room Enough: Science Fiction Tales of Our Own Planet

Isaac Asimov

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Earth is Room Enough: Science Fiction Tales of Our Own Planet Details

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From Reader Review Earth is Room Enough: Science Fiction Tales of Our Own Planet for online ebook

Pinar Celebi says

This book, like many other Asimov books, is classic. It can be considered as early science fiction. Except for a few anomalies like punch cards, Asimov's imagination and stories fit in well still today. The technological advances humanity has achieved over time do not affect the impact of these stories. When I was reading it, I forgot the fact that these stories were written in 1950s. I think one can still see the possibilities of some of Asimov's imagined futures even today.

Like many other reviewers, "Satisfaction Guaranteed" is my favorite from this collection.

Xan says

Uno de los títulos más mencionados de Asimov, tanto que pensé que lo había leído hace muchos años. Afortunadamente me equivocaba y no se trata de una relectura. Para mí, que aprendí los conceptos de la robótica de la mano de Susan Calvin y conocí los problemas sociales de un Imperio espacial investigando crímenes violentos con un robot por detective...en fin, que aprendía a disfrutar de la ciencia ficción con Isaac Asimov leer un libro nuevo cuando pensaba solo repasarlo supone un regalo inesperado (aún sabiendo que nunca lograré leer todos los libros que escribió, firmó o colaboró...)

"Con la Tierra nos basta" es una colección de cuentos alrededor de los temas típicos de Asimov: robots, grandes sociedades dominadas por UNIVAC (ordenadores enormemente complejos y potentes), paradojas del avance de la ciencia, etc. En todos ellos siempre hay un momento para una sonrisa, una broma, un chiste. En algunos todo el cuento es una enorme broma. Es Asimov en sus mejores momentos: ideal para una primera aproximación, perfecto para volver a recuperar el contacto si eres un fan.

Franco Olcese says

As a selection of stories, I don't consider this book a really good one. What I did enjoy a lot were the visions they had in the 50's about the future. Most of the stories happen in the first century of 2000, and the vision of what would be the future (computers, robotics, political systems, values, etc) is interesting and funny. However there are a couple of good ones that I would recommend to read:

The Dead Past · nv Astounding Apr '56 : I think this one is the best. It is about a machine to see the past, that is controlled by the government and it is used to historical purposes.

- The Foundation of Science Fiction Success · pm F&SF Oct '54 : ??. Poem??
- Franchise · ss If Aug '55: Bad one. Describe a society that only needs one person who votes, to decide an election. It depends on the calculations of a computer.
- Gimmicks Three ["The Brazen Locked Room"] · ss F&SF Nov '56 : Worth reading. Mix between science

fiction and ... the devil.

- Kid Stuff · ss Beyond Fantasy Fiction Sep '53 : Fantasy one, more than science fiction. I didn't like it.
 - The Watery Place · ss Satellite Oct '56: It suppose to be funny, maybe in the 50's. Not for me, kind of stupid tale about the first contact with venusians.
 - Living Space · ss Science Fiction Stories May '56: Parallel universes. I like it, i found it original and entertaining.
 - The Message · vi F&SF Feb '56: Time travelling. A bad one.
 - Satisfaction Guaranteed [Susan Calvin (Robot)] · ss Amazing Apr '51: Not so interesting. The social and work relationship between a housekeeper and a robot.
 - Hell-Fire · vi Fantastic Universe May '56: Ridiculous. More devil and science.
 - The Last Trump · ss Fantastic Universe Jun '55: No, this is the best one for sure. About the judgement day.
 - The Fun They Had · ss The Boys and Girls Page Dec 1 '51; F&SF Feb '54: Ridiculous but funny. How they imagine education with computers in the 50's.
 - Jokester · ss Infinity Science Fiction Dec '56: Interesting, at least for the original idea, about the origin of humor.
 - The Immortal Bard · vi Universe May '54: More time travelling. Really bad one, it tries to be funny.
 - Someday · ss Infinity Science Fiction Aug '56. Too naive for me. About the reading capacity or the way to consume contents in the future.
 - The Author's Ordeal · pm Science Fiction Quarterly May '57: Kind of poem.
 - Dreaming Is a Private Thing · ss F&SF Dec '55 : Dreams as entreating and commercial product. I consider it original.
-

Priyadarshini says

The man can imagine! The book is a 'back to the future' trip. Fascinating stories!

Patrick Nichols says

A decent collection of Asimov with its usual mix of repressed titillation and shaggy dog stories (e.g an alien delegation is rebuffed by a rube who thought they said they were from "Venice," rather than "Venus." ugh). The unifying gimmicks that all the stories take place on Earth, but this was probably more of a novelty in the 50's than in today's more dystopian genre. Multivac, a grendel among giant computers, is a recurring

character, dispensing an omniscience we now know as "Google."

Two stories proved memorable though (mostly for their unsettling creepiness). In "Living Space" the Earth's population problem is solved by marketing real-estate in parallel universes: each homesteader gets their very own uninhabited earth to settle down in. Until, of course, some unexpected visitors show up. I suppose it's the faint whiff of Lovecraftian extra-dimensional horror that appealed to me there.

And then there is the almost existential fable, "The Last Trump," about the end of the world and the return of the dead from their graves. The endless, deathless, futile hordes, marching towards nothing, imprisoned in an eternity of boredom and pointlessness - it's a genuinely disquieting image; though Asimov pulls back before it tumbles into outright horror. But it's one of those nightmares you'd expect to find more in a Disch or Ballard book than from chipper old Isaac.

Sinn says

Isaac Asimovs Liebe zu Robotern ist gemeinhin bekannt. Sie ist die Grundlage für einige seiner Faszinierendsten Romane und Kurzgeschichten. Besonders die Logik hat es ihm dabei angetan, die Grundlage für alle Entscheidungen einer Maschine sein muss. Zwingend.

Trotzdem ist 'Geliebter Roboter' eine Kurzgeschichtensammlung, die sich von vielen anderen des Autors unterscheidet. Vor allem, weil sie sich nicht ausschließlich um Roboter dreht - obwohl der Titel das vermuten lässt.

So ist es hauptsächlich die Idee eines allumfassenden Großrechners ("Multivac"), die von Asimov in den Mittelpunkt seiner Erzählungen gestellt wird. Horror-Visionen von - aus heutiger Sicht - gar nicht abwegiger Natur erzählen dabei zum Beispiel von einer Demokratie, die gar keine sein kann. Ein einziger Wähler bestimmt dabei über das Schicksal der fiktiven USA von 2008; dabei liefert er eigentlich nur ein paar Antworten auf Fragen, die Multivac noch benötigt um zu errechnen, wie die Wahl ausgeht.

Den Namen erhält die Geschichte übrigens von einer Story, in der ein Roboter (hier müsste man ja eigentlich von einem 'Androiden' sprechen) zu Testzwecken für etwa zwei Wochen in das Haus einer unglücklichen Frau einzieht. Er krempelt ihr Leben gehörig um und erweckt sogar, hie und da, den Eindruck echter Gefühle für seine temporäre Besitzerin. Asimov löst das natürlich bravourös auf und erklärt alles mit den Gesetzen der Robotik - und gerade das ist es, was ein wenig Horror in die Geschichte zaubert, wie ich finde.

Das ist aber noch lange nicht alles. Zwei echte Exoten durchbrechen Asimovs Muster nämlich auf recht untypische Art: Sie haben nahezu *nichts* mit Technologie zu tun. Besonders sticht dabei jene über das Ende der Welt hervor, für die Asimov sogar die christliche Mythologie bemüht: Die Posaune kündigt den jüngsten Tag an und der Planet wandelt sich. Mit ihm die grobteils wiederauferstandenen Menschen - auch, wenn der 'zuständige Engel' sich noch so sehr bemüht den Ratschluss des 'Chefs' zu ändern. Besonders unterhaltsam ist dabei übrigens die Art und Weise, wie Asimov die Geschichte erzählt, beginnt sie doch mit einem Fabriksbesitzer und dessen Vater. Und dessen Vater. Und alle wollen herstellen, was keiner mehr braucht.

Zu guter Letzt sei noch eine Geschichte kurz angerissen, die endlich den Ursprung der Witze auf diesem Planeten klärt. Denn jeder kennt Witze - obwohl sie niemand erfunden hat. Die Quelle ist jedenfalls

verblüffend und die sie aufdeckende Auflösung erneut ein kleiner Schauer, der uns über den Rücken läuft.

Ja, 'Geliebter Roboter' ist eine wirklich empfehlenswerte Sammlung, die auch mit einem unerwartetem auftrumpft. Selbst jene, die Asimov sonst meiden, könnten hier fündig werden (auch, wenn ich denen den Kauf des Buchs bloß deshalb nicht raten würde).

Michelle Theresa says

'Earth is Room Enough' is a collection of short stories written by one of the most famous science fiction writers of all time, Isaac Asimov, in the 1950s. The book is remarkably dated. It was written before home computers existed, so the computer technology depicted in the collection consists mainly of gigantic, bookshelf-sized and stadium-sized computers, which operate on vacuum tube circuitry, transistors, and something like Turing tape. The human characters, who are supposed to be living in the '90s or 2000s, still use paper stationery quite regularly, but they feed the stationery into their computers, and receive feedback from the computer in the form of printed Turing symbols, which they have to translate into English, or they opt to receive audio output. In some essays there is a super-computer called 'Multivac,' which is a centralized global computer similar to 'Skynet' from the Terminator movies. 'Multivac' is the size of several football fields and filled with rooms of vacuum circuits – hence the name. It operates by answering people's questions in Turing symbols that need to be translated by teams of programmers. Being born in the 1980s, I find it difficult to imagine what these postwar-era computers would look like, except to recall Turing's giant deciphering machine from the film 'The Imitation Game' (below). This is the closest visual approximation available to me. Asimov clearly assumed that as computers became more sophisticated, they would also become bigger, which is the opposite of what happened. Predicting the future is apparently very difficult.

See more:

<https://michellesreviewsblog.wordpress...>

Kayla says

This was my first ever book read by Asimov, and I enjoyed it thoroughly. Especially the stories that involved Multivac. It really is true, no one spits out story ideas faster than Asimov, and I was especially surprised to find out that he also wrote in verse. A very unexpected surprise. I look forward to reading other works by this amazing story teller.

Jos says

The German version "Geliebter Roboter" only features a selection of the stories.

The dead past ****

Invention: chronoscope, allowing to see the past. Consequence: Loss of all privacy. Interesting thought.

Franchise ****

Original idea: simplify elections, one representative voter identified by the central computer Multivac is enough.

The Watery Place ***

Aliens ask for contact, are satisfied with a 'no' and never come back again. Wrong place, wrong time.

Satisfaction Guaranteed *****

Characteristically Asimov. The problem is not Robots making love but humans falling in love with robots. Modification necessary.

Hell-Fire **

Too short and outdated to be a relevant criticism on the atom bomb.

The Last Trump ****

What really would happen when the last day is there and resurrection comes. Recommended reading for religious fanatics.

The Fun They Had **

In a future like this there will be millions of jobless teachers.

Jokester ****

Did Douglas Adams know this story when he was creating Big Thought?

Someday ***

What are machines dreaming of? Do they have their machine religion?

Dreaming is a Private Thing ***

Replace the dream production industry with modern mass media.

Dane Cobain says

I meant to pick this up a while ago for a readathon, but the small print put me off. It was a pretty good read though, and I especially liked the final story. Dreaming is a Private Thing. That's because it's the story that inspired Bill Holt and his album, Dreamies.

But honestly, all of the stories in here are pretty good, and it's got me excited about reading more Asimov on the weeks and months to come. I have a few of them sitting around on my TBR shelves just waiting for me to get to them, and now I have my Asimov vibe back. It's been too long since I read any of his work.

Oh, and for the record, my favourite stories were The Dead Past, An Immortal Bard and Dreaming is a Powerful Thing. But you could pick out any of these stories at random and still enjoy it.

Manny says

The standout in this quite good collection is definitely "Satisfaction Guaranteed", even if it's so 50s that it feels like you need subtitles to understand it. US Robots have developed a housework robot, which they are going to field test in the home of one of their employees. The action focusses on the uneasy relationship that

develops between the robot and the bored housewife, who's plagued with general feelings of helplessness and inadequacy; the robot, programmed with the Three Laws and obliged to protect her from anything that might be liable to cause her harm, does its best to address the problem. If someone told me it was an adapted version of a Colette short story, I'd be prepared to believe them.

Wesley Morgan says

I read this as part of "The Complete Stories, Volume 1." But I felt I had to review the separate books in that compilation separately because they were so different. That is to say, this one was really bad. I love Isaac Asimov, especially his robot stories, but most of these were just strange. In this book he tries to mix fantasy and religion with his sci-fi, and it does not work well. He also has a hard time ending some of these stories, often reverting to the classic "aliens were secretly controlling everything!" gimmick.

There are some stories that are worth reading. "The Dead Past" and "Living Space" are some intriguing space-time concepts to think about. "Franchise" and "Dreaming is a Private Thing" both deal with societal changes due to new technology. "The Fun They Had" and "The Immortal Bard" are very short ideas about future education.

But that's it. The rest of the book was full of some of my least favorite stories, and I usually love Asimov. This one is odd, and I wouldn't recommend it to anyone except the most dedicated fans..

Tfitoby says

An interesting collection of short stories, some of the better ones I'd previously experienced in The Complete Robot so the novelty of reading such good stories was worn off and possibly detracted from my overall enjoyment.

The collection also featured some of Asimov's fantasy stories, my first experience of such things, and even though I consider him a good writer of good ideas my eyes just glazed over at the mention of faeries and Avalaon for example. I have Fantasy block even with such a man as Isaac Asimov.

However overall the collection is exactly what you would expect from science fiction of the 1950s and of Asimov short stories in general; a study of humanity with tongue slightly in cheek. Not great, not terrible, merely a good and enjoyable book. And as bonus reading a couple of attempts at humourous poetry about being a science fiction writer.

Marilyn says

Around the Year in 52 Books 2018 Reading Challenge. A book with a link to 1 of 4 elements: Earth.

This is a collection of sci-fi stories by the master Isaac Asimov

The Dead Past - Arnold Potterley, Ph.D. wants permission to use the Chronoscope so that he might view

ancient Carthage to disprove some claims that were made about that civilization.

Franchise - Norman Muller has been selected. He is to be THE voter this year. Each election a single voter selected by the MultiVac computer votes on behalf of everyone.

Gimmicks Three - One of Satan's recruits makes a deal with a man. Ten years of everything reasonable that he might wish and at the end of 10 years he must pass a one question exam to become a recruiter for hades. IF he fails he is simply one more of the condemned.

Kid Stuff - A beetle fairy appears on a man's desk demanding his assistance.

The Watery Place - Aliens land in Idaho, but the sheriff thinking they are simply foreigners demands they leave and never return.

Living Space - Clarence Rimbio lives with his family in the only house on their planet, just one of the alternate probability Earths. Then his wife hears noises from outside.

The Message - George time travels back to WWII.

Satisfaction Guaranteed - Claire Belmont is asked to take part in an experiment which would facilitate robots working in individual homes. Initially, she fears the robot. However, once the 1st Law of Robotics is explained, she agrees.

The Last Trump - The Day of Resurrection has arrived.

The Fun They Had - School is different in the future. Each child has his/her own personalized teacher (a machine).

Jokester - A Grand Master tells jokes to a computer in preparation for asking a couple of questions he deems important.

The Immortal Bard - Dr. Welch announces that he can bring back the dead and has brought back Archimedes, Newton, Galileo, and Shakespeare.

Someday - Two boys have discovered the magic of squiggles that represent letters and numbers. They find in a museum books, slide rules, and other objects of interest from the past.

Dreaming Is A Private Think - Dreams are recorded by those who excel at dreaming and then sold to others to enjoy.

Jenny M says

A collection of stories from one of the most easily recognised vintage sci-fi writers (if only because I regard Will Smith and I-Robot as a seminal feature of what was already a very sci-fi heavy childhood).

I don't personally feel like it was a comprehensive selection of his best work, but it definitely was comprehensive, containing poems, short stories of a couple of pages and other of up to 50. The stories include introspective pieces, fantasy and sci-fi, which was a nice surprise, as I wasn't really aware of a Asimov's career in fantasy. Some of the stories didn't appeal, they felt contrived, but I always give a certain amount of leeway to older sci-fi writers, since their ideas are often the originals and later writer have simply piggy-backed off their creativity. I did enjoy some of the stories, especially the final story "dreaming is a private thing" which actually formed a great allegory for the current upsurge in virtual reality tech, it's always impressive to see vintage sci-fi writers who predict the future years before digital technology was even suggested.

Still, some of the stories fell a little flat for me, I feel like they didn't always pack the punchy impact that a short stories need to seem more than simply self-indulgent. That being said I would definitely recommend it to anything looking to get into vintage sci-fi or Asimov, and fancies something that won't take long to read.

Duncan says

SF short stories, a few worthwhile, most pretty forgettable. The most notable of them is "The Dead Past," which involves a machine that can view any scene in the past--a good conceit, but it's crammed into a story about an authoritarian government that controls all scientific research, and the story doesn't develop any of its various ideas enough. Another, "Gimmicks Three" has an amusing take on deals with the devil, but most are too short to develop the premises fully.

Andrew says

I have very fond memories of Isaac Asimov and especially a number of his more famous works. The reason why is that going back to my early tentative steps in to reading, I stumbled across a small table top sale and there tucked away in one corner a stack of books. The covers instantly caught my eye - and as much as the saying goes "don't judge a book by its cover" I could not help myself.

Now I must point something out - The UK editions of science fiction books of this era had a habit of having garish, eye catching covers often which had no relation to the contents of the book.

This was one such edition - however the cover they chose was from the artist Chris Foss - one of my all time favourite artists who to me captured the impossible and limitless imagination of science fiction. Something that I see only recently is coming back in to the main stream years later.

Now rather than being annoyed that it has no relation I love these covers - as to me they sum up the imagination of the author and if anything once I have read the book I would often look at the cover making up my own stories.

So yes as you can imagine I bought up the books (they were pennies after all) and read them all ravenously - and that is where not only does my fascination with science come from but also my respect for the classic authors of the golden age of science fiction and the love of science fiction artwork.

Jenn says

You forget while reading it that the stories are from the 50s....most would not seem out of place if written today. I enjoy the sly humor of many of the pieces...and recommend that you read "The Election" to see how he thought we'd be voting in 2008. =]

Krysta B. says

What an imagination. Forgot it was written in the 50s. Best: Franchise, Satisfaction Guaranteed and the Last Trump. Superb stories!

Devin says

I was intrigued by the earth setting of these stories from a grandmaster of science fiction. They are really great reads, all of them. They are all very unique and very real, as in, I can imagine them happening in the future. His scenarios are never too far-fetched, just close enough to reality to make us really shiver to think of what it would truly be like. I love it. Good stories.
