



The Science Fiction Hall of Fame: Volume III: The Nebula Winners

George W. Proctor, Arthur C. Clarke (Editor)

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The Science Fiction Hall of Fame: Volume III: The Nebula Winners Details

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From Reader Review The Science Fiction Hall of Fame: Volume III: The Nebula Winners for online ebook

Adam Heine says

Didn't finish. I held on for a long time, but I don't think I'm going back to it. Some of the stories are very good. Maybe all of them. But most are too slow/literary for my taste.

James says

An excellent collection of 60's science fiction works. A mixture of what at that time was old school SF and the humanist New Wave which makes a nice contrast and compare collection. Includes Ellison's *A Boy and His Dog* among others. I may not have read this particular collection, but I've read all of the stories listed.

Craig says

This volume collects the short fiction Nebula Award winners from 1965-1969. There's not a bad story in the lot, and the works by Zelazny, Moorcock, and Ellison are still my favorites these many years later. It's one of those few books I'd seriously call a must-read for anyone interested in the modern genre.

Foxtower says

The problem with volume III and IV of this series is that Nebula winners, being chosen by authors, are often about what authors find clever. Most of the stories are so cerebral and cryptic I often found myself finishing a story and asking "what the heck was that?". I'm a reader, not a literature major, and the majority of the stories just didn't make any sense. UGH!

Kolya Matteo says

Most of these are excellent stories, but several make me wonder what the SFWA members were thinking when they chose them. I wish there was some sort of discussion included of what swayed the voters.

"Repent, Harlequin!" Said the Ticktockman

Well-crafted, poetic social critique. The science-fictional element is there (the "cardio-plate"), but the emphasis here is definitely on the flow of words. Has a great title and a great sentence about jelly beans.

The Doors of His Face, the Lamps of His Mouth

Very readable tale of man confronting something greater than himself, set on a Venus they must have known

was impossible by 1965.

The Saliva Tree

Very scary gothic tale set on a remote farm in Victorian England. Walking through a dimly lit city square after reading this, I saw a statue of a frog out of the corner of my eye, and jumped a foot. The build-up of the sense of looming doom is scarcely perceptible, but inexorable.

He Who Shapes

Another very readable tale from Mr. Zelazny, with lots of fun predictions for our own time with the usual distortion (we have already greatly improved on the clunky interface he presents for his self-driving cars, but we're still lacking the self-driving cars.) I'm not sure I understand the ending.

The Secret Place

I don't really see how this is science fiction. (view spoiler)

It may be classifiable as speculative fiction, but it's not particularly illuminating speculation.

Call Him Lord

An entertaining concept - (mild spoilers:) Earth is maintained as a museum world by a Space Empire, with the population living like an Amish enclave (adopting some new technologies, not others.) The heir to the Empire has to visit Kentucky, of all places, (view spoiler)

The Last Castle

Nicely written far-future tale on an Earth reverted to wilderness. Reminds me of Against the Fall of Night. The use of animals in the place of machines (for ground and air transport) is a novel touch. The aversion of the gentlemen to any manual labor seems faintly silly, but cases nearly as extreme can be found in actual history. I like the raucous Birds and the occasional info-dumping footnotes.

Aye, and Gomorrah. . .

Very New Wave. The basic conceit (view spoiler) is interesting, but I would like it better as a backdrop element in a larger tale, rather than the sole focus of a story.

Gonna Roll the Bones

This is a work of fantasy, not science fiction! A few references to space ships and Martian creatures could be deleted with no effect on the story. It seems to be set on an asteroid, but that, too, is immaterial.

Behold the Man

Time travel is the only science-fictional element here. Otherwise, it is filled with mainstream strained-relationship flashbacks mixed into a version of "Life of Brian" without the humor.

The Planners

This is a story about injecting sRNA (in blood) into chimps and other subjects, to transfer training or knowledge. Of course, if this happened, recipients of blood transfusions would find themselves suddenly able to speak foreign languages or play new instruments, which they don't. This basically silly idea is made to appear more serious by having the protagonist constantly hallucinate bizarre scenes and be sick of his wife. This might be interesting if it turned out to be somehow linked to the experiments, but it's not.

Mother to the World

Standard postapocalyptic Adam-and-Eve story with the twist that Eve is mentally deficient.

Dragonrider

The second Pern story. The world-building is fantastic (the well-developed social and political structures forming the backdrop of the story.) The characters are a bit stilted. The resolution is rather pat. Honestly, I think the universe would have been better off without the time-jumping bit (which Wikipedia tells me John W. Campbell was responsible for.) Certainly deserves to be in this volume.

Passengers

Good, true sci-fi: society deals with the effects of "Passengers" which can unexpectedly take control of anyone's body, to use for their own purposes for some hours or days, then depart. New-Wavey in that it focuses solely on the effects on people; no investigation or explanation is offered as to the cause or agency of these possessions. I would prefer that something be said about this, but it's good nonetheless.

Time Considered as a Helix of Semi-Precious Stones

A picaroon in space! An enjoyable romp with a discordant ending. I like the concept of the Singers.

A Boy and His Dog

This is New Wave done right. Sure, the focus is on the characters, and those characters are certainly not the heroic heroes and villainous villains of older sci-fi; but stuff actually happens, and there are reasons why it happens, and the world is clearly described. Recommended if you have a strong stomach.

Nicholas Bobbitt says

There's a very good reason why these stories won awards.

Steven Peterson says

There are some fine works in this collection of Nebula Award winners. Arthur Clarke and George Proctor edited this book, with winners from 1965 through 1969.

These include some absolutely crackerjack works. Among my favorites: Harlan Ellison's "Repent, Harlequin!" Said the Ticktockman," Roger Zelazny's "He Who Shapes," Jack Vance's "The Last Castle," Fritz Leiber's "Gonna Roll the Bones," Anne McCaffrey's "Dragonrider," and Samuel Delany's "Tome Considered as a Helix of Precious Stones."

A classic compilation. . . .

Charles says

Includes short stories, novellas and Novellas. Features two very good stories by Harlan Ellison, including the dynamite "A Boy and His Dog."

Cole Schoolland says

I can not recommend this particular series highly enough. What a spectacular collection. Some HUGE names are in here.

My Favorites Were:

- Repent Harlequin Said the Ticktockman
- The Saliva Tree
- Call Him Lord
- The Last Castle
- Gonna Roll the Bones
- Dragonrider
- A Boy and His Dog

This book wont be getting donated. I intend to pass it around.
