



Where Do We Go from Here?

Isaac Asimov (Editor) , Robert A. Heinlein , Hal Clement , Jerome Bixby , James Blish , Arthur C. Clarke , James E. Gunn , William Morrison , more... H. Beam Piper , Walter Tevis , Larry Niven , Stanley G. Weinbaum , John W. Campbell Jr. , Lester del Rey , Milton A. Rothman , Don A. Stuart , A.J. Deutsch ...less

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17 great science fiction classics.

Contents:

A Martian Odyssey by Stanley G. Weinbaum

Night by Don A. Stuart (John Wood Campbell Jr.)

The Day is Done by Lester del Rey

Heavy Planet by Milton A. Rothman

And He Built a Crooked House by Robert A. Heinlein

Proof by Hal Clement

A Subway Named Mobius by A.J. Deutsch

Surface Tension by James Blish

Country Doctor by William Morrison

The Holes Around Mars by Jerome Bixby

The Deep Range by Arthur C. Clarke

The Cave of Night by James E. Gunn

Dust Rag by Hal Clement

Pate de Foie Gras by Isaac Asimov

Omnilingual by H. Beam Piper

The Big Bounce by Walter S. Tevis

Neutron Star by Larry Niven

Where Do We Go from Here? Details

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From Reader Review Where Do We Go from Here? for online ebook

Susan says

Some tasty science fiction short stories. Though they are dated, the selection is fun to read because they deal with the philosophy of other races and of space exploration rather than how attractive aliens are to humans and whether they wear silver space suits. In that sense they have stayed remarkably current; I think the biggest difference is the language itself.

Nicole says

As seems standard for me with any book of short stories, I loved some of the stories, liked some of the stories, and was indifferent toward one or two of them. The 4-star rating is for the collection as a whole. It's certainly a must-read for any fan of classic science fiction.

Karen says

Even though these stories are a bit out of date, many of them having been written in the fifties, they still show the Science Fiction writer imagination and are fun to read. I'm sure I have read some before, but since my memory doesn't hold a lot, the stories were mostly new to me. I liked the Mobius story and the Big Bounce, as well as the Martian idea tales.

Foad says

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Lucas says

'Surface Tension' and the 'Omnilingual' are the least dated, and Asimov's own contribution is one of the weaker stories in the collection. 'Surface Tension' is sort of like Baxter's Flux but underwater instead of on the surface of a neutron star.

I liked the several stories set on Mars which amounted to hard sf at the time but have many now-falsified details. Also good are stories about the very first astronauts, visits to the moon, or nuclear technology written only 5 or 10 years before real developments overtook them.

'Big Bounce' is about flubber, not sure if they Disney movie came out before it or not.

Doug Cannon says

This is my car book for the moment. I keep it in the car and read a little when I have time. The stories are fun and interesting.

Erik Graff says

A better-than-average anthology of classic science fiction short stories by established authors.

Josef says

Příjemný výběr sci-fi povídek vybraných legendou žánru Isaacem Asimovem, který každou povídku doplnil komentářem a několika podnětnými otázkami pro zvědavce. Ažkoli poprvé vyšla již v roce 1974, většina z povídek je i pro dnešního čtenáře napsána živě a zábavně a žádného fanouška sci-fi neurazí. Nejvíce mě zaujaly povídky Domeček jako klíčka a Podzemní dráha Möbius.

Avi says

This is the first book of science fiction short stories I've read where each story was suffixed by a short discussion of the scientific principles and a set of questions for further study for the interested. It's a great idea. I wish more collections would do this.

Drew Hayes says

Heinlein's "—And He Built a Crooked House—" always stuck with me. I forgot where I got this from, maybe my grandfather. Good collection.

Stephen says

Where Do We Go From Here, a short-story collection assembled by Isaac Asimov, is more than the usual collection of short stories. Asimov introduces it in this way: *"I have long maintained that science fiction has potential as an inspiring and useful teaching device. For this anthology, therefore, I have selected seventeen stories which, I think, can inspire curiosity and can lead the students into lines of questioning of his own that may interest and excite him, and may even help determine the future direction of his career. [...] [T]he seventeen stories included are all good ones, clever and exciting in their own right. Anyone who wishes can read them for themselves alone, need make no conscious effort to learn from them, and may totally ignore*

my own comments after each story. For those who would probe a little deeper, I have placed after each story a few hundred words of commentary in which I talk about the scientific points made in the story, pointing out their validity, or, sometimes, explaining their errors. Finally, after each comment, I have appended a series of suggestions and questions designed to direct the reader's curiosity in fruitful directions."

As said, this is a collection of seventeen science fiction short stories, chosen for both their worth as stories and as science fiction. Asimov believed that good science fiction must have within it good science. The stories come from a variety of authors. A few are well-known names -- Lester del Rey, Robert Heinlein, Arthur C. Clarke -- but most were new to me. Two stories are by a Hal Clement, and at least one story was written by John Campbell, the editor of *Astounding Stories* under a pseudonym. After each story, Asimov reveals the year in which the story was published and comments on the author's predictions, assumptions, and so on, ending his commentary with three or four questions that are intended to jog the reader's mind. For instance, at the end of "The Cave of Night", he writes "*Gunn has the rescue vessels designed, built, and launched in the space of thirty days. Do you think this is practical? Look up data on the space program and find out how such things take.*" Another example follows "Dust Rag" : "*It is likely that Venus has an iron core, yet it has no magnetic field to speak of. How do we know it has none? Why should it not have one despite the iron core? What about other planets: Mars, Jupiter, Saturn? How do we know?*"

Only one story ("Proof") escaped me completely. I was able to enjoy all of the others to varying degrees. The stories seem deliberately chosen to cover the full range of scientific knowledge: in "Omnilingual", the readers join a team of scientists on the surface of Mars as they attempt to learn about a long-dead Martian civilization. This particular chapter concerns language. In "Dust Rag", two men on the surface of the Moon encounter problems with electromagnetism in that their visors become charged and attract lunar dust that is being charged by the Sun. The result is that the visors and the outside of their suits (including air filters) become covered in lunar dust and the astronauts -- in bulky space suits -- have to figure out how to return to their camp or shuttle before they run out of air. In "The Day is Done", we see speculations on human-Neanderthal interaction. Here Asimov posits in his commentary that the Cro-Magnons and Neanderthals may have interbred to produce humans, but this is quite dated. (Asimov died nearly twenty years ago, so he can be forgiven for not considering the last two decades of evidence in regards to Neanderthals and Cro-Magnons.) One of my favorite stories was "Surface Tension", which shows the results of humans modifying the human genome for life on other planets. The particular planet that the story is set on is covered in water and the largest animals are crayfish, so the humans are designed to be microscopic and interact with amoebas and so forth in a story that is completely implausible but very interesting.

I found the book to be tremendously enjoyable: the stories as well as the questions Asimov probed. I wonder if he did any other projects like this. It seems like a good resource for parents with older children or teenagers who want to shape their minds to think scientifically.

Gfec says

A Martian Odyssey 3,5/5 Night 3/5 The day is done 3/5 Heavy planet 3,5/5 And he built a crooked house 3,5/5 Proof 4,5/5 A subway named Mobius 4/5 Surface tension 4,5/5 Country doctor 2,5/5 The holes around Mars 3,5/5 The deep range 4/5 The cave of night 3,5/5 Dust rag 5/5 Paté de Foie gras 4,5/5 (for fun)
Omnilingual 3,5/5 The big bounce 3/5 Neutron star 5/5

old-fashioned technique (Mars at first), but mostly fine narrating in terms of age of origin, close to 4 stars

Bill says

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!
<http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/13368064>

Marciealana says

Wow! This was the first book I ever bought when I was about 12 years old. I still have a copy of it. Stories by classic science fiction authors. What better way to jump start a young mind?

The other John says

This collection of science fiction stories written between 1934 and 1966 was published with the intention to "inspire curiosity" and "lead the student into lines of questioning of his own". To that end, Dr. Asimov followed each tale with a brief commentary and some questions related to the ideas used on the story. I originally bought this book for a high school course in science fiction. In that class, we never did use the questions, focusing instead on the literary aspects of the stories. Nor did I ever pursue Dr. Asimov's questions on my own. But, by golly, I certainly did enjoy the stories themselves, hanging onto the book for all these years. It's classic science fiction from the mid-20th Century. Man is often the master of his domain, either by conquering his environment or by inventing wonders that astound. Of course, that observation is what I picked up in my 2012 reading of the tales. What originally endeared me to the book is the variety of concepts and the well written stories that explored those ideas. Hopefully, Dr. Asimov wouldn't have been a *too* disappointed in my response, missing his goal as it does.
