



Redemolished

Alfred Bester, Richard Raucci (editor)

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Before his untimely death in 1987, Alfred Bester had established himself as one of the world's greatest science fiction writers. body of work that will be continued to be enjoyed by generations of readers for all time. range of his genius: - The never before printed, complete 3,000 word prologue of his classic novel THE DEMOLISHED MAN - The extraordinary classic scienc-fiction tale, HELL IS FOREVER - Bester's shocking pre-cyberpunk stories, such as THE FOUR HOUR FUGE Included in this special edition are Bester's writings on such noted celebrities as Woody Allen, Rex Stout, and Isaac Asimov.

Redemolished Details

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Author : Alfred Bester , Richard Raucci (editor)

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Tony says

REDEMOLISHED. (2000). Alfred Bester & Richard Raucci (ed). ****.

This is a large compendium of works by Alfred Bester from a variety of genres. It seems that he was good at all of them. The only original work in this book is a prologue to his novel, "The Demolished Man," a piece that was, apparently, meant to be included along with that work in one of the SciFi magazines, but got left out. The collection here is wide-ranging, and includes examples from his short fiction, his essays,, and his interviews. Bester was one of the top writers of his day, but didn't move forward within that group of writers because he learned that he didn't really like science fiction – at least science fiction as it was written during his time. Although he berated the easy way out that writers took to make a buck, he challenged the writing itself as pure pulp. To his evaluation, writers were simply recirculating old themes over and over and not dipping their toes in new waters. He did manage to keep a list of good writers for his own reference, and shared their names with his readers. You would certainly recognize the names on his list. His writing was generally innovative and spare. He relied heavily on the surprise ending – though not in the O'Henry fashion. His endings usually took the reader down the anticipated roads, but made abrupt u-turns that left us all in shock. A good example of this was his short story, "I'll Never Celebrate New Year's Again." Although this book really doesn't contain any new material, it is a good review of Bester's talents, and might serve well as an introduction to his works to the novice. Recommended.

Joanne Parkington says

Loved it, loved it, loved it if you are a Bester virgin, then this book is a great way to pop your cherry and if you are already a fan then this is like a Bester Fan Mag it's chock full of all the good stuff. A brilliant & thoroughly good read i highly recommend it.

Aaron says

This covers a lot of ground from fiction to non-fiction, and much of it is fun as hell. A few are throwaways.

Andrew says

Good for Alfred Bester fans as it includes some of his nonfiction (as opposed to SF) writing.

Yve says

There are quite a few really good stories/novellas collected here (The Push of a Finger, The Four Hour

Fugue, Hell Is Forever, etc.) but also some completely indifferent or simply bad stories (The Animal Fair, The Probable Man, etc.). Judging from the good stories and from the excellent novel *The Stars My Destination*, Bester had a rare gift of style and pizzazz. I was disappointed reading the essays and articles here because through them he comes off as a really insufferable individual. Sexism in science fiction is (so unfortunately) not surprising but still no more pleasant to discover. Bester was not a virulent misogynist but there are multiple times where he (and the people he interviews - including Woody Allen) are dismissive and disrespectful to women. And then there's the way he writes about himself. There are some authors like Graham Greene whose personal writing makes me think they would have been really fine people to talk with. Bester is not one of those. I might read *The Demolished Man* someday later, if I can ignore the stylistic tics that wore on me after finishing this volume.

Bruce says

Only for devoted Bester fans. Some early week stories (some mainstream), interviews, articles, and an intro to *The Demolished Man* that was never published with the book.

Lord Humungus says

Reprints of many of the greats

Gary says

Just could not get into the storyline. Stopped reading it after really trying to push through because I've been told it is a classic.

Maarten Broekman says

This is a great collection of short stories, letters and interviews by Bester. This is NOT a good choice for your first book by Alfred Bester. It makes much more sense after you've read *The Demolished Man* and/or *The Stars My Destination*.

Clare says

great essays about sci-fi and the responsibilities of authors. also i love love love his short stories!
