



Nightfall Two

Isaac Asimov

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Nightfall Two is the second half of a collection of Isaac Asimov's science fiction, short stories. Each story has been selected by the author himself, and each has an introduction specifically written for this collection by Dr. Asimov. Together the two volumes showcase Isaac Asimov's story-telling talent.

Nightfall Two Details

Date : Published 1973 by Panther (first published 1969)

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Author : Isaac Asimov

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From Reader Review Nightfall Two for online ebook

Janek Bogucki says

A varied collections of stories from late 1950s, early 1960s. In one story Asimov makes a bunch of accurate predictions about autonomous car ownership and usage patterns, all now being played out by Uber etc.

Raj says

This is a collection of Asimov's stories chosen by the good doctor himself, with a little introduction talking about the antecedence of the story. The stories themselves are all good ones and classic Asimov. This is a two-edged sword, so if you're not generally an Asimov fan, this collection probably won't convert you.

Fips says

As one of the world's most prolific authors, and one of the true giants of science fiction, it can be difficult to know where to start with Asimov. As a child I read a few stories and was soon hooked, but perusing his oeuvre takes some time. For anyone interested in wetting their fingers with this master of science fiction, however, the Nightfall anthology is a great place to start.

Put together by Asimov in the late sixties, it was his attempt to address what he felt was an undue amount of attention to the short story which gives the collection its name. Nightfall was published in 1941 when Asimov was just 21 years old, but was immediately recognised by the magazine editor as being worthy of a bonus rate. Unwilling to accept that his best work was written basically at the beginning of his career, this collection is an opportunity for readers to judge for themselves, whether Nightfall deserves such high praise, and whether or not Asimov's writing style had improved in the intervening period.

This second volume contains fifteen short stories published between 1951 and 1967 ("In a Good Cause—" (1951), "What If—" (1952), "Sally" (1953), "Flies" (1953), "Nobody Here But—" (1953), "It's Such a Beautiful Day" (1954), "Strikebreaker" (1957), "Insert Knob A In Hole B" (1957), "The Up-To-Date Sorcerer" (1958), "Unto the Fourth Generation" (1959), "What is This Thing Called Love?" (1961), "The Machine that Won the War" (1961), "My Son, the Physicist" (1962), "Eyes Do More Than See" (1965), and "Segregationist" (1967)). In comparison to the first volume, this is much more of a mixed bag in terms of quality. Given that Asimov set out to prove that Nightfall wasn't his only decent short story, a lot of the choices contained in this volume seem to have more in the way of anecdotal value. For instance, "What If—" was written as a bet between Asimov and his wife as to whether he could base a story around something as simple as their train journey; the two-page "Insert Knob A In Hole B" was written during a television panel discussion, when he was challenged to write a story on the spot (he admits in the preface that he had expected the challenge to come up and prepared accordingly). Similarly other stories were written at the behest of editors seeking to fulfil a particular niche, including one for Playboy.

As with the first volume, each story is prefaced by a small introduction, which partly makes up for the lower quality of the stories. The stories are obviously a lot shorter in this volume, and as a result have a much broader range of backgrounds, so there is certainly a chance that at least something will appeal to every

reader. Nevertheless, there's little denying that this volume can't live up to the standards set by Nightfall One.

Patrik Sahlstrøm says

A true masterpiece, or rather a collection of small masterpieces. This is literature, and not just the kind of boring engineer-porn that his contemporaries wrote. Highly recommended!

Geir says

Oldsk00l is, in this case, goodsk00l, and Asimov kicks all kinds of butt. The stories are of good quality, and are selected by Asimov himself covering the 1950s to the 1960s. Not least delightful are his accounts of how the stories came to be. I especially like how he basically described an important part of TCP/IP in 1962 in "My son, the physicist". 4 stars.

Andrew says

This book really is a continuation of the first one - Nightfall One (creatively titled) - since in some versions they are treated as one, and so do I. My comments and views really are tied in with that volume rather than differentiated with the separate book. I would reiterate that really this is a great collection of his work that go from the early 40s through to the late 60s and as such show a remarkable forethought and timeless storytelling many authors in these times either missed or go totally wrong. Yes some of them are dated (language I think is the easiest give away of when a story was written)

FranklinTV says

More collected Asimov short stories that began my journey into reading, so kept mainly for that reason rather than to re-read. I do like how Asimov gives a short background to each story before it is presented. Alas, none of these stories would seem to have stuck in my memory.

Will Burns says

Interesting and novel ideas, but not too much substance or meatiness.

William says

Not as good as Nightfall One, but how bad can Asimov get?

Ponetium HalfTree says

Very nice collection. I enjoyed it very much.

Bob Rust says

"In a Good Cause—" • (1951)
What If— • (1952)
Sally • (1953)
Flies • (1953)
"Nobody Here But—" • (1953)
It's Such a Beautiful Day • (1955)
Strikebreaker • (1957)
Insert Knob A in Hole B • (1957)
The Up-to-Date Sorcerer • (1958)
Unto the Fourth Generation • (1959)
What Is This Thing Called Love? • (1961)
The Machine That Won the War • [Multivac] • (1961)
My Son, the Physicist • (1962)
Eyes Do More Than See • (1965)
Segregationist • (1967)

Jim Amos says

Found this in my school library when I was twelve. I don't think it was even supposed to be there. Filled my head with stars and opened me up to the whole world of scifi and especially Asimov's brilliant ideas. This is definitely one compilation that changed my life.

Corinne says

The best part of this anthology is the interjections Asimov writes before each short story. They give fascinating insights into the brain of this bizarre and neurotic author, discussing his own feelings about the stories and what sparked each one off. I found those preludes more interesting than the stories themselves - although those are of course top quality, this being Asimov's favourites among Asimov's works. I mean, it's Asimov. It's not going to be crap.

Manoj says

Amazing stories. An absolute must read for all asimov fans.

Ed says

Not sure if I've read this before...
