



Ghastly Beyond Belief: The Science Fiction and Fantasy Book of Quotations

Neil Gaiman (Editor) , Kim Newman (Editor) , Harry Harrison (Introduction)

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The science fiction and Fantasy Book of Quotations.

This book is made of assorted quotes from science fiction, fantasy, and horror, both in books and movies, with a bias towards science fiction.

Ghastly Beyond Belief: The Science Fiction and Fantasy Book of Quotations Details

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From Reader Review Ghastly Beyond Belief: The Science Fiction and Fantasy Book of Quotations for online ebook

Robin says

This was a ton of fun.

I really enjoyed it and found myself taking notes throughout of books I wanted to read (or re-read), movies I wanted to watch (or re-watch).

So many good quotes!

Definitely worth my time.

David Raz says

I got this as part of the Gaiman rarities Humble Bundle for 2016.

In the forward to this book the authors describe they originally intention to write "the definitive book of science fiction and fantasy quotations," but they abandoned the idea when the publishers pointed out the lack of sales appeal of this idea. I suppose they figured out it would be boring and pointless. Somehow they ended up making non-definitive list of quotations which is equally boring and pointless. This is especially true for the list of movie quotations, which is sorted alphabetically by movie name, with very little life in it. The parts which are better are the ones which do not try to be so methodical, mostly the first part which is about books, which explores some interesting troves of SF and fantasy books. I kinda enjoyed this part. But mostly, this was one of the most boring pieces of writing I ever read, two stars out of five.

Colin Maclaughlin says

A compendium of quotes from sf novels and b-movies. It pokes fun at the turgid prose and cliches of the genre, but it remains obvious the editors have a love for their subjects. I think it would work better in print, to be sampled at random, rather than as an e-book where reading it straight through gets repetitive. I'm also sure that fans of 50's sci-fi creature features will appreciate it more, like "I remember that line- that was great wasn't it!" It did inspire me to watch *Queen of Outer Space* so that's something.

Mayumi says

[
Scientists of over fifty are good for nothing except board meetings and should at all costs be kept out of the laboratory. ARTHUR C. CLARKE, Profiles of the Future - pág.76

Pure evil, as much as pure good, is poetic. - pág.

D.L. Carter says

The Most Hysterically Funny compilation of lines and concepts from the history of Sci Fi and Fantasy. This book, written by Neil Gaiman many, many years ago had a very short print run, was remastered early and is only available as a second hand, rare book. Last time I spoke to Mr. Gaiman, himself, he said he didn't have a copy. Hopefully this has been corrected.

In the book the authors divided the Meme's of Sci Fi and Fantasy into all its subgroups and gave us amazing examples. My favorites include the chapter on Swearing.

"Holy Kolon's Iridium Intestines, Batman!"

And Religion, which included Zelany's prayer to Gods who may or may not be influenced by prayer.

Also is fun is the chapter on Rhubarbing Natives, whose function includes dying messily to alert the Quick thinking hero that something might be amiss in that house on the hill.

If you can beg or borrow this book, do so.

Brad says

This was a fun read, particularly when the quotes were from books that I've read. It's comprised of quotes from books and movies that are commented on by Neil Gaiman and Kim Newman. Book quotes are in the first half of the book and movie quotes in the second. I enjoyed the book quotes a lot more, but there are some gems in the movie section as well.

Many of the comments are quite funny and appropriate, while a few seem strange and one or two, a bit missing the mark, I think. I had several laughs reading through this, though only from a small percentage of the quotes.

What was detracting was that there were a lot of typos. It may be only in this digital version I bought from Humble Bundle, but the typos got worse and more frequent the further the book went along. I'm guessing they probably OCR'ed the original and then no one double-checked it for errors. Some of the typos are missing words, some are misspellings, and some are words that just don't make any sense and you have to guess at what was intended.

Overall, it was fun and kind of a lesson in writing (maybe more on the "what not to do" side). I particularly enjoyed the blurb section. And it gave me a few movies and books that I might have to check out, for good or bad.

Dobromir says

An amusing collection of early SF quotes. It is very expansive and gets repetitive so you better not read it all at once. The comments to some of quotes are really spot on and often made me laugh.

My main gripe with this book is that it refers to a lot of books and movies I haven't read or watched and judging from the titles and the quotes I would have never had the desire to do so.

Gareth Howells says

This is one of my oldest possessions and a book I have read again and again and again.
It is an hilarious and revealing book of quotes from science fiction books and films. The collection of material is hugely varied and endlessly interesting.
It's really really funny.

Dragan Nanic says

Mainly referencing pulp books with few noticeable exemptions, highlight of this book is in the way it is organized. Authors managed to classify the quotations according to the characters, language, special effects etc. in both books and movies as in Good Science and Mad Science.
It is too much to be read from cover to cover, but for a quick graze through it could be great fun.

Travis Crump says

The best parts were the author's interjections and commentary on the quotes. My only complaint would be that there weren't enough of these.

Elin Nilsson says

The introduction of this book says that it was originally planned to be a literary index of science fiction, until it was pointed out to the author that nobody would read it that way, and instead it became a collection of funny quotations of old-time science fiction. I say old-time because this book is from the 80s and tells me that the Hitchhiker's Guide is contemporary. I would probably have enjoyed this book more if I actually had any clue who the authors were. I know some of the names but I've read very little science fiction. When the book shifted to movies instead, however, I suddenly knew a lot more of what it was talking about and that part of the book was a lot more fun to me. A part of me keeps wondering, though; in this day and age when people can become professors in fantasy, would this book have worked as it was originally intended?

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nwhyte.livejournal.com/2706065.html>

This is a point-and-laugh collection of extracts from sf books and films which are grotesquely over-written or badly written, and does pretty much what it says on the tin. Some of the extracts are pretty glorious but I'm afraid most just made me wince. I found the first half, which concentrates on books, much more interesting than the second half, which concentrates on films.

Morgan says

It is what it says it is—a collection of quotations. It's a little uneven; there were definitely moments that made me laugh (whether it was the quotation or the commentary), but some of it is definitely dated.

Greg Meyer says

The literary version of Mystery Science Theater 3000. All the stupidest lines, characters, and back-cover blurbs from decades of science fiction and fantasy. Biting, yet loving, commentary and a great mixture of obscure and obvious choices.

Alex Sarll says

Not a review of 2016 to date, though the title would suit admirably, but a gallimaufry of SF, fantasy and horror quotations assembled and editorialised by the pre-fame Neil Gaiman and Kim Newman. The first half, covering written material, is a delight - all manner of tortured and confused prose skewered on the page for our sadistic amusement. The repeat appearances for such luminaries as EE 'Doc' Smith, Guy N Smith (no relation, as far as we know) and Lionel Fanthorpe will not surprise connoisseurs of dire English, but there are also strong showings by lesser-known turkeys such as *Yellow Inferno* and *Night of the Black Horror* (only one of which is as racist as the title suggests).

The problem arises in the second half, which is taken from the screen rather than the page. Certainly genre cinema has had some shocking dialogue...but the words are no longer the whole story. You need to identify the speakers, and this must often be done by story role rather than name...which unravels if, decades later, the characters from *Star Wars* are being summarised in the same snarky, you've-probably-not-seen-this tone as those from *Macumba Love*. Even beyond that, the editors' ear seems less sure here; a fair amount of the stuff in the second section is memorable for all the right reasons, but it's often jumbled in with the awful rot.
