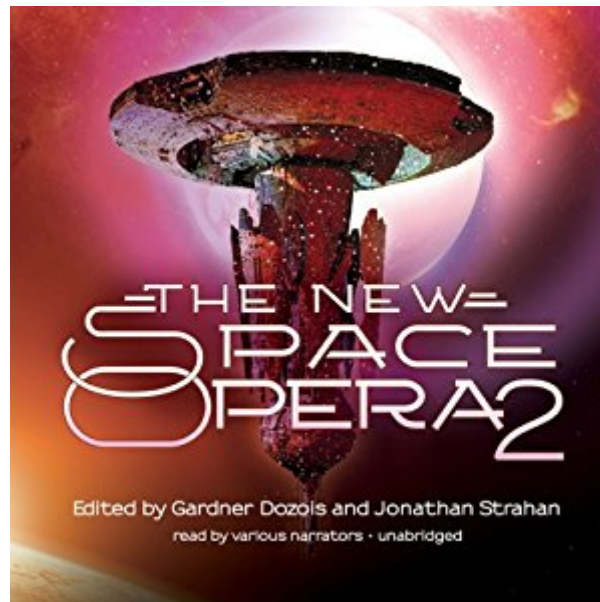


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The New Space Opera 2



Synopsis

Following the success of their Locus Award - winning anthology *The New Space Opera*, editors Gardner Dozois and Jonathan Strahan up the ante with *The New Space Opera 2*, in which more of the most beloved names in science fiction spin stunning tales of interstellar adventure and wonder. Authors include: Neal Asher, John Barnes, Cory Doctorow, John Kessel, Jay Lake, John Meaney, Elizabeth Moon, Garth Nix, Mike Resnick, Justina Robson, Kristine Kathryn Rusch, John Scalzi, Bruce Sterling, Peter Watts, Sean Williams, Tad Williams, Bill Willingham, Robert Charles Wilson, and John C. Wright. Featuring additional narration by Neil Shah, R. C. Bray, Lloyd James, Tristan Morris, Kevin Kenerly, and Terri McMahon.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed reading all 19 stories in this collection. I confess that *The New Space Opera* first volume is still on the shelf by my bed, only a few stories sampled. The difference was having this one in my iPhone Kindle app, so I could read away at it during train rides or boring staff meetings. I'm grateful for the entertaining diversion. My five favorite stories in this book made me rethink my approach to my job: "The Lost Princess Man" by John Barnes demonstrates how to conduct a job interview with a con man in a high-tech dictatorship. "Defect" by Kristine Kathryn Rusch shows how to resign from a job as an undercover assassin--and how to resign ourselves to the consequences. "Chameleons" by Elizabeth Moon reminds us what it is like to babysit a pair of bratty kids. "The Tale of the Wicked" by John Scalzi evokes those feelings we sometimes have that our office computers are really running things--and that their errors are intentional. "The Far End of History" by John Wright emphasizes the

dangers of becoming romantically involved with someone at work--especially when different versions of both of you play so many different roles that it's hard to keep them straight. Two more stories weren't among my favorites, but get an honorable mention for succeeding as "space opera" while making fun of it. Cory Doctorow's "To Go Boldly" made me laugh harder about Star Trek than I have since reading Terry Bisson's Galaxy Quest.

A mixed bag. This collection was somewhat spotty for me, some good stories, a number of so-so's and a few duds. Stories: 1. Utriusque Cosmi - Robert Anton Wilson 2. The Island - Peter Watts 3. Events Preceding the Helvetian Renaissance - John Kessel 4. To Go Boldly - Cory Doctorow 5. The Lost Princess man - John Barnes 6. Defect = Kristine Kathryn Rusch 7. To Raise a Mutiny Betwixt Yourselves - Jay Lake 8. Shell Game - Neil Asher 9. Punctuality - Garth Nix 10. Inevitable - Sean Williams 11. Join the Navy and See the Worlds - Bruce Sterling 12. Fearless Space Pirates of the Outer Rings - Bill Willingham 13. From the Heart - John Meaney 14. Chameleons - Elizabeth Moon 15. The Tenth Muse - John Williams 16. Cracklecrackle - Justina Robson 17. The Tale of the Wicked - John Scalzi 18. Catastrophe Baker and a Canticle for Leibowitz - Mike Resnick 19. The Far End of History - John C Wright

How you find these stories will depend on what you look for in space opera. My preference is not for classic space opera, but rather stories crafted in a wide universe, far in the future. Stories which are just set in this future, but whose protagonists are all too contemporary just do not work for me. Neither does technology that is used as stage props. The stories I really liked were: -The Island Defect To Raise a Mutiny Betwixt Yourselves From the Heart Chameleons Cracklecrackle The Far End of History

In particular, I really loved "The Far End of History", a story that strongly evoked a far future, glimpsed darkly, yet richly textured. I hope to read more of this future.

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