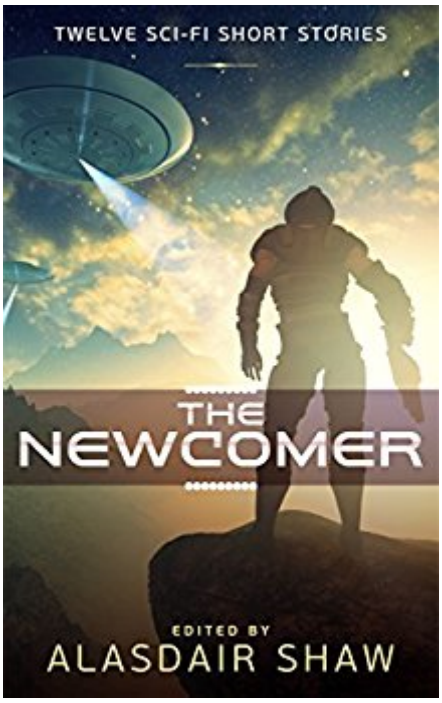
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# The Newcomer: Twelve Science Fiction Short Stories (Scifi Anthologies Book 1)




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## Synopsis

From a young couple struggling to look after their baby to a new captain’s reluctance to take command of her ship, and from a sun-addled stranger’s appearance in town to the emergence of a sentient AI, the twelve tales presented here explore the central theme of an arrival by someone or something new. There’s even an alien puppy.The stories are:Tithe by Griffin CarmichaelExodus by Alec HutsonFirst Bonding by Tom GermannIce Dreamer by J J GreenThe Nanny by Cindy CarrollRight Hand by Jonathan C GillespieWhat Make is Your Cat? by Richard CrawfordKaxian Duty by Cherise KelleyLessons Learned by J Naomi AyThe Humra by Laura GreenwoodThe Hawk of DestinyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Fist by James S AaronRepulse by Alasdair Shaw

## Book Information

File Size: 1904 KB

Print Length: 194 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0995511012

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: November 28, 2016

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01MTOHL8M

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #36,885 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #67 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Anthologies & Short Stories #85 inÃ Â Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Anthologies #309 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories & Anthologies > Anthologies

## Customer Reviews

Fairly predictable scenarios.

British author Alasdair Shaw is a highly regarded author of science fiction ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œTwo

Democracies (two volumes), The Best Bits of Physics, Walking Through the Past (four volumes), A Very Brief History of Britain, Physics Problems for GCSE among them. Alasdair gained a BA in Natural Sciences and a MS in Experimental and Theoretical Physics from the University of Cambridge following which he specialized in Science and Physics earning a PGCE from the University of Bangor. He grew up in Lancashire, within easy reach of the Yorkshire Dales, Pennines, Lake District and Snowdonia. After stints living in Cambridge, North Wales and the Cotswolds he has lived in Somerset since 2002. He has been climbing, mountaineering, caving, kayaking and skiing as long as he can remember. Landscape archaeology has always been one of his interests. A man with these credentials is a wise choice to serve as editor of assorted authorsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ takes on science fiction and this book is rich in variety and techniques of make the bizarre world seem palpable.AlasdairÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Introduction serves as a tempting appetizer for sci-fi fans to read this collection: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœThis collection of short stories was put together to showcase the variety of talented authors writing science fiction today. The twelve chosen come from around the world, including the US, Britain, Canada, Taiwan, and China. Each tale presented here explores the central theme of an arrival by someone or something new. And the reactions produced range, as they often do, from hope to fear.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢The summaries of the tales plead to read the entire stories - 1) ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœThe world is nothing but a dry husk of itself. Jacob Heinlein has lost his home, everyone he knew, and hope. While on a journey to the mythical ocean, an unforgiving sun beating down on him, Jacob finds himself in a town with a source of fresh, clean water. However, there is a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“TitheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• to pay for the privilege of staying. 2) In ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“ExodusÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, the orphaned children of Old Earth are scattered across the solar system, protected from the darkness by god-like beings fashioned from lost technologies. But something has changed. Ancient rules have been broken, and after centuries of isolation one of these beings approaches Mars with overtly hostile intent. A defence must be marshalled, and the coming conflagration could result in the destruction of one of the last bastions of man. Humanity had aimed for the stars and a glorious future in space. The alienÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s arrival had tarnished that shiny dream. Now the first AIs are fully coming online, even while the government tries to block their use, and humanity is once again looking to the future. 3) ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“First BondingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• tells of the illegally-created level 8 AI known as Genghis, and his reactions to an alien attack. In ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Ice DreamerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (4), lab technician Prussis has dreamed all her life of reviving someone from the past. Whilst no-one understands why she keeps trying, she works long hours defrosting heads. In her latest attempt, what happens is the last thing she expects. Then in

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The NannyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (5), the first natural birth in over two hundred years brings a new life to CardeaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s family. Despite the risks, she and her husband are determined to raise a family the old fashioned way. But social habits die hard. The war with a forgotten conqueror has been over for decades, but that doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t mean the Earth has recovered. Life in the American Midwest is only getting more dangerous. His town besieged by hunter-killer drones left over from the conflict, gifted high school senior Daniel Bell would give his ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Right HandÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (6) to make the Army believe that the machines are somehow not being harmed by their operations. 7) ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“What Make is Your Cat?ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• welcomes you to London-Atlantis where, after the tsunami, your cat has higher social status and earning power than you do, and evolution is an elite, designer trend you canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t afford to join. Three-month-old Clem faces his first day of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Kaxian DutyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (8) with anxiety. He is keen to find out what his assignment will be, but runs into distractions on the way to headquarters. Training will be hard. Mistakes will be punished. Oh, and his tail has a mind of its own, which doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t help matters any. Ary had known he was destined to be a starship captain his whole life. After all, his mother was Captain Sandy and his father was the guy who was supposed to be Fleet Admiral. However, the prospect of attending the Spaceforce Academy was daunting. Enough to make Ary question his future. In his first few weeks there will be quite a few ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Lessons LearnedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•(9). Bounty hunter Braillen takes a new job on ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The HumraÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•(10) to get close to her mark. When the crew discover her identity she is whisked in front of the captain. She must face her nightmares if she wants to finish the job and realise her deepest desire. New captains take command in a variety of situations. Sometimes the passage isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t an easy one. In ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Hawk of DestinyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s FistÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (11) , Asarik Leah is sent to replace ShipLord Till and lead his InquiryShip on a dangerous new mission. Tradition demands she proves herself fit to take his place. And in our last story, newly-promoted Commander Olivia Johnson is posted to the destroyer ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“RepulseÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•(12. Most of the officers are dead and the remaining crewmembers are exhausted. Johnson must step up to the mark and lead them back into battle despite her personal misgivings.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢Tempting, no - irresistible! This is a fine and varied in topic collection sure to please. Grady Harp, November 16

Enjoyable and entertaining short tales on different interpretations of ’arrival’.My favourites in this collection are (no spoilers) -First Bonding - Tom GermannVery cleverly written. I had no idea where

this story was going, but was very pleased when it went where it did.Ice Dreamer - JJ GreenLoved this story. Made me think of the moral and cultural dilemmas which may be involved in our future. Particularly relevant with the recent news of a 14 year old's dying wish.Kaxian Duty - Cherise KelleyBrilliantly well told tale that was so realistic it had me giggling with laughter.Lessons Learned - J Naomi AyThe pressure of living up to successful generations before you, and what happens when you take a sneaky shortcut.The Hawk of Destiny's FistI adored this story of secrets kept between generations, and the power of bloody tradition.Repulse - Alasdair ShawA new leader knows when to put her trust in an already battered and bruised team.That's not to say that the other stories are bad - they aren't - just a little less impactful than my favourites. One thing's for sure, my 'To Be Read' pile will now be the length of the Great Wall of China with the addition of these authors! Well worth a read.I voluntarily read and reviewed an eARC of this title.

It's really hard to give a rating to a collection of short stories. Some were three stars, most were four stars and a few were worth five stars. One of those was written by an author whose book-length stories I normally give a five star rating encouraged me to give this collection a try and I'm glad I did. He made this recommendation even knowing I normally am disappointed by short Sci-Fi stories.Alasdair Shaw is the author I'm referring to and his was the closing story in this collection. It was actually a prequel to his recent series and gives us an early view of the Captain of a Destroyer who advanced to this command because so many others were killed in action. She's barely found her way onto the bridge of the heavily damaged warship when a surprise attack occurs.Review by THE HOLEY ONE

Most of these stories were not my cup of tea but the last two stories by James S. Aaron and Alasdair Shaw are both solid, traditional leaning space opera. The writing was tight and the characters sympathetic. I will try both of their solo works. For $.99 whats to complain.

I find it very difficult to review a set of short stories at times as many can be of varying ratings within the Anthology itself. These short stories were perfect for drawing in the readers attention to each writer's work. While reading I felt many of these stories could be a prologue or first chapter in a longer plot. The stories were well written and many were clever, some of course didn't seem to come together in the end or ended too abruptly for my taste. This being said, I shall be looking into many of the authors, now that I've sampled their work. My personal favorites in this Sci-fi Anthology were "First Bonding" by Tom Germann, "Right Hand" by Jonathan C. Gillespie and "The Humura"

by Laura Greenwood. There are of course other great stories within the twelve these were just the ones that left me wanting to add to my to read pile. Aliens, invasions, technology advancement and even a touch of love story this anthology gives everyone a chance to find something for themselves. Overall this collection of short stories is a pretty good read.

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