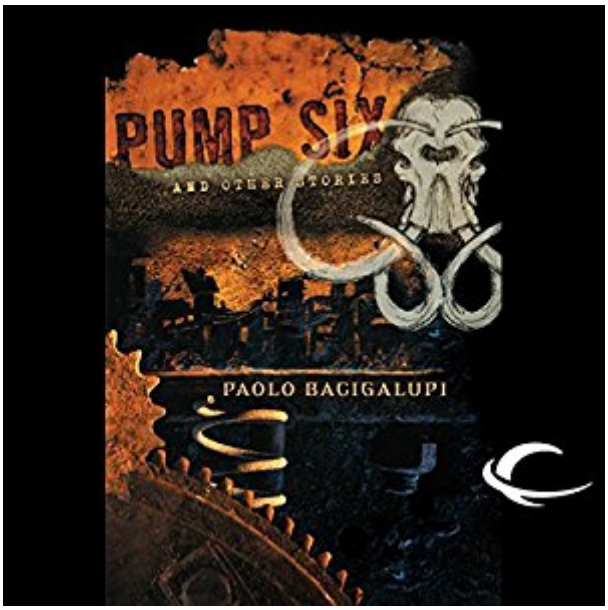
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Pump Six And Other Stories



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Synopsis

Paolo Bacigalupi’s debut collection demonstrates the power and reach of the science-fiction short story. Social criticism, political parable, and environmental advocacy lie at the center of Paolo’s work. Each of the stories herein is at once a warning and a celebration of the tragic comedy of the human experience.The 11 stories in Pump Six represent the best of Paolo’s work, including the Hugo nominee "Yellow Card Man", the Nebula-and Hugo-nominated story "The People of Sand and Slag", and the Sturgeon Award-winning story "The Calorie Man". The title story is original to this collection.With this book, Paolo Bacigalupi takes his place alongside SF short-fiction masters Ted Chiang, Kelly Link and others, as an important young writer that directly and unabashedly tackles today’s most important issues.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 12 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 36 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: Audible Studios
Audible.com Release Date: July 6, 2010
Whispersync for Voice: Ready
Language: English
ASIN: B003VXKE5E
Best Sellers Rank: #106 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction > Anthologies & Short Stories #1177 inÃ Â Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Anthologies #7624 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories & Anthologies > Short Stories

Customer Reviews

I gave it 5 stars, although it would be more accurate to give 4.5 rating. These short stories are all set in the same world, ours but with no changes to arrest global warming & the climate changes that ensue, the affects of GMOs & relying on one crop farming (there is a technical term but it escapes me now) think of the great Irish potato blight, and the over-reach of huge corporations. The saddest part would be the fact that humanity would adjust so well. The most compelling of these stories are of course those in which the protagonist’s eyes are opened to these changes. I would recommend this collection to any one who enjoys short stories of speculative science fiction. I am going to read more of Paolo Bacigalupi’s work.

...perfect forecast of the chemical storm we're brewing. If we're ever going to get the message of inconvenient truths out, it should be in this venue. Flint, MI is nothing compared to what's coming. Serious praise for p. Bacigalupi.

The future portrayed in these short stories contains elements that are easy to imagine- war, religious differences, competition for food and water, and of course real estate. These are all here. But there is so much more. Genetic engineering of just about everything including people, animals, and plants grown for food and fuel is the norm. Mutations are rampant and most of them aren't for the better.This is the first time I've read this author's work and I am very impressed. This is a person who has obviously given the end of civilization as we know it a lot of thought. The world after any type of apocalypse is bound to be dark and dangerous, and that runs through every story in this collection, but it is the deeply weird stuff that was especially fascinating. With enough wealth, people in these stories can get away with just about anything, and they use that power without hesitation or restraint.These tales aren't for the faint of heart- but if you enjoy well written imaginative stories that make you think, then I would whole heartedly recommend this book.

ump Six (2008) is a collection of eleven short stories from the Hugo-nominated and Nebula-award-winning author, Paolo Bacigalupi. Mr Bacigalupi's particular method of storytelling fits neatly within the short story format, making this an impressive volume of his work.Largely, Mr Bacigalupi is telling tales about resource deprivation. Imagine a possible world (generally Earth) in which we've run out of x (x = calories, water, space, whatever). What are the reprecussions of this state on the social order? Who wins? Who loses? How do they feel? The stories almost invariably feature a proletariat-class protagonist and their struggles. No one extraordinary, just people trying to struggle through both their generically awful lives and whatever awful thing is thrown at them by the author.In stories like "The Tamarisk Hunter", "The People of Sand and Slag" and "Pop Squad", we can appreciate the plodding hero, but largely, these are tales about the world they live in - essentially parables about how we'd evolve if we ran out of water, food or space. When read in the same book, these stories feel a little same-y - a sort of Wayne Barlowe's Guide to Our Awful Future. I'm aware that this criticism is completely unfair - these stories weren't written to be read in this fashion, an inescapable problem with single-author short story collections.It is with stories like the titular "Pump Six" and the amazing "Yellow Card Man" that Mr Bacigalupi really shines. In both cases, the hero is someone extraordinary. Or, at least, just extraordinary enough. Whereas the

other stories conclude with a dawning realization of the awfulness of their world, these stories begin with that assumption. In "Yellow Card Man", our protagonist is a man that was - once - on top of the world. Now he’s struggling to find scraps to eat, but still trying to maintain his last few standards of dignity. "Pump Six" features, essentially, the last intelligent man in the world - and, frankly, he ain’t all that bright. He’s just clever enough to realize that his society is built on a ticking time-bomb. But not smart enough to solve it. Eek.As someone that grew up with boxes of flea-market-bought issues of Isaac Asimov’s and Analog, I found Pump Six almost reassuringly familiar. Or is that reassuringly disturbing, given its content? These are short stories that outline a future, introduce a protagonist and, if there’s space enough, give the reader a nifty little mini-quest with a twist ending. Short stories aren’t meant for "epic" - these are meant to introduce personal perspectives and person-sized resolutions. Mr Bacigalpi’s work in this space ranks up there with some of the best in my memory. His writing is cheated by being collected - these excel as individual tales, and, read together, can be taken for granted.

If you like PB’s work, these are fantastic short stories that help to flush the universes in the water knife and the windup girl. Really well written. I wish he wrote more

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