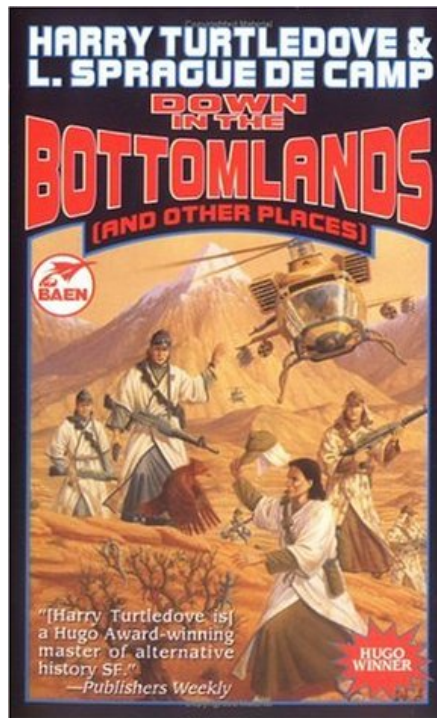




Down in the Bottomlands and Other Places

Harry Turtledove , L. Sprague de Camp

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In our world, the Mediterranean basin has dried up several times, only to refill. If it hadn't, it would have become a savage desert. But in his world, that's just the way mild-mannered Radnal vez Krobir likes it.

Down in the Bottomlands and Other Places Details

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From Reader Review Down in the Bottomlands and Other Places for online ebook

Lee Belbin says

SS: A strange tale of an alternative geological history where the Mediterranean is a dry bottomland. A tour of the park leads to a whodunnit re planting of H bomb to flood the bottomlands (two sexy girls - that's who)

Salvatore Pulvirenti says

Per intenderci il libro non ?? brutto in s??. Infatti ho regalato una stella rispetto a quelli che sono i miei gusti per semplice obiettivit??. Il problema ?? che in una collana di fantascienza mi aspetterei fantascienza e non un fantasy. E questo ?? sicuramente un fantasy. E questo nonostante i premi che ha vinto.

La storia parla di un viaggio di piacere di un gruppo di turisti in un mondo alieno, per paesaggi e animali che lo vivono, nato dalla una larga depressione originata dallo spostamento dei continenti.

Il tutto ?? condito da scene sensuali, omicidi, spionaggio e guerre politiche.

Niente male come background, quindi, ma non ho trovato nulla di fantascientifico in tutto ci??.

C'?? da dire che il libro ?? uno dei primi della collana e questo forse giustifica la sua edizione in questo contesto.

Kat Hooper says

3.5 "Down in the Bottomlands" audio version.

BNZ says

El libro prometía mucho: un autor consagrado de literatura fantástica, premio Hugo... pero mi gozo en un pozo. Personajes planos y un crimen que apenas consigue levantar la curiosidad del lector. Dejamos atrás la ciencia ficción porque el contexto donde se produce la trama es "ciencia ficción" de refilón: apenas hay descripciones, desarrollo del universo... en fin, decepción sería la palabra que mejor define esta lectura.

Stef says

I listened to the audiobook (which does not have an ISBN) of Bottomlands, narrated by Victor Bevine. It won a Hugo award for best novella.

Harry Turtledove is known for alternate history, which this is, but in a way it would be more accurate to call it alternate geology. The world he writes about is one in which the Mediterranean Sea dried up (which happened in the real world, in the Miocene epoch) and never got filled up again (which didn't). The alternate world has both Homo sapiens and Homo neanderthalensis.

The science and the culture seemed reasonably plausible.

A key plot point was telegraphed by a little too much emphasis on what the plot point revolved around. (I'm not checking the "this review contains spoilers" box so that's all I'll say.)

David says

A very fun story and interesting idea of what if

Bettie? says

Down in the Bottomlands is a novella written by Harry Turtledove which takes places in an alternative history in which the Atlantic Ocean did not reflood the Mediterranean Sea 5.5 million years ago in the Miocene Epoch, as it did in our history. The Mediterranean Basin thus remains dry to the present day in this time line, as a vast sunken desert called the Bottomlands, averaging nearly two kilometers below mean sea level, with summer temperatures reaching well above 40°C and with little or no rainfall.

The novella first saw print in January 1993 in Analog magazine and has been reprinted twice since then, once in 1997 in The New Hugo Award Winners, Volume IV and then again in 1999 with a couple other novellas in a book called Down in the Bottomlands.

bluetyson says

Down In The Bottomlands by Harry Turtledove (2000)

Lynn Calvin says

baen ebook

Sergio Frosini says

Bello, non tanto per la trama "politica" fra le ipotetiche nazioni di una Terra dove il Mediterraneo si è prosciugato e la storia chissà come si è svolta... quanto per il viaggio turistico nelle Terrefonde, fra paesaggi aridi e un (ahimé inesistente) ecosistema desertico minimale ma affascinante. Non male anche le caratterizzazioni dei differenti personaggi, dai nomi purtroppo difficilmente memorizzabili, peggio di Tolkien ;-)

Nicholas says

This has three stories in it:

Down in the Bottomlands: This story was pretty okay. It could have used some trimming, but it kept me interested in what was going to happen.

The Wheels of If: This L. Sprague de Camp story started off in an interesting way that made me wonder what the heck was going on, but then it settled into some incredibly boring alt history with an unlikable, uninteresting, unsympathetic protagonist, and nothing even remotely resembling an interesting secondary character. The plot was uninspired, and just not good at all. At all.

The Pugnacious Peacemaker: This is a Turtledove-written sequel to The Wheels of If. It is not any more interesting than the original. Crap protagonist, boring story.

All in all, I'd say skip these stories if you run across them. You can surely find better things to do with your time.

Lyn says

Harry Turtledove is to alternate history fiction as the Bee Gees were to disco music; but in his 1999 compilation of three novellas, Turtledove pays tribute to L. Sprague de Camp as an inspiration.

Beginning with his very good story (and Hugo award winner for best novella in 1994) Down in the Bottomlands, Turtledove introduces his readers to the concept that the Mediterranean Sea did NOT refill millions of years ago, but instead stayed a desert and so there is no natural barrier between the African continent and Europe. So, there was never a Greece or Rome, and all the cultural contributions of those societies. Even more interesting is that in this world, the Neanderthals never died out and this region is a Neanderthal nation, living in a strained truce with its Homo Sapiens neighbors.

The second novella was a 1940 work by L. Sprague de Camp that reminded me of a Poul Anderson story where Europeans settled North America far earlier, maybe almost a thousand years, than in our world. The third work is Turtledove's sequel to this story where the Inca Empire never collapsed.

While the second and third stories do not come close to the award winning Down in the Bottomlands, this is good alternate history science fiction and good writing throughout.

Fantasy Literature says

Harry Turtledove is known best for his alternate histories. In Down in the Bottomlands, a novella which won the Hugo Award, Turtledove goes with the premise that the Atlantic Ocean did not re-fill the dried-up Mediterranean Sea during the Miocene period. The sea basin becomes a desert, and this alteration in the Earth's geography affects many aspects of humanity's genetic and geopolitical evolution.

Ippino says

Un romanzo breve carino, buono per qualche ora di relax. Personaggi un pochino stereotipati ma che comunque paiono convincenti nel loro modo di agire. Trama interessante, ma che poteva essere sfruttata meglio, magari in un romanzo più lungo ed articolato.

La scenografia è sicuramente d'impatto, ma non mi è sembrata sempre funzionale alla storia: non già dissertazioni su ipotetici futuri, ma solo un pretesto per mettere i personaggi in un contesto alieno.

In definitiva, un discreto romanzo d'evasione, debitore dei racconti che venivano pubblicati sulle riviste pulp americane.

La parte centrale è la migliore, quando un colpo di scena innesca la trama vera e propria.

Il finale, invece, appare "capitato lì per caso", descritto frettolosamente.

Chi ama Turteldove troverà un racconto carino, a patto di non avere grandi pretese.

Sconsigliato a chi non ha mai letto nulla di questo autore. Conviene partire dal "ciclo della Legione Perduta" o da altre cose.
