



The Mammoth Book of Steampunk Adventures

Sean Wallace (Editor) , Jonathan Wood (Contributor) , Chris Robertson (Contributor) , C.S.E. Cooney (Contributor) , Catherine Tobler (Contributor) , Alex Dally MacFarlane (Contributor) , Gord Sellar (Contributor) , Tony Pi (Contributor) , more... Aliette de Bodard (Contributor) , Nisi Shawl (Contributor) , Lisa L. Hannett (Contributor) , Ann VanderMeer (Introduction) , Genevieve Valentine (Contributor) , Sofia Samatar (Contributor) , Caitlín R. Kiernan (Contributor) , Cat Rambo (Contributor) , K.W. Jeter (Contributor) , Margaret Ronald (Contributor) , Samantha Henderson (Contributor) , Ken Liu (Contributor) , Tobias S. Buckell (Contributor) , A.C. Wise (Contributor) , Cherie Priest (Contributor) , Jay Lake (Contributor) , Benjanun Sriduangkaew (Contributor) , Christopher Barzak (Contributor) , Carrie Vaughn (Contributor) ...less

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Looking to the future through the lens of the past, here is a second fantastic collection of over 30 typically anarchic mash-ups that push the boundaries of steampunk from the same editor of the bestselling *Mammoth Book of Steampunk*.

The Mammoth Book of Steampunk Adventures Details

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From Reader Review The Mammoth Book of Steampunk Adventures for online ebook

Rachael Ashdown says

Enjoyed every story. They were all unique and fascinating, and most of them shockingly progressive considering the time period they tend to be set in. Highly recommended for any Steampunk fan. It certainly lives up to its name. It is a mammoth read, but worth the time and effort.

Nthato Morakabi says

First Thoughts

I picked this up while I was writing my first Steampunk novel, hoping to get a glimpse into his mysterious world of amazing steam and clockwork powered inventions, and alternate universes where electricity was obsolete. I was hoping for grandiose descriptions, compelling characters, incredible machines, fantastical worlds, and grungy, sooty Victorian-Era stories. What I got was a little bit of that, but mostly it was other genres set in a steampunk world where you don't see much of the steam. It wasn't the greatest anthology but it was just enough. Just.

Story

There were 30 stories in this anthology, and not all of them were great, which is why I've been reading this book for over a year now. Haha *looks away guiltily* Some of the stories I ate up like a good double bacon and egg burger, and other's I chewed over like overcooked steak. Here were a few that stood out:

Tanglefoot – Cheri Priest

Harry and Marlowe and the Talisman of the Cult of Egil

Edison's Frankenstein – Chris Robertson

Green Eyed Monsters in the Valley of Sky, An Opera

The Clockworks of Hanyang – Gord Sellar

I Stole the DC's Eyeglass – Sofia Samatar

The Collier's Venus – Caitlin R. Kiernan

Final Thoughts

Eh I wasn't severely impressed. A few stories were tantalizing only to end abruptly, while other's dragged on forever and they weren't the most compelling. I got a sense of the Steampunk genre but not enough to fall in love with it as I had expected. I think I'll have to read a proper novel next.

Rose says

Varied selection of stories within the parameters. Liked Ken Liu's best.

Lesley Arrowsmith says

What a great collection of stories! And what a lot of new authors to look out for now!

There are a lot of very different Steampunk worlds here, including the African country of Everfair from Nisi Shawl, a Thai post-apocalyptic world from Benjanun Sriduangkaew, an Aztec maker of clockwork birds from Aliette de Bodard, and many more, with airships and mechanical creatures and fairgrounds full of marvels, a floating city full of opera houses, the Mongolian plains, the beginning of the film industry - there's such a lot of variety, and so much good writing.

Florin Pitea says

Seven stories were actually good. The rest were O.K., but not especially memorable. Details to follow on my blog.

Paul says

I have never read any Steampunk so this seemed to be a good place to start. There are 26 different short stories in here from stars of the genre like Cherie Priest to others that I have never heard of. As with any short story collection you do get a mixed bag. There were some really good ones that captured the essence of Steampunk perfectly, with the machines, dirigibles and automata making you feel that the time machine that you had just stepped out of had bought you to a very different world. Others didn't work for me, either because they didn't have the right Victorian feel, or seem Steampunk enough.

Not bad overall, but not outstanding. It has give me the impetus to explore the genre further though.

Kate says

This was a pretty good anthology with some excellent steampunk stories. However, I think the net was cast a bit too wide. Some of the stories didn't seem steampunk at all, but low tech post-apocalyptic stories. If it doesn't have steam or a sort of Victorian flavor, is it really steampunk? I don't think it is.

Clare says

This collection is a mixed bag, and I'm glad of that. Stories that don't quite behave as they ought are stories written by authors and picked by editors who are pushing at boundaries. Some of these stories are not comfortable for me to read ('Five Hundred and Ninety-Nine' and 'Anna in the Moonlight', for example). The diverse viewpoints are greatly welcomed, and they add fascinating layers of conflict. I really admired 'The Clockworks of Hanyang' and 'Selim that has Grown in the Desert'.

msleighm says

Like many Short Story anthologies, this book is uneven. Recommended by a friend, if you like the genre, I say give it a try.

Anaj says

Engaging collection of enjoyable stories. As with any anthology, I found some to be better than others, but I liked most of them quite a bit.

Alli says

Finished "Harry and Marlowe and the Talisman of the Cult of Egil" by Carrie Vaughn, which is basically a mini Indiana Jones adventure if Indy were a woman and a princess, and I very much want to know if there's more!

Also read "Smoke City" by Christopher Barzak last night, and the world building and imagery there is amazing and beautiful.

"The Colliers' Venus (1893)" by Caitlin R. Kiernan has excellent world building and structure. I'm also super into the thoughts expressed about time.

Russell Forden says

As usual with these compilations the quality was variable, but overall this was a good read. Some of the stories were barely what I would call Steampunk - it was like some of the writers thought they'd better add a clockwork object or two to make their stories more steampunk. My favourite stories were Smoke, by Christopher Barzak, Harry and Marlowe and the Talisman of the Cult of Egil, by Carrie Vaughn, Anna In the Moonlight, by Jonathan Wood, Selin That Has Grown In the Desert, by Alex Dally MacFarlane, On the Lot and In the Air, by Lisa L Hannett, The Collier's Venus, by Caitlin R Kiernan, Beside Calais, by Samantha Henderson, and Good Hunting, by Ken Liu. The Jonathan Wood story and the last two mentioned were especially good. Henderson imagines sentient airplanes that graze on grass and need to be 'broken in'. Liu takes Chinese myths and remakes them into something rich and strange and very moving, and very Steampunk.

Jojo says

As with most short story collections, there are usually a mixture of good ones and bad ones. In this book though, unfortunately, I couldn't seem to find one that stood out, and to be honest, they were all fairly mediocre to what I was actually expecting.

The stories are all written by various authors, most of these I've never heard of. The theme of the stories are fairly grotesque, which isn't a problem. The main problem with the majority of this collection are the rather weak plots, plus the fact that some of the stories just seem to have something clockwork simply thrown in somewhere, just to make it steampunk themed. I can say now, that just doesn't work. The theme has to be consistent to be classed as a true steampunk style story.

Michelle says

So I didn't finish this book. To me, the quality of the stories was kind of weak and some of them had only the most tenuous claim to steampunk. That'd be okay, if the quality of the stories was better. On my Couldn't Finish shelf.

Traci says

I greatly enjoyed reading all the stories in this volume. While not all of them were my style, I appreciated seeing how different authors approach the subject and do Steampunk in their way. I am trying to write a Steampunk story of my own so this rounded out some new perspectives for me.
