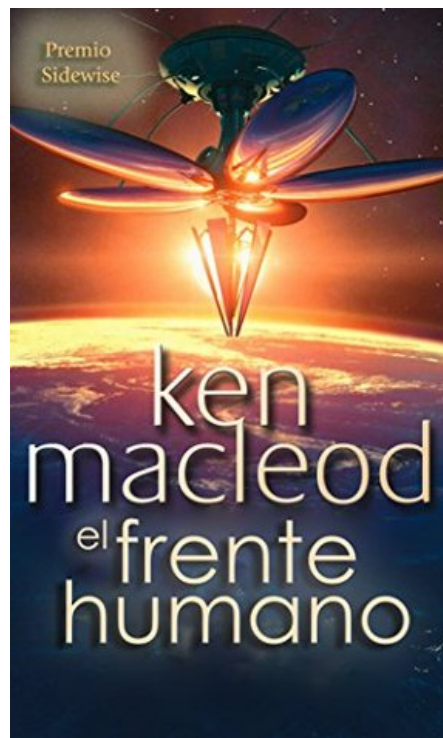




El Frente Humano

Ken MacLeod

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Novela corta ganadora del Premio Sidewise de Historia Alternativa.

En un mundo que vive una interminable guerra mundial desde 1945 John Matheson, un joven e idealista escocés se ve abocado a luchar en las guerrillas que los comunistas lidian en Escocia contra el capitalismo norteamericano. Pero todo cambiará con la llegada de unos nuevos combatientes.

Ken MacLeod nos ofrece un relato sarcástico y mordaz sobre el capitalismo y la exploración de la singularidad tecnológica en una civilización posthumana. Una historia alternativa que aúna la sátira política con un vívido relato de aventuras estimulante, tan provocador como divertido.

Ken MacLeod (1954) es un escritor británico de ciencia ficción, especialista en computación y biomecánica. Ha cultivado sobre todo el género de la ciencia ficción dura y el space opera. Sus novelas a menudo exploran ideas políticas como el comunismo o el anarquismo, además de temas claramente científicos como las singularidades tecnológicas, el posthumanismo y la robótica.

Entre sus obras más destacadas se encuentran "El Torreón del Cosmonauta", novela nominada al premio Hugo, "Luz Oscura", o "The Night Sessions" novela ganadora del premio BSFA en 2008.

El Frente Humano Details

Date : Published May 19th 2015 by Grupo Ajec - FicciónBooks (first published 2001)

ISBN :

Author : Ken MacLeod

Format : Kindle Edition 99 pages

Genre : Fiction, Science Fiction, Alternate History

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From Reader Review El Frente Humano for online ebook

Micah Sisk says

Take MacLeod's Star Fraction series, blend it with his Engines of Light trilogy, boil it down to novella size, and sprinkle in some highly fictionalized autobiographical elements and Bob's yer Uncle. This is a splendid social/economic/political/alternate history/flying saucer tale. In addition you get a couple of short essays and an interesting interview with the author. Couldn't ask for much more. A nice neat gem. Very well written; concise, engaging, inventive and somewhat humorous. Pretty much classic MacLeod and well worth a read.

Howard Cohen says

The whole series of Outspoken Authors is great. Even when I don't agree with the politics, its a good way to learn about authors you may not know.

Benjamin says

Both MacLeod and the "PM Press Outspoken Authors" series conspired to raise my expectations, because they're both really great, but I was disappointed with where this story went. It felt like similar stuff to the end of the series that began with Cosmonaut Keep ... and I like that a lot more. The alternative history was interesting, but MacLeod took it somewhere else and I felt like the ending was rushed. The "plus..." portion of the book includes some essays and an interview that were fun, like something out of Locus Magazine would be. The best thing in the whole volume is when MacLeod threatens to write "a space opera that uses as many Golden Age tropes ... as I can rationalize ... (his) mental working title is *Star Princesses of the Lost Galaxy*." Oh hell yeah!

James Neilson says

I have yet to read a Ken MacLeod book that I did not like, and this novella was a brilliant, and well thought-out, alternate history. The interview with the author and the additional essays are also very interesting. Need I say any more? Read this book...

Comradeocean says

[having the all powerful time travelling aliens support the imperialists (hide spoiler)]

José Vázquez says

Una novela corta simpática, que durante tiempo mantiene el interés aunque el final sea un poco precipitado. Lo más interesante es el componente ucrónico, ambientado en una Tercera Guerra Mundial entre la URSS y los aliados y la historia del protagonista, un escocés que se convierte en jefe de la guerrilla maoísta combatiendo a los ingleses en su propio territorio. Quizá adolece de brevedad y un final que cambia todo el sentido del relato sin pistas previas y resuelve el misterio de fondo de una forma que pretende ser "impactante" pero no es muy lograda. Se deja leer, pero uno se queda con la sensación de que podría haber sido más.

Xan says

Este libro es al mismo tiempo un ejemplo de lo mejor de una novela corta y a la vez de lo peor a la hora de resolverla.

No soy fan de MacLeod, solo he intentado leer otro libro de este escritor (Ciudad Motor) y lo dejé en el segundo capítulo. Pero la idea de una novela corta era muy atractiva para pasar una tarde y me lancé a por ella. Y me encantó, al menos el primer 75% de la novela. Esta parte de la novela es un magistral ejemplo de lo que se puede conseguir a partir de un "what if...?", que habría pasado si la Segunda Guerra Mundial hubiese acabado de otra forma y Stalin hubiese muerto derrocado después de una larga revolución. De forma breve y concisa MacLeod nos guía de la mano del protagonista por su evolución desde la niñez hasta la edad adulta y las consecuencias de sus decisiones. Cada paso en este juego de ajedrez es lógico y coherente, con la escalada del conflicto calcada a lo sucedido en Vietnam y Afganistan y otros muchos lugares en la época en que está ambientada la novela.

Y aquí la fastidia. La resolución de la trama es mediocre en comparación con el resto del relato, buscando una salida fácil para poder cumplir con el pliego de condiciones del premio o desbaratando una buena idea por las prisas. No es una mala idea, ha sido utilizada muchas veces, pero por eso mismo no aporta casi nada nuevo cuando podría haber sido un desenlace increíble.

De todas formas es una novela muy recomendable, y más por el gesto de la editorial "Grupo Ajec - FicciónBooks" de ofrecerla gratuitamente en amazon un par de días. Teniendo en cuenta que se publicó en el 2001 y que por su extensión (unas 75 páginas) no es rentable la publicación individual en papel, ponerla en circulación como ebook es una buena forma de dar a conocer a un escritor fuera de su círculo de lectores.

Resumiendo: hasta la página 60 cuatro estrellas, de ahí en adelante se queda en tres.

Adam Wolf says

I was midway through the novella before I realized I was no longer in a foreword :)

If you like Ken MacLeod's stuff, you'll like this.

Sara says

This is brilliant and does what the best science fiction does, use the trappings of science fiction to speak to the realities of history and the world. 4.5 stars. I took off half a star for it being slightly too didactic at times and a rushed ending.

Kersplebedeb says

What a great quick meditation on the 20th century. Not a surprise that the author was briefly a Spart, which are probably the 2nd-most-tankie-trots (the Marcyites of course win by a mile) i have encountered. The interview was not one of Bisson's best, but the story itself was stellar. And as with the other PM Outspoken Authors alt-history title (K.S. Robinson's Lucky Strike) the author's reflections on the story were at least as interesting. Well worth checking out if you, like me, spend large amounts of time pondering the significance of 20th century maoism, trotskyism, and "real existing socialism".

Michele (Mikecas) says

Da:

<http://www.webalice.it/michele.castel...>

*Un racconto (racconto lungo o romanzo breve?) che scorre, che si legge con piacere, ma la scorrevolezza non può nascondere la fondamentale stupidità del tema centrale. Basare un racconto sull'ideologia, o ancora peggio sulla politica ancora attuale non è mai una scelta che porti a risultati positivi. Tutto sommato non c'è riuscito nemmeno **China Mieville** nel **Il Treno degli Dei**, nonostante l'enorme volume di fantasia, di allegoria e di utopia riversati a supporto. La parte più politica del romanzo è la sua parte più debole. Nel caso di **Human Front** manca completamente la fantasia, e ci sono anche troppi punti deboli per poter almeno salvare il racconto. La descrizione di una società degradata socialmente, con uno sviluppo tardo-industriale asfittico, è ben fatta, ma del tutto ingiustificata, perchè non si riesce a capire come sia venuto meno lo sviluppo scientifico che è sempre conseguenza di quello militare, quando la guerra non è più uno scontro che assorbe totalmente le risorse, che quindi si rivolgono al mercato del consumo civile. Una guerra strisciante, più contro sacche di "resistenza" che scontro di eserciti avrebbe dovuto naturalmente sviluppare al massimo l'innovazione tecnologica, specialmente se "aiutata" da interventi esterni.*

Macload si fa conquistare dal gusto dell'atmosfera preferita dimenticando la coerenza socioeconomica. Anche gli "alieni" sono a ben guardare abbastanza incredibili, maschere messe lì per dare una spiegazione, che è però molto carente. Pensare che la seconda guerra mondiale e lo scontro tra occidente e "paesi comunisti" risulti l'unico momento cruciale di tutta la storia umana, passata e futura, in cui le possibili diramazioni abbiano effetti così drastici da richiedere l'intervento dal lontano futuro (e poi perchè da due futuri così diversi, e perchè solo loro?) è abbastanza semplicistico e quasi puerile, in mancanza di alcuna ulteriore spiegazione.

Tutto sommato un primo impatto con questo autore tanto esaltato che non mi ha soddisfatto per niente. Cercherò altro di suo, perchè questo racconto mi sembra poca cosa.

Peter Tillman says

Outstanding political alt-history novella with some very surprising twists. If you are keen to read about a hard-left guerilla war in the UK, this story is for you. Thoughtful, well-crafted story that I enjoyed, despite having zero sympathy with leftist revolutionaries. MacLeod's writing is as good as ever, but the politics struck me as more strident than usual. 3+ stars for the story

Also included are MacLeod's story notes, a nice essay on the geography of the future, and a fabulous interview by Terry Bisson that's almost worth the price of admission in itself. 4+ stars for the essays and interview. Overall, 3.5 stars. On reflection (2018), I'm rounding it up. Nice book.

Note that the story itself was first published in 2001, and has been reprinted several times, most accessibly in the Dozois 19th Years Best (2002). But I somehow missed reading it until now....

Tyrannosaurus regina says

I love things that are this...sensibly odd. The alternate history unfolds so captivatingly and then everything goes wonderfully sideways. And of course this edition of the novella includes some supplementary materials from the author which brings another level to the story, particularly for those of us who like talking and reading about the process of writing as much as we like stories.

Liam Proven says

Wonderful novella. Starts off as a fascinating alt-hist connect-the-dots that leaves you scrabbling for the differences, slides into a broader genre pastiche, and ends up somewhere totally unexpected. Ken having fun.

Includes a good in-depth interview, too.

Gloin says

Bastante trivial y vista, por no hablar de la traducción, que me ha parecido bastante aproximativa. Entretenida pero prescindible.
