



## The Star

*Arthur C. Clarke*

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## **The Star** Arthur C. Clarke

In the title story of this outstanding collection, a group of cosmonauts discovers the remains of an advanced civilization in a remote star system—destroyed when their sun went supernova. They find that the civilization was very similar to Earth’s—and that its people knew of their coming doom centuries before it occurred. What they find leads their chief astrophysicist—also a Jesuit priest—into a deep crisis of faith, sparked by a shocking revelation that has implications not just for history—but for religion.

This collection of short stories demonstrates not only Clarke’s technological imagination—but also a deep poetic sensibility that led him to ponder the philosophical and moral implications of technological advances. These stories demonstrate the range of his vision as an author—based on both our scientific potential and the deeper aspects of the human condition.

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## The Star Details

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## From Reader Review The Star for online ebook

### Michael Thompson says

I guess I really don't need to read Tales From the White Hart, since many of these stories were collected here and there. Some of these other stories appear in other collections as well. Maybe that is why some of these stories are predictable. They are still well written and enjoyable to read, as most of Clarke's work.

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### Steve says

5 Stars for the story "The Star".

2 to 4 for the rest.

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### Bryan says

Clarke has long been my favorite SciFi author. I had read most of the stories in this collection before, but long enough ago for them to still surprise me with their twists and turns. In his short stories Clarke reminds me a bit of O. Henry and his penchant for the trick ending. Fun collection well worth reading.

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### April Grippo says

Beautifully written...the title story alone is worth the cost of the book!

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### Loae says

This book was a reminder of what a masterful SF writer Clarke was. They were visionary, and creative. Unfortunately many of the stories did not age well. Some are still tremendous works today, but many seemed outdated.

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### solitaryfossil says

What a disappointment. I can't believe I'm giving Arthur C. Clarke a 1 Star Rating, but here it is.

Twenty-eight short stories, most from the 1950's, and there were only two that didn't tempt me to throw my Kindle into the creek behind my house. *The Star* was okay, with a good twist ending, and *The Songs of Distant Earth* was good. The others were subpar and bordering on painful to read: dated and stale, dry and just not interesting. The most maddening stories here were the ones in which Clarke tried to be humorous. The cheeky attempts at comedy failed miserably, and there were too many of them.

I'm a fan of his novels - I've started the *Rama* series and the *2001* series, and enjoyed all other novels from Clarke, but I'm done with his short stories. This book is part of a 3-book collection. I cannot recommend them. Just embarrassing. Boo.

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### **Jon Bettcher says**

There's some great stories in here, and it's worth it for those. There's also quite a few 'White Hart' tales, which are humorous but don't really stand up well. The average wasn't quite as hard science fiction as I was hoping for, but I felt it was a good introduction to Clarke's short stories.

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### **DOUGLAS J BERRY says**

#### **Good**

I would have liked fewer white Hart stories, seems detract from the ideas? One story featured somebody handing an uranium bar. Nobody gets all the details perfect.

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### **Constance says**

I did not finish this book. I think for a couple of reasons. One I really do not like short stories all that much. Second I find I have a really hard time getting into classic older SF. It just usually does not appeal to me. I wanted to try this one as it sounded interesting but it did not hold my attention.

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### **Melvin Patterson says**

#### **Mostly quite good**

I've been a fan of Clarke since I was a boy, 2001 being my introduction. Most of the shorts were good, a couple I wasn't crazy about. The writing style though is not really to my taste. Long winding narratives get boring after a while. I tend to prefer dialog interwoven with the descriptive passages. But for the most part I enjoyed the stories from a plot perspective.

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### **maly nosorozec says**

Arthur C. Clarke by? niew?tpliwie mistrzem science fiction. Jego wizje przysz?o?ci i obcych form ?ycia do tej pory rozpalaj? wyobra?ni?, jego przewidywania niejednokrotnie znalaz?y odzwierciedlenie w rzeczywisto?ci. Czytelnicy znaj? go g?ównie z serii „Odyseja kosmiczna”, by? mo?e równie? z „Odysei czasu” lub „Spotkania z Ram?”. Czy jednak zetkn?li si? z jego krótkimi formami?

Zbiór „Gwiazda” zawiera kilkana?cie opowiada? mistrza, napisanych w latach 1946-1979. Mimo ?e teksty

mają kilkudziesiąt lat, trudno, by – jak w pewnych przypadkach fantastyka popularnonaukowa – uległy przedawnieniu; niektóre z nich dotyczą bardzo odległych czasów, a te rozgrywają się się w dwudziestym wieku w większości skupiają się nie na technologii, lecz na obcych cywilizacjach rasach.

Tytułowa „Gwiazda” rozpoczyna się i w tym tekście dostajemy to, na czym autor opiera większość swoich krótkich form: spokojne wprowadzenie w historię, wciążające rozwinięcie oraz zaskakujące zakończenie. Ten ostatni element stanowi powód, dla którego warto sięgnąć po ów zbiór. Czyż zakończenie wbija w fotel, większość z pozostanych zasługuje na solidną porcję oklasków. Tak właściwie nie wygląda? powinny krótkie teksty: zainteresowanie i zaskoczenie, prosta linia fabularna, bez żadnych udziwnień i komplikacji. Dodajmy do tego niesamowity wybór autora i mamy co, co zadowoli większość fanów science fiction.

Jak to bywa w antologiach, teksty są różne pod względem „ciążarą”. Dostajemy zarówno lejsze, rozrywkowe, jak i takie, które mają zmusić do przemyśleń. Kilka stanowi poważne rozczarowanie (dotyczy to tych najdłuższych w zbiorze), ale nawet z nimi warto się zapoznać. Clarke po prostu miało to „co” i nawet rozczarowanie jego autorstwa zapewnia czytelnikowi dawkę satysfakcji.

8/10

[malynosorozec.blogspot.com](http://malynosorozec.blogspot.com)

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### **Aidan McKenzie says**

This short story, in its limited pages, is remarkable. The themes and emotions Clarke is able to explore and elicit make this a must read. Science Fiction at its best.

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### **S. says**

hmmm now that amazon.com owns goodreads I guess I can take out some frustration on this entry? amazon.com claims this is a thousand page book....

as goodreads more honestly points out, 276 pages.

still... it was on sale 2.99 and had a handful of classics-- a story that anticipated communication satellites; a poetic story about a spaceship on a island planet.

limitations of genre fiction: focus on the future/ space travel is just a technological escapism thing. literary fiction goes higher, without the need for jet packs

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### **Angus McKeogh says**

It took me way too long to finish this collection, but that's because it was less than engaging. The opening short story, The Star, was pretty phenomenal and then the other 300+ pages was mainly filled with mediocre stories. This is noted as his 3rd or 4th collection and perhaps his better stories were included in his earlier

books.

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### **Magda says**

Some stories were amazing, others mediocre. Overall, I really enjoyed them. Rating of 3 stars because of the diversity in how much I enjoyed the different stories.

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