



The Best of Fredric Brown

Fredric Brown, Robert Bloch (editor), Carl Onspaugh (co-author)

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The Wit and Whimsy of Fredric Brown

Twenty-nine of the best-loved stories by the man some critics call the O. Henry of science fiction... stories that range from the wryly humorous to the deadly serious, but are always unforgettable.

Contents:

- ix · Introduction · Robert Bloch · in
- 1 · “Arena” · nv Astounding Jun '44
- 31 · Imagine · pp F&SF May '55
- 33 · It Didn’t Happen · ss Playboy Oct '63
- 47 · Recessional · vi Dude Mar '60; Portfolio, gp
- 49 · Eine Kleine Nachtmusik · Fredric Brown & Carl Onspaugh · ss F&SF Jun '65
- 69 · Puppet Show · ss Playboy Nov '62
- 81 · Nightmare in Yellow · vi Dude May '61; Five Nightmares, gp
- 85 · Earthmen Bearing Gifts · vi Galaxy Jun '60
- 89 · Jaycee · vi Nightmares and Geezenstacks, Bantam, 1961
- 91 · Pi in the Sky · nv Thrilling Wonder Stories Win '45
- 121 · Answer · vi Angels and Spaceships, Dutton, 1954
- 123 · The Geezenstacks · ss Weird Tales Sep '43
- 133 · Hall of Mirrors · ss Galaxy Dec '53
- 141 · Knock · ss Thrilling Wonder Stories Dec '48
- 153 · Rebound [“The Power”] · vi Galaxy Apr '60
- 157 · Star Mouse [Mitkey] · ss Planet Stories Spr '42
- 179 · Abominable · vi Dude Mar '60; Portfolio, gp
- 183 · Letter to a Phoenix · ss Astounding Aug '49
- 193 · Not Yet the End · vi Captain Future Win '41
- 197 · Etaoin Shrdlu · nv Unknown Feb '42
- 221 · Armageddon · ss Unknown Aug '41
- 227 · Experiment · vi Galaxy Feb '54; Two Timer, gp
- 229 · The Short Happy Lives of Eustace Weaver I, II, & III [“Of Time and Eustace Weaver”] · ss EQMM Jun '61
- 237 · Reconciliation · vi Angels and Spaceships, Dutton, 1954
- 239 · Nothing Sirius · ss Captain Future Spr '44
- 257 · Pattern · vi Angels and Spaceships, Dutton, 1954
- 259 · The Yehudi Principle · ss Astounding May '44
- 271 · Come and Go Mad · nv Weird Tales Jul '49
- 315 · The End [“Nightmare in Time”] · vi Dude May '61; Five Nightmares, gp

The Best of Fredric Brown Details

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From Reader Review The Best of Fredric Brown for online ebook

Silviu says

This here is an amazing collection of stories.
A must read for all those who enjoy good science fiction.

Craig says

Brown was arguably the best short-fiction writer in the sf field for decades, and it's a shame that he's nearly forgotten now. His work still holds up wonderfully. While I never was too sure that this volume included all of his "best" work, it does include classics such as "Arena," "Knock," and one off my all-time favorites, "Star Mouse."

*****Dave Hill says**

Classic SF shorts (along with a few of his equally famous mysteries) from the 40s-60s. Most of these are short-shorts, and feature twist endings that would have fit in perfectly on "The Twilight Zone". They tend to be a bit more satisfying than the longer tales, which either belabor the point or meander a bit (but remain entertaining or, in cases, disturbing).

Good stuff from an author sadly little known these days (and that mostly by Trekkies for his after-the-fact credit for the TOS episode "Arena," after Brown's lawyers objected to the distinct similarities to the story contained in this book).

Joyce says

A fairly quick read, worth a day or two of your time.

As with any anthology, some stories are better than others, but Brown remains one of the best classic SF writers. Since I'm a long-time Star Trek fan, I especially liked reading "Arena" and seeing the changes that -- probably -- the network or Standards and Practices forced on it.

Brown and Eric Frank Russell are both worth exploring if you're not familiar with their work.

Hojaplateada says

Genial. Indispensable para el bolsillo del varón de la C.F (Y tal vez la cartera de la Dama de la C.F.)

Inge says

In my opinion Fredric brown is one of the best short story writers ever in all the world and time. He uses few words to let your imagination freefall through the plot and there are some vicious twists. But if you don't engage your imagination you may find the stories sparse. And some can be quite disturbing...

Frode says

Still good after a number of years. Lots of twists and unexpected endings. The book was published in 1977, but the stories are from the 40's and 50's. It was fun.

Olethros says

-Algunas muestras muy representativas del trabajo del autor.-

Género. Relatos.

Lo que nos cuenta. Con Robert Bloch como responsable de la recopilación y de su introducción, muestra bastante acertada de la obra corta de Brown (la parte del león de su producción, junto al noir y el misterio, por encima de la novela de Ciencia-Ficción).

¿Quiere saber más de este libro, sin spoilers? Visite:

<http://librosdeolethros.blogspot.com/...>

Scott says

All entertaining. Some of the stories are very strong, some merely enjoyable--a couple fall flat. But well worth anyone's time.

Rebecca says

This is a charming collection overall, and it's nice to see the best stories of a once-popular and now-obsolete

Golden Age SF writer like Fredric Brown presented together in one volume. A handful of these tales ("Puppet Show," "Arena," "Reconciliation") are absolute gems. Moving, tense, and unpredictable. [Interesting note: "Arena" became the famous episode of Star Trek in which Kirk fought the Gorn. "The Geezenstacks" was produced on "Tales From the Darkside."]

Many of the other stories are solid entertainments, full of the twist endings that were one of Brown's trademarks. A few are duds, but that's to be expected in any collection. Yes, a helluva lot of whiskey, gin, and cigarettes are consumed within these pages. Yes, the female characters are given little to do except look voluptuous and chase men. That is, sadly, pretty much a given when you're talking about stories from 40s and 50s SF pulps. But a glance beyond the dated elements will prove that at the heart of most of these stories beats a wild, inventive premise. Enjoyed by me and recommended to anyone looking to expand their purview of mid-century science fiction.

Pablo says

Una recopilación de cuentos llenos de ingenio, y en los mejores con ideas directamente brillantes. El humor y la sorpresa los hacen muy disfrutables. Solo le faltaría algo más de ambición literaria para ser una obra perfecta.

Eric says

Every genre fiction fan should give this a read, basically.

Wonderful mystery, wonderful sci-fi, wonderful horror.

Great stuff all around. Warm and humane able to aptly capture a sense of wonder or a sense of dread.

Just absolutely worth everyone's time.

They don't make them like this anymore, much to everyone's loss.

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Arena – ???? ?? ???-????????????? ??????? ?? ??????, ?????????? ? ?????? ?? „????? ???“.
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Didn't Happen – ?????? ??? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?? ?????? ?????????? ?????????? ?????????? ?????????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

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Nightmare in Yellow - ?????? ? ?????????? ?????????? ?????? ?? ?????????? ?? ??? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

Earthmen Bearing Gifts – ???-????? ?????????? ?? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????????????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????, ?????? ?????? ?? ??????.

Jaycee – ?????? ? ?????????? ?????????? ??? ?????????????? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? 50 ??????.

Pi in the Sky – ?????? ? ???? ???? ???? ???? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

Answer – ?????? ?? ??? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?? ?????????? ?? ?????????? ?????????????? ?????? ?????? ?? ??? ?? ??????.

The Geezenstacks – ???? ?????????????? ?? ?????? ? ?????? – ?????? ?? ?? ?????? ?????????? ?????????? ?????? ?? ?? ?????? ?????? ? ??????.

Hall of Mirrors – ???? ?? ?????? ?????????? ?????????? ?? ?????? ???? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

Knock – ???? ??? ??????. ?? ??-?????? ?????? ??????, ?? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

Rebound – ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

The Star Mouse – ?????? ??? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

Abominable – ? ???? ?? ?????????????? ?????? ??????, ?????? ?? ?????? ?????? ???-????????? ?????? ?????? ??? ?????? ?? ??????.

Letter to a Phoenix – ???? ?? ???-????????? ?????? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

Not yet the End – ?????? ?????????? ?????? ?? ??????, ?? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?? ??? ?? ?????????? ?? ?????? ?????? ??????.

Etaoin Shrulu – ?????? ? ?????? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

Armageddon – ? ?? ? ???????. ?????? ?? ?????? ??...

Experiment – ?? ?? ?????? ? ?????????? ?????? ?? ?? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

The Short Happy Lives of Eustace Weaver – ???, ?????? ? ??-?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

Reconciliation – ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

Nothing Sirius – ?????????? ???? ?? ?????????? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

Pattern – ?? ?? ?? ?? ?????? ???, ?????? ??? ?????? ??????.

The Yehudini Principal – ??, ??? ?????? ?????? ??????, ?????? ?????? ?????? ?? ??????.

Come and Go Mad – ?????? ??? ?????? ?? ????? ?????? ????? ?????????? ?????? ??? ??????. ?????? ??? ?? ??? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ??-?????. ?????? ??? ?????? ?? ??????.

The End – ?????? ??? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ??????.

Jacob Ruefer says

In grade school I borrowed a copy of this book, most likely inspired by the interesting cover and my love for The Twilight Zone and The Outer Limits. The 300+ pages were a bit daunting back then, so I stuck to the shortest stories. Now, nearly 15 years later I finally found and finished a copy of this collection. I'm surprised Fredric Brown isn't given the respect he deserves anymore. In the 60's his story "Arena" was used in both Star Trek and The Outer Limits, but except for a short-lived resurgence in the 80's, Brown has been mostly forgotten. Which is a real shame. His stories are inspired, funny, and thought-provoking; not to mention almost 70 years old! An early Douglas Adams to be sure.

Manuel Alfonseca says

This book contains 29 stories, from super-short vignettes (less than one page) to longer ones, with tens of pages. The collection seems to have been well chosen. There is a little of everything. In fact, the same applies to my reaction to the stories. Three of them I liked a lot, seven I disliked or even abhorred! For me, the best three stories are the following:

1. Puppet show (1962)
2. The star mouse (1942)
3. Etaoin Shrdlu (1942)

I won't mention those that I abhorred. I'll just say that they are those where the author's ideology is clearer.
