



Fireflood and Other Stories

Vonda N. McIntyre

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Fireflood (1979)

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Fireflood and Other Stories Details

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Author : Vonda N. McIntyre

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From Reader Review Fireflood and Other Stories for online ebook

Aitziber Conesa says

Irregular como toda antología, pero con piezas extraordinarias.

Sam says

This is a collection of short stories. Most of them concern a protagonist who is isolated or outcast or separated in some from her environment. Most of the stories also involve a romantic relationship across cultural boundaries, or social boundaries, or age boundaries, etc.; the romantic relationships generally are unsustainable. The stories deal with a short period of time in the protagonists's lives, usually in a state of transition.

The best stories include: "Aztecs" in which the protagonist has been surgically altered to be a "pilot" for interstellar travel. "Of Mist and Grass and Sand" about a young travelling snake healer; she far more of a snake person than just a snake healer. "Wings" about a crippled "flyer" and potentially the death of a world. And "Fireflood" about a former person "Dark" who was altered to be burrowing creature for life on alien planets and her appeal to flyers for help in attaining her freedom and purpose in life.

The other stories are good too. Special mention should also be made for "Screwtop", "The Mountains of Sunset, The Mountains of Dawn" (also about flyers, this time ones who have left the possibly dying world).

One rather different story "Recourse, Inc." is completely different, and doesn't belong in this collection, but is short enough to not detract.

It seems like Macintyre is not very well known as a writer. Although not so prolific, she is, when at her best, one of the outstanding writers in science fiction. However, she is not as widely recognized as she deserves. (Witness the fact that no one else has bothered to post a written review to goodreads for this collection.) At any event, the writing in this collection is wonderful: often mesmerizing and evocative. I recommend it.

Pam Baddeley says

A collection of the author's shorter fiction, including the story which became chapter one of her novel, *Dreamsnake*, which I have previously reviewed. Quite a few of the stories involve the misuse of genetically altered humans or in one case, dolphins, by humans for often negative ends. A couple are about a winged species and the relationship of a younger and older individual. Most involve relationships sometimes across what amounts to a species barrier.

The best, apart from 'Of Mist, and Grass, and Sand', the Dreamsnake story, is the final story 'Aztecs' about the sacrifice which people who want to become pilots of interstellar craft - the ones who are able to stay awake during transit when even the ordinary crew have to go into stasis or die - sometimes have to make.

I found the tone of the collection on the whole rather downbeat. On the whole a balancing out into a 3-star read.

Ian says

Reviewed on SF Mistressworks: <http://sfmistressworks.wordpress.com/...>

Sean says

Having read "Of Mist..." in Pamela Sargent's astonishing "Women of Wonder" anthology, I bought this. And it was fine. '70s sci-fi fine. By the last story, the longest story, I was ready to jump ship. But, you know, even when it's about 55 pages, who, particularly with a Goodreads account, jumps ship at the last story? I'm talking I was halfway through the last story, "Aztecs," and ready to jump ship.

And I barreled through.

And the last story was so broad. So beautiful. It should have been a cheesy '70s sci fi love story, and somewhere along the way it became a story you know, you know, from your own life...

Andrew Post says

This was my first foray into Vonda N. McIntyre's body of work, and I must say, I didn't come away disappointed. She tells stories that are so vivid that they're immersive, intensely atmospheric and mysterious and fascinating, as any good sci-fi world should be. Some stories have hardly any dialogue in them, which is something I've always liked, but which I guess is unpopular nowadays. I've read female sci-fi writers before, but Ms. McIntyre breaks the mold: her stories are approachable and resonant no matter what sex or gender you ascribe to, and her portrayals of men and women and their relationships (even in fantastic settings) are realistic and believable. I highly enjoyed this book, and would definitely read a McIntyre story again.
