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The Long List Anthology: More Stories From The Hugo Award Nomination List (The Long List Anthology Series Book 1)



Synopsis

The Hugo Award is one of the most prestigious speculative fiction literary awards. Every year, supporting members of WorldCon nominate their favorite stories first published during the previous year to determine the top five in each category for the final Hugo Award ballot. Between the announcement of the ballot and the Hugo Award ceremony at WorldCon, these works often become the center of much attention (and contention) across fandom. But there are more stories loved by the Hugo voters, stories on the longer nomination list that WSFS publishes after the Hugo Award ceremony at WorldCon. The Long List Anthology collects 21 tales from that nomination list, totaling almost 500 pages of fiction by writers from all corners of the world. Within these pages you will find a mix of science fiction and fantasy, the dramatic and the lighthearted, from near future android stories to steampunk heists, too-plausible dystopias to contemporary vampire stories. There is something here for everyone.

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Customer Reviews

This is a breathtakingly good anthology, full of powerful stories that were definitely award-worthy. "The Breath of War" by Aliette de Bodard is at the same time universal (the protagonist's concerns include family and personal risk) and particular. It raises the question of how our creations embody our own conflicts. "When It Ends, He Catches Her" by Eugie Foster is that astonishing thing, a zombie story that I don't dislike, and it does something truly powerful and moving. "Toad Words" by T. Kingfisher takes a fairytale trope and places it in a realistic context, to good effect. "Makeisha in Time" by Rachael K. Jones addresses the suppression of women's stories via a girl who finds herself time travelling to other lives at random moments. Despite the detached present-tense narration and very little dialog, it manages to be moving. "Covenant" by Elizabeth Bear is one of the best stories in an excellent volume, for me, with a serial killer who's had his brain repaired and his body changed to a female one confronting another serial killer, this time as the victim. "The Truth About Owls" by Amal El-Mohtar is in a form I don't love, in which snippets of scientific fact are used to introduce each scene and have some tenuous connection to the fiction parts. It's otherwise well done. "A Kiss With Teeth" by Max Gladstone I read in another anthology (The Best From Tor.com), and it was so good I read it again in this one. Even knowing how it turns out, the suspense and creeping horror are powerful. "The Vaporization Enthalpy of A Peculiar Pakistani Family" by Usman T. Malik didn't completely work for me somehow. It's another science-fact-intro-snippet story, and the fiction part was a bit of a miss for me. A couple of homonym errors ("steppes" for "steps" and "leeches" for "leached") didn't help. "This Chance Planet" by Elizabeth Bear is another excellent story (damn, that woman can write). Completely different from the other Bear story in this collection, but with the same emotional depth and insight into toxic relationships. "Goodnight Stars" by Annie Bellet is post-apocalyptic (or maybe peri-apocalyptic), a genre which is not to my taste, but the author does a good job with it, making the story personal rather than epic. "We Are The Cloud" by Sam J. Miller has the kind of broken-down-hopeless-existence setting that I usually avoid, but is well depicted and well imagined. The premise is that the rich are using the poor as nodes in a living server farm. I didn't feel the ending was as well prepared for as it could have been. "The Magician and Laplace's Demon" combines SF and fantasy seamlessly, in a deadly fight between magicians and an AI. "Spring Festival" by Xia Jia is a series of small vignettes drawing on Chinese cultural practices. Because it wasn't a single coherent story, it lost some impact for me, but it was interesting. The translator, Ken

Liu, made a few copy editing errors along the way, including a comma splice. "The Husband Stitch" by Carmen Maria Machado is a magical-realist story that, like many such stories, ultimately didn't make a lot of sense to me, though it's well-written. "The Bonedrake's Penance" by Yoon Ha Lee is a tale of motherhood, independence, redemption and how difficult it is to create peace. "The Devil in America" by Kai Ashante Wilson was another I'd read before in the Tor.com collection. This one I didn't reread, because I found it too harrowing the first time. It's very good; I just didn't want to repeat the intensity of the experience. "The Litany of Earth" by Ruthanna Emrys is another from Tor.com, and this one I read again. It's always refreshing to see the Cthulhu Mythos treated in a way that doesn't require overwrought prose, and really this story uses the Mythos as a background to explore themes of oppression and collaboration. "A Guide to the Fruits of Hawai'i" by Alaya Dawn Johnson is also about oppression and collaboration, but this time it's the vampire apocalypse. Pulls off the difficult feat of creating a sympathetic character who never actually does the right thing. "A Year and a Day in Old Theradane" by Scott Lynch is his usual delightful combination of fantastical sword-and-sorcery with a clever heist. The setting is wonderfully strange. "The Regular" by Ken Liu is a mystery story with spec-fic elements, the central one of which is highly unlikely if you think about it much (for reasons of data storage capacity). However, if you don't think too hard about that, the story is a good one. "Grand Jete (The Great Leap)" by Rachel Swirsky is a beautifully rendered story of a dying young girl being translated into an android body, and all the conflicts that surround such a process, with an extra layer of immigrant Jewish culture for flavour. Like several of the other stories, it uses an art form (in this case dance) as a way to intensify the emotion of the narrative. Overall, an encouraging collection, showing that SFF is far from finished exploring strange new worlds in innovative ways while telling powerful human stories.

Every year a few speculative fiction works are selected to win a prestigious Hugo award. And every year there are stories nominated for Hugo awards that seem worthy of recognition, but do not win. The editor has selected twenty-one of them from 2015 to create this anthology. It goes without saying that they are of high quality. The five that appealed most to my tastes were: Eugie Foster's "When It Ends, He Catches Her" is about a man and a woman who dance together with a ghost of a chance for a deeper, longer-lasting relationship. Max Gladstone's "A Kiss with Teeth" explores how a vampire struggles to live a normal life with his wife and child. It's about what he can admit to his wife and to himself. Tom Crosshill's "The Magician and LaPlace's Demon" is about a man who is a vampire.

personalizes the timeless conflict between science and magic. The vast universe still isn't big enough for two competing narratives about how everything works. There can only be one. Carmen Maria Machado's "The Husband Stitch" is the life story of a woman who will do anything for her man except for one thing. Over time this one thing becomes more and more important. Yoon Ha Lee's "The Bonedrake Penance" reminds us that every child eventually learns to see their mother as someone other than their parent. Even when the mother is an all-powerful, impregnable space station. The stories in this collection are varied and engaging; there should be something for a wide range of readers. I'm glad I spent some time with it.

An awesome assembly of SciFi and fantasy short stories and novelettes. I can rely only on my personal taste, but barring three or four, there is not a single one that cannot pass the "Very Good" mark, and many deserve an "Excellent" grade. There are too many stories to review them individually, but I particularly enjoyed Elizabeth Bear's two stories, the enigmatic and hypnotic prose of Xia Jia, Alaya Dawn Johnson's "The Guide to the Fruits of Hawaii" and the magnificent "The Regular" by Ken Liu. This novelette alone makes the whole anthology worth it. Unlike traditional SciFi, this collection contains several stories that are anchored in the angst of the present and the past, rather than the future. The effect is not always beneficial to the stories. I did not like the "Grand Jete", "The Devil in America", or "The Vaporization Enthalpy of a Peculiar Pakistani Family", but "The Truth About Owls" is a great story written on the background of a Lebanese tragedy. Also, "A Year and a Day in Old Theradane" starts extremely well, but sputters to a really mundane ending. These minor criticisms, however, should not prevent you from buying the collection and immersing yourself in several evenings of reader's delight. Chapeau, Annie Bellet!

This is a fantastic anthology, with a good variety of stories. The best of them made me put down my Kindle and make impressed nerd noises at their conclusions. The ones I liked the least left me scratching my head, though I still enjoyed being immersed in their prose. I especially appreciated the variety of cultural and personal backgrounds represented. It did not feel as though any of the stories were forced in because of this aspect, just that the best stories happened to have different worldviews. Pick this one up!

there isn't a bad story in it....Nice, long, walk with old friends and some new! I'm going to buy it in

paperback. cause it's that good

Anthologies are a very good way to be introduced to new authors, and this book was no exception. These are mostly of the 'paranormal' range.

Good stories so far - still working my way thru it. I keep getting distracted by other shiny objects.

Kickstarter is quite valuable to readers if it enables this sort of book to be published. This is one of the very best.

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