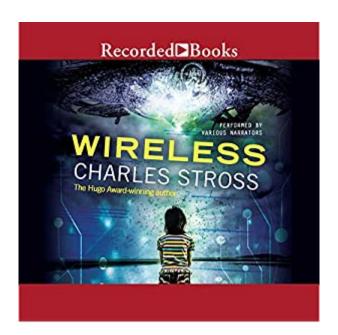


The book was found

Wireless





Synopsis

Prolific novelist Stross pauses to collect short stories that have not (yet) been stitched up into his longer work. Stories that move the US - USSR conflict onto a massive disk in another galaxy (Locus Award-winner "Missile Gap"), offer a spam-filter solution to the Fermi paradox ("MAXOS"), and suggest clever bargains with the devil in a newly frozen Scotland ("Snowball's Chance") demonstrate Stross's ability to crisscross genres, blending SF, fantasy, horror, and espionage.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 13 hours and 44 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: May 12, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00KAIF8QI

Best Sellers Rank: #116 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction > Anthologies & Short Stories #1260 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Anthologies #36159

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature

Customer Reviews

I've been a fan of Charles Stross writing ever since I encountered his homage to Lovecraft in _A Colder War_. This volume reprints that story together with eight others of varying lengths. If you prefer novel-length stories you should be aware that two of the titles (_Missile Gap_ and _Palimpsest_) are substantial enough to hold their own with much longer works. The first story, _Missile Gap_, is set on an Earth that has been translated to a giant flat disk and set in an ocean with many other translated worlds. It's a little bleak - don't expect a bunch of plucky humans to triumph because of their native can-do-it-ness. The vast godlike forces that could do something like this would be practically oblivious to the survival of species, let alone individuals. The second is _Rogue Farm_: A farmer has to deal with a post-human entity that wants to use his farm as a launching site. It's a very short (and light) work and I didn't really care for it._A Colder War_ is one of my favorite stories. Charles Stross uses Lovecraft's stories as the basis for an alternate history Cold War thriller. It's *very* bleak - the best possible outcome is the annihilation of humanity. I'd love to

see this as a graphic novel. Maxos is a vignette originally published in Nature. It's quite funny and deserves more elaboration. Down on the Farm is set in Stross's Laundry universe (The Atrocity Archives_, _The Jennifer Morgue_) which use Lovecraftian horror as their background (they're related but not connected to A Colder War which also appears in this collection). The Laundry stories seem to follow a standard pattern - the narrator is thrust into a crisis where things are not what they appear and he has to save the day through improvisation, facing eldritch horrors which are often less frightening than the nightmare that is government work. I liked this story, but it doesn't really stand alone. I'd recommend reading Stross's The Atrocity Archives first. Unwirer was written with Cory Doctorow. The hero is part of a team that sets up wireless networks against government and MPAA interference. It's surprising how well the two authors' styles merge but it's not a very deep story. Sonwball's Chance is a deal-with-the-de'il story (I once read that every author has to do one of these) that taps into Stross's interest in planetary engineering and government bureaucracy. It's short and slight but worth the read. Trunk and Disorderly is a Wodehouse pastiche. I used to like Wodehouse but I just couldn't get into this story. The author notes its relationship to Saturn's Children: if you were a big fan of the latter you might appreciate this more. The last story, Palimpsest is nearly worth the price of admission by itself. It's more than a little reminiscent of a famous story by Isaac Asimov but so, so much better. The key to time travel is held by an organisation that wants to stop humanity going extinct. To do this it periodically re-seeds Earth with populations taken from earlier iterations of humanity and, between epochs, does things like re-ignite ths sun (which ought to have burned out within a few billion years). This story has it all - deep time, stellar engineering, time travel, paradoxes, the Singulaity and more. The author notes that it's a novella that wanted to be a novel, and I think it feels a little constrained. None the less, it's an amazing read and highly recommended. I gave this book five stars. There were a few stories I didn't care for, but that's true of any collection. The gems of this collection would be worth buying on their own and justify the ranking.

I am liking Stross more and more, but my favorite of this collection was On The Farm, a Laundry story, which has spurred me to want to read much more about the Laundry. A Colder War was spectacular as well, with its interesting 'what if' scenario spun off of Lovecraft's At The Mountains of Madness. I also liked some of the far flung timescape of Palimpsest, which could have been a more gritty version of the Time Lords of Dr. Who fame. I didn't like Trunk And Disorderly. Just not my thing mixing overt humor into sci-fi (Douglas Adams not withstanding). My four star rating comes from the first two stories mentioned; the lack of the fifth comes from the last.

Disclosure - I am a Charlie Stross fan. Read this review with that in mind. This is a collection of 9 short stories and novellas. Of the stories there are 3 standouts; "Missile Gap" - which should be made into a novel. Earth's crust is laid out on a huge disc orbiting another star by aliens who watch how we manage with the changed circumstances as we explore and find evidence of other planets and intelligences similarly placed. "Palimpsest" - ditto. This is a modern rendering of Asimov's "The End of Eternity" and much better and richer by far. This tale alone is worth the price of the book. "Unwirer" - a collaboration with Cory Doctorow which is a bitter sweet, almost poignant tale about a US dystopia due to corporate interests controlling how the internet infrastructure is developed. This is a wonderful cautionary tale populated with believable characters. The weakest stories are: "Snowball's Chance" - a comedy based on beating the devil "Trunk and Disorderly" - a comedic precursor idea to the novel Saturn's Children, but which doesn't really work that well. This is a worthy successor to his collection "Toast" and affirms for me why Stross is one of the few great contemporary SF writers. His imagination roams far and wide and treads ground where few others have gone. Highly recommended.

You don't often see good science fiction short stories collections anymore. Charles Stross honour this old tradition with this book. Some of the stories are bad, some are difficult to read, some are sublime! What he does is to use the special power of the short story to emerge you directly into a situation that force you to think and challenge your preconceptions. Last in this book Stross doesn't fall into the trap of exposing his fascination with bureacracy, banking and economy that have made some of his recent books rather boring.

I wish more authors took the time to consolidate their attempts in mini-stories and "trials" in writing into anthologies like this (and their editors and publishers supported the efforts). These used to be so common in the past, and I think we are much poorer for the loss as we miss many attempts by some of the greats in trying their hands at both novel ideas and approaches to writing. This one by Stross is very good in both forms of writing presented and novel thought provoking stories. Enjoyed it greatly.

Stross writes science fiction like he means it, making his stuff a joy to read. Real people, completely unreal problems, wonderfully curly logic. If you like science fiction, there's little chance you'll dislike this varied collection of tales.

This is worth the price to read the novella Palimpsest. The other stories were not as well written, in my opinion. Most jarring was the fact that the Kindle edition has typos, about one every five pages. It looks like the book was scanned and hyphenated words were recognized incorrectly. There are lots of extra spaces in long words, like "under standing". Most amusing was the use of "time-subjunctive" instead of "time-subjective" in one spot -- good thing time travelers have great grammar!

Download to continue reading...

Hacking: Wireless Hacking, How to Hack Wireless Networks, A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners (How to Hack, Wireless Hacking, Penetration Testing, Social ... Security, Computer Hacking, Kali Linux) Designing and Deploying 802.11 Wireless Networks: A Practical Guide to Implementing 802.11n and 802.11ac Wireless Networks For Enterprise-Based Applications (2nd Edition) (Networking Technology) Wireless Hacking: How to Hack Wireless Networks (Hacking, How to Hack, Penetration testing, Basic Security, Kali Linux book Book 1) Making Contact!: Marconi Goes Wireless (Great Idea Series) The Mobile Commerce Revolution: Business Success in a Wireless World (Que Biz-Tech) Cell Phones: Invisible Hazards in the Wireless Age: An Insider's Alarming Discoveries About Cancer and Genetic Damage Security Camera For Home: Learn Everything About Wireless Security Camera System, Security Camera Installation and More Applied Optimization Methods for Wireless Networks Hacking: Computer Hacking Beginners Guide How to Hack Wireless Network, Basic Security and Penetration Testing, Kali Linux, Your First Hack Wireless Communications VLSI for Wireless Communication Wireless and Mobile Network Architectures Radio in Revolution: Wireless Technology and State Power in Mexico, 1897â "1938" (The Mexican Experience) Guide to Wireless Communications CWNA: Certified Wireless Network Administrator Official Study Guide: Exam CWNA-106 CWNA Guide to Wireless LANs Computer Forensics: Investigating File and Operating Systems, Wireless Networks, and Storage (CHFI), 2nd Edition (Computer Hacking Forensic Investigator) Building Wireless Sensor Networks: with ZigBee, XBee, Arduino, and Processing Guglielmo Marconi: Inventor of Radio and Wireless Communication (Nobel Prize-Winning Scientists) Wireless

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy