

Axiomatic Greg Egan

In de restaurantkeukens in de onderbuik van New York zwoegt Zou Lei, een illegale immigrante uit de woestijn van China. De constante angst voor de immigratiedienst overschaduwde haar bestaan. Voor Zou Lei is hard werken geen keuze, geen stap op weg naar de Amerikaanse droom maar een constante strijd om te overleven, om de honderd dollar per week bijeen te sprokkelen die ze betaalt voor haar hoekje in het piepkleine appartement dat ze deelt met vele andere illegalen. Tijdens een van haar schaarse pauzes loopt Zou Lei drievoudig veteraan Skinner tegen het lijf. Skinners traumatische ervaringen in Irak hebben diepe psychische wonden achtergelaten, en de enige manieren waarop hij zijn demonen weet te bedwingen zijn alcohol en zijn lichaam tot het uiterste drijven in de sportschool. Ondanks de taalbarrière herkennen de twee iets in de ander, en er ontstaat een relatie die een glimp hoop biedt in hun beider harde bestaan. Maar de realiteit in dit New York is allesbehalve een sprookje, en de omstandigheden zijn allesbehalve ideaal. Met Ter voorbereiding op een volgend leven heeft Atticus Lish een verpletterend debuut afgeleverd; zowel een j'accuse als een liefdesbrief aan New York City, een indringend portret van de onderkant van New York, waar de Amerikaanse Droom voor immigranten en oorlogsveteranen onbereikbaar lijkt.

It's late in the 21st century and bioengineering is now so common that people are able to modify their minds in any way they wish. It is an era which has been shaped by information systems so vast that security, in any form, is easily breached. Now you can be whatever you want to be, and do whatever you want to do. On Earth anyway. One night, thirty three years ago, the stars went out. 'The Bubble' - a perfect sphere centred on the sun - appeared in the sky, isolating the solar system from the rest of the universe. For thirty-three years, humanity has lived with the religious cults and terrorism which spawned in the wake of the darkness. We are now alone. Humanity has been cut off. Quarantined.

In an alien universe where space and time play by different rules, interstellar voyages last longer for the travellers than for those they left behind. After six generations in flight, the inhabitants of the mountain-sized spacecraft the Peerless have used their borrowed time to develop advanced technology that could save their home world from annihilation. But not every traveller feels allegiance to a world they have never seen, and as tensions mount over the risks of turning the ship around and starting the long voyage home, a new complication arises: the prospect of constructing a messaging system that will give the Peerless news of its own future. While some of the crew welcome the opportunity to be warned of impending dangers - and perhaps even hear reports of the ship's triumphant return - others are convinced that knowing what lies ahead will be oppressive, and that the system will be abused. Agata longs for a chance to hear a message from the ancestors back on the home world, proving that the sacrifices of the travellers have not been in vain, but her most outspoken rival, Ramiro, fears that the system will undermine every decision the travellers make. When a vote fails to settle the matter and dissent erupts into violence, Ramiro, Agata and their allies must seek a new way to bring peace to the Peerless - by traveling to a world where time runs in reverse. THE ARROWS OF TIME is the final volume of the Orthogonal trilogy, bringing a powerful and surprising conclusion to the epic story of the Peerless that began with THE CLOCKWORK ROCKET and THE ETERNAL FLAME.

Greg Egan is arguably Australia's greatest living science fiction writer. In a career spanning more than thirty years, he has produced a steady stream of novels and stories that address a wide range of scientific and philosophical concerns: artificial intelligence, higher mathematics, science vs religion, the nature of consciousness, and the impact of technology on the human personality. All these ideas and more find their way into this generous and illuminating collection, the clear product of a man who is both a master storyteller and a rigorous, exploratory thinker. The Best of Greg Egan contains twenty stories and novellas arranged in chronological order, and each of them is a brilliantly conceived, painstakingly developed gem, including the Hugo Award-winning novella "Oceanic", a powerful account of a boy whose deeply held religious beliefs are undermined by what he comes to learn about the laws of the physical world. This book really does represent the best of Greg Egan, and it therefore takes its place among the best of contemporary SF. Startling, intelligent and always hugely entertaining, it provides an ideal introduction to one of the most accomplished and original writers working today. This is an important and provocative collection, and it deserves a place on the serious science fiction reader's permanent shelf.

Cass has stumbled on something that might be an entirely different type of physics, and she's travelled three hundred and fifty light-years to Mimosa Station, a remote experimental facility, to test her theory. The novo-vacuum she creates is predicted to begin decaying the instant it's created, but even so short-lived a microscopic speck could shed new light on the origins of the universe. But instead of decaying, Cass's novo-vacuum is wildly successful and begins expanding, slowly but inexorably taking over the universe ... SCHILD'S LADDER: a wild ride through the far future by one of the world's most respected and acclaimed writers.

Gardner Dozois, science fiction's foremost editor, consistently selects the field's best work each year with this showcase anthology. This year's collection presents sterling short stories from veterans and newcomers alike, including Stephen Baxter, Alan Brennert, Carolyn Ives Gilman, James Patrick Kelly, Geoffrey A. Landis, Paul J. McAuley, Robert Reed, William Sanders, Howard Waldrop, and many others. Rounded out with Dozois's insightful Summation of the Year in SF and a long list of Honorable Mentions, this anthology is the book for every science fiction fan.

Een onbeholpen antiquair die zichzelf voor de gek houdt; twee moeders die allebei het beste willen voor hun kinderen; een jongeman die het zwaar te verduren krijgt als hij wordt onderworpen aan een reeks farmaceutische experimenten die hem opgeilen, doen liefhebben en doen doden dat zijn slechts enkele van de onvergetelijke personages die Tien december bevolken. George Saunders schrijft over klassenverschillen, seks, liefde, verlies, twijfel en oorlog. Tien december is de meest integere, meest toegankelijke en meest ontroerende bundel die George Saunders tot dusver heeft gepubliceerd. George Saunders is een van de belangrijkste en oorspronkelijkste schrijvers uit het Engelse taalgebied en een onbetwiste meester van het korte verhaal. Eerder verschenen van hem de verhalenbundels CivilWarLand in Bad Decline, Pastoralia en In Persuasion Nation. Saunders publiceert onder andere in The New Yorker en McSweeney's en werd in 2013 door Time Magazine opgenomen in de lijst van de 100 meest invloedrijke mensen ter wereld. `Al jaren probeer ik iedereen aan George Saunders te krijgen. Dave Eggers `Tien december is een warm en grappig boek. [...] Sommige verhalen dansen bijna van plezier. De Groene Amsterdammer `Tien december toont George Saunders op zijn grappigst, meest revolutionair en indringendst. Authentiek, altijd vindingrijk, en tegelijk diep menselijk. Jennifer Egan

LUMINOUS collects together one original story plus nine previously unpublished in book form. Greg Egan's short fiction is at the cutting edge of the genre. His stories range from near future predictions to far future, far space improvisations. His grasp of the latest scientific breakthroughs is unparalleled in science fiction. The stories include 'Transition Dreams', 'Cocoon', 'Our Lady of Chernobyl', the title story 'Luminous' and 'The Planck Drive'. Egan's particular interests range from the farther shores of chaos theory and black hole science to biotechnology and cloning.

William en Mary is afkomstig uit de bundel Op weg naar de hemel, die nog tien andere spannende korte verhalen over de duistere facetten van het menselijke karakter bevat. Een verongelukte vrouw neemt wraak op haar overleden echtgenoot. Roald Dahl, de alom geprezen schrijver van Sjakie en de chocoladefabriek, De GVR, Matilda en vele andere klassiekers voor kinderen, schreef ook bundels met korte verhalen voor volwassenen. Veel van deze betoverend angstaanjagende verhalen zijn verfilmd, en laten tot op de dag van vandaag iedere lezer huiveren. Dahl kan met recht de grootmeester van het korte verhaal worden genoemd.

As a young boy, Prabir Suresh lives with his parents and sister on an otherwise uninhabited island in a remote part of the Indonesian peninsula. Prabir names it Teranesia, populating it with imaginary creatures even stranger than the evolutionarily puzzling butterflies that his

parents are studying. Civil war strikes, orphaning Prabir and his sister. Eighteen years later, rumours of bizarre new species of plants and animals being discovered in the peninsula that was their childhood home draw Prabir's sister back to the island - Prabir cannot bear for her to have gone out alone and he follows, persuading a pharmaceutical researcher to take him along as a guide.

On the utopian, man-made island, Stateless, Nobel Prize winner Violet Mosala is close to solving the greatest problem of her career - the quest for the ultimate Theory of Everything (TOE) is almost over. Burned out by recording the abuses of biotech for his TV news syndicate, Andrew Worth grabs the chance to follow Violet's story. In contrast the world of theoretical physics seems like an anaesthetised mathematical heaven, where everything is cool and abstract. He could not have been more wrong. One by one Mosala's rival quantum physicists are disappearing from the scientific summit at Stateless. But why? Is it something to do with Violet herself, or is there some other, more esoteric, force at work undermining the Theory of Everything Conference?

The generation ship Peerless is suffering from a population explosion, and the only way to reduce the number of children is by drastically limiting the females' food intake. So population control consists of two barbaric choices: starvation, or suicide. Trying to find a better way, a biologist starts experimenting with animals, and stumbles on a technique that radically alters the reproductive cycle. But while the advantages are obvious, there's a major drawback: while it spares women from their old role - reproduction without hope of survival - it will essentially wipe out an entire sex. Amid the turmoil created by this new possibility, physicists on the ship are working to develop the technology they will need to complete the mission of the Peerless. One of the expedition's founders dreamed of discovering the Eternal Flame: a way to generate thrust without consuming any fuel at all. The inhabitants on board the Peerless have some hard choices to make - and the wrong one could spell extinction for their entire race.

Greg Egan (1961-) publishes works that challenge readers with rigorous, deeply-informed scientific speculation. He unapologetically delves into mathematics, physics, and other disciplines in his prose, putting him in the vanguard of the hard science fiction renaissance of the 1990s. A working physicist and engineer, Karen Burnham is uniquely positioned to provide an in-depth study of Egan's science-heavy oeuvre. Her survey of the author's career covers novels like *Permutation City* and *Schild's Ladder* and the Hugo Award-winning novella "Oceanic," analyzing how Egan used cutting-edge scientific theory to explore ethical questions and the nature of humanity. As Burnham shows, Egan's collected works constitute a bold artistic statement: that narratives of science are equal to those of poetry and drama, and that science holds a place in the human condition as exalted as religion or art. The volume includes a rare interview with the famously press-shy Egan covering his works, themes, intellectual interests, and thought processes.

In 'De aarde blijft altijd bestaan' van George R. Stewart baant een besmettelijke ziekte van nooit eerder vertoonde proporties zich een weg over de aarde. Dit is het verhaal van een van de weinige overlevenden, Isherwood 'Ish' Williams, een intellectuele einzelgänger die zich al verzoend heeft met de grimmige plicht de ondergang van de mensheid te moeten aanschouwen, tot hij de wijze en dappere Em ontmoet. Samen trotseren ze onvoorstelbare uitdagingen om de zaden voor een nieuw begin te planten. George R. Stewart (1895-1980) was een Amerikaanse historicus en schrijver. 'De aarde blijft altijd bestaan' was zijn enige sciencefictionroman. Het boek was na publicatie in 1949 een 'instant classic'. In 1951 won Stewart er de eerste International Fantasy Award voor.

THE HUNDRED LIGHT YEAR DIARY - Scientists can bounce messages from the future back to the present, but there's no guarantee they'll tell the truth ... LEARNING TO BE ME - Crystalline minds may take the place of human brains, but where does the self really lie? CLOSER - Lovers exchange bodies and minds, but their experiments go just that little bit too far, proving that you can have too much of a good thing This collection of papers joins a growing body of work addressing what are arguably some of the most important questions faced in the 21st century; what does it mean to be human and what do we understand by humanity?

The story of a man with a vision - immortality : for those who can afford it is found in cyberspace. *Permutation city* is the tale of a man with a vision - how to create immortality - and how that vision becomes something way beyond his control. Encompassing the lives and struggles of an artificial life junkie desperate to save her dying mother, a billionaire banker scarred by a terrible crime, the lovers for whom, in their timeless virtual world, love is not enough - and much more - *Permutation city* is filled with the sense of wonder.

Ten mind-blowing tales from the cutting edge of technology—Imagine a technology that can change the structure and function of your own body...or that can devour an entire country. This is nanotechnology--the creation of self-replicating machines with the capability to build or alter almost any structure, including the human form, by manipulating atoms or molecules--and it has captured the imaginations of science fiction writers and readers everywhere. Now these ten short tales will capture you... "Blood Music" by Greg Bear "Margin of Error" by Nancy Kress "Axiomatic" by Greg Egan "Remember'd Kisses" by Michael F. Flynn "Recording Angel" by Ian McDonald "Sunflowers" by Kathleen Ann Goonan "The Logic Pool" by Stephen Baxter "Any Major Dude" by Paul Di Filippo "We Were Out of Our Minds with Joy" by David Marusek "Willy in the Nano-Lab" by Geoffrey A. Landis At the publisher's request, this title is sold without DRM (Digital Rights Management).

Fantascienza - racconto lungo (37 pagine) - Un racconto finalista al Premio Hugo alla scoperta di un'antica civiltà scomparsa che avrebbe scosso le basi della matematica Ci sono due tipi di specie nella Galassia: i Cercatori e gli Spargitori. Le prime sono quelle che indagano, studiano, approfondiscono la conoscenza. Le seconde sono quelle che la usano per espandersi, diffondere la loro presenza ovunque possibile. I Niah erano una specie di Cercatori. Nei tre milioni di anni la loro civiltà aveva approfondito in modo straordinario la conoscenza della matematica; poi erano scomparsi. Sul loro mondo ora prosperava una specie di Spargitori, i Noudah. Due studiose terrestri, Joan e Anne, vanno sul pianeta per cercare di salvare i resti di quell'antica civiltà. Ma riusciranno a superare la diffidenza dei Noudah? Un grande racconto finalista al Premio Hugo dal più apprezzato autore di hard science fiction. Greg Egan è uno dei più autorevoli scrittori di fantascienza hard, cioè basata su una vena speculativa fortemente basata su idee scientifiche d'avanguardia. Nato a Perth, in Australia, nel 1961, laureato in matematica, ha vinto il Premio Hugo e il Premio Locus con il romanzo breve *Oceanic* (Delos Books) e il John Campbell Memorial con *Permutation City*. Diversi altri suoi racconti sono arrivati in finale al premio Hugo, incluso *Alone* (Glory, 2007), non ha mai partecipato a una premiazione o a una convention, però: anzi, non esistono sue fotografie note. Tra i suoi romanzi più famosi oltre al già citato *Permutation City* (Shake) *La terra moltiplicata* (Nord), *Diaspora* (Urania), *Distress* (Urania), *La scala di Schild* (Urania). Notevoli anche le antologie *Axiomatic* e *Luminous*, entrambe uscite su Urania.

Since the Introductus in the twenty-first century, humanity has reconfigured itself drastically. Most chose immortality, joining the polises to become conscious software. Others opted for gleisners: disposable, renewable robotic bodies that remain in contact with the physical world of force and friction. Many of these have left the solar system forever in fusion-drive starships. And there are the holdouts: the fleshers left behind in the muck and jungle of Earth-some devolved into dream apes, others cavorting in the seas or the air-while the statics and bridgers try to shape out a roughly human destiny. But the complacency of the citizens is shattered when an unforeseen disaster ravages the fleshers and reveals the possibility that the polises themselves might be at risk from bizarre astrophysical processes that seem to violate fundamental laws of nature. The orphan Yatima, a digital being grown from a mind seed, joins a group of citizens and fleshier refugees in a search for the knowledge that will guarantee their safety-a search that puts them on the trail of the ancient and elusive Transmuters, who have the power to reshape subatomic particles, and to cross into the macrocosmos, where the universe we know is nothing but a speck in the higher-dimensional vacuum.

Een Afrikaans verhaal is afkomstig uit de bundel *Over en sluiten*, die nog negen andere spannende korte verhalen over gevechtspiloten in de oorlog bevat. Een man ontrafelt het mysterie van zijn verdwenen melk en komt daarbij voor een verrassing te staan. Roald Dahl, de alom geprezen schrijver van *Sjakie* en de chocoladefabriek, *De GVR*, *Matilda* en vele andere klassiekers voor kinderen, schreef ook bundels met

korte verhalen voor volwassenen. Veel van deze betoverend angstaanjagende verhalen zijn verfilmd, en laten tot op de dag van vandaag iedere lezer huiveren. Dahl kan met recht de grootmeester van het korte verhaal worden genoemd.

Nano denotes a billionth; a nanometer is a billionth of a meter. New instrumentation and techniques have for the first time made possible materials research and engineering at this level, the scale of individual molecules and atoms. Extraordinary visions of material abundance, unprecedented materials, and powerful engineering capabilities have marked the arrival of nanotechnology, as well as dystopian scenarios of self-replicating devices running amok and causing global catastrophe. Largely a future possibility rather than present actuality, nanotechnology has become a potent cultural signifier. NanoCulture explores the ways in which nanotechnology interacts with, and itself becomes, a cultural construction. Topics include the co-construction of nanoscience and science fiction; the influence of risk assessment and nanotechnology on the shapes of narratives; intersections between nanoscience as a writing practice and experimental literature at the limits of fabrication; the Alice-in-Wonderland metaphor for nanotechnology; and the effects of mediation on nanotechnology and electronic literature. NanoCulture is produced in collaboration with the nano art exhibit at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (December 2003-September 2004), created by an interdisciplinary team led by media artist Victoria Vesna and nanoscientist James Gimzewski. NanoCulture is richly illustrated with images from the nano exhibit, which also provides the basis for an ethnographic analysis of collaborative process and an exploration of changing concepts of museum space.

The essays in this collection explore the question of the human, both as a contested concept and as it relates to, and functions within, the wider global conjuncture. The authors explore the theoretical underpinnings of the term "human," inviting the reader to reflect upon the contemporary human condition, to identify opportunities and threats in the changes ahead, and to determine what aspects of our species we should abandon or strive to maintain. The volume approaches these ideas from a myriad of perspectives, but the authors are united in their abstention from rejecting humanism outright or, indeed, fully endorsing posthumanism's teleological narrative of accelerated progress and perfectability. Instead, the authors argue that the term "human" itself is better understood as a concept perpetually undergoing revision, and is necessarily subject to scrutiny. The contributors here are thus concerned with investigating the following questions: What does it mean to be human, or to have a self? What is the current place or status of the human in the contemporary world? As technology is increasingly used to modify our bodies and minds, to what extent should we alter – and how can we improve – our very understanding of human nature? The authors contend that literature is the art form best placed to answer these questions. In its dynamism and discursiveness, literature has the capacity to both reflect dominant discourses and ideologies, as well as to generate and even anticipate social change; to critique and refine conventional ideas and existing cultural modes, and to envision new possibilities for the future. The human and its literary representation, in other words, are inherently intertwined.

Collected together here for the first time are twelve stories by the incomparable Greg Egan, one of the most exciting writers of science fiction working today. In these dozen glimpses into the future Egan continues to explore the essence of what it is to be human, and the nature of what - and who - we are, in stories that range from parables of contemporary human conflict and ambition to far-future tales of our immortal descendants. Return to the universe of the meta-civilisation known as the Amalgam, which Egan explored in his critically acclaimed novel *Incandescence: 'Riding the Crocodile'*, which recounts an epic endeavour a million years from now to bridge the divide between the Amalgam and the reclusive Aloof; *'Glory'*, set in the same future, in which two archaeologists strive to decipher the artefacts of an ancient civilisation, and *'Hot Rock'*, where an obscure, sunless world conceals mind-spinning technological marvels, bitter factional struggles, and a many-layered secret history. This superb collection also includes the title story, the Hugo Award-winning *'Oceanic'*: a boy is inducted into a religion that becomes the centre of his life, but as an adult he must face evidence that casts a new light on his faith.

Est-il possible de reproduire dans la réalité des tableaux fantastiques célèbres en créant des chimères ? Une drogue permet-elle de rejoindre et de joindre tous les possibles ? Le temps qu'on lui reconstruise un corps, un homme peut-il confier au ventre de sa femme le soin d'accueillir son cerveau ? Autant de questions, avec bien d'autres, que Greg Egan, l'auteur de science-fiction le plus éblouissant et le plus novateur de sa génération, soulève dans dix-huit nouvelles toutes plus originales les unes que les autres. L'oeuvre d'un virtuose dont on n'a pas oublié *La Cité des permutants*, *L'Enigme de l'univers*, *Isolation* et *Téranésie*, publiés dans la même collection.

Something exciting has been happening in modern SF. After decades of confusion, many of the field's best writers have been returning to the subgenre called, roughly, "hard SF"-science fiction focused on science and technology, often with strong adventure plots. Now, World Fantasy Award-winning editors David G. Hartwell and Kathryn Cramer present an immense, authoritative anthology that maps the development and modern-day resurgence of this form, argues for its special virtues and present preeminence-and entertains us with some spectacular storytelling along the way. Included are major stories by contemporary and classic names such as Poul Anderson, Stephen Baxter, Gregory Benford, Ben Bova, David Brin, Arthur C. Clarke, Hal Clement, Greg Egan, Joe Haldeman, Nancy Kress, Paul McAuley, Frederik Pohl, Alastair Reynolds, Kim Stanley Robinson, Robert J. Sawyer, Karl Schroeder, Charles Sheffield, Brian Stableford, Allen Steele, Bruce Sterling, Michael Swanwick, and Vernor Vinge. The *Hard SF Renaissance* will be an anthology that SF readers return to for years to come. A major anthology of the "hard SF" subgenre-arguing that it's not only the genre's core, but also its future: Poul Anderson Stephen Baxter Gregory Benford Ben Bova David Brin Ted Chiang Arthur C. Clarke Hal Clement Greg Egan Michael Flynn Joe Haldeman James P. Hogan James Patrick Kelly Nancy Kress Geoffrey A. Landis David Langford Paul Levinson Paul McAuley David Nordley Frederik Pohl Robert Reed Alastair Reynolds Kim Stanley Robinson Robert J. Sawyer rdKarl Schroeder Charles Sheffield Joan Slonczewski Brian Stableford Allen Steele Bruce Sterling Michael Swanwick Vernor Vinge Peter Watts Sarah Zettel At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

Deze virtueuze, grensverleggende roman gaat over datgene wat mensen verbindt, zelfs als ze lichtjaren van elkaar gescheiden zijn. 'Van een andere planeet. De miscommunicatie tussen de twee echtelieden snijdt je geregeld door de ziel. Wat een schrijver.' de Volkskrant 'Dit is Michel Fabers tweede meesterwerk, heel anders dan *Lelieblank*, *scharlakenrood*, maar in alle opzichten even overtuigend en memorabel. Het is waanzinnig meeslepend.' david mitchell 'Een boeiende, betoverende ideeënroman van een ongewoon intelligente en helderziende schrijver.' The Independent 'Een buitengewone roman die leest als een trein.' yann martel Michel Faber (1960) werd geboren in Den Haag, groeide op in Australië en woont nu in Schotland. Zijn debuutbundel *Gods speelgoed* werd juichend ontvangen en meermaals bekroond. Sindsdien behoort hij tot de crème de la crème van de internationale moderne letterkunde. Zijn opzienbarende roman *Onderhuids* werd verfilmd met *Scarlett Johansson* in de hoofdrol. Van Fabers magnum opus *Lelieblank*, *scharlakenrood* werden wereldwijd honderdduizenden exemplaren verkocht.

From its beginnings in the works of H.G. Wells and Jules Verne to the virtual worlds of William Gibson's *Neuromancer* and *The Matrix*, *Science Fiction: A Guide to the Perplexed* helps students navigate the often perplexing worlds of a perennially popular genre. Drawing on literature as well as example from film and television, the book explores the different answers that criticism has offered to the vexed question, 'what is science fiction?' Each chapter of the book includes case studies of key texts, annotated guides to further reading and suggestions for class discussion to help students master the full range of contemporary critical approaches to the field, including the scientific, technological and political contexts in which the genre has flourished. Ranging from an understanding of the genre through the stereotypes of 1930s pulps through more recent claims that we are living in a science fictional moment, this volume will provide a comprehensive overview of this diverse and fascinating genre.

Twenty Stories and Novellas from Hugo, Campbell, and Locus Award Winner Greg Egan, Arguably Australia's Greatest Living Science Fiction Writer In a career spanning more than thirty years, Greg Egan has produced a steady stream of novels and stories that address a wide range of scientific and philosophical concerns: artificial intelligence, higher mathematics, science vs religion, the nature of consciousness, and the impact of technology on the human personality. All these ideas and more find their way into this generous and illuminating collection, the clear product of a man who is both a master storyteller and a rigorous, exploratory thinker. *The Best of Greg Egan* contains twenty stories and novellas arranged in chronological order, and each of them is a brilliantly conceived, painstakingly developed gem. The book opens with "Learning to be Me," about a society in which the organic human brain can be replaced by a miraculous piece of technology called "the jewel," a "mock brain" that confers, among other things, a kind of immortality on its recipients. "Bit Players" – the opening movement in a trio of tales that continues with "3-adica" and "Instantiation" – posits a world in which cheaply generated software beings are exploited for the basest commercial purposes. (Other sets of interconnected stories – all of them reprinted here – include the mathematically-themed "Luminous" and "Dark Integers," and a pair of stories centered on the complex marriage of a physicist and a mathematician: "Singleton" and "Oracle.") "Reasons to be Cheerful" concerns a young boy whose brain tumor has an unexpected effect on his life, moods, and view of the world. "Axiomatic" tells the story of a society in which "implants" can be used to alter the human personality, with potentially lethal results. And the Hugo Award-winning novella "Oceanic" is a powerful account of a boy whose deeply held religious beliefs are undermined by what he comes to learn about the laws of the physical world. This book really does represent the best of Greg Egan, and it therefore takes its place among the best of contemporary SF. Startling, intelligent and always hugely entertaining, it provides an ideal introduction to one of the most accomplished and original writers working today. This is an important and provocative collection, and it deserves a place on the serious science fiction reader's permanent shelf. Table of Contents: Learning to Be Me Axiomatic Appropriate Love Into Darkness Unstable Orbits in the Space of Lies Closer Chaff Luminous Silver Fire Reasons to be Cheerful Oceanic Oracle Singleton Dark Integers Crystal Nights Zero For Conduct Bit Players Uncanny Valley 3-adica Instantiation Afterword Fifty Key Figures in Science Fiction is a collection of engaging essays on some of the most significant figures who have shaped and defined the genre. Diverse groups within the science fiction community are represented, from novelists and film makers to comic book and television writers. Important and influential names discussed include: Octavia Butler George Lucas Robert Heinlein Gene Roddenberry Stan Lee Ursula K. Le Guin H.G. Wells This outstanding reference guide charts the rich and varied landscape of science fiction and includes helpful and up-to-date lists of further reading at the end of each entry. Available in an easy to use A-Z format, *Fifty Key Figures in Science Fiction* will be of interest to students of Literature, Film Studies, and Cultural Studies.

Nasim is a young computer scientist, hoping to work on the Human Connectome Project: a plan to map every neural connection in the human brain. But funding for the project is cancelled, and Nasim ends up devoting her career to Zendegi, a computerised virtual world used by millions of people. Fifteen years later, a revived Connectome Project has published a map of the brain. Zendegi is facing fierce competition from its rivals, and Nasim decides to exploit the map to fill the virtual world with better Proxies: the bit-players that bring its crowd scenes to life. As controversy rages over the nature and rights of the Proxies, a friend with terminal cancer begs Nasim to make a Proxy of him, so some part of him will survive to help raise his orphaned son. But Zendegi is about to become a battlefield ...

In Aurelius verdwijnen kort na elkaar drie jonge meisjes. Bij de eerste verdwijning verdenken de inwoners buitenstaanders. Bij de tweede worden burens en jeugdvrienden verdacht. Bij de derde komt het stadje in een regelrechte nachtmerrie terecht.

For the first time in illustrated form, this comprehensive history of sc-fi traces its origins and charts its history from its humble beginnings to its respected status today.

Nunc dimittis is afkomstig uit de bundel *M n liefje, m n duifje*, die nog zeventien andere spannende korte verhalen over de duistere kant van het menselijke karakter bevat. Een deftige heer verzint een gekunsteld plan om wraak te nemen op een roddelende vriendin. Roald Dahl, de alom geprezen schrijver van *Sjatie* en de chocoladefabriek, *De GVR*, *Matilda* en vele andere klassiekers voor kinderen, schreef ook bundels met korte verhalen voor volwassenen. Veel van deze betoverend angstaanjagende verhalen zijn verfilmd, en laten tot op de dag van vandaag iedere lezer huiveren. Dahl kan met recht de grootmeester van het korte verhaal worden genoemd.

Axiomatic Hachette UK

Draws on scholarship from leading figures in the field and spans Australian literary history from colonial origins, indigenous and migrant literatures, as well as representations of Asia and the Pacific and the role of literary culture in modern Australian society.

A million years from now, the galaxy is divided between the vast, cooperative meta-civilisation known as the Amalgam, and the silent occupiers of the galactic core known as the Aloof. The Aloof have long rejected all attempts by the Amalgam to enter their territory, but have permitted travellers to take a perilous ride as unencrypted data in their communications network, providing a short-cut across the galaxy's central bulge. When Rakesh encounters a traveller, Lahl, who claims she was woken by the Aloof on such a journey and shown a meteor full of traces of DNA, he accepts her challenge to try to find the uncharted world deep in the Aloof's territory from which the meteor originated. Roi and Zak live inside the Splinter, a world of rock that swims in a sea of light they call the Incandescence. Living on the margins of a rigidly

organised society, they seek to decipher the subtle clues that can reveal the true nature of the Splinter. In fact, the Splinter is orbiting a black hole, which is about to capture a neighbouring star, wreaking havoc. As the signs of danger grow, Roi, Zak, and a growing band of recruits struggle to understand and take control of their fate. Meanwhile, Rakesh is gradually uncovering their remote history, and his search for the lost DNA world ultimately leads him to a civilisation trapped in cultural stagnation, and startling revelations about the true nature and motives of the Aloof.

Une belle nuit, il y a trente-trois ans, les étoiles ont disparu. La Terre et avec elle l'humanité se retrouvent isolées dans une Bulle cosmique centrée sur le soleil, placées en quarantaine. Pourquoi ? Par qui ? Les hypothèses dégénèrent en cultes religieux insolites et souvent malsains. Et dans le même temps, l'humanité a appris à vivre dans les mondes virtuels. Ou bien est-ce tout l'univers qui serait devenu virtuel ? La clé du mystère serait-elle détenue par Laura Andrews, trente-trois ans, l'âge exact de la Bulle ? Mais Laura a disparu. Et les Possibles se déchaînent. Un roman quantique, éblouissant, par la grande révélation de ces dernières années, Greg Egan, écrivain australien, dont certains prétendent, puisque personne ne l'a jamais rencontré, qu'il serait un programme informatique, le premier auteur artificiel.

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