# **Science Fiction**

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in the new millennium what secrets lay beyond the far reaches of the universe what mysteries belie the truths we once held to be self evident the world of science fiction has long been a porthole into the realities of tomorrow blurring the line between life and art now in the year s best science fiction thirty first annual collection the very best sf authors explore ideas of a new world in the year s best short stories this venerable collection brings together award winning authors and masters of the field such as robert reed alastair reynolds damien broderick elizabeth bear paul mcauley and john barnes and with an extensive recommended reading guide and a summation of the year in science fiction this annual compilation has become the definitive must read anthology for all science fiction fans and readers interested in breaking into the genre

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in science fiction s early days stories often looked past 1984 to the year 2000 as the far unknowable future here now on the brink of the twenty first century the future remains as distant and as unknowable as ever and science fiction stories continue to explore it with delightful results collected in this anthology are such imaginative gems as the wedding album by david marusek in a high tech future the line between reality

and simulation has grown thin and it s often hard to tell who s on what side everywhere by geoff ryman do the people who live in utopian conditions ever recognize them as such hatching the phoenix by frederik pohl one of science fiction s grand masters returns with a star crossing tale of the heechee the enigmatic vanished aliens whose discarded technology guides mankind through the future a hero of the empire by robert silverberg showing that the past is as much a province of the imagination as the future this novelette returns to an alternate history when the roman empire never fell to show us just how the course of history can be altered the twenty seven stories in this collection imaginatively take us to nearby planets and distant futures into the past and into universes no larger than a grain of sand included here are the works of masters of the form and of bright new talents supplementing the stories are the editor s insightful summation of the year s events and a lengthy list of honorable mentions making this book a valuable resource in addition to serving as the single best place in the universe to find stories that stir the imagination and the heart

the twenty three stories in this collection imaginatively take us far across the universe into the very core of our being to the realm of the gods and the moment just after now included here are the works of masters of the form and of bright new talents including stephen baxter m shayne bell rick cook albert e cowdrey tananarive due greg egan eliot fintushel peter f hamilton earnest hogan john kessel nancy kress ursula k le guin paul j mcauley ian mcdonald susan palwick severna park alastair reynolds lucius shepard brian stableford charles stross michael swanwick steven utley robert charles wilson supplementing the stories is the editor s insightful summation of the year s events and lengthy list of honorable mentions making this book a valuable resource in addition to serving as the single best place in the universe to find stories that stir the imagination and the heart

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