



# InterGalactic Medicine Show: Big Book of SF Novelettes

*Orson Scott Card*

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## **InterGalactic Medicine Show: Big Book of SF Novelettes** Orson Scott Card

Welcome to the surprisingly potent world of the novelette. Too long to be a short story, too short to be a novel: the award-winning magazine Orson Scott Card's InterGalactic Medicine Show (IGMS) has been an online haven for this powerful form of storytelling since 2005. Now the magazine's editors have selected their all-time favorite science fiction novelettes and gathered them together in one Big Book of reading pleasure: IGMS: Big Book of SF Novelettes.

Anything that is remotely possible: Futures near and far, artificial intelligence and alien encounters, alternate time-lines and alternate theories about creating universes, planet-eating black holes and lunar race-tracks. It's all here, under the big tent of Orson Scott Card's InterGalactic Medicine Show...

Featuring stories by award-winning authors including Orson Scott Card, Wayne Wightman, Aliette de Bodard, Eric James Stone, Mary Robinette Kowal, Stephen Kotowych, Jackie Gamber, Greg Siewert, Jamie Todd Rubin, Brad Torgersen, and Marina J. Lostetter, plus an all-new original essay by Orson Scott Card called "Making Ender Smart."

## **InterGalactic Medicine Show: Big Book of SF Novelettes Details**

Date : Published December 20th 2013 by Hatrack River (first published December 5th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Orson Scott Card

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## **From Reader Review InterGalactic Medicine Show: Big Book of SF Novelettes for online ebook**

### **Marlee says**

Some of these stories were fantastic and I didn't want them to end. Other stories were rather dull. An interesting variety and worth the time if you like science fiction.

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### **Nicole Hillyer says**

I really like Orson Scott Card and I enjoyed reading novelettes that he picked. I like most of the stories, definitely an interesting and enjoyable read.

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### **Josh Zeringue says**

Excellent compilation. Most of the novelettes deserve five stars. I gave the book as a whole four of five stars because two stories rated three stars and one rated two.

All I have to add is this: "Damn! Elvis!?" You'll get it if you read it. And you must.

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### **Paul Negoescu says**

A good compilation but to be honest I liked the first novellas best I think the first and second one were my favorites by far.

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### **Kristina says**

Nice collection of stories. The Absence of Stars was by far my favorite! And Sojourn for Ephah was a close second. These two alone made it worth the read.

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### **Sarah S says**

This collection was a mixed bag. I will say that all of the audiobook narrators were excellent, which helped tremendously on those stories that seemed to be twice as long as they needed to be. For me, the split worked out to about a 1/3 being great, a 1/3 being tolerable, and a 1/3 being exercises in frustration. Card's essay about the writing process behind the Ender series really did not belong in this collection, but it was an overall interesting experience that allowed me to sample some authors new to me.

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## **Megan says**

It's hard to rate an anthology. I'd give "Sojourn for Ephah" six stars if I could -- one of the best novelettes I've ever read.

Of twelve stories, there were two that didn't work for me and one I felt meh about -- so overall, nine great stories. It was especially fun to read a story about high-tech and high-stakes puppets from Mary Robinette Kowal, a professional puppeteer. Lots of great stuff.

Anyone who wants to borrow my copy, I annotated the TOC with individual ratings for stories.

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## **Reuven says**

The best ideas I have ever read. Very good collection.

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## **bookme4life says**

Read: "Making Ender Smart" essay, "Mazer in Prison." Attempted other stories not related to the Enderverse, but nothing held my attention long enough to finish.

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## **Chrissy says**

Overall quality of selections: 3 stars.

"Sojourn for Ephah" = 3 stars  
"Brutal Interlude" = 4 stars  
"Under the Shield" = 2 stars  
"Hologram Bride" = 2 stars  
"The Curse of Sally Tincakes" = 1 star  
"The Absence of Stars" = 3 stars  
"Essay: Making Ender Smart" = 5 stars  
"Mazer in Prison" = 3 stars  
"When I Kissed the Learned Astronomer" = 2 stars  
"Body Language" = 2 stars  
"Tabloid Reporter to the Stars" = 1 star  
"On Horizon's Shores" = 4 stars

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## **Stacey Richardson says**

favorite entries (no particular order):

- Hologram Bride
- Making Ender Smart

-Tabloid Reporter to the Stars  
-Sojourn for Ephah  
-Absence of Stars

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## **Craig Childs says**

A solid collection of novelettes from the Intergalactic Medicine show online magazine:

“Sojourn for Ephah” – Religion and science clash in a far future when a monk rescues an alien with celestial powers. Very philosophical and memorable, although the ending did not ‘wow’ me.

“Brutal Interlude” – Depiction of a near-future society obsessed with reality television, violent rock music, and celebrity culture. Somewhat entertaining at first, but it runs too long and begins to sound like it was written by someone’s stuffy grandparent.

“Under the Shield” – An alternate universe in which Nikola Tesla invents the first weapon of mass destruction, the Bolshevik Revolution never occurs, and a World War breaks out between America and Czarist Russia. Thought-provoking, with a nice little mystery story embedded.

“Hologram Bride” – A young woman’s only chance to escape a dying Earth is a forced-match marriage with an alien. At first, the aliens seemed just essentially green-skinned humans with similar societies, customs, and biology as us. Stick with it, however, and different sexual nuances eventually become apparent. Still, the story reaches no farther than to be a thinly veiled narrative about overcoming prejudice. It could have benefited from more vigorous world-building.

“The Curse of Sally Tincakes” – A young hover-bike racer wants to become the first female to win the Armstrong Cup on the moon. There is not much science fiction in this simple story, other than the lunar setting, but the author gains a lot of mileage through effective character relationships.

“The Absence of Stars” – The strongest story in the book, and the closest to “hard” sci-fi. Pluto disappears as a result of a collision with a black hole the size of a basketball.

“Making Ender Smart” – Orson Scott Card narrates his insightful essay about how to make fictional characters seem smart. Includes a discussion about how Card drew leadership principles from his own life experience.

“Mazer in Prison” – A ‘must read’ for fans of the Ender series. Occurs between the 2nd and 3rd Formic Wars.

“When I Kissed the Learned Astronomer” – A light and fluffy cross between romantic comedy and first contact story.

“Body Language” – One of the strongest stories in the collection. Explores the impact artificial intelligence could have on performance art and law enforcement, plus it’s an effective thriller as well.

“Tabloid Reporter to the Stars” – I have read this story twice in other places, and I never liked it, but it improves thanks to strong audio narration.

“On Horizon’s Shores” – A challenging story operating on several levels. Two married xeno-biologists

encounter an alien race so different from humans that they must actually change their bodies on a molecular level in order to find understanding. Against the backdrop of these biological changes, one xeno-biologist realizes his wife has changed emotionally as well, and their marriage may be over. This story is frustrating because so many questions go unanswered, but of course that is ultimately the whole theme—relationships are deep and changing and unknowable.

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### **Trevor Parker says**

Fun and quick collection of short stories from various authors. Some are REALLY good. I also found the essay and the short story by Card pertaining to Ender's Game very interesting and well worth the read.

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### **James says**

I forgot I hadn't finished this. Read into that what you will.

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