



The Mammoth Book of New Comic Fantasy

Mike Ashley (Editor) , Neil Gaiman , John Morressy , John Kendrick Bangs , Anthony Armstrong , Terry Pratchett , Avram Davidson , R.A. Lafferty , more... Tom Holt , Terry Jones , Esther M. Friesner , Paul Di Filippo , Adam Roberts , Molly Brown , Gary Jennings , Rhys Hughes ...less

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Mike Ashley is back with an all-new edition of one of the bestselling Mammoth Books ever, from the funniest writers in the field, including Neil Gaiman, Tom Holt, and Terry Jones. The thirty- five off-the-wall comic fantasies featured in Ashley's new collection are a mix of specially written stories and hard-to-find gems: a computer salesman in fairyland, a vampire football match, a psychotic Father Christmas, and a wizard allergic to magic. Ashley expertly turns fantasy and horror fiction on its head and magic into mayhem. This is huge fun for all comic fantasy fans.

The Mammoth Book of New Comic Fantasy Details

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From Reader Review The Mammoth Book of New Comic Fantasy for online ebook

Doug Lewars says

*** Possible Spoilers ***

I've seen some criticisms that not all the stories were within the fantasy genre. This is correct but the majority were and Sci-Fi/fantasy is often closely related. A second criticism is that these stories aren't very funny. There's some truth to that. Writing humor can be very difficult - particularly when no two people seem to laugh at the same things. Humor is very personal. There were a few stories that I thought were rather childish but I also thought a young person would find them hilarious. There were a number that I classified as 'cute' - not something to laugh at but worth a smile and there were a few that evoked a chuckle. For, me, however, there were two stories that did laugh at and these made the entire book worthwhile.

'Sooner or Later or Never Never' by Gary Jennings was one. It told the tale of Crispin Mobey, a very young, very idealistic, evangelical preacher who want to make his mark in the world by saving a primitive tribe of Australian bushmen. Things do not go well for poor Crispin and what befalls the poor lad I found more than a little amusing.

The second story I particularly enjoyed was 'Stakes and Ladders' by Marilyn Todd. Here we have a witch and a teacher of witches attempting to mark exam papers while a snake who, may formerly have been a prince is lobbying her to make him human once again. It isn't so much that he minds being a snake. It's simply that a development project is threatening to eliminate the habitat where he and a goodly number of his peers live. After a class transformation assignment goes horribly wrong, our teacher finds herself out of a job and therefore turns her attention to other things. Eventually matters work themselves out but it's great story and well worth reading.

A couple of stories are trite, most are okay and, as noted above, a couple are excellent. I think it's worth investing your time in reading this one.

Al says

Excellent collection of light stories with humor.

Tanya Beaton says

It was amusing... some of them weren't very funny, but most of them were entertaining.

Mary Kay Kare says

Mr. Ashley seems to have very peculiar definitions for the words "comic" and "fantasy". I mean, yes,

humor is very individual, but in a book with this many stories I ought to have been amused more often than I was. Also, a good number of those stories were science fiction, not fantasy. I've no objection to sf, I read it regularly, but that was not what I thought I was buying. Can't recommend it at all.

Ilex says

Despite the title advertising that this is a collection of fantasy, a good portion of these stories are actually science fiction. Like many short story collections, some of the stories are excellent, some mediocre, and some awful. I did feel that many of the stories felt either very rushed or alternately dragged on; very few felt nicely balanced.

Tasneem says

A fabulous collection of some very talented writers. I enjoyed it very much, and found the vision truly entertaining.

Tim Hicks says

As others note, it's fantasy and SF, although always to comic effect.
Don't know how they get "new" out of this, with a 1905 story and a 1955 Hokus story included.

But there were more good stories than I expected, so I'm happy.

Michaela says

This is certainly a mammoth of a compilation of short stories. 32 in 534 pages. All in all the stories were hit and miss. I think it was a genius compilation overall. I would read again.

Mary says

The title is correct - but not sure this is the exact same book. Wrong number of stories and a missing author. Not sure it really matters. I'm not all that fond of short stories, though it helps if they are good stories. Fantasy is not my favorite genre, either - so, you're asking, why did I pick up this book? I'm wondering myself.

Caroline says

My only experience of fantasy novels has been Terry Pratchett's excellent Discworld series, so I thought I would give this one a go.

Although titled "The Mammoth Book of Comic Fantasy" many of the stories within are actually sci-fi. They all have one thing in common though. They are amusing and hugely entertaining.

Jenny Burridge says

Excellent.

Margaret says

Meh.

Aliens+robots+spaceships+other worlds = science fiction.

Magic+dragons+elves+supernatural beings = fantasy.

I don't care for most science fiction, with a few rare exceptions. Three quarters of the stories in this compendium were not, in fact, fantasy. They were science fiction. That irritated me to the point where I didn't even bother reading them all. Harumph. Where was the Terry Pratchett? Neil Gaiman did not contribute a story - he just wrote the introduction. Which was lame. There's GOT to be better examples of current, interesting, well-written fantasy shorts than pseudo-P.G. Wodehouse crossed with Star Trek the Next Generation. These stories didn't exhibit much other than the ability to construct bad puns; the knack of turning comedy around to profundity, to meaning, is the reason why I enjoy the genre. I like the reflection of our ordinary, messed-up, painful world through the lens of fantasy - the bending of meaning - like a good stand-up comedian. I saw none of that in this collection.

Meh.

Henrik Andersson says

Now, this isn't actually a complaint, but when I'm reading a book called "The Mammoth Book of New Comic Fantasy" I'm expecting the stories within to be fairly recent. As it turns out, half of the 30+ stories were written in the last millenium - the earliest from 1905! Had the book been named "The New Mammoth Book Of Comic Fantasy" I'd have had no qualms, but since most of these stories are pretty good I'll let it slide.

The stories all range from classic fantasy (wizards & dragons type) to sci-fi futurism, but all with a little twist to them. A few stories get themselves too bothered with complicating their prose in order to impress someone, and failing to deliver their story in the process. The very last story in particular by Gary Jennings (1972) is not only nearly unreadable, it's not even near fantasy. Unless you count ordinary fiction as fantasy.

Entertainment is found among the stories who will anachronize and distort settings we are familiar with. The Deaths Of Robin Hood (Rhys Hughes, 2002) is one such story.

Others do well without changing the format, simply entertaining us within the usual fantasy world. One such story is *The Mirrors Of Moggrople* (John Morressy, 1989). Gems are also delivered by those who take an idea and run with it, for example *The Great Wish Syndicate* (John Kendrick Bangs, 1911) and *The Strange Affair Of Mr Corpusty* (Anthony Armstrong, 1932).

A satisfying few of the stories deliver no fun, and on the whole I think you will find entertainment enough to read this Mammoth Book.
