



Nightflyers: And other stories

George R.R. Martin

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From #1 bestselling author of *A Game of Thrones*: *Nightflyers*, coming to television on SyFy, is an epic story of space exploration and cosmic horror, plus five George R. R. Martin classic science fiction tales.

On a voyage toward the boundaries of the known universe, nine misfit academics seek out first contact with a shadowy alien race.

But another enigma is the Nightflyer itself, a cybernetic wonder with an elusive captain no one has ever seen in the flesh. Soon, however, the crew discovers that their greatest mystery – and most dangerous threat – is an unexpected force wielding a thirst for blood and terror....

Also included are five additional classic George R. R. Martin tales of science fiction that explore the breadth of technology and the dark corners of the human mind.

“Long live George Martin....A literary dervish, enthralled by complicated characters and vivid language, and bursting with the wild vision of the very best tale tellers.”—*The New York Times*

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Nightflyers: And other stories Details

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From Reader Review **Nightflyers: And other stories** for online ebook

Althea Ann says

I have to admit that, although I love George R.R. Martin's writing, I didn't have the highest of hopes for this collection of short stories by him, written in the 1970's., simply because author's early works are not always as good as later ones.. and the cheesy cover art didn't help either, I must admit.

However - I was wrong. The stories in this collection are truly top-flight sci-fi, with a horror edge. All demonstrate Martin's amazing talent for characterization, and are both emotionally effective and thought-provoking.

Nightflyers:

The title story is the most formulaic - it's a bit like 2001: A Space Odyssey meets Alien.

A diverse team of research investigators on a badly-funded space mission run into trouble, and gradually meet diverse (and unpleasant) ends. Is their mysterious captain to blame? Or is the truth yet spookier than that?

However, familiarity of the horror plot structure aside, the story succeeds (where many such tales do not) in being genuinely tense and scary.

This story (novelette?) was made into a movie in 1987, which I've never seen. However, it apparently stars Michael Praed (of the BBC's Robin Hood fame), which makes me want to see it right there!

Override:

A short but effective story which explores labor relations on an alien planet.

On an unspoiled paradise planet, executed criminals from offworld are mechanically turned into remote-controlled zombies used for onerous mining labor. But when a corporate boss who thinks the practice is disgusting threatens a corporate takeover which would ban the corpse-handlers, violence ensues.

Notable for its remarkable use of perspective - the reader doesn't really side with what one might expect...

Weekend in a War Zone:

In a not-so-distant future, hardworking citizens can take the weekend off and play tennis, golf... or pay to sign up for a weekend of war games, tromping through the woods, roughing it, and 'playing soldier' - much as many people do in today's paintball games - except in these games, the guns are real, and casualties are frequent. A nerdy businessman signs up for one of these weekends for the first time, hoping to impress his boss into giving him a promotion - but ends up discovering a side to himself he hadn't guessed at.

Excellent psychological insight....

And Seven Times Never Kill Man:

A group of militaristic Christian-esque fundamentalists colonizes a world inhabited by a furry, peaceful intelligent alien race whom they view as animals to be slaughtered, in order to clear the way for settlement. An independent trader is shocked and horrified by the violence, and tries to organize a resistance - but the

effort is worse than pathetic. BUT - an unpredictable twist ensues!

Nor the Many-Colored Fires of a Star Ring:

A brief but interesting musing on religion and the origins of universes, as a scientist experiments with wormhole technology.

A Song for Lya:

A competent and professional psychic couple are asked to investigate why human colonists are converting in disturbing numbers to an alien religious suicide cult. But what they discover may rip them apart.... A melancholy musing on love and the true desires of humanity...

Jim Lay says

My review is for the novella "Nightflyers" only. I wanted to read it before the SyFy mini-series came out. I wasn't overly impressed, I'm sorry to say. 3.5 stars.

Jan Pocestnej says

Nightflyer is a classic (or perhaps a bit rusty) detective science fiction short story. Minus one star for telepathy and minus one for telekinesis. I don't like this stuff in SF.

Roy says

Nightflyers was ok. I wanted to give this a read before the show comes out. The others were kinda meh. They aren't related to Nightflyers. I've never really felt like Martin was an amazing writer, he just has fun plots. If you're in the mood for awesome sci-fi where you're wanting the world building and plotting of TSOIAF then read The Expanse series. I read one of the short stories a night. It's an easy read but I've read much better sci-fi. I honestly can see why this didn't really take off to the same degree as his other series.

Doug says

This science-fiction novella has a really interesting premise but slightly less interesting execution.

The setting here deserves a lot of praise. The author could easily have produced something quite bland, with a (at first glance) paint-by-numbers environment: it's far in the future; we're following a cast of science academic-types on a high-minded quest; the whole story takes place on a spaceship. Yet, George RR Martin manages to pull off something very cool and compelling with the atmosphere. There's a *lot* of suspense here, and the thick sense of tension and mystery alone made this a real page-turner for me.

I won't reveal any plot details that aren't given in the first two or three pages. The story is driven forward by basically two really well-done questions. The first is: what's up with this bizarre ship and captain? The second is: what's up with these aliens that the ship is chasing?

Now, my central complain about this novella is that I don't think the questions receive particularly rewarding questions. However, there is no doubt that the author succeeded in getting me to turn every page in hopes of receiving the answer. The result is that the reader is treated to a story with lots of suspense.

Plus, the pacing is great. There's hardly a wasted word in this story. The prose is sometimes austere -- and that's a compliment. It adds to the suspense and the strong pacing that nobody would ever characterize this book as dense.

I want to lastly comment on the characters here. There is hardly much time devoted exclusively to fleshing out the characters (with one notable, exceptional episode that anyone reading this novella will recall right away). Still, there's a sense here that George RR Martin identified early on which characters he wanted to stand out among the (rather slim) cast, and he very carefully developed them subtly, especially through dialogue and repetition of certain phrases. This way, the reader walks out with an understanding of who some characters are as people without ever really being told directly. It's a really instructive example of good characterization for aspiring writers, I think.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in reading a rather short, compelling piece of science fiction.

DomoKete says

Nightflyers - 3 stars

Override - 4 stars

Weekend in a War Zone - 4 stars

And Seven Times Never Kill Man - 3 stars

Nor the Many-Coloured Fires of a Star Ring - 5 stars

A Song for Lya - 5 stars

Ruth Harwood says

I like a bit of Science Fiction to break up the monotony of ground novels lol! I know it was the Author who first attracted me, & most, to reading this, but it's most definitely a collection very different to any Game of Thrones the reader kinda thinks of! It's a fab collection of short stories that I got so I could have something bite-size to read as a change - I was thinking of putting it down after each and breaking them up with a novel each time, but I couldn't stop reading, I can't leave a book unread and start another unless It's really really bad lol! And then I wouldn't review it, as if there ain't nothing nice to say keep it zipped lol! I may have saved one or two til after my next novel, but I couldn't! Hope you enjoy these as much, other readers!

Sad Sunday (Princess Consuela Bananahammock) says

Ohhh, dear GRRM,

You sneaky son of Nebula and Hugo! How dare you?!? You tricked me. Yes, you did. All I expected was some nice sci-fi, maybe some aliens, maybe some laser guns and tons of flying spaceships. And I would have been satisfied. Completely. But you... You... You made me read horror instead of sci-fi! And it was scary!

Detailed opinions:

***Nightflyers** - sneaky. Weird. But good. But it's pure horror. The idea is interesting and I also loved the secondary story about volcryn. Even if I still have some questions about it. It will be cool to see it as a TV series and I believe some other stories would make a great TV shows too. It's typical horror in space, but I liked the twist.*

***"Override"** - kinda predictable, but fun to read.*

***"Weekend in a War Zone"** - that's my kind of party. Vicious, but great. Kinda predictable, but I liked the concept. The main character is my inner Goddess.*

***"And Seven Times Never Kill Man"** - I didn't get this one, or the point of it. But the world building was cool.*

***"Nor the Many-Colored Fires of a Star Ring"** - great concept also. Interesting in scientific way.*

***A Song for Lya** - so, listen. If you heart was not broken by reading sad books since you were a child, this one will break it. It's so sad. I think it would make a great TV show too. Please, do. A great look at religion and love.*

***Overall:** I am pleasantly surprised - the stories had depth, emotion, unexpected factors. Somehow it was hard to believe that it was written ~1970-1980 since they felt very recent. GRRM is great at creating world, cultures and descriptions.*

*Yours,
SS.*

P.S. When The Winds of Winter will come out?

Teri says

I'll admit that the only reason I read this short story is because of the series coming to Syfy. And because I love Ice and Fire series. It was an interesting story. I enjoyed it but I can't figure what they will ever do to it to make a series

Malu says

This was a collection of 5 sci-fi short stories.

Override and Weekend in a War Zone were my favorites, I think because the scale was a bit smaller, so it was easy to get into them quickly as short stories. Plus, I liked the concepts. They kind of reminded me of Black Mirror episodes.

Nightflyers (the main story) was more mixed - I liked the mystery and horror elements, but some of the wording was just really awkward and ultimately the reveal wasn't that exciting.

A Song For Lya also had an interesting premise and mystery element to it, but at the end, I didn't really feel like the resolution was that satisfying.

Jacqueline Patricks says

I read the first printing of this back when I was a teen, and I remember it stayed with me for a long time. Such a cool, creepy novella! I loved the two MCs of *Nightflyers* specifically and their strange romance. I loved the space sci-fi. I loved it so much I still have the original paperback. I go through a lot of books and many of them end up being resold or given away. I have a very short list of books that I keep forever. This was one of them.

Vlad says

Oh, Lya...

Manuel Antão says

If you're into stuff like this, you can read the full review.

Indistinguishable SF: "Nightflyers and Other Stories" by George R.R. Martin

Dragons have always been cool, Video games have always been cool, real ale has always been cool. (Union) Rugby has always been cool, Science Fiction has always been cool, and Fantasy has always been cool. Football has always been shit, same as radio 4 depressing plays that the controller seems to think everyone has been to Cambridge/Oxford and therefore they like this sort of thing as it's so highbrow. Kill a mockingbird yada yada, the Royal Shakespeare Taliban society again shit. Give me dragon slaying and space ship battles any day of the week. There's very little in life that can't be improved by adding dragons. Anyway, since when was a game of thrones considered to be fantasy? To me, it is fantasy with the guts ripped out of it. Take away the undead and the dragons, and you would see no difference to the overall story. It is a medieval soap drama with fantasy elements tacked on. Fair enough, Martins wants to move the genre on - he wants to go beyond epic sagas and doomed heroes, and the romance that underpins all fantasy, but what has he replaced it with? Sex and misogyny.

Newton Nitro says

Nightflyers & Other Stories - George R.R. Martin | Um conjunto de contos assustadores e filosóficos de Exploração Espacial e Horror Cósmico do Tio George! | NITROLEITURAS #resenha #georgerrmartin #nightflyers #scifi

Uma noveleta e uma série de contos escritos pelo Tio Martin na década de setenta e começo dos anos oitenta, com muito horror cósmico lovecraftiano misturado com exploração espacial e fortes doses de filosofia, existencialismo, violência, sangue baseadas em premissas muito bem boladas!

Nightflyers & Other Stories - George R.R. Martin | 368 pgs, Tor Books, 2018 (1ed. 1985) | Lido de 30.07.18 a 01.08.18 | NITROLEITURAS

SINOPSE

Do criador da série "A Canção do Fogo e do Gelo", Nightflyers e Outras Histórias traz contos de exploração espacial e horror cósmico, entre outros clássicos da ficção científica publicada por George R. R. Martin na década de 70

A noveleta inicial Nightflyers, a base para a série do canal SyFy, inicia o livro com uma história de terror nas profundezas do espaço.

Em uma viagem em direção aos limites do universo conhecido, nove acadêmicos desajustados buscam o primeiro contato com uma raça alienígena sombria.

Mas principal enigma é a própria nave Nightflyer, uma maravilha cibernética com um capitão misterioso, que ninguém jamais viu em carne e osso.

O livro também conta com mais cinco contos de ficção científica que exploram os limites da tecnologia e os cantos escuros da mente humana.

RESENHA

Primeiro, tenho que declarar, eu ADORO o Tio George. Curto demais o estilo da prosa dele, o modo como ele cria uma literatura acessível e ao mesmo tempo que aborda temas profundos, e principalmente, a sua capacidade de criar personagens interessantes e convincentes.

E fiquei feliz em ver os mesmos elementos que curto na saga Game of Thrones nesses primeiros contos e noveletas de sua carreira de escritor.

Nightflyers irá agradar os leitores que curtem literatura pulp de qualidade, que, ao modo da New Wave of Science Fiction dos anos 70, mistura os tropos aventurecos com discussões filosóficas e explorações psicológicas de seus personagens.

Mesmo trabalhando com tropos batidos, como o do famoso horror espacial, é no trabalho dos personagens que está a força de Martin, principalmente na noveleta Nightflyers!

Segue os contos do livro e minhas impressões!

Nightflyers: Uma história aterrorizante, que combina elementos de 2001: Uma Odisséia no Espaço com Aliens: O Oitavo Passageiro. Uma equipe de cientistas segue em uma missão espacial para investigar alienígenas misteriosos que atravessam o cosmo desde o início dos tempos. O problema é que a nave onde eles estão está repleta de segredos terríveis e letais...

Override: Uma história curta sobre uma corporação que explora zumbis, mortos-vivos criados por tecnologia e usados para trabalhos em locais perigosos. Muito legal!

Weekend in a War Zone: Uma espécie de crítica a Guerra do Vietnã, o conto descreve um futuro onde executivos pagam para participar de uma guerra real, ganhando pontos e correndo o risco de morrer. É um conto bem psicológico, narrado em primeira pessoa, e me lembrou o filme Apocalypse Now, mas em uma versão futurista.

And Seven Times Never Kill Man: Esse é sensacional, em um cenário de exploração espacial, um grupo militarista de fundamentalistas cristãos, bem fanáticos, coloniza um mundo habitado por alienígenas pacifistas, que são tratados como animais. A virada na trama do final me pegou totalmente de surpresa, e é genial!

Nor the Many-Colored Fires of a Star Ring: O conto mais filosófico do livro, onde um cientista experimenta com uma tecnologia de criação de "buracos de minhoca" em um local ou dimensão estranha. O cenário parece ser o mesmo do Nightflyer, Override e And Seven Times Never Kill Man,

A Song for Lya: Um conto de contato com civilização alienígena que, além de uma exploração sobre questões de identidade e da possibilidade ou impossibilidade de uma profunda conexão emocional entre os humanos, também critica os cultos e seitas que proliferaram nos Estados Unidos nos anos 70. Um casal de paranormais, uma telepata e uma empata, são enviados para investigar por que os colonos humanos estão se convertendo em números perturbadores em um culto de suicídio religioso dos alienígenas nativos de um planeta colonizado.

Curti demais esse livrinho do Tio George e certamente vou assistir a série da SyFy!

Fica a recomendação! ;)

Newton Nitro 01-08-18

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Jim C says

This review is for the novella with the same name of this book.

Actual rating is 3.5 stars.

This novella is about a crew who explore deep space to observe a mythical race of species. They end up getting more than they bargained for. This is your basic horror story that has deep space as its setting.

I am the type of person who needs to read the source material before the visual rendition is shown and SyFy has made this novella into visual form. Sometimes I am glad that I read the material beforehand and this is one of those times. What sold me on this novella was the setting. This crew is all alone within deep space and there is no chance for help as we get the mystery and horror of the crew being attacked. There is some nice graphic images that accompany the horror scenes. The mystery aspect is well done as we get hints throughout to it and the requisite red herring. The only issue I had with the story is that I wish that the characters were fleshed out a little more. Some of them ran into each other and they were not distinguishable. This could be a case of this being a short story instead of a full novel.

If you are a fan of science fiction mixed with horror this is a must read. I enjoyed it and I understand why SyFy decided to produce it. I am looking forward to the television event when it finally premieres.
