



Riders of the Purple Wage

Philip José Farmer

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A collection of short science fiction takes readers on a voyage through time with St. Francis, into a brutal future city where sterilization is the only cure to poverty, and to a struggle between alien beings and the IRS. Original.

Riders of the Purple Wage Details

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Author : Philip José Farmer

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From Reader Review *Riders of the Purple Wage* for online ebook

William Freedman says

How did it take me so long to find this guy? Aside from some truly god-awful puns, his humor is hilarious. His universe building run rings around Ringworld and makes Riverworld look like a parking lot puddle.

This was a guy way too far ahead of his time.

Stephen Brooke says

It is possible to be too clever for one's own good and Philip Jose Farmer proves it with this story (This a review only of the novella 'Riders of the Purple Wage.'). which is sort of literary (science) fiction that pokes fun at literary fiction (and much else). Very post-modern in that sense. But it becomes a bit tedious after only a few pages, much less over 25000 words.

The lack of contrast may have something to do with that. The narrative just keeps going in the much same vein, with little to set off the absurdities. Buried in that narrative, however, are quite a few interesting ideas — and, of course, Farmer's typical obsession with sex. It is a glimpse of a dystopia, to be sure, a dystopia one might also consider a utopia. As are most ages and places, our author suggests.

Farmer's attempts to give psychological explanations, however, fall short. Or perhaps they are simply outmoded, based on views of the human mind that no longer seem valid. That's always a danger; one could say the same of the 'psychological writers' of a century or more ago. On the other hand, more than a few of the 'predictions' about society here seem to be coming to pass.

But 'Riders' remains only moderately entertaining, a case of too much concept and too little story (which, with Farmer, could have been intentional—as with the grandfather character, he "always carries a joke too far for most people."). The humor is leaden, the characters mostly caricatures. Worth a read, to be sure, if one recognizes what one is getting into.

Todd says

A great collection of short stories from the creator of Riverworld including one titled, "St Francis Kisses His Ass Goodbye." Another one, "The Long Wet Purple Dream of Rip Van Winkle." But by far the best of this collection can be summed up in the beginning of "The Making of Revelagion Part One.

God said, "Bring me Cecil B. DeMille."

"Dead or Alive?" the angel Gabriel said.

"I want to make him an offer he can't refuse. Can even I do this to dead man?"

"Oh, I see," said Gabriel, who didn't. "It will be done."

And it was.

Travis says

A collection of PJF's short stories, so of course, it's brilliant, weird and slightly disturbing.

One of my favorite writers. I will take bad Farmer over good nearly 90% of the SF writers out there.

Tristan Cordelia says

Science fiction erotica in the style of James Joyce.

John P says

Mr. Farmer openly copies Joyce's 'Ulysses' spirit and style - or, better, a portion of the many 'styles' attempted by Joyce. And 'Riders...' makes it clear that this copying is intentional.

Having said that, 'Riders...' is infinitely more readable than 'Ulysses' by a long shot. It incorporates irony, vulgarity, and humor in equal parts blended with a small dose of conventional values.

Bob Landry says

If you read nothing else by him, read this!!

Jeff Anderson says

I just finished the novella of this story in *Dangerous Visions*. This is truly and outstanding work of fiction as well as science-fiction. More social science-fiction than hard it tells the wonderful story of a welfare state taken to its logical conclusions based on technological advances well within our grasp. That this story was first published in 1967 is part of what makes it so remarkable. Many of the societal changes Farmer presents in this story are present in Stephenson's *The Diamond Age* which debuted some twenty years later and it seems that before much longer we may indeed see some of these marvels come to pass. The story though is great and so enjoyable. The last hurrah of one of the few scoundrels left in the twenty-second century. I recommend this book to all who love speculative fiction and for those who look down their noses at it as well. You will love this book and the greatness therein.
