

1998

GREAT SCIENCE FICTION STORIES CATALOG























CURRENT TITLES

Under Siege

by George R. R. Martin Read by Pat Bottino / 80 minutes / 1 cassette ISBN 1-884612-24-5 \$11.99

When they conscripted me, I was classified as a Human Mutation, third category. Or a hum-three in the vernacular. The hum-ones are the nonviables: stillborns and infant deaths and living veggies. We got millions of 'em. The hum-twos are viable but useless, all the guys with extra toes and webbed hands and funny eyes. Got thousands of them. But us hum-threes are the elite, so they tell us. That's when they draft us. Down here, inside the Graham Project bunker, we get new names. Old Charlie Graham himself used to call us his "timeriders" before he croaked, but that's too romantic for Major Salazar. Salazar prefers the official government term: G.C., for Graham Chrononaut. The orderlies and grunts turned G.C. into geek. The killer geeks, we called ourselves. Six little killer geeks riding the time stream, biting the heads off vast chickens of probability.

For I Have Touched the Sky (Tales of Kirinyaga #2)

by Mike Resnick

Read by Pat Bottino / 80 minutes / 1 cassette ISBN 1-884612-25-3 \$11.99

"Once before, the Kikuyu tried to become something that they were not, and we became not city-dwelling Kikuyu, or bad Kikuyu, but an entirely new tribe called Kenyans. Those of us who came to Kirinyaga came here to preserve the old ways and if women start reading, some of them will become discontented, and they will leave, and then one day there will be no Kikuyu left, "Koriba said. "But I don't want to leave Kirinyaga!" Kamari said. "I want to become circumsized, and bear many children for my husband, and till the fields of his shamba. But I also want to read." Koriba shook his head. "No."

Kirinyaga & One Perfect Morning, with Jackals (Tales of Kirinyaga #1)

by Mike Resnick

Read by Pat Bottino / 83 minutes / 1 cassette

ISBN 1-884612-23-7 \$10.99

Maintenance watches Kirinyaga discreetly, making minor orbital adjustments when necessary, assuring that our tropical climate remains constant. From time to time they have subtly suggested that we might wish to draw upon their medical expertise, or perhaps allow our children to make use of their educational facilities, but they have taken our refusal with good grace, and have never shown any desire to interfere in our affairs. Until I strangled the baby, HUGO AWARD WINNING STORY.

Rammer

by Larry Niven

Read by Pat Bottino / 80 minutes / 1 cassette

ISBN 1-884612-22-9 \$10.99

Once there was a dead man. He'd been waiting inside a coffin, suitably labeled, whose outer shell held liquid nitrogen. There were frozen clumps of cancer all through his frozen body. He was waiting for medical science to find him a cure. Later there came a criminal. His name is forgotten and his crime is secret, but it must have been a terrible one. The State wiped his personality for it. Afterward he was a dead man: still warm, still breathing, even reasonably healthy - but empty. The State had use for an empty man. And the State needed a starship pilot.

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CURRENT TITLES

The Shobies' Story

by Ursula K. Le Guin

Read by Amy Bruce / 68 minutes / 1 cassette ISBN 1-884612-09-1 \$10.99

In this Hainish story a crew of ten embark on a test flight on a starship with a new experimental stardrive. The churten would make Nearly as Fast as Light flight obsolete. It would allow a crew to travel in its own time without time dilation. No longer would their friends get old and die while they were in flight from world to world. If the churten principle were proved to be applicable to actual transilience of living, conscious beings, it would be a great event for all people.

Cibola

by Connie Willis

Read by Amy Bruce / 50 minutes / 1 cassette

ISBN 1-884612-15-6 \$10.99

Carla Johnson from the *Denver Record* was used to covering nuttos such as a time machine inventor who sent people to the future with his washing machine and a psychic dentist who extracted teeth in another plane of reality. Her new assignment was to cover Rosa Turcorillo, the great-granddaughter of Coronado. Rosa claimed to know where the Seven Cities of Gold were. Coronado trekked through the Southwest looking for the Seven Cities of Cibola in the 1540s, which poked a big whole in Rosa's story, since any great-granddaughter of his would have to be at least three hundred years old.

A Walk in the Sun

0110

by Geoffrey A. Landis

Read by Amy Bruce / 52 minutes / 1 cassette

ISBN 1-884612-13-X \$10.99

The pilots have a saying: a good landing is any landing you can walk away from. Titanium struts, pencil-slender, had never been designed to take the force of a landing. Paper-thin pressure walls had buckled and shattered, spreading wreckage out into the vacuum and across a square kilometer of lunar surface. In eerie silence, the fragile ship had crumpled and ripped apart like a discarded aluminum can. It would be thirty days before a rescue team could reach the surviving astronaut. HUGO AWARD WINNING STORY.

Slow Birds

by Ian Watson

Read by Jim Bond / 72 minutes / 1 cassette ISBN 1-884612-10-5 \$10.99

They were called slow birds because they flew through the air at a pace of three feet per minute. They looked like birds, too, though only a little. Their tubular metal bodies were rounded at the head and tapering to a finned point at the tail, with two stubby tails midway. In color they were gray. Slow birds always kept the same height above ground and they would bank to avoid substantial buildings, but frailer obstructions they would push on through. No one could keep track of a single slow birds. After each one appeared it would fly onward slowly for any length of time between an hour and a day. And vanish again, To reappear somewhere else unpredictably. And perhaps detonate.

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CURRENT TITLES

Hollywood Kremlin

by Bruce Sterling

Read by Gordon Williams / 82 mins / 1 cassette ISBN 1-884612-11-3 \$10.99

"Where is the rest of your ground crew?" said Captain Khoklov. Starlitz grinned up at the pilot. "The ground crew's on strike, comrade," he said. "Politics. The national problem." You know how it is here in Azerbaijan." Khoklov was scandalized. "They can't strike against smugglers! We're not the government! We are a criminal-enterprise operation!" "They know that, man." Starlitz said. "But they wanted to show solidarity. With their fellow Armenian Christians. Against the Moslem Azerbaijanis." "The situation's an outrage," said Khoklov. "The whole nation has lost its bearings, if you ask me." This is the lifest story in the author's series involving the enigmatic Legog Starlitz.

Cilia-of-Gold

by Stephen Baxter

Read by Amy Bruce / 71 minutes / 1 cassette

ISBN 1-884612-12-1 \$10.99

Recently, anomalies had been recorded in the Sun's behavior; aspects of its interior seemed to be diverging, and widely, from the standard theoretical models. Superet was a loose coalition of interested groups on Earth and Mars, intent on studying problems likely to impact the long-term survival of the human species. Problems in the interior of mankind's only star clearly came into the category of things of interest to Superet. Irinia Larionova had had no intention of visiting Mercury herself. The planet was a piece of junk, a desolate ball of iron and rock too close to the Sun to be interesting, or remotely habitable. But, within days of landing two exploratory teams on the planet, both had reported anomalies. This story takes place in the author's "Keelee" universe.

Blood Sisters

by Greg Egan

Read by Amy Bruce / 53 minutes / 1 cassette

ISBN 1-884612-14-8 \$10.99

A team of biological warfare researchers had decided that designing viruses was just too much hard work. Why waste hundreds of Ph.D.-years - why expend any intellectual effort whatsoever - when the time-honored partnership of blind mutation and natural selection was all that was required? The theory was, they'd set up a few trillion copies of their system, like row after row of little biological poker machines, spinning away in their underground lab, and just wait to harvest the jackpots. They theory also included the best containment facilities in the world, and 520 people all sticking scrupulously to official procedure, day after day, month after month, without a moment of carelessness, laziness or thoughtfulness. Apparently, nobody bothered to compute the probability of that.

Guest of Honor

by Robert Reed

Read by Amy Bruce / 83 minutes / 1 cassette

Div

ISBN 1-884612-08-3 \$10.99
Centuries ago, during the Blossoming, technologies had raced forward at an unprecedented rate. Starships like the *Kyber* and a functional immortality had allowed the first missions to the distant worlds. Despite precautions, there were casualties. People who had lived for centuries died, often in stupid accidents. After the first wave of missions no new starships were built and no sensible near-immortal would have ridden inside even the safest vessel. Only recently had a solution been invented. The near-immortals devised ways of making highly gifted, highly trained crews from themselves. With computers and genetic engineering, groups of people could pool their qualities and create offspring...compilation humans.

SUMMER RELEASES

Schrödinger's Kitten

on order

by George Alec Effinger Read by TBA / 80 minutes / 1 cassette

ISBN 1-884612-26-1 \$11.99

There were no minarets in the Budayeen, but in the city all around the walled quarters there were many mosques. From the tall, ancient towers, strong voices called the faithful to morning devotions. Leaning against a grimy wall, Jehan heard the chanted cries of the muezzins, but she paid them no mind. She stared at the dead body at her feet, the body of a boy a few years older than she, someone she had seen about the Budayeen but whom she did not know by name. She still held the bloody knife that had killed him. She killed him because he would do her harm in one of a number of probable, but uncertain, futures. HUGO & NEBULA AWARD WINNING STORY.

Beggars in Spain

by Nancy Kress

Reader TBA / 180 minutes / 2 cassettes

ISBN 1-884612-27-X \$17.99

Sleep once served an important evolutionary function. Once Clem Pre-mammal was done filling his stomach and squirting his sperm around, sleep kept him immobile and away from predators. Sleep was an aid to survival. But now it's a left-over mechanism, like the appendix. It switches on every night, but the need is gone. So Blotech Institute can turn off the switch at its source, in the genes. There are side effects. Compared to their age mates, the non-sleep children - who have not had IQ genetic manipulation - are more intelligent, better at problem-solving, and more joyous. And no negative side effects reported, so far. HUGO & NEBULA AWARD WINNING STORY.

FALL RELEASES

Solstice

by James Patrick Kelly Reader TBA / 90 minutes / 1 cassette ISBN 1-884612-28-8 \$11,99

It was while he was developing Focus that the famous drug artist, Cage, decided he needed someone to help him spend his money. He felt no particular urge to contract a marriage. None of the women he was sleeping with at the time mattered to him. He knew that they had been drawn by that irresistible pheromone: the smell of success. He wanted to share his life with someone who would be bound to him by ties no lawyer could break. Someone who would be uniquely his. Forever. Or so he imagined. Wynne was carried in an artificial womb. All it took was a tissue culture from a few of Cage's intestinal epithelial cells and some gene sculpturing to change the "Y" chromosome to an "X." This and one -point-two-million new dollars. She was not his daughter. Nor was she exactly his clone. HUGO AWARD WINNING AUTHOR.

Bwana (Tales of Kirinyaga #3)

by Mike Resnick

Reader TBA / 130 minutes / 2 cassettes

ISBN 1-884612-29-6 \$17.99

They brought to the planet Kirinyaga the impala, buffalo, gazelle, hyena, jackal, and the vulture from Earth in order to help create their utopian world. Due to an ecological imbalance, the hyenas do not have enough to eat and are killing the children of this world of farmers. A hunter from Earth is brought in to save them from the hyenas. But who will save them from the hunter.

effects. Consult www.flash.net/~atx for more information.

"Tantalize your ears." - Science Fiction Age



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Mike Resnick's Kirinyaga series is the most honored story cycle in the history of the science fiction field.



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