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Wastelands

WASTELANDS
STORIES OF
THE APOCALYPSE

FEATURING

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AND MANY OTHERS

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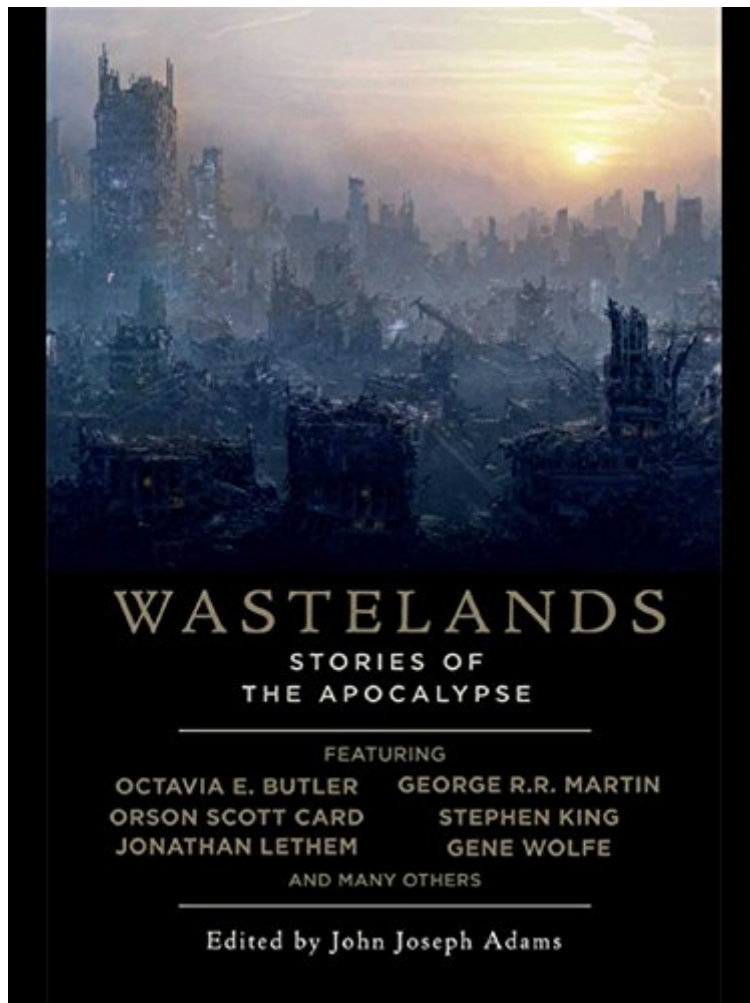
Synopsis

Famine, Death, War, and Pestilence: The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, the harbingers of Armageddon Ã¢â ¬â • these are our guides through the Wastelands... From the Book of Revelations to The Road Warrior; from A Canticle for Leibowitz to The Road, storytellers have long imagined the end of the world, weaving tales of catastrophe, chaos, and calamity. Gathering together the best post-apocalyptic literature of the last two decades from many of today's most renowned authors of speculative fiction, including George R.R. Martin, Gene Wolfe, Orson Scott Card, Carol Emshwiller, Jonathan Lethem, Octavia E. Butler, and Stephen King, Wastelands explores the scientific, psychological, and philosophical questions of what it means to remain human in the wake of Armageddon.

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Customer Reviews

Everybody is dead and gone with just a few strong willed souls holding onto a hopeless existence. Why are these stories so appealing? Because we all consider ourselves fighters. We are all right there with each protagonist fighting the good fight to overcome impossible odds. These stories are

connected by this common thread. They are about people trying to survive in post apocalyptic worlds. Some worlds are similar to our own. Some are impossible hellscapes.There is a father and daughter desperately trying to hold onto their traveling ragtag zoo of freakish mutated animals. Intrepid explorers returning to a desolate toxic Earth after many millennia. A group of system administrators bleakly watching the collapse of the Internet and civilization and trying to survive in the dark aftermath.Contributing writers are Stephen King, George R. R. Martin, Tobias S. Buckell, Cory Doctorow, Catherine Wells and many other notable story tellers. An excellent imaginative collection.

This book was abit of hit and miss for me. I am not sure that I like short story form for this genre. I have read The Road, Swan Song, The Stand and others that reached their full potential because their was time and length to do so. I have a couple of other anthologies for this genre to read and perhaps I will change my mind.

This was a collection worthy of the award winning authors listed. It had a satisfying variety of perspectives on the end of the world as well as on the people who face it. A great read for any fan of the sub-genre.

It's a collection of short stories so some are good/very good/ok. Worth the purchase, it's an interesting collection.

there are a couple of really good short stories in here but most imho aren't all that and a few were so bad i couldn't read more than a couple of pages. this book is truly a mixed bag of short stories. i hate to say this but this is one i would not purchase if given another opportunity.

This is a great anthology. The stories are excellent. Highly recommended.

The thing about Wastelands is that it is very uneven. Perhaps it is because the post-apocalyptic genre is so wide, or so bare, but for every great story there are three or four or five which is a chore to read. Joe Sherry and Slippard do a great job breaking down the stories individual without spoiling anything, so instead I will focus just on the tales that make this volume worth it. * "The End of the Whole Mess," by Stephen King. King is a great writer, always fun and easy to read. * "The People of Sand and Slag," by Paolo Bacigalupi. Perhaps the most disturbing book in the collection, as

Bacigalupi seems to understand where genetic engineering is going. * "Dark, Dark Were the Tunnels," by George R.R. Martin. A Cold War parable. Anyone who loved golden age Isaac Asimov and Arthur C. Clarke will feel at home here. * "Judgment Passed," by Jerry Olten. An odd story as it deals with the rapture from the point of view of atheist astronauts who were out of the solar system at the time. * "Mute," by Gene Wolf. You need to read this. Mute, alone, makes buying this book worth it, even if you just buy the Kindle edition and read it on your computer. Mute is only ten pages, but that includes a short intro in which Neil Gaiman gives the following advice: (1) Trust the text implicitly. THe answers are in there. (2) Do not trust the text farther than you can throw it, if that far. It's tricksy and desperate stuff, and it may go off in your hand at any time. (3) Reread. It's better the second time. Actually, it's more confusing the second time. The third time I really paid attention to why the protagonist could be thinking her thoughts. And I drew a map. (Mute tends to have negative reviews in summaries. If you only read it once it's disturbing, but you completely miss what is happening.) * "The End of the World As We Know It," by Dale Bailey. The end of the world is not the most important thing to happen to the protagonist, to a local consequence of it is. A wonderful story of grieving. * "A Song Before Sunset," by David Grigg. Reads like an episode of The Twilight Zone, in the best sense.If the same book for the same price was just these stories, it would have been a great deal, well worth the $10.85 paperback price. Don't feel obligated to read the rest.'

This was a good set of stories. Not your typically apocalyptic stuff. I liked the length of the stories, easily read in an evening.

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