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The Worlds of Theodore Sturgeon is a collection of some of the finest works by the Nebula and Hugo Award-winning master storyteller.

Here are unforgettable pieces ranging from great science fiction to the utterly fantastic. Stories like the one about: the man who read graves -- not gravestones, but graves . . . or The Pit, which insured peace on Earth, forever . . . Plus two of the great classics of science fiction -- **The Sky Was Full Of Ships** and **Shottle Bop**.

These are the brilliant, fantastically imaginative WORLDS OF THEODORE STURGEON.

The Worlds of Theodore Sturgeon Details

Date : Published September 1st 1977 by Ace Books (first published January 1st 1972)

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Author : Theodore Sturgeon

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From Reader Review The Worlds of Theodore Sturgeon for online ebook

Jos says

Got this one on an Ebay buying binge. I was looking for cheap old SF paperbacks and got it in a bundle package. I never heard of Sturgeon before but he's comparably well-rated on Goodreads so I had some hopes for these short stories.

The German translation is split up in two parts. I only have the second part called "Tausend Schiffe am Himmel" which contains the last five stories.

The other man: 2*

The idea of modulating personalities sounds interesting but seen from today the story is hampered by the context of the time when lobotomy still was considered a valid option to "correct" personalities.

There is no defense: 2*

Just because the addressed 'balance of power' principle is relevant and it features Jupiterians.

The skye was full of ships: 3*

An extraterrestrial race is monitoring Earth for use of atom energy. Enjoyable as an early critical statement.

Shottle bop: 2*

A mix between Little Shop of Horrors and The Sixth Sense. Sturgeon obviously did horror stories as well.

Memorial: 3*

Another critical statement on atom energy. One scientist single-handedly improves nuclear fission to 100% efficiency?

Style-wise Sturgeon writes much better than most SF authors I've read so far. He gets lost in his writing sometimes, at least he lost me repeatedly. The science part is another weakness. In sum, 2*.

Norman Howe says

Science-Fiction

Betsy says

I would give 5 stars to some of these stories; but some, including the longest, Maturity, would only get a 2.

James Mourgos says

Normally I don't have a problem with early science fiction, but Sturgeon's stuff from the 1940s and 1950s leaves much to be desired. The stories are very chatty, don't flow well and the book has editorial errors here and there which can be distracting.

The story Shottle Bop was disappointing, for example. A guy walks into a shop that's really not there and makes major changes in his life due to a magic potion. However he uses (and was warned not to) use the power for selfish ends. Then he has a bad end. OK, so? Rod Serling did better.

The last tale, Memorial, about a guy who wants to make an example to Man of the dangers of atomic war has it all backfire. This was a decent tale and thought-provoking.

The story, Maturity, was anything but! A fake love angle with a genius who gets his hormones rebalanced I guess is supposed to be comedy but left me dry and dull.

There are better anthologies out there. I'm sure this may not be the book you want to start to get to know Golden Age fiction nor Theodore Sturgeon's style. Perhaps his style is not mine!

Others that May Work Better:

The Ultimate Egoist: Volume I: The Complete Stories of Theodore Sturgeon
More Than Human
Selected Stories

Simon says

This collection demonstrates the diversity, not only of the authors imagination, but in his scientific knowledge. He is a master of the bizarre and tells a great story too.

Manny says

Theodore Sturgeon is famous for what has become known as Sturgeon's Law. 95% of science-fiction, Sturgeon happily admitted, is crap. But so what? 95% of everything is crap. I have always thought Sturgeon's Law was a deep insight into the nature of the universe, and it is in particular one that self-published authors would do well to remember; I am a self-published author myself, so I trust that I am allowed to say this. It follows as a corollary of Sturgeon's Law (I will leave the details to the reader) that 95% of all self-published books are crap.

The right way to look at this, I would say, is that it's pretty good news. Wow. Only 95% of all self-published books are crap! That's amazing. It means that 5% of them are *not* crap. Just think, you might draw one of those lucky tickets! Because, let's face it, you could easily get the idea that the odds were a whole lot worse. People have been writing books for well over two thousand years, and in all that time you're going to expect that quite a lot of good ones will have turned up.

As a self-published author, you're competing for the reader's attention against every brilliant book composed since the dawn of time. I am reasonably pleased with my two self-published efforts, until I think about this. I read more than most people, typically about fifty to a hundred books a year, and it is unfortunately clear that there are enough absolutely first-class books around that I'm not going to have time to finish them all. I won't even get close. Why, only in the last few months, I read Burton's translation of the *The Arabian Nights*, Hjalmar Söderberg's *Doktor Glas*, and Berry's *A Short History of Astronomy* - all totally brilliant books that I'd somehow never got around to looking at earlier. My to-read shelf contains hundreds more.

And yet, despite this, 5% of all self-published books are of high enough quality that people might read them without wanting to kill the author afterwards for wasting their precious time. There's got to be a catch somewhere. It can't possibly be true. But Theodore Sturgeon was a very smart guy.

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Orin Buck says

Revisiting this book of short stories (which on first reading was completely forgettable) I understood better the reputation Sturgeon has as a key author in the Campbell school of SF. My memories of Sturgeon are filled with mutants persecuted in circuses, but this book had action on a galactic scale, and also in the human scale, ending with an idea of what might happen when a scientist decides whether to start the nuclear apocalypse. The first story begins, "And the Sun went nova and humanity fragmented and fled: and such is the self-knowledge of humankind that it knew it must guard its past as it guarded its being, or it would cease to be human...." and we witness the meeting of two separate branches of humanity separated for generations by light years. Aside from serious SF ideas there is a literary self-consciousness in some stories that must have appealed to some of the critics and historians I've read praising Sturgeon beyond his storytelling accomplishments—art about art has been fashionable for some time.

Brian Bowes says

I don't know when I first read these stories by Theodore Sturgeon, but I do know that they've stuck with me through time. I find myself often referring to a story, a concept, or an image from one of these tales as I try to explain a magic moment in every day life. One could say that I have become as Theodore's "Perfect Host." - read the story, then you'll see.

Sarah says

Listened to "The Skills of Xanadu".

Kurt Hansen says

Theodore Sturgeon's work was described as brilliant and fantastically imaginative, and I do not disagree. In

particular I remember "The Sky was Full of Ships" and "Memorial" from this collection.
