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For years, those bringing SF into the classroom have had to improvise their course materials from anthologies and collections not designed for classwork. Now, David G. Hartwell, award-winning anthologist, and Professor Milton T. Wolf, Vice President of the Science Fiction Research Association, present a carefully selected reading anthology reflecting the SF field in all its modern diversity. Here are Golden Age writers like John W. Campbell and Jack Williamson, and here also are towering latter-day titans like Gene Wolfe and Ursula K. Le Guin, along with today's popular writers such as Greg Bear, Robert Jordan, and Vernor Vinge.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Should a textbook be this fun to read? If it's a science fiction anthology put together by the Science Fiction Research Association, the answer is yes! This hefty (798 pages) tome is meant to be both a primer to the SF of the '90s as well as an enjoyable book in its own right, and it succeeds fully on both counts. With more than 30 "classic" stories from the current decade supplemented by critical essays from some of the genre's finest writers, this book is both a scholarly resource and road map to some of the best short fiction in recent years.

From Publishers Weekly

This third reading anthology from the Science Fiction Research Association offers the uninitiated an excellent and informed introduction to the genre while also supplying fans with plenty of new pleasures. Since this volume spotlights SF of the '90s, editors Hartwell and Wolf have gathered stories by Orson Scott Card, Terry Bisson, Walter Jon Williams and James Patrick Kelly, to mention a few of the 31 fiction contributors. While all of the fiction has been published elsewhere, the editors' introductory essays explain their inclusion: Judith Tarr offers a rip-roaring specimen of alternate history with a tale about the Kennedy boys as rock stars?Marilyn Monroe becomes the kickass feminist lawyer of JFK's nightmares. In the title story from his collection Bears Discover Fire, Bisson demonstrates how the boundaries of SF have expanded, with a story about bears discovering the use of fire that resonates with magical realism; similarly, Kate Wilhelm offers a hypnotic time-travel story that moves the heart more than a simple romance ever could. The editors balance these newer voices against writers who have shaped the genre, and so the work of Philip Jose Farmer, Ursula K. LeGuin, and Anne McCaffrey is also here to be appreciated. But best of all are the nine essays: Samuel R. Delany writes on how science fiction fits into literature; Damon Knight, on critics; John W. Campbell Jr. imagines explaining to a robot what a human is; while David G. Hartwell provides a hilarious and honest examination of the SF fan's psyche, the 12-year-old within each of us. And that kid is going to love this wise, witty and wonderful collection.

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From Library Journal

The Science Fiction Research Association sponsored two previous anthologies of contemporary sf in the 1970s and 1980s. This book, designed for classroom use, covers the range of current sf and fantasy topics, concerns, and approaches published in the last ten years. The editors offer 32 short stories and nine essays by established and new authors, including Anne McCaffrey, Greg Bear, Kate Wilhelm, Terry Bisson, Ursula K. Le Guin, Robert Jordan, Joanna Russ, William Gibson, and Andre Norton. A broad-ranging anthology; highly recommended for sf collections.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Irving Wile:

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Lila Costillo:

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