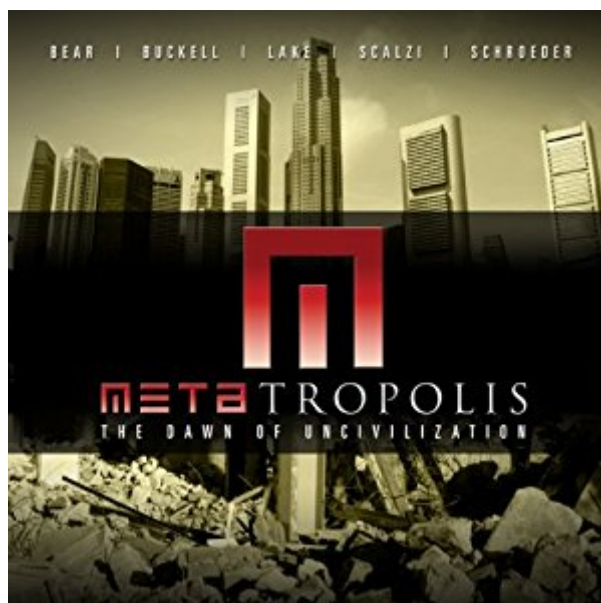


The book was found

METAtropolis



Synopsis

Five original tales set in a shared urban future—•from some of the hottest young writers in modern SFA strange man comes to an even stranger encampment...a bouncer becomes the linchpin of an unexpected urban movement...a courier on the run has to decide who to trust in a dangerous city...a slacker in a "zero-footprint" town gets a most unusual new job...and a weapons investigator uses his skills to discover a metropolis hidden right in front of his eyes>Welcome to the future of cities. Welcome to Metatropolis.More than an anthology, Metatropolis is the brainchild of five of science fiction's hottest writers—•Elizabeth Bear, Tobias Buckell, Jay Lake, Karl Schroeder, and project editor John Scalzi—•who combined their talents to build a new urban future, and then wrote their own stories in this collectively-constructed world. The results are individual glimpses of a shared vision, and a reading experience unlike any you've had before.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours 12 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: October 20, 2008

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B001IYK5P2

Best Sellers Rank: #108 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction > Anthologies & Short Stories #1195 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Anthologies #34339 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature

Customer Reviews

Metatropolis (2009) is a print version of an SF anthology audio book. It contains five short original works about a shared world jointly created by the authors. It has an introduction by the editor.The volume is set in a world where large political and commercial structures are failing. Climate changes and depleted resources are making major changes in the world. The old way of doing things is no longer possible.New organizations and technologies are being developed within the old cities and new municipalities are rising. These urban areas are becoming more self-sufficient. The suburbs

and rural areas are regressing into the Wilds. - "Introduction" by John Scalzi explains how this work came into existence. He is very proud of the authors and their stories. - "In the Forests of the Night" by Jay Lake brings a charismatic man to Cascadia. - "Stochasti-City" by Tobias S. Buckell leads a former soldier to an eco-terrorist group in Detroit. - "The Red in the Sky is Our Blood" by Elizabeth Bear exposes a fugitive to a subversive group in Detroit. - "Utere Nihil Non Extra Quirtationem Suis" by John Scalzi confronts a slackard with an undesirable choice in New St. Louis. - "To Hie from Far Cilenia" by Karl Schroeder puts a nuclear inspection agent into two parallel investigations in Sweden. These tales illuminate a future much different from the present. The physical features are much the same, but the political and economic environments are greatly changed. Technology is smaller and more accessible with 3-D printers readily available. With the world changing around them, some people find new ways of coping. People retreat into tribes and smaller groups. Naturally, the old political hierarchy is opposed to these innovations. Highly recommended for anyone else who enjoys tales of evolving societies, ecological activism, and persevering folks. Read and enjoy! - Arthur W. Jordin

I purchased the hardcover from Amazon as I am a big Scalzi fan, and also a huge short story in general fan. I see a lot of people seem to focus on some preachy political aspect to this book. A main premise of the book is a near-future glimpse into a crumble or fall of parts of civilization; US empire, or at least the fall of resources/globalization, and the perseverance of the human spirit. This has happened several times throughout history albeit not as we've been so advanced (that we know of), so what makes that part far fetched and some preachy caustic message is beyond me. I did not feel beat over the head with the message; in fact I enjoyed each different handling of it in each story with the loose tie of there being a collapse that caused this change. Overall many of the stories are extremely well written (as a writer myself, there were some portions I inwardly thought I wish I had written myself). Some of the stories can be slow moving, but do get rolling. There was only one story I had to give up on, and thankfully it was 3/4 of the way in and one of the shorter ones that did not seem to have much to add to the overall vision for this anyway. Each story's theme could be applied to whatever world event you choose and would fit, so it is more universal than many of the reviews I have seen here. The above is the "bad", if you can call it that. Now the good - and there is a lot of good. The good is that there are some page turning burners with plenty of action to offset the slower moving stories. Scalzi's entry offers a view from the other side of all of the other stories, which is both fun and at the same time cautionary; it says a lot more than many may want to admit about our society's "head-in-the-sand" views. The even better news is that there is one story

in this book that is worth the price alone: Karl Schroeder's story (...far Celenia). It closes the collection out by predicting a future that is entirely plausible at about every angle I can think to approach it from. In fact, it's spot-on enough to be a bit scary, because if you pay attention to the news, you can see this potentially coming someday. It has a little bit of a thriller aspect thrown in (a chase through a sub-sub-sub culture for an elusive son of a protagonist - a chase made through a culture that is as elusive to enter and navigate as the son being searched for is). It has pieces of existing technology taken to the next level, much of which, if put in the hands of someone like, perhaps, Elon Musk, would be a reality within decades and the biggest cash cow of all time. It has the outsider's economy as viewed from a largely disinterested protagonist who is focused on his own goal, and who himself isn't exactly sure just what this alternate-yet-real daily life means and raises many other questions such an off-the-grid (Bitcoin, anyone?) economy could evolve into. In fact, the protagonist does delve - and evolve, for his own reasons (so I'm not spoiling anything), and the reader finds out soon how deep the rabbit hole goes. It is my opinion that this one story, the close to this excellent short story collection, predicts our future, and maybe a future coming sooner than many might like to think. To repeat: you are reading a likely future as you read this - just as you would have been had you read any past Sci-Fi book at the time of its original printing now considered prophetic. All I can say is, beware of any virtual reality games coming from Google glass or any such ilk that promises an all-encompassing virtual reality. You would be witness to step one of where this story goes should something like that occur. But it's ok, you can always keep your head in the sand and complain that the book does nothing but bash your brains in with some imagined implausible future of our city life. Quite a bit of this is more likely than many of us would like to admit, and that can be jarring. Which, to me, is a sign of a great Sci-Fi book: it is not as sci-fi so much as think-tank. If I had to make a nitpick other than the one dud story, it would be Scalzi's introductions to each story. They stand on their own, they don't need a preface and a set up, Johnny.

World Building is a fascinating device, especially when a team of artists work on the same setting together. The stories are cool, complex, individual and cooperative, all by established authors. Each one is a flavored glimpse into this world, a future perhaps not far from our own. The old school gamer in me wants to see these cities as settings hosting some kind of intense, subversive RPG. Very much hopeful for more tales in the Metatropolis of tomorrow!

An interesting look at what the future could be like. Lots of viewpoints on that time that may soon

come and what we can do to improve it. The authors did a good job of not just paying lip service to each other but also including elements of each others stories into a cohesive whole.

This may well be a far more accurate view of future society than that often portrayed in most Sci-Fi. It is a collection of short stories that were specifically written and edited together - as such; the stories are complimentary while showing the different authors perspectives. The story by John Scalzi is the best by far. Not a book for everyone, and I believe a tad expensive at \$11.99 (this means that each author gets \$1.60 net for their short story). A more realistic price would be \$7.99. As much as I enjoyed the stories I have to take the price into account.

Scalzi's work and the last story are standouts.

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