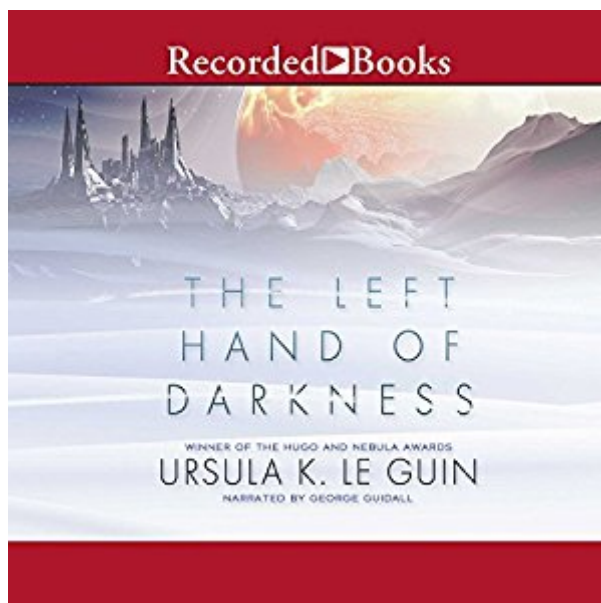


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# The Left Hand Of Darkness



## Synopsis

Winner of the Hugo and Nebula Awards. A groundbreaking work of science fiction, *The Left Hand of Darkness* tells the story of a lone human emissary to Winter, an alien world whose inhabitants can change their gender. His goal is to facilitate Winter's inclusion in a growing intergalactic civilization. But to do so he must bridge the gulf between his own views and those of the completely dissimilar culture that he encounters. Embracing the aspects of psychology, society, and human emotion on an alien world, *The Left Hand of Darkness* stands as a landmark achievement in the annals of intellectual science fiction.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours 39 minutes

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Best Sellers Rank: #86 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Classics #127 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fantasy > Epic #175 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction

## Customer Reviews

"Sci-fi writers have a duty to turn away from the 'dystopian' and encourage complex thought and higher consciousness." This book sums that up quite eloquently. It explores gender in a unique and enlightening way. How we, as humans, perceive gender and how it effects our lives and ways of thinking. It explores the bonds of friendship, love, politics, and war all without the confines of gender. A fascinating read through the eyes of the "Envoy" as he struggles to survive in a toiling political climate on an alien world. Well worth the read!

*Left Hand of Darkness* is abstract art. We are confronted with a word painting of colors, images, figures that we can only feel but never fully understand. This Si-Fi is brilliant but a difficult, tangled web.

Interesting sci-fi tale of interstellar contact of alien species, perhaps a consequence of prolonged separation and evolution. The characterization of the people, the geography, and the environment are well told. The plot is of an envoy's journey to a distant planet to convince the inhabitants to join the interplanetary federation. The conflicts - betrayal, treason, bigotry - are relevant to our own culture, as they should be and as they are prescribed in a well written introduction by the author. The story lacks overt adventure and excitement, but remains interesting in its plot. I enjoyed the writing style and will read more of Le Guin.

The best and most emotionally powerful novel from a career of excellent and powerful writing. Although officially she writes within the genres of SciFi/Fantasy, she really uses these environments to explore her characters. Most of UKLG's stories are about \*transformation\* (IMHO), and SciFi/Fantasy contexts can be as subtle or extreme as she needs. Running a close second is new novella "Rocannon's World."

I've loved this book for a long time and was happy to finally hear it as an audiobook, and a Kindle. I lost my paperback copy, and am sure I will read it and listen to it several more times.

In each of us a particular book can have a different impact on us depending on the circumstances at the time of reading. I do not know if my circumstances were any different how my understanding of this book would have been different. I hope I would have found it as profound as I did here in the summer of 2017 even if I had read it the year it came out. To say you are swept up and away by this tale is to make an understatement. Given the awards it was given when published it really does say something important that it is now just as applicable as it was then if not more so.

I loved the depiction of the icy environment of the planet in this book. Very poetic. Also loved the exploration into the nature of love (sorry for the pun) between two individuals, and just the fluidity of gender (literally in this book). At times I did not really like the way the story kept switching viewpoints between the main characters. It did not feel very natural to me. I got used to it. It more or less worked. But still, didn't work super well.

This was a book I always meant to read, having seen only praise for the writing and plot. It did not disappoint. What a fantastic concept! UKLG has created a wondrous, fully fleshed out alien world. Its inhabitants see themselves as normal and humans as the aberrations. They've stuck their

entire lives in a single, pre-defined sex. The story is told through the eyes of two protagonists: a human ambassador and a Gethenian politician. Both are intricate, well developed characters. The story is so well formulated that at the end, you view the human as the alien that he is, and the Gethenians as the normal ones. This book was written several decades ago, and it shows: sentences are thoughtful and well phrased, and there is a lack of the grammatical and spelling errors which deplorably seem to be so rampant in modern works. I would definitely recommend this book if you enjoy original, intelligent, sophisticated science fiction. I would not recommend it if you are simply looking for fast bang-bang action.

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