



Through A Glass, Clearly

Isaac Asimov

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It's Such A Beautiful Day: Nature had been forgotten in this electronic world of the future. Until one day, quite by accident, a young boy strayed outdoors and discovered what was there.

Breeds There A Man?: The physicist had arrived at a theory - very interesting, but highly improbable, but something not quite human seemd to be causing a bit of trouble...

The C-Chute: The spaceship had to be recaptured from the aliens, which meant that somebody had to be a hero. But who would that be...and why?

Also includes the story "Belief."

Through A Glass, Clearly Details

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Author : Isaac Asimov

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From Reader Review Through A Glass, Clearly for online ebook

Raj says

This was a collection of four long-ish short stories by Dr. Asimov. I'd definitely read one of them before and two of the others seemed to be vaguely familiar, but I enjoyed them all. The stories are typical Asimov, by which I mean that they'll not change your opinion of him either way. They're about ideas, not characters, although the last one, *The C-Chute* is more character-based than is usual for Asimov. If you like Asimov then you'll probably enjoy these stories, if you don't, this won't change you mind.

Rebecca says

3.5

The four short stories in this book were all brilliant (my favourites being the first and the third) and quick reads. The message behind them were simple enough but important. They were well written throughout.

Can't wait to read some more Asimov.

Yevgeniy Brikman says

I listed to "The C Chute" on audiobook and found it to be an enjoyable short story with a few interesting characters. Nothing mind blowing, but a fairly fun and very quick read.

Toby says

A wonderful, entertaining and interesting read that fires the imagination without the need to explain ideas in great detail.

These four short stories all examine the human mind in crisis to a greater or lesser extent and whilst two are worthy of the full five star rating the others are not quite so high but overall it's still a very good collection and one that is from the more obscure end of the Asimov cannon.

My favourite story is most definitely the opener, **A Beautiful Day**, about a future society that uses transporter doors to travel everywhere and has developed a phobia of "The Outside" and a young boy who finds himself in a strange new world when his Door breaks. This story manages to capture everything that is great about Asimov's writing in just a little over 20 pages and makes finding this collection worth the effort it would no doubt require.

James says

Four tightly-plotted, well-written stories doing what sci-fi does so well, using the futuristic as a lens to look at ourselves, and what makes us human. All of a quality, none stand out as better than the others. A great

read.

Mike says

FYI - The rating is really "3.5" not "3", but I didn't want to mislead with the "4".

The contents of the book are four longer short stories. All of which can be found in other places (3 in "Nightfall and Other Stories" - which I have also read and probably own.)

What's good about this collection is that it demonstrates the versatility that Asimov brought to his writing. None of the stories are really alike; instead they offer different facets of futuristic development of our science, people, and planet.

As with most of his writing "Dr. A" was not strong on character development, but here in addition to various stereotypes we get some genuinely interesting individuals. Combine his always excellent imagination with some retelling of history and human psychology and you have a decent and entertaining collection.

For a man who wrote hundreds of books (many of which are collections of previously written short fiction, like this one) there will always be uneven appreciation of him. While these stories may not have the instant recognition that his Foundation or Robot stories have, they are beyond "workman-like" - especially when compared against contemporary fiction.

Postscript:

This is a collection that I know I either own or read (borrowed) in the depths of time with exactly this cover. But everybody claims that it was only published in the UK. Hmmm.

Maja Dezulovic says

Wonderful stories! I enjoyed all four and will definitely be reading more Asimov.

Simon says

A short collection containing only four stories but generally of a very high standard. There are no unifying themes running through the stories so I will discuss them individually.

"A Beautiful Day" is a story about the future when people no longer need to go outside because everywhere are linked by teleportation doors and have become quite agoraphobic, except for one boy who is forced to go outside after their door temporarily breaks down.

"Belief" is a very good story about a man's dreams about flying somehow come through to his waking life. As a physicist, he struggles to reconcile this new found ability to the laws of gravity. Then he struggles to convince other scientists that his abilities are genuine so that they will help him study it. This story was interesting because of its consideration of the philosophy of science and why scientists will accept

some things while rejecting others.

"Breeds there a man...?" depicts a cold war scenario in which the Americans are rushing to develop an atomic shield. They need the help though of a scientist who has an uncanny knack of seeing through problems to the solution. Unfortunately, he appears to be cracking up and is proclaiming that humanity is just an alien experiment and that they will cause to wipe themselves out when they get to far advanced. He is captured by the desire to kill himself because he knows too much. Is he just crazy or is there something to his claims? Who cares as long as he helps them with their project...

"C-Chute" is a story exploring themes of altruism and self-interest when a desperate group find themselves prisoners of an interstellar war and need some heroics in order to recapture their ship and escape.

Just when I was wondering whether there was anything else by Asimov worth reading (that I haven't already read) I stumble upon some more good stories by this undeniable master of SF.

Ben says

Asimov presents interesting ideas in this collection of short stories. I enjoyed "It's Such A Beautiful Day" for its take on the way a teleportation-like system would affect our society, and "the c-chute" for its different perspectives on war, and the idea of patriotism.

FranklinTV says

A small collection (4 stories) of longer short stories from Asimov. I recall I did like "It's such a beautiful day" as it still sticks with me.

Mateo R. says

* Figuras recurrentes: Extraterrestre, robot y/o IA.
