



Hard Sell

Piers Anthony

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Mr. Fisk Centers has it made: a personal fortune of three million dollars enables him, at the tender ages of 50, to take an early retirement and enjoy all the comforts 21st-century Earth has to offer. Then he gets a call from Mars Ltd. offering him a real-estate deal that sounds too good to be true. It is. Now penniless and unemployed, Centers will do anything to make a buck. . . . Previous publisher: Tafford.

Hard Sell Details

Date : Published May 1st 1993 by Ace (first published 1982)

ISBN : 9780441317486

Author : Piers Anthony

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Genre : Science Fiction, Fantasy, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy

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From Reader Review Hard Sell for online ebook

Heather says

Learning about the inside world of pharmaceutical sales was interesting for about the first 30 pages! I patiently waited for something to happen, but it never did, just another 189 pages of very detailed information about one person's experience as a drug rep. Just not what I expected and I'm hoping the movie is better.

Dan says

Very funny book, really enjoyed this one.

Lbaker says

Really liked the first half of this book, but grew tired of it in the second half. Has been a long time since I have read Piers Anthony, not sure I would read another book by him unless one falls into my life, will not seek one out.

Dale Rosso says

Interesting story by Anthony.

Michael Nalbone says

Cynical, outrageous, and light read.

Julie says

I believe I read this in high school; I think they had it in the school library. I don't remember much about it.

Barry Tikkanen says

Good pulp sci-fi in the flavor of that found in the old radio dramas. A fun read.

Tim says

At first this was a reasonably quick paced jaunt through some hard selling techniques. The future might have rocketships but jerks will still sell worthless junk for inflated prices to saps. Then the story starts to get bogged down as sap turns jerk to recover his lost savings.

The extract for Killobyte in the back of this edition doesn't bode well for wanting to read any more Piers Anthony.

Sean Randall says

oh, it's shallow and pieced together and utterly silly. but I enjoyed it.

Timothy Hinkle says

Though presented as a novel, this is really an anthology of six short stories focused on the adventures of Fisk Centers and his adopted daughter Yola:

Chapter 1: "Hard Sell" - 3.5 stars

Chapter 2: "Black Baby" - 3.5 stars

Chapter 3: "Hurdle" - 4 stars

Chapter 4: "Death" - 4 stars

Chapter 5: "Life" - 4 stars

Chapter 6: "Libel" - 2 stars

These story titles are not used in the book, but the titles of the four previously published stories are on the copyright page. Anthony mentions the titles of the other two stories in his introductory note to "Hard Sell" in Anthonology.

Average rating: 3.5 stars

Apart from the final story, which is a dull, preachy rant about royalties payable to artists (Anthony can't stop himself doing this occasionally), this is a funny and intriguing series of light science fiction stories.

The casual racism in "Black Baby" seems odd for a futuristic story, I'm sure more so today than when it was originally published in 1972, but still, plenty of scifi stories (*Star Trek*, say) were depicting harmonious, multicultural visions of the future by then. Maybe Anthony emphasized it to show that his future world wasn't much better than our present? They may have robots and flying cars, but people are still jerks.

David Caldwell says

This book has an interesting origin. It started off as several short stories that appeared in various sci-fi magazines at different times. The stories were converted into chapters and some new chapters were added to flush the whole out into a full sized novel, So the whole book was written over a period of a couple of

decades.

Mr. Fisk Centers considers himself a competent businessman. In reality, he is an easy mark for almost every fast talking salesman that comes along. From getting entangled with a smart mouthed and streetwise orphan in an adoption scam, to racing a supersonic racecar in a nearly suicidal race, to buying land on Mars, Fisk goes from one misadventure to the next.

Having started as short stories, the chapters have a tendency to feel disconnected from each other. The story is also showing its age. I am sure that when it was written, the writing seemed progressive and quite forward thinking. But by today's standards, those same parts seem questionable in their level of political correctness now. Overall, not the best best or even the best by Piers Anthony. A mediocre novel that is harmless fun.

Jennifer says

This is a string of short stories that are linked together. Unlike, Anthology, I liked it.
