

---

Subject: Universe 14: anthology of original SF, edited by Terry Carr

Posted by [psc](#) on Mon, 16 Sep 2013 17:56:34 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Message-ID:

Date: Sat, 5-Jan-85 22:50:40 EST

Article-I.D.: lzmi.298

Posted: Sat Jan 5 22:50:40 1985

Date-Received: Mon, 7-Jan-85 02:28:23 EST

Organization: AT&T-IS Enhanced Network Services

Lines: 99

>From daemon Sat Jan 5 22:35:07 1985 remote from lzmv

>From psc Sat Jan 5 22:33:13 1985 remote from lzpa

o + \_U\_n\_i\_v\_e\_r\_s\_e\_1\_3: anthology of original science fiction, edited by Terry Carr, 1983.

So it becomes almost farcical to say that Terry Carr's \_U\_n\_i\_v\_e\_r\_s\_e\_1\_3 (Doubleday) was the best annual original SF anthology of the year [1983], since it was very nearly the \_o\_n\_l\_y annual original SF anthology of the year. Nevertheless, it would have been a good anthology in any year, featuring excellent novellas by Bruce Sterling and Michael Bishop, and interesting stuff by Ian Watson, Kim Stanley Robinson, and Leanne Frahm.

Gardner Dozois, \_T\_h\_e\_Y\_e\_a\_r\_'s\_B\_e\_s\_t\_S\_c\_i\_e\_n\_c\_e\_F\_i\_c\_t\_i\_o\_n

o + \_U\_n\_i\_v\_e\_r\_s\_e\_1\_4: anthology of original science fiction, edited by Terry Carr, 1984.

This anthology isn't quite as good as its predecessor; which is to say, it's pretty damn good. I can't say it doesn't have a single bad story, but it doesn't have any terrible stuff, and the best is very good indeed. If you read SF for ideas, or for characterization, this probably contains what, for you, may be the best stories of the year. Along with the new Ace Specials line, I think Terry Carr has sewed up the 1985 Hugo for best editor of 1984. Contents:

o + "The Lucky Strikes": novella, Kim Stanley Robinson

This is an alternate history story. This is a story about an American bombardier in WWII, older and a little wiser than his companions, unhappy with strategic bombing. This is a story about the glory of war, as seen by its young participants, and about how that glory can ferment more wars when the young soldiers become statesmen, policy makers, and voters. One of the above, some of the above, all of the above.

This is a character story, not a plot-and-action story. This is an idea story. This is a \_g\_o\_o\_d story. All of the above.

o + "Gate of Horn, Gate of Ivory", short story by Robert Silverberg

What if the future holds Hell in store for us, if we shall never know a

world better than our own, here and now? Or what if the future holds paradise, so grand that the present is intolerable in comparison?

Neither is likely. Some things get better, some worse. But simplicity and purity are tools of good writers. Silverberg, more than a good writer, builds a pretty little piece with those tools, and a few more.

o + "Passing as a Flower in the City of the Dead", novelette (?) by Sharon N. Farber

Some babies are born without immune systems. Some of them are put into space suits, and in general, germ-free environments. They can never leave.

Some adults lose their immune systems, by disease, ore more likely, by trying to cure diseases like leukemia. It isn't considered practical to put them in space suits.

Would a space habitat be more practical? Could an artist find inspiration in a hospital for the terminally cured? And wasn't there something about one-eyed men in the country of the blind. . . .

o + "O", short story by Damon Knight

"One day, everybody in the world whose name began with the letter \_ o disappeared." Cute, short, but tries to make a point too heavy for this story to support.

o + "Art in the War Zone", story by Pat Murphy

If you declare war on artists, will they fight, or paint? The phrase, "the art of war", may never be the same again.

o + "Interlocking Pieces", short story by Molly Gloss

A story about medicine, and moral ambiguity, and forgiveness. Or the lack of any of those. Short, somewhat disturbing, and based upon a new (and scary) idea.

o + "The Menagerie of Babel", novelette by Carter Scholz

\*sigh\* With a strong enough delusion, you don't need reality. Life is meaningless, its variety a violation of order. Darwin was right, Lamark was right.

There are people who like this type of story. With a few exceptions, I don't like \_ t\_ h\_ e\_ m, either.

o + "Deadtime", short story by Joel Richards

Time travel would be as useful to policemen as it would be disturbing to philosophers. This story has a new twist: time travel primarily as a tool of law and order. Of course, not everyone \_ l\_ i\_ k\_ e\_ s order.

This one's a bit hard to follow, but worth it. The characters are, by and large, vivid. The only exception is the killer. He's motivated by some obscure Buddhist logic . . . and the writer's desire to tell a twisted, but good, story.

o + "Me/Days": short story by Gregory Benford

What can I say about this story? I can give away the whole point, and

say it didn't make it very well. I can compare it to Greg Bear's "Blood Music", another story I didn't much care for. I can say that I wrote a pretty bad story years ago, consisting entirely of BMDP dumps and unattributed dialog, that I think was a better attempt at telling a story from an inanimate point of view.

I can tell you I didn't like "Me/Days" much, but I guess you've figured that out by now.

o + "Black Coral", novelette by Lucius Shepard

Shepard's novel, `_G_r_e_e_n_E_y_e_s`, has been criticized for being confusing. If you didn't like that, you won't like this. I haven't made up my mind yet, but it's by no means my favorite story of the anthology.

--

-Paul S. R. Chisholm

`...!hogpd!pegasus!lzmi!psc`      The above opinions are my own,  
`...!cbosg!lzmi!psc`              and do not necessarily represent  
`...!ucbvax!ihnp4!lzmv!psc`      those of anyone else.