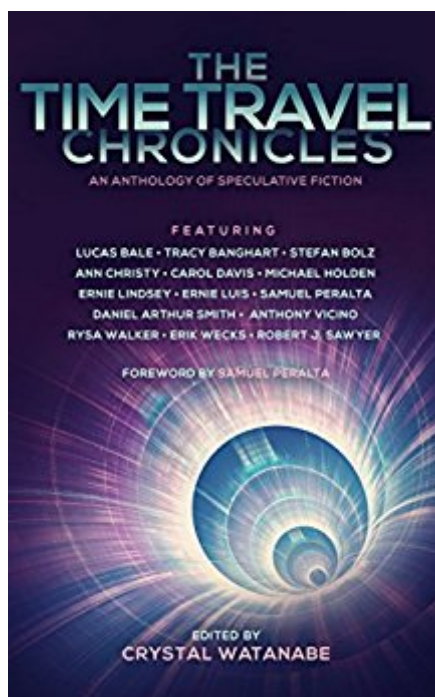


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The Time Travel Chronicles (The Future Chronicles)



Synopsis

Time travel. Humanity has long imagined what it would be like to be able to create a time machine, what we might see if we could travel into the future, or be transported to the distant past. And what if it were possible to travel into our own, more recent past? Would we be able to change our present, or are we prisoners of predestination? Is fate what we make of it? In this latest title in the acclaimed 'Future Chronicles' series of speculative fiction anthologies, fourteen authors confront the question of time travel and its consequences, exploring a landscape where past, present and future all become imaginable destinations. "The Time Travel Chronicles" features stories by science fiction grandmaster Robert J. Sawyer (Calculating God), bestselling author Rysa Walker (the Chronos series), Best American Science Fiction notable Samuel Peralta (Faith), plus eleven more of today's top authors in speculative and science fiction.

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Customer Reviews

A disclaimer: I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. Time travel is a favorite "nifty" staple of science fiction. And yet, all too often, rather than the deeply integrated device

of a Slaughterhouse Five, say, moving through time is used merely as a plot trick or an excuse, a gee-whiz sleight-of-hand to cover up other shortcomings. The Time Travel Chronicles, a collection of short stories from emerging and established talents edited by Crystal Watanabe, seems designed to avoid this. These aren't stories about the mechanics of time travel, about the ins and outs of paradoxes or what tachyon particles might be. These are, instead, by and large, human stories of what time travel would mean, which is part of what makes them so effective and potentially of interest to wider audiences. Take, for instance, the story from Stefan Bolz, who initially attracted me to the book based on his Fourth Sage (Book 1 in the Circularity Saga), a young adult tale that I think heralds big things from this writer. With "The Traveler," Bolz's contribution here, he again demonstrates why his stories are so appealing: because they are, at their heart, about human beings. Here, time travel becomes a metaphor for a young girl's grief, something with which we can all identify. As she builds what may be a time machine, she constructs a means of dealing with the sadness of her situation. Similarly, "Red Mustang" by Michael Holden is an old-fashioned story that calls to mind Bradbury (never a bad thing). A tale of love and possible redemption facilitated by a simple twist, this takes the age-old human experience of regret and recasts it.

Regrets. We all have them. Ultimately we have to find a way to deal with our regrets and we all have our own particular methods to accept or reject what we could have done differently in our lives. To this day, I still look back on moments in my life and ask, "what if I hadn't done that?" or "what if I had done the other thing?" When I read time travel stories, I can't help but think that many of them also have a firm basis in the pool of regrets. The idea that we can somehow go back and alter our past, to change the part of ourselves that we find the most offensive -- the most unlike ourselves. When I read the latest of Samuel Peralta's Future Chronicles series -- The Time Travel Chronicles -- I found myself reliving parts of my own past. In a way, this book acted as a vehicle to my own regrets and made me reevaluate my own life. Each of the stories was engaging and intriguing, but a few in particular made me really appreciate this collection. First off, the anthology starts off with a bang with the excellent Extent by Anthony Vicino. In Vicino's creation, the past can be altered -- as long as you don't go back any farther than 32 seconds. Those who can use time as a tool have different and varied abilities to travel through and use time. Vicino uses those various abilities to enrich his characters and make a strong story through alternating time viewpoints where we can piece together the truth by the time the climax comes. I have been a fan of Stefan Bolz for a long time, so it would be easy for me to rave about his story, but to be honest, I really appreciated his story The Traveler. When we get time travel stories, we don't often see the

work that goes into the journey through time.

Time travel stories, tales of what might have been or what could be. A fascinating concept in speculative fiction and also a very popular one, demonstrating what can happen when utilized effectively. Would this ability be used for good purposes like helping others or would it be used to achieve a selfish goal? These fifteen tales explore how mankind would use this ability can help us learn from our pasts and gain better futures, while also taking us on some wild adventures utilizing imaginative and thought-provoking methods of time travel and what could happen. It starts with a foreword discussing a personal and potent anecdote on the power of photographs and the memories they evoke. Then, we dive into the time stream starting with: Anthony Vicino's "Extant" "Special Agent Kwon and her allies are trying to infiltrate a floating city in the sky, run by a power-hungry business magnate named Crask. They're on a mission to retrieve a comrade, Abi, who was kidnapped by Crask. As the mission unfolds, we learn how each member of their tactical team can strategically manipulate time in their own special way. In this exciting escapade with innovative time traveling, entrancing action-packed sequences and some surprising twists, the true cost of time travel is revealed by the end, packing an emotional wallop. Rysa Walker's "Gambit" - In 2304, CHRONOS historian Saul Rand is at a party theorizing how religion is the best way to change society for the better. Little do we know that this talk is all part of his grand and nefarious plan. But to implement it, he needs to experiment and gather some data to see if his theories are correct. Traveling to 1780 with his CHRONOS partner, Katherine, who is unaware of his plans, thinks they are there just to witness the past.

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