



Let it Snow! Season's Readings for a Super-Cool Yule!

Red Tash , Jack Wallen , Jessica McHugh , Axel Howerton , Tim Tash , Claudia Lefevé , Marian Allen , C.L. Roberts-Huth , more... T. Lee Harris , Mercedes M. Yardley ...less

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2013 eFestival of Words Best Anthology Finalist

Happy holidays and welcome to our quaint little holiday collection of zombies, crazies, fairies and treasure-hunters (and more)!

It's the end of the year as we know it, and you'll be feeling fine as you peruse this collection of "season's readings."

Let It Snow! is packed to the rafters with thoughtful gifts for you to unwrap from the comfort of your cozy reading chair. After all, there's snowplace like home for the holidays! Are you ready to branch out beyond the tree'd and true? Stay inside and read and you'll be saying "Let It Snow!"

Let It Snow!

Season's Readings for a Super-Cool Yule!

Ten eclectic stories in off-beat holiday settings

A Laurents County Landfill Christmas, by Red Tash

Silent Night, by Jack Wallen

Crazed in Christmas City, by Jessica McHugh

A Manlove & Kickerdick Xmess, by Axel Howerton

The Snow Wolf's Gift, by Tim Tash

A Serial Killer Christmas, by Mercedes Yardley

Old Mexia Christmas Brew, by Claudia Lefevé

The Pratty Who Saved Chrissmuss, by Marian Allen

Believe, by Connie Roberts-Huth

Hau'oli Hanukkah by T. Lee Harris

Let it Snow! Season's Readings for a Super-Cool Yule! Details

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From Reader Review Let it Snow! Season's Readings for a Super-Cool Yule! for online ebook

Shelly Hammond says

This is a great collection of short stories by a bunch of different authors. You can read them during the holiday season but you really don't have to. Some are about the holidays, some about the season, and some just have snow in them. So really, you can read them any time you'd like and they will fit in perfectly!

If you follow any of the works from these authors, it's likely you will run into familiar characters or styles of writing that you are used to already. If not, you may decide to look into some of the authors further and find more of their longer works. This is easy to do since after the short stories there is mention as to where the story would fit if it has characters from other books and where to find more information and books from the author. I found a few authors that I am going to look up after reading their short stories in this book.

A good many of the stories will have you laughing throughout and some will have you dropping your jaw when you get to the end, but all will leave you glad that you took the time to pick up this collection of stories. This book was great fun to read and I think most others out there would also enjoy reading it.

Julie Barrett says

Let it Snow! Season's Readings for a Super-Cool Yule!

I selected this book because of the pretty tree cover and it's still around the holidays and in the northeast we've had two snow events so far.

There are 10 stories in this book, quite far from normal I've been told...

Excellent way to learn and read what a new author to you has written and links to get to their other works...

A Laurents County Landfill Christmas, by Red Tash

Faes and pixies and other creatures have decorated the manse as it's Christmas and it lights up the sky. The gift her dad had given for her was taken by a boy.

The Wizard appears . More details at the end of the story...

.

Silent Night, the holiday viral sensation by Jack Wallen

A new evolution of mankind among the zombie and humans at Christmas

.

Crazed in Christmas City, A party you'll never forget by Jessica McHugh

Avery was locked up in the insane prison and claimed it was another who had killed the two men.

She wanted one visitor this Christmas ...

.

A Manlove & Kickerdick Xmess, Ain't no messin' with these backdoor Santas by Axel Howerton

Two security guards for the senator and he's taking his son to get initiated with a woman.

.

The Snow Wolf's Gift Fit for a dragon, a mage, or a king? by Tim Tash

Shape shifter that heals others at the winter solstice, fairies, dragons...

.

A Serial Killer Christmas A party for one? By Mercedes Yardley

Christmas party and two serial killers...

.
Old Mexia Christmas Brew It's the end of the Mayan World as we know it... by Claudia Lefevre
HE asks her out and she wants to go back in time to Christmas, 2012. Lots of beer for the next day the world would end..

.
The Pratty Who Saved Chrissmuss With a name like "Plugugly," it's gotta be good. by Marian Allen
Similar to Dickens and the true meaning of Christmas.

.
Believe Do you believe? by Connie L. Roberts-Huth
Detective who can talk to the dead to help solve the murders...

.
Hau'oli Hanukkah When Mele kalikimaka just won't do. By T. Lee Harris
archaeological findings and Christmas

Michelle Faubion says

So far I've only read Believe by Connie L. Roberts-Huth. Another fine tale of Zoe. Still excited about reading #3!

Marlene says

An eclectic collection of stories care of contemporary writers. The literary sampler is filled with a mix of stories sublime and grotesque. It's a Christmas twist for 2013 and beyond. After all, whats a little holiday cheer without some zombies and cold blood stained snow.

Great Book!

Kathy says

I guess some people like this sort of book. There are several good, positive reviews. I am not one of those who like this kind of book. I found it very difficult to read and was routinely trying to figure out exactly what was going on, what the author was trying to convey, etc. I found the stories not very "Christmasey", at least not to me. I kept reading the book, hoping I could get into it, but to no avail. I would not recommend this book to anyone. I received this book free from Library Thing to read and review honestly.

Sharon says

This is a book of short stories billed as "Season's Readings for a Super Cool Yule. There were 3 or 4 stories that I liked and although they were not about the holiday pre se they did involve some of the feeling associated with the season - doing good and helping others. Some of the other stories however were brutal (a

serial killer plans to celebrate Christmas with another murder, a child murdered by a fake Santa) with no real redeeming features and quite out of step with the cool Yule "promise". Not recommended for holiday reading or at any other time.

Jonquil says

Wonderful collection of short stories. Ten authors take the opportunity to introduce their characters by giving a twisted take on the Holiday Season. From a lost boy amidst trolls, fae, & Winter pixies to a rocking punch-up at an upscale brothel, this collection hits on any number of the darker sides of Christmas.

"The heart-tugging tear-jerkery of Victorian-era Earth's emotional kitsch riveted them, enthralled them, held them spell-bound for the entire journey." (paragraph 17, page 57)

Which is what this sweet little collection of tales, including infestation, time travel, magic, a stuffed rabbit, & a Pratty amongst its' numbers, does.

Merissa (Archaeolibrarian) says

To be brutally honest, this collection of stories didn't really do much for me. It tweaked my interest on a couple but that was all. I'm sure they are all good authors in their own way but I'm afraid that way isn't for me.

At this price though, it is a bargain so try it for yourself and see.

Frank says

Not my bag, baby.

Georgia says

Let it Snow! Season's Readings for a Super-Cool Yule! is a collection of 10 short stories. The only thing all the tales have in common is the time of year they're each set around, i.e. Christmas.

There's also the interesting addition that each story contains one or more characters from the relevant author's other books. So if you like a certain character, you can find more stories about them. If you do, all the links are helpfully provided in Let in Snow!, at the end of each author's contribution.

The first story is "A Laurents County Landfill Christmas" by Red Tash. Set around a rather eccentric troll, who decides to throw a Christmas bash for all his friends. Set in a world of pixies, wizards, changelings and trolls (among other things), who co-exist with humans much the same way muggles and magic do in the Harry Potter series. Either you know it exists or you don't.

This story was a little confusing. There were so many references to characters and events from previous books that it was difficult to tell who people were or what their relationships to each other were. Half the time I didn't know what was going on. However, I enjoyed the world it's set in and the characters too. Once you get past the whole "who's who?" and reach the story, it becomes an enjoyable little tale about spending Christmas with the people you love, with a little magic thrown in.

Next is "Silent Night" by Jack Wallen. This is a story with a darker tone. John Burgess is the leader of the Zero Day Collective. Run by some of the most wealthy and influential people around the globe, their main goal is to make money. How are they going to go about this? Well, they've created a machine that is going to "cleanse" the human race- all under the guise of producing a source of renewable energy. They're not aiming for anyone in particular- just the entire globe. Saying anymore would be a spoiler, so I'll just end on this note- John Burgess is a ruthless, charismatic (aren't they always) man. Money is his only objective and he cares little how he acquires it. A delightfully dark story, that'll leave you uneasy long after it's over.

Third is "Crazed in Christmas City" by Jessica McHugh. Another darker tale- this one is set in Taunton State Lunatic Asylum. Avery Norton spent her last Christmas so heavily sedated she may as well have been unconscious. This year she plans to actually attend the celebrations. Why is she in an asylum? Well Avery is accused of murdering quite a few people, though she doesn't believe it herself. It's left fairly ambiguous whether or not she actually is innocent or guilty. Her mother enjoys taunting her about it (with Christmas cards), in a rather passive-aggressive way and there is the question of if her mother is really the killer, but nothing is revealed.

This was one of the stories that stood out the most to me. I'm a sucker for a mystery and Avery is an interesting protagonist. As the main character, we want to trust her and get behind her, but we're constantly unsure whether she's as innocent as she claims. There's certainly a quality about her that makes you a little nervous. She has a few psychotic tendencies, but whether she developed those as a result of being incarcerated is unclear. I'll definitely be checking out the full story in the related book.

Next is another off-beat story. "A Manlove and Kickerdick Xmess" by Axel Howerton, pretty much tells you what the tone is going to be with the title alone. Arthur Menlowe and Jurgen Kierkedoek are stage performers who act out explicit scenes under their pseudonyms. I get the feeling that this short story is kept pretty tame for the book, because in this story our two lovers are chauffeuring a rather obnoxious politician to dinner (rather than focusing on their other job). Though the senator does want to conclude dinner by taking his son somewhere special to "make him a man."

The whole time our main characters are trying to keep themselves in check, while the rather homophobic senator makes crass comments about his son being gay (because he's a virgin). There is a rather satisfying ending, that puts the senator in his place and takes the tension out of the unpleasant Christmas Eve everyone had been experiencing. A rather short story, that leaves a lot untold, but tells you enough to know whether these characters are for you. On the one hand you have the very punk Jurgen and on the other, the very camp Arthur. A curiously well-fighting couple.

Next up is "The Snow Wolf's Gift" by Tim Tash. Another fantasy tale, this one about a shape-shifter named Sayenne. She crosses the portal between her world and ours, coming across a wizard named Gandira, who has unfortunately broken his leg. Whilst helping him, they are attacked by a dragon and Sayenne is forced to run.

The plot of this one is a little vague and I think would make more sense in context. Again, we don't know the characters, we don't know Sayenne's reasoning, we don't know why she's being chased, but on the whole,

there is enough of her story described to figure out whether or not you want to know more. I can't really say more about the characters or plot, as the story didn't reveal a lot about them.

Sixth in the book was "A Serial Killer Christmas" by Mercedes Yardley. This one features a very insane, but also very likeable, serial killer named Peter. The whole plot is him preparing his apartment for his "guest" that evening. His MO is killing young women, but he wants them to die beautifully, so he has to decorate his apartment and get his intended victim (his "beloved") gifts before she arrives.

Peter has quite a young mind. His mother was murdered when he was a child, which may explain it a little, as well as his "hobby". The things he wants to do or tell his "beloved" are very childish. Showing her a photo he took, or some of the mannerisms he uses are similar to a child communicating with their mother, wanting attention and praise. He has a quality that makes him very endearing, though psychotic. He sincerely wants to make his "guests" happy. He wants them to be beautiful and he believed it with all his heart, but he is a killer.

This was another story that I really enjoyed and I plan on discovering more about in the full book. Like I said before, I'm a sucker for a mystery. Even if the protagonist is the one creating them.

Now we come to "Old Mexia Christmas Brew" by Claudia Lefevre. Again we have a story with confusing elements to it. It's set in the future, but also in another reality, but there's more than one reality, one of which is a few years ahead of our time and one of which is hundreds of years in the future and there's a war going on in it, but some characters can travel between realities and time with a portal and they're part of a rebellion. Honestly, there were so many details that I had no idea what to do with them. I'm pretty sure I got some of the above points wrong, but can you blame me?

On a simpler note, the plot revolves around Jenny and Chase- who come from different realities, but are now in the same reality fighting in the rebellion, but it's a different reality from either of their own realities and our own reality and - I'm just going to stop trying to understand the plot from another book, that we are only given vague references to. The plot is that Chase likes Jenny. He wants to impress her, so when she asks to time-travel and "reality hop?" to Mexico, December 20, 2012, he agrees. There's also something about him being able to see the future, but basically Jenny wants to travel to her country on the night that everyone believed would end in the apocalypse. Why? To bring a little Christmas cheer to people fearing for their lives.

A nice, simple story (once you get past all the confusing parts) about their first date and bringing joy to those around you.

Our next story is "The Pratty Who Saved Christmas" by Marian Allen. Dickens O'Henry is a creditor (who also runs a pub) from the planet Llannonn. This is not his real name by the way, it is his assumed Earth name, though I don't believe this story is set on Earth.

He and his assistant, Humbug Plugugly (can you see the Christmas theme?) are trying to track down Nittleigh Witterr, who is late on his payment. They plan to catch him as he heads home for the Anti-Hot Solemnities (Christmas to you and me) to be with his family. Unfortunately, they miss him and are forced to follow his cousin, Head Librarian Holly Jahangiri, to try find him. Holly discovers their plan and decides having her cousin attacked and possibly killed during the holidays would be a bit of a downer, so she tries to distract the two crooks. Helping her is the Living Book A Compendium of Christmas Classics, who explains what Christmas is and what it means.

What is a Pratty and what does it have to do with the story? Well, you'll just have to read it to find out. Ending on a line that will have you joyfully cringing in the same manner we do reading a Christmas cracker joke. Possibly the most Christmassy feeling story of them all.

Ninth on the list is "Believe" by Connie Roberts-Huth. Zoe Delante experienced an unexplained (at least in this book) tragedy during her last case. To escape the pain, she travelled from Baltimore to a small town in Arizona to help herself heal. But, she soon found money running low and decided to start working again.

Her profession is a psychic, who works with the police during murder investigations. She can both see and speak to the dead, which often helps her find the truth. Her case at the moment is helping find a young girl's killer, which involves talking to the young girl, Eloise. Finding out the truth can be just as unsavoury as you'd imagine and especially when children are involved. Who is the mysterious killer that Eloise refers to as the "fake Santa" and what were his motives?

This was another story that stood out for me. The ending is a little rushed, but what I most enjoyed about the story was Eloise. I'm not sure why I liked her character so much, maybe it's because she is so childlike. There are times when she tries to act very adult (as children sometimes do) and she sees and understands a lot more than most people would give her credit for. But, she also breaks sometimes. She's a little girl who's just been murdered and is scared and alone. She wants her mother, but is determined to help Zoe, as she believes the "fake Santa" will try to kill her mother next. A very endearing character, whose story you want to know the conclusion of.

Finally, we come to "Hau'oli Hannukkah" by T. Lee Harris. Set (as you might have guessed) in Hawaii, we meet Josh Katzen, an ex-covert operative who now works as a photographer of archeological finds. He finds himself stuck in Hawaii and unable to go home for the holidays, as all flights to his hometown have been cancelled due to snow. Feeling a little homesick, he accepts an offer from his friend Dora, to crash at her place for the holidays. She also has a plan to take his mind off things with a surprise she knows he'll love. But Josh is about to find out that the holidays in Hawaii aren't always as relaxing as they may sound and maybe his covert-op skills will be needed once more.

A nice story about being home for the holidays, with a little espionage thrown in.

All in all, Let it Snow! is a delightful collection of short stories, with a diverse and eclectic range of topics explored. Whether you want a mystery, a dark tale, fantasy, sci-fi, slice of life or just a little Christmas spirit, you'll find it in this book. Something for everyone, that can be enjoyed at anytime of year, especially around the holidays.

Disclaimer: This book was sent to me by one of the authors. This is not a sponsored review. All opinions are 100% my own.

Lauren (Northern Plunder) says

This review was first posted on Northern Plunder, if you want to see more reviews please [click here](#).

I grabbed myself a copy of Let It Snow in preparation for Christmas 2013 seeing as though I missed my chance to read it in 2012. I'm also pretty sure it's still free should you want to get one reading for the end of this year.

Before I begin reviewing these short stories I want to point out how I very rarely give short stories a five star because they always seem to be too short or missing that little oomph, but within this whole collection not one of the tales was bad, in fact not even an "okay" story can be found.

I really, really, enjoyed it.

A Laurents County Landfill Christmas

(This review is taken from when I first read this story in The Wizard Tales Vol I-III)

TROLL OR DERBY SHORT STORY OMG YAY. I hadn't read this and it was really sweet, about Harlow organising a Christmas get together with Deb and her family and a few other characters from the book, I just loved it and all the magical happenings. I really want to visit their market and eat all their food even though it'd be bad for me I don't care it sounds great.

Silent Night

"Candlelight flickered off the glasses and sequinned dresses of the more feminine attendees...there were some in attendance of questionable gender."

First of all big props to a nod at trans people, taken out of context and looking back on it the quote can appear abrupt and rude but trust me this character is well, a maniac?

This short story is about the creation of the Zombies which John is showing off to his rich and powerful colleagues as they plan to well, more or less, take over the world. He wants money, he wants it now and he doesn't care how dirty his hands get. This was such a thrilling read and such a different setting to the previous story. I really enjoyed it and would love to read more of the authors work.

Crazed in Christmas City

I really enjoyed this one, I'd have to say it was probably my favourite of the lot because I love reading about Lunatic Asylums and how differently each author envisions them. This one focuses on Avery as she attends the Christmas party which she's thrilled about as she spent the previous year heavily drugged. What I liked most about this is we never find out if Avery is guilty or innocent of her crime but I'm happy to believe she's innocent. I would love to read more about Avery and her world, particularly the boy she stumbles into.

A Manlove & Kickerdick Xmess

This follows Arthur and Jurgen, two explicit performers and lovers but for this story, are attempting to be polite chauffeurs. I say attempting because they're driving around a rude politician and his son to dinner, and later on to sort out the son and "make him a man". This is a fairly fast paced short story, and a lot happens to lead up to a great ending where the politician gets what he deserves.

The Snow Wolf's Gift

Sayenne is a shape shifter, recently entered our world and saves a wizard who's broken his leg, shortly after arriving the two are attacked by a Dragon and a fight breaks out, the wizards' son appears with a wolf pack and helps the two to safety. I really enjoyed this story because I don't read enough fantasy and whilst we weren't told much information about each character, you can tell that they have an interesting and full adventure ahead of them which I need to look into reading.

A Serial Killer Christmas

This one took me by surprise because whilst it's about a serial killer, in this story he doesn't actually kill anyone, just simply prepare for her arrival and how he intends to kill her beautifully. It was an odd story in a way because the killer seemed likeable and almost childish in some ways and this gripped me into wanting to know more about him and how he ended up this way.

Old Mexia Christmas Brew

This is possibly one of the more confusing stories as its set in an alternate reality in the future, with the development of time travel they're fighting in a rebellion, but for this story, that is not the focus. The focus is Chase and Jenny, and how he likes her and they go on their first date. Their actual date is really cute in a not so obvious way as she wants to make other peoples evenings more Christmassy and full of happiness! Oh also there's a few hints that he can somewhat see the future which is pretty interesting.

The Pratty Who Saved Chrissmuss

I had to point out the previous story was one of the most confusing because I think this one holds the exact title of being most confusing and that is because its not quiet clear where its set but I'm about 90% sure its not Earth, books can talk/read themselves and things aren't pronounced quiet correctly. This story follows a librarian on her way home for the holidays and she's followed by two others as her nephew or cousin (sorry I can't remember now) owes them money but luckily the book reads tales of Christmas to save the day!

Believe

At first I thought the narrator was a male and I don't know why, so a bit into the story I had to quickly shift how I was imagining Eloise. Eloise is a physic and uses her gift to help police in murder cases, this particular one is a little girl murdered by fake Santa. I really liked how this story progress and developed but also how the events surprise Eloise too, this helped it feel like a special event and surprisingly warmed your heart, considering the some of the things that happen.

Hau-oli Hanukkah

Last but not least, Josh is an ex-operative currently working on photographing archaeological items, finds himself stuck and unable to return home for Christmas. Whilst remaining in Hawaii he crashes at Dora's and she provides him with a surprise to help make the holidays be more fun, god this sounds dirty but its not, I promise haha, anyhow before the story is over Josh has to make full use of all his skills to stop thieves from ruining Dora's job. Its fairly quick paced but for me, was probably the weakest of stories, through no fault of the author I had trouble connecting.

Allison says

Surprising. All the stories were different. Not the typical holiday subject matter, not even close. Still, several of the stories and characters made me want to follow up and get the next book in the series.

Alexandra Bayer says

I received this book for free from Red Tash in exchange for an honest review.

This collection is made up of short stories written by ten different authors. All of the stories have to do with a winter holiday, and most with something paranormal. The short stories are written about characters the authors have written about already, in a book or series that is already published, or is soon going to be. None of the stories are related to each other, but they all tie into the holiday spirit enough to make readers want to Let It Snow!

When I received this book, I started it immediately, in the hopes of delving into the holiday spirit! However,

there wasn't as much of that spirit as I'd thought there would be. Yes, every one of the stories mentioned some sort of end-of-the-year holiday, but some very briefly, and only because it was required to be published in this book. I would have enjoyed much more holiday spirit. Not even only Christmas, which I celebrate, but Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or any other celebration.

I know this collection of stories was compiled in a short amount of time, but even so, I found there to be quite a few errors in the writing. No spelling mistakes, actually, but a few apostrophes out of place and sentences that don't make any sense. I think with more thorough editing, this could definitely have been avoided. Aside from these errors (which likely were only visible to my error-hawk-eyes), I found the stories to be quite entertaining. Each of the authors had very different and individual writing styles, each of which I enjoyed, though some more than others, obviously.

At the end of each short story, there was information on how to learn more about the author or characters. I found this to be a great idea, since now, if you fell in love with a certain character or writing style, you could check out each website to get more information and updates. A novel chock-full of short stories is an excellent way of finding a new favourite author, or in his case, set of characters, since all of these characters had already been written about by these authors. I'm definitely going to be looking out for some of these authors in the future.

The idea of a collection of holiday stories had me intrigued. However, when I actually began the stories and found they weren't as spirited as I'd assumed they'd be, I was a bit disappointed, though I definitely still enjoyed reading them. Overall, I'd rate this collection three stars. I loved some of the stories, but I wasn't as keen on others, so three stars is about what the rating should be, averaged out. I'm hoping to see some more new stories from these authors in times to come.

Tony Lavelly says

Let It Snow! is an interesting, almost but not quite eclectic, group of ten stories in the spec fiction genre. If you're familiar with the authors, this will be a brief but welcome visit to their worlds and characters at this special time of year. If they are new to you, these stories provide a mostly fun, sometimes touching introduction to the unique worlds these authors have created.

While to me these all fit well under the spec fiction umbrella, that's not to say that they are all similar; they are assuredly not. The common thread is the Holiday Season, as the Foreward begins:

"Happy holidays and welcome to our quaint little holiday collection of zombies, crazies, fairies and treasure-hunters (and more)!"

And snow, because here in the northern hemisphere, Holiday Season comes with snow... or the thought of it. The quote should give you an idea of the breadth good spec fiction can encompass.

For me, I hadn't heard of any of these authors, and I was happy to have a chance to expand my experience. Of the ten stories, nine were what I'd hoped for in opening this file. While the tenth story fit the collection: a story in the author's world set at a holiday dinner party, it was out of my comfort zone. Even at that, I think, for readers familiar with the world it is set in, it will add to their understanding and answer their questions.

In the other nine stories, the characters brought me into their authors' worlds, whether a landfill, a mental "hospital" (it seemed that insane asylum might be a more appropriate, though non-PC, nomenclature), a parking lot in Arizona or a research lab in Southern California, and made the experience wonderful. Add to

those an egotistical, arrogant dragon; how can you go wrong?

I started the book and for the first couple of pages, I worried that I didn't know enough about the back story to enjoy the stories. By the time I read another four pages, that fear was gone; I was thoroughly involved with the Landfill in Laurents County. I read straight through the collection--I did take a break to get a glass of water--and was sorry when 100% showed up at the bottom of the window. I wish I had sufficient funds to buy everything these guys write; it is good, with brilliant characters and clear settings.

I read this both on the Kindle for Mac app, and on the Kindle. In the desktop app, the cover looks quite nice; on the greyscale Kindle, almost as good. I would have liked the table of contents to have entries for each of the stories, rather than just the midpoint, but not enough to mark it down.

I recommend this collection heartily to those who have read one or more of the authors, and even more willingly to adult fans of spec fiction who want to find new worlds. Buy it, read it. You'll laugh, and you'll cry.

Eric Garrison says

This is a fun, eclectic collection of short stories relating to the Yule/Christmas/Hanukkah season. I particularly enjoyed stories by the Tashes and Axel Howerton. Not all stories are to my taste, but the ones that were shined enough to make the work as a whole quite enjoyable.
