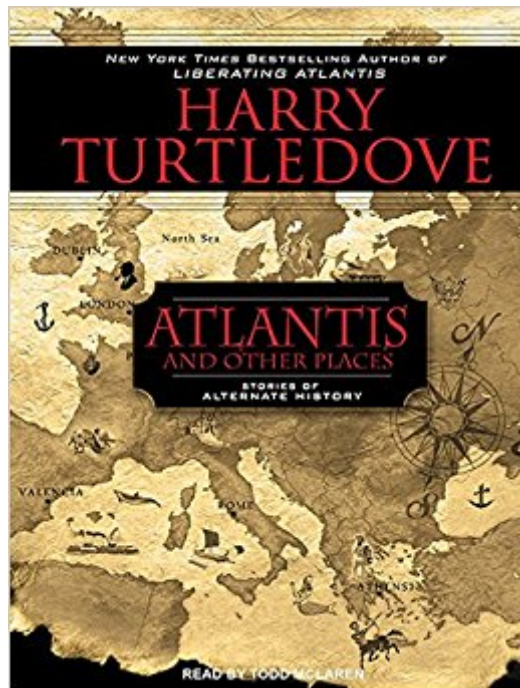


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Atlantis And Other Places: Stories Of Alternate History



Synopsis

A famous naturalist seeks a near-extinct species of bird found only on the rarest of lands in "Audubon in Atlantis." A young American on a European holiday finds himself storming an enchanted German castle in "The Catcher in the Rhine." The philosopher Sokrates plays a key role in the Athenian victory over the Spartans in "The Daimon." Centaurs take a sea voyage aboard "The Horse of Bronze" to a land where they encounter a strange and frightening tribe of creatures known as man. London's most famous detective, Athelstan Helms, and his assistant, Dr. James Walton, are in Atlantis investigating a series of murders in "The Scarlet Band." Atlantis and Other Places includes these and seven more amazing stories of ancient eras, historical figures, mysterious events, and out-of-this-world adventure from the incomparable Harry Turtledove. Track List for Atlantis and Other Places: Disc 1 "Audubon in Atlantis" •Track 1 Disc 3 "Bedfellows" •Track 1 "News from the Front" •Track 5 Disc 4 "The Catcher in the Rhine" •Track 4 "The Daimon" •Track 18 Disc 6 "Farmers' Law" •Track 22 Disc 7 "Occupation Duty" •Track 10 "The Horse of Bronze" •Track 22 Disc 9 "The Genetics Lecture" •Track 20 "Someone Is Stealing the Great Throne Rooms of the Galaxy" •Track 22 Disc 10 "Uncle Alf" •Track 5 Disc 11 "The Scarlet Band" •Track 1

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alternate historian extraordinaire Turtledove (Hitler's War) explores a dozen different "what if?"

scenarios in this reprint collection. These stories, some dead serious and some absurdly improbable, demonstrate his ability to slip, chameleonlike, from one mode to the next. An aging John Audubon searches for rare birds in "Audubon in Atlantis," and Hitler's life takes a very different turn in the epistolary "Uncle Alf." "The Catcher in the Rhine" adeptly blends an American classic and a Wagnerian opera. Perhaps the most outrageous is "Bedfellows," featuring George W. Bush and Osama bin Laden. Turtledove also takes a few potshots at the modern media in "News from the Front." Helpful forewords explain the inspiration for, or divergence point of, each story. Whether he's going for humor or pathos, action or social commentary, Turtledove's research is always solid, his speculation thoughtful, and his execution professional. (Dec.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Turtledove has long been established at the head of the alternate-history field. This short-story collection suggests that he can also thrust his tongue farther into his cheek than most authors can dream of. The first and last stories are laid in his new creation, the mid-Atlantic subcontinent of Atlantis. In one, John James Audubon sets out to capture on canvas the fast-disappearing birdlife; in the other, an eminent London detective and his doctor partner tackle the mystery of the Scarlet Band. In "Daimon," the Greek general Alkibiades rises to the level of Alexander the Great, with unfortunate results for Socrates. "The Horse of Bronze" is a wild romp through classical Greece, while "Occupation Duty" explores another possible conqueror for Southwest Asia. "The Catcher in the Rhine" is a send-up that a certain cult novel has long deserved, while "News from the Front" savagely juxtaposes modern mediaocracy with WWII. And let's not forget "Uncle Alf," wholly spent inside the mind of an alternate Adolf Hitler (the Germans won WWI), and just plain scary. High Demand Backstory: Publisher promotion, plus his recognizable name, equals buzz. --Roland Green --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Save your money and get from the local library

Harry is my favorite author

If you are into alternative history but have not previously read the twelve short stories and novellas in this collection you will probably really enjoy at least some of them. However, you may find it wise to check before buying which of them you have already seen. The stories in this anthology and

where they previously appeared are 1) Aubudon in Atlantis, first published in Analog, Dec 2005 2) Bedfellows, first pub. Magazine of Fantasy & SF, June 2005 3) News from the Front, first pub. Asimov's Sf magazine June 2007 4) The Catcher in the Rhine, first pub. "The Chick is in the Mail" ed. Esther Friesner 5) The Daimon, first published in Turtledove's previous anthology, "Worlds That Weren't" 6) Farmer's Law, first pub. "Crime Through Time: III" ed. Sharon Newman 7) Occupation Duty, first pub. "Time Twisters" ed. Jean Rabe and Martin Greenberg 8) The Horse of Bronze, first pub. "The First Heroes: New Tales of the Bronze Age" ed. Turtledove and Noreen Doyle 9) The Genetics Lecture, first pub. Analog, Oct 2005 10) Someone in stealing the great throne rooms of the Galaxy, first pub. "Space Cadets" ed. Mike Resnick 11) Uncle Alf, first pub "Alternate Generals II" ed. Turtledove, Roland Green and Martin Greenberg 12) The Scarlet Band, first pub. Analog, May 2006.

The stories in this collection range from the very short ("The Genetics Lecture" is a three page, one joke story) to novellas (the stories set in Turtledove's "Atlantis" alternative world which bookend this collection are both about 70 pages.) They vary considerably in style and tone, from humorous pastiche to deadly serious, from the Bronze age to the far future, from things which could easily have been to whimsical fantasies one of which was classed as a "Probability zero" feature when it first appeared in Analog. A significant proportion of the stories in the book are detective stories of one kind or another, others are tales of war, exploration, or scientific discovery. I'm not going to attempt to describe the subjects covered by all these stories in detail as that might easily give rise to spoilers, but these also vary greatly. One has a ship crewed by centaurs visiting Britain in the Bronze age, when the British Isles were known as the Tin Islands and were regarded as one of the most remote corners of the world and a near-mythical place in the then civilised world. I found this piquant because in the Bronze age, and down to a few centuries before the birth of Jesus Christ "the Tin Islands" were so little known that Herodotus in his "The Histories" (Oxford World's Classics), actually queried the existence of the British Isles on the grounds that he had been unable to find an eye witness who could give a first hand account of them. This comment may be found on a page adjacent to a preposterous account of dangerous gold-digging giant ants which Herodotus accepted uncritically because he found several witnesses who confirmed it! Another story in this anthology has Sergeant Hitler searching for Communist spies and French rebels while posted to France in a world in which the Central Powers won the First World War. A story told mainly from the viewpoint of Socrates suggests how a different response by Alcibiades to the charges brought against him could have changed the course of the Peloponnesian war with increasingly dramatic consequences. One story is set in the middle east in a time when the war between the Israelites and Philistines was about as far in the past as it is in our own history, but where the duel which in our

Universe was won by David had been won instead by Goliath. Which means no Jewish nation, no Judaism, and therefore no Christianity or Islam either. Do you imagine that the area concerned might be more peaceful today? Turtledove invites you to think again. Perhaps the most thought-provoking story in the book illustrates the potentially disastrous consequences had the American media reported the Second World War in the way that certain media outlets operate now. Overall this is a very good, wide-ranging of Harry Turtledove's alternative history works which will appeal to most fans of his work in this genre provided they have not already read too many of the stories included.

Atlantis and Other Places (2010) is a collection of Alternate History stories. It contains twelve tales, with short introductions by the author. - "Audubon in Atlantis" (Analog, 2005) takes the painter into the backwoods to capture the likeness of a rapidly disappearing species. - "Bedfellow" (F&SF, 2005) examines the unlikely relationship between a past president and a terrorist. - "News From the Front" (Asimov's, 2007) illustrates the adage "loose lips sink ships" by showing how World War II might have gone with the current media approach. - "The Catcher in the Rhine" (The Chick Is in the Mail, 2000) puts the main proponent into an awkward position. - "The Daimon" (Worlds That Weren't, 2002) examines the possibilities of Socrates traveling to Sicily in the band led by Alkibiades. - "Farmers Law" (Crime Through Time, 2000) considers a murder case in rural Byzantine Rome. - "Occupation Duty" (Time Twisters, 2007) describes a conflict within the Middle East in another timeline. - "The Horse of Bronze" (The First Heroes, 2004) follows a troop of centaurs to the Tin Isles. - "The Genetics Lecture" (Analog, 2005) explains the genetic basis for intelligence. - "Someone Is Stealing the Great Throne Rooms of the Galaxy" (Space Cadets, 2006) involves an intelligent, but pun loving, hamster space cadet chasing a group of thieves. - "Uncle Alf" (Analog, 2002) presents an ardent military policeman with the twin problems of an agent of sedition and languid associates. He writes several letters to his beloved niece. - "The Scarlet Band" (Analog, 2006) brings a noted London private detective and his faithful companion to Atlantis to assist the local police. These stories are tales of alternate realities. Some are science fiction -- the ones based on real history -- and others are fantasy. Several are pastiches of famous literary works. Recommended for fans of Turtledove and for anyone else who enjoys tales of historical trivia, human nature, and a bit of humor. - Arthur W. Jordin

The super dozen alternate history tales were all previously published in the past decade, but never together. The one volume speaks loudly as to how skilled Harry Turtledove truly is when it comes to

the sub-genre where he is the champion grandmaster whether it is a saga, a novel, a novella, or a short story. In the first entry, "Audubon in Atlantis", the naturalist arrives on the island seeking rare birds. The second tale satires Bush and Bin Laden who make strange "Bedfellows", who need each other like yin and yang. All the "News from the Front" is the news not worth printing during WW II, as Mr. Turtle dove rips the main stream media. Whether it is the American leaving the ducks swimming in Central Park to attack a German castle as in "The Catcher in the Rhine", soldier "Uncle Alf" writing from occupied Paris in 1929 to his niece about the lazy French, re Socrates role in the Peloponnesian Wars ("The Daimon"), fans will agree this anthology affirms Mr. Turtle dove's abilities whether he lampoons or just changes a pivotal moment he remains the top guru of the alternative historical universe.

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