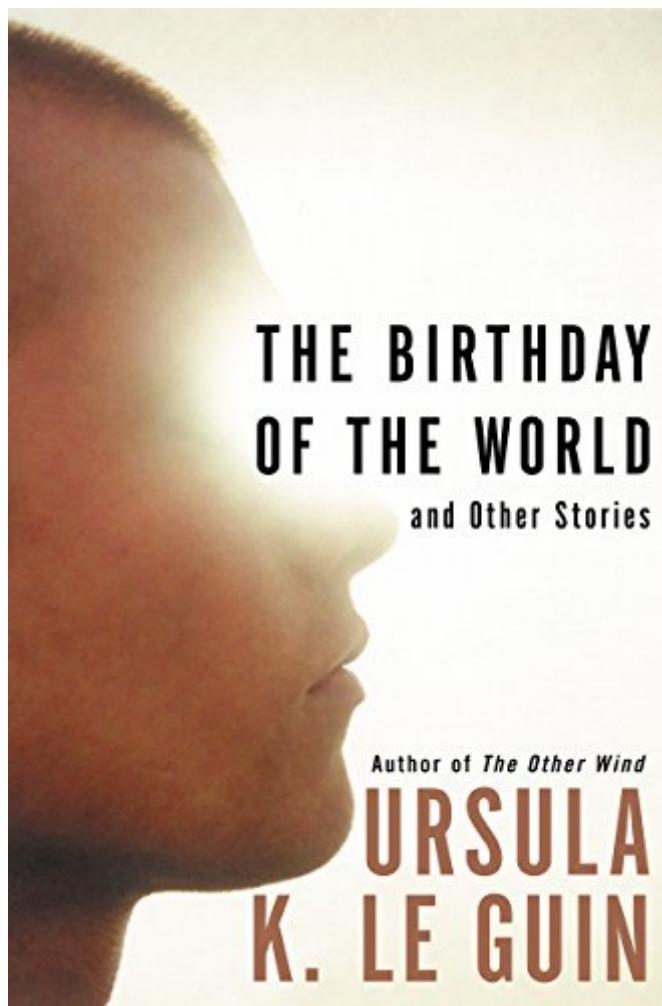


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# The Birthday Of The World: And Other Stories



## **Synopsis**

For more than four decades, Ursula K. Le Guin has enthralled readers with her imagination, clarity, and moral vision. The recipient of numerous literary prizes, including the National Book Award, the Kafka Award, and five Hugo and five Nebula Awards, this renowned writer has, in each story and novel, created a provocative, ever-evolving universe filled with diverse worlds and rich characters reminiscent of our earthly selves. Now, in *The Birthday of the World*, this gifted artist returns to these worlds in eight brilliant short works, including a never-before-published novella, each of which probes the essence of humanity. Here are stories that explore complex social interactions and troublesome issues of gender and sex; that define and defy notions of personal relationships and of society itself; that examine loyalty, survival, and introversion; that bring to light the vicissitudes of slavery and the meaning of transformation, religion, and history. The first six tales in this spectacular volume are set in the author's signature world of the Ekumen, "my pseudo-coherent universe with holes in the elbows," as Le Guin describes it -- a world made familiar in her award-winning novel *The Left Hand of Darkness*. The seventh, title story was hailed by *Publishers Weekly* as "remarkable . . . a standout." The final offering in the collection, *Paradises Lost*, is a mesmerizing novella of space exploration and the pursuit of happiness. In her foreword, Ursula K. Le Guin writes, "to create difference-to establish strangeness-then to let the fiery arc of human emotion leap and close the gap: this acrobatics of the imagination fascinates and satisfies me as no other." In *The Birthday of the World*, this gifted literary acrobat exhibits a dazzling array of skills that will fascinate and satisfy us all.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

I don't know why I stopped reading her. But I saw this collection on sale relatively cheap and thought I'd give it a try. What a costly mistake! All the stories in this collection had merit, but the novella of the title was especially refreshing in its depiction of a generations journey to another world. I found it fascinating. I love it when an author forces me to think without banging me over the head with a hammer. The mistake? Now I will have to go back and purchase her other works. She was ahead of her time. Maybe not a mistake, but costly as she has written quite a few books. I look forward to the journey.

Ursula is a premier writer of science fiction and takes liberties. Most of them wonderful. Most of the stories in this collection describe civilizations of varied but plausible multi-sexualities. In many ways, this is enlightening, has a beauty to it, and challenges (straight) humanities bi-chotomy and dichotomy. Her worlds are painted lovingly. Many of them have languages that are interspersed with the writer's English narrative. These languages are sibilant and have lovely sounds to them. My one complaint: If inventing a lovely speak, there is absolutely no place for the F-banger. NONE! But it is repeated and repeated and emphasized throughout a whole section of the galaxy. SHAME!

A series of short stories most of which are based in worlds created by the author in other novels. Mostly explores multiple, partnered marriages and cultures derived from. Interesting concepts that quickly grew old after the first couple of stories. The last entry was about a generational starship and how the people adapted. I found this one tedious and boring. I can't recommend buying this. Read it if it is free, but not worth the time otherwise.

I was quite disappointed. Most of this was purely sexual. Not what I had hoped for in the least! Not to mention they were very vulgar.

Everyone should read these poignant and beautiful short stories. This is science fiction for everyone not just sci-fi lovers. These stories made me ponder them long after I finished reading.

As a long-term fan of Le Guin's writing I think these stories are great.

Not in my frame of reading. Content was nothing like I expected from reviews. Did not complete the book.

Didn't pull me in.

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