



L. RON
HUBBARD

P R E S E N T S

WRITERS
OF THE
FUTURE

VOLUME
XIX

The Best New
Science Fiction and
Fantasy of the Year

L. RON HUBBARD

P R E S E N T S

WRITERS OF THE FUTURE

V O L U M E
X I X

**The Year's 14 Best Tales from the
Writers of the Future®**

**International Writing Program
Illustrated by the Winners in the
Illustrators of the Future®
International Illustration Program**

**With Essays on Writing and Art by
L. Ron Hubbard • Will Eisner
Sean Williams**

Edited by Algis Budrys

Galaxy Press, L.L.C.

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Escape . . .

Sometimes a boy's only role model is his bicycle.

For most people, rain is an inconvenient commonplace. For Rafe and Snowy, it is the center of existence.

Nothing changed after First Contact. Nothing, that is, except art.

Imagine . . .

The life of a brigand is reshaped by Crusader hands.

The Bwotik offered us peace, but it was a peace with no assurances no commerce. a peace that protected their secrets. In other words, a peace we couldn't accept.

The creature living in the field was dark, deadly and the only treasure they'd ever possessed.

Suppose . . .

A sword and its wielder break the most honorable of traditions.

Virtual reality had created a generation who knew no murder, no violent crime, no human contact. Or had it?

No chains could hold the King of the Escapologists—not even the shackles of death.

Dream . . .

A dog and his boy walk the long road to high orbit,
to get back to the Gardens.

How far would Annie go to create the perfect love?

Wonder . . .

A nation had gone from rags to riches practically
overnight, but its newfound wealth has pitted culture
against culture and a man against his past.

Sometimes, even gods can't just walk away.

When you live at the edge of a flat world, it's hard
not to wonder what's on the beneath side.

What has been said about the
L. RON HUBBARD
PRESENTS
WRITERS ^{OF} THE FUTURE
ANTHOLOGIES

"This has become a major tributary to the new blood in fantastic fiction."

主流

GREGORY BENFORD

"From cutting-edge high tech to evocative fantasy, this book's got it all—it's lots of fun and I love the chance to see what tomorrow's stars are doing today."

TIM POWERS

"I recommend the Writers of the Future Contest at every writers' workshop I participate in."

FREDERIK POHL

"... an exceedingly solid collection, including SF, fantasy and horror ..."

CHICAGO SUN TIMES

"A first-rate collection of stories and illustrations."

BOOKLIST

"L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future Contest and the *Writers of the Future* anthology represent not only the premiere showcase for beginning writers in the field of speculative fiction, but also a wonderful teaching tool for aspiring authors."

JOHN L. FLYNN, PH. D.
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH & MODERN LANGUAGES
TOWSON UNIVERSITY, MARYLAND

"The untapped talents of new writers continue to astonish me and every *Writers of the Future* volume provides a wellspring of the greatest energy put forth by the ambitious writers of tomorrow."

KEVIN J. ANDERSON

"This contest has changed the face of science fiction."

DEAN WESLEY SMITH

EDITOR OF *STRANGE NEW WORLDS*

"Some of the best SF of the future comes from *Writers of the Future* and you can find it in this book."

DAVID HARTWELL

"Not only is the writing excellent . . . it is also extremely varied. There's a lot of hot new talent in it."

LOCUS MAGAZINE

"As always, this is the premiere volume in the field to showcase new writers and artists. You can't go wrong here."

BARYON

"This contest has found some of the best new writers of the last decade."

KRISTINE KATHRYN RUSCH

AUTHOR & EDITOR

"Once again, *Writers of the Future* provides some of the most imaginative and thought-provoking speculative fiction."

PARSEC MAGAZINE

SPECIAL OFFER FOR SCHOOLS AND WRITING GROUPS

The fourteen prize-winning stories in this volume, all of them selected by a panel of top professionals in the field of speculative fiction, exemplify the standards that a new writer must meet if he expects to see his work published and achieve professional success.

These stories, augmented by "how to write" articles by some of the top writers of science fiction and fantasy, make this anthology virtually a textbook for use in the classroom and an invaluable resource for students, teachers and workshop instructors in the field of writing.

The materials contained in this and previous volumes have been used with outstanding results in writing courses and workshops held on college and university campuses throughout the United States—from Harvard, Duke and Rutgers to George Washington, Brigham Young and Pepperdine.

To assist and encourage creative writing programs, the *L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of the Future* anthologies are available at special quantity discounts when purchased in bulk by schools, universities, workshops and other related groups.

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**L. RON
HUBBARD**

P R E S E N T S

WRITERS

O F T H E

FUTURE

**V O L U M E
X I X**

NEW WRITERS!



L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future Contest

**OPPORTUNITY FOR
NEW AND AMATEUR WRITERS OF
NEW SHORT STORIES OR NOVELETTES OF
SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY**

**No entry fee is required.
Entrants retain all publication rights.**

**ALL AWARDS ARE ADJUDICATED BY
PROFESSIONAL WRITERS ONLY**

**PRIZES EVERY THREE MONTHS: \$1,000, \$750, \$500.
ANNUAL GRAND PRIZE: \$4,000 ADDITIONAL!**

**Don't Delay! Send Your Entry to
L. Ron Hubbard's
Writers of the Future Contest
P.O. Box 1630
Los Angeles, CA 90078**

CONTEST RULES

1. No entry fee is required and all rights in the story remain the property of the author. All types of science fiction, fantasy and horror with fantastic elements are welcome.

2. All entries must be original works, in English. Plagiarism, which includes the use of third-party poetry, song lyrics, characters or another person's universe, without written permission, will result in disqualification. Excessive violence or sex, determined by the judges, will result in disqualification. Entries may not have been previously published in professional media.

3. To be eligible, entries must be works of prose, up to 17,000 words in length. We regret we cannot consider poetry or works intended for children.

4. The Contest is open only to those who have not had professionally published a novel or short novel, or more than one novelette, or more than three short stories, in any medium. Professional publication is deemed to be payment, and at least 5,000 copies or 5,000 hits.

5. Entries must be typewritten or a computer printout in black ink on white paper, double spaced, with numbered pages. All other formats will be disqualified. Each entry must have a cover page with the title of the work, the author's name, address and telephone number, an approximate word count and e-mail address if available. Every subsequent page must carry the title and a page number, but the author's name must be deleted to facilitate fair judging.

6. Manuscripts will be returned after judging if the author has provided return postage and a self-addressed envelope. If the author does not wish return of the manuscript, a business-size self-addressed, stamped envelope (or valid email address) must be included with the entry in order to receive judging results.

7. We accept only an entry for which no delivery signature is required by us to receive it.

8. There shall be three cash prizes in each quarter: a First Prize of \$1,000, a Second Prize of \$750 and a Third Prize of \$500, in U.S. dollars or the recipient's local equivalent amount. In addition, at the end of the year the four First Prize winners will have their entries rejudged, and a Grand Prize winner shall be determined and will receive an additional \$4,000. All winners will also receive trophies or certificates.

9. The Contest has four quarters, beginning on October 1, January 1, April 1 and July 1. The year will end on September 30. To be eligible for judging in its quarter, an entry must be post-marked no later than midnight on the last day of the quarter.

10. Each entrant may submit only one manuscript per quarter. Winners are ineligible to make further entries in the Contest.

11. All entries for each quarter are final. No revisions are accepted.

12. Entries will be judged by professional authors. The decisions of the judges are entirely their own, and are final.

13. Winners in each quarter will be individually notified of the results by mail.

14. This Contest is void where prohibited by law.

NEW ILLUSTRATORS!



L. Ron Hubbard's Illustrators of the Future Contest

**OPEN TO NEW SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY ARTISTS WORLDWIDE**

**No entry fee is required.
Entrants retain all publication rights.**

**ALL JUDGING BY
PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS ONLY**

**\$1,500 IN PRIZES EACH QUARTER
QUARTERLY WINNERS COMPETE FOR
\$4,000 ADDITIONAL ANNUAL PRIZE**

**Don't Delay! Send Your Entry to
L. Ron Hubbard's
Illustrators of the Future Contest
P.O. Box 3190
Los Angeles, CA 90078**

CONTEST RULES

1. The Contest is open to entrants from all nations. (However, entrants should provide themselves with some means for written communication in English.) All themes of science fiction and fantasy illustrations are welcome: every entry is judged on its own merits only. No entry fee is required, and all rights in the entries remain the property of the artists.

2. By submitting work to the Contest, the entrant agrees to abide by all Contest rules.

3. The Contest is open to those who have not previously published more than three black-and-white story illustrations, or more than one process-color painting, in media distributed nationally to the general public, such as magazines or books sold at newsstands, or books sold in stores merchandising to the general public. The submitted entry shall not have been previously published in professional media as exemplified above.

If you are not sure of your eligibility, write to the Contest address with details, enclosing a business-size self-addressed envelope with return postage. The Contest Administration will reply with a determination.

Winners in previous quarters are not eligible to make further entries.

4. Only one entry per quarter is permitted. The entry must be original to the entrant. Plagiarism, infringement of the rights of others, or other violations of the contest rules will result in disqualification.

5. An entry shall consist of three illustrations done by the entrant in a black-and-white medium. Each must represent a theme different from the other two.

6. ENTRIES SHOULD NOT BE THE ORIGINAL DRAWINGS, but should be large black-and-white photocopies of a quality satisfactory to the entrant. Entries must be submitted unfolded and flat, in an envelope no larger than 9 inches by 12 inches.

All entries must be accompanied by a self-addressed return envelope of the appropriate size, with correct U.S. postage affixed. (Non-U.S. entrants should enclose international postal reply coupons.) If the entrant does not want the photocopies returned, the entry should be clearly marked DISPOSABLE COPIES: DO NOT RETURN.

A business-size self-addressed envelope with correct postage (or valid email address) should be included so that judging results can be returned to the entrant.

We accept only an entry for which no delivery signature is required by us to receive it.

7. To facilitate anonymous judging, each of the three photocopies must be accompanied by a removable cover sheet bearing the artist's name, address, telephone number, and an identifying title for that work as well as an email address if available. The photocopy of the work should carry the same identifying title, and the artist's signature should be deleted from the photocopy.

The Contest Administration will remove and file the cover sheets, and forward only the anonymous entry to the judges.

8. To be eligible for a quarterly judging, an entry must be post-marked no later than the last day of the quarter.

Late entries will be included in the following quarter, and the Contest Administration will so notify the entrant.

9. There will be three co-winners in each quarter. Each winner will receive an outright cash grant of U.S. \$500, and a certificate of merit. Such winners also receive eligibility to compete for the annual Grand Prize of an additional outright cash grant of \$4,000 together with the annual Grand Prize trophy.

10. Competition for the Grand Prize is designed to acquaint the entrant with customary practices in the field of professional illustrating. It will be conducted in the following manner:

Each winner in each quarter will be furnished a specification sheet giving details on the size and kind of black-and-white illustration work required for the Grand Prize competition. Requirements will be of the sort customarily stated by professional publishing companies.

These specifications will be furnished to the entrant by the Contest Administration, using Return Receipt Requested mail or its equivalent.

Also furnished will be a copy of a science fiction or fantasy story, to be illustrated by the entrant. This story will have been selected for that purpose by the Coordinating Judge of the Contest. Thereafter, the entrant will work toward completing the assigned illustration.

In order to retain eligibility for the Grand Prize, each entrant shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the said story assignment, send to the Contest address the entrant's black-and-white page illustration of the assigned story in accordance with the specification sheet.

The entrant's finished illustration shall be in the form of camera-ready art prepared in accordance with the specification sheet and securely packed, shipped at the entrant's own risk. The Contest will exercise due care in handling all submissions as received.

The said illustration will then be judged in competition for the Grand Prize on the following basis only:

Each Grand Prize judge's personal opinion on the extent to which it makes the judge want to read the story it illustrates.

11. The Contest shall contain four quarters each year, beginning on October 1 and going on to January 1, April 1 and July 1, with the year ending at midnight on September 30. Entrants in each quarter will be individually notified of the quarter's judging results by mail. The winning entrants' participation in the Contest shall continue until the results of the Grand Prize judging have been announced.

12. The Grand Prize winner shall be announced at the L. Ron Hubbard Awards Event to be held in the year subsequent to the year of the particular Contest.

13. Entries will be judged by professional artists only. Each quarterly judging and the Grand Prize judging may have different panels of judges. The decisions of the judges are entirely their own and are final.

14. This Contest is void where prohibited by law.

L. RON HUBBARD

P R E S E N T S

THE BEST OF WRITERS OF THE FUTURE



VOYAGE TO OTHER WORLDS

L. Ron Hubbard established the WRITERS OF THE FUTURE Contest in late 1983, offering new and aspiring writers a chance to have their works seen and acknowledged. Since that beginning, the imaginative works from these exceptionally talented new writers in the fields of science fiction and fantasy have been published in the L. RON HUBBARD PRESENTS WRITERS OF THE FUTURE anthologies and have provided readers with an escape to new worlds.

As was L. Ron Hubbard's intention, many of these talents have gone on to become recognized writers. Now for the first time, sixteen creative stories from the first eight volumes that helped launch successful careers have been assembled, providing hours of reading entertainment—your ticket to spellbinding adventures across the Galaxy.

The writers in this book include many you now know, who were—in most cases—first published in one of the earlier anthologies. These names include James Alan Gardner, Karen Joy Fowler, Nina Kiriki Hoffman, Robert Reed, Dean Wesley Smith, Nancy Farmer and ten more.

This first-rate collection includes works from judges Anne McCaffrey, Frederik Pohl and Tim Powers, who if given the opportunity to enter this contest at the inception of their careers would have done so with these well-told tales. Also included are invaluable tips on writing from Frank Herbert and Algis Budrys.

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