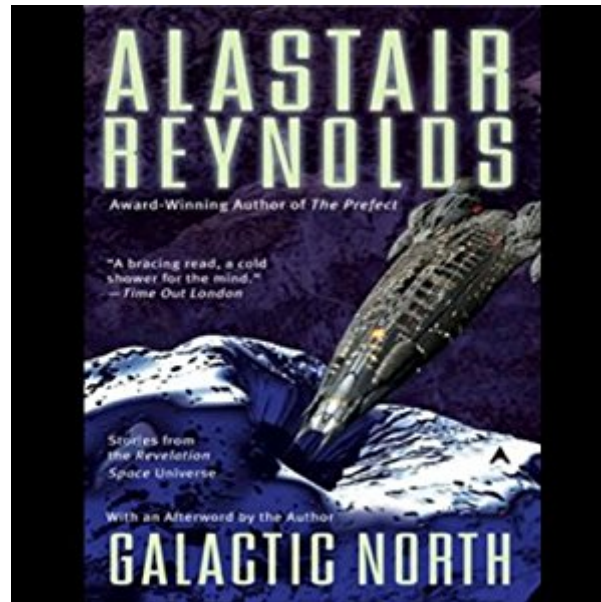


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Galactic North



Synopsis

Gathered here for the first time are Alastair Reynolds' stories and novelettes set in the universe of REVELATION SPACE, his first bestselling blockbuster. GALACTIC NORTH will include several brand-new stories and novelettes written specially for this collection. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Galactic North is an outstanding collection of stories from the Revelation Space universe. For the most part, they are entertaining and engaging, and provide several viewpoints on this terrific space opera/cyberpunk universe. It made me want to read more by Alastair Reynolds. My favorite among these stories is the title novella, "Galactic North" -- perhaps the most expansive piece of short sci-fi I've ever read. But for its vast scope, it is a pretty tightly crafted tale. Great stuff! Also the epilogue gave me several tips for additional books, including one I've already started reading. (You're right, Reynolds, *Schismatrix* by Bruce Sterling is melting my face off.)

I just finished reading this collection today and really thoroughly enjoyed every single story. I have seen different comments about reading order of the Revelation Space series and I think you could either read Galactic North first or last. I have so far read them in the following order.... Revelation Space, Chasm City (Revelation Space), Redemption Ark (Revelation Space), Absolution Gap (Revelation Space), Galactic North and I just started The Prefect (Ace Science Fiction). I am glad

that I waited until after reading the first four books to read these short stories. Here's why...After I finished *Absolution Gap* I had that feeling you get when you finish a fantastic series of books. You just want more. Yet, you're a little exhausted and wrung out from all the ups and downs, ins and outs of the intricate plots and character developments. *Galactic North* was exactly what I wanted and needed. Short bursts of the Revelation Space universe that either filled in gaps of backstory, added new twists and dimensions to otherwise known settings/characters, explored previously unknown settings/characters or continued plot arcs begun in the novels. You get to go back to Mars with Clavain and Galiana, seeing how Felka got the way she is and how she was as a little girl. Others stories involve political intrigue and espionage on the moons of Jupiter; interstellar piracy amongst Ultras mixed with a deeper look into the mind-bending scientific achievements of the Conjoiners; a horror story regarding the after effects of the melding plague and the resulting deep space exodus of pilgrims to other systems; a story set in the Rust Belt era of Yellowstone regarding the owner of a "bestiary" who's plans for dominance in his chosen field come back to bite him in a vicious and unexpected way (with a cameo from a Diamond Dogs character); a tale of a mercenary mission originating from Sky's Edge that goes very, very wrong; and lastly the epoch-spanning eponymous tale that (sort of) picks up where *Absolution Gap* left off and which wraps up around A.D. 40,000. I'm looking at you, Greenfly. So as I said, these chunks of the Revelation Space universe were just what I was looking for after putting down *Absolution Gap* for the last time. I wanted more but not a LOT more. The way these stories are arranged is perfect starting with Clavain and ending with the far-flung future outcomes of events set in motion within the novels themselves. If you really enjoyed the main story arc of the novels you should check these nuggets of gold out at some point. You will be very glad you did.

I have tried to read Revelation Space a couple times and it just hasn't taken. I've read and enjoyed *House of Suns* and *Pushing Ice*, and couldn't understand why Revelation Space didn't grab me. Well, since *Galactic North* is nothing but Revelation Space-related short stories, I now know what's going on, who's who, and can't wait to tackle Revelation Space again. There are more new and bold ideas in hard sci-fi in the first few pages of this amazing collection than in anything else I've ever read. Now I get why so many people are fans of Alastair Reynolds. Edit to say that after reading *Galactic North*, the Revelation Space trilogy went quite smoothly and fast. The additional info in *Galactic North* was the key, and it was more entertaining than the trilogy. In his short stories, Reynolds gets right to the action.

Solid book of short stories/novellas that set the stage for Reynold's Revelation Space Universe. If this is read before the Revelation Space books it can give more context and basis for you in that universe. However it is not required to read it first, those books stand on their own. You can read this one later and the stories still stand on their own. Either way will work. I normally don't go much for short stories any more, but I just reread this book, and I still liked it.

If you've read the Revelation Space books, you NEED to read this, it explains a lot of things that aren't explained in the main books. Lots of conjoiner stuff, which is awesome. Even if you've never read any of Reynold's books, there are some gems in here.

I can't believe I am doing this. Alastair is one of my favorite science-fiction writers, but this book....wow....I didn't realized it was a compilation of independent stories until I already had the book, so I read it. I like full-blown novels. All but one of the stories were irrational. They are the type of stories you find in a fantasy book....not in science-fiction. It reached a point when I was almost expecting some one to yell: "Off with his head". I would love to read sequels in the Revelation Space universe, but this book....what a bummer.

Alastair Reynolds writes some great hard Sci Fi with deeper physics based concepts. Reviewers enduring criticism of him has been he is a weak closer, lots of great writing for --- a limp finale. Not here. These Revelation Space (Universe) short stories lay in a few great sci fi concepts (i.e. Cojoiner Engines) a few interesting character conceits (i.e. nano machines to resurrect the frozen) and revolve around key Revelation Space characters. Neville, Felka, Renoir, etc...Best of all in the short format Reynolds ends em with panache. Perhaps my 5 stars here is because I'm invested in Revelation Space, but this one seems to rank up there with the all time sci fi greats.

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