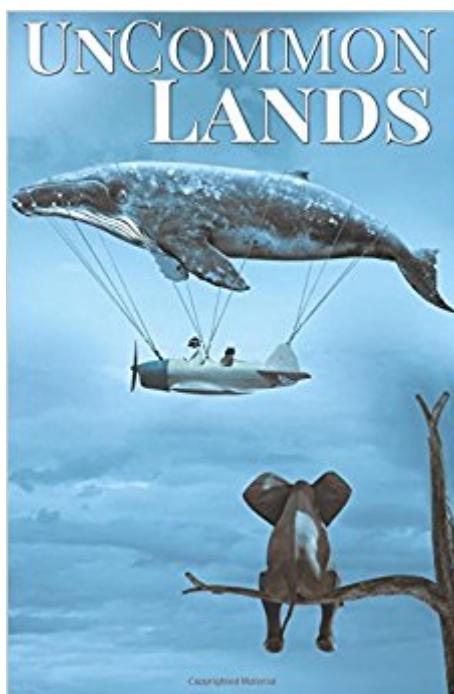


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UnCommon Lands: A Collection Of Rising Tides, Outer Space And Foreign Lands (UnCommon Anthologies) (Volume 5)



Synopsis

UnCommon Lands presents 20 unique depictions of fantastic places and alien landscapes. These stories of the human (and inhuman) experience transcend time and place and will transport you to worlds you've never imagined. Including new and veteran voices, our UnCommon Authors bring you stories which span multiple genres, but hold together on a framework of quality storytelling and a solid theme. UnCommon Lands reminds us that where we are from isn't as important as where we are going.

Book Information

Series: UnCommon Anthologies

Paperback: 338 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (August 21, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1548887242

ISBN-13: 978-1548887247

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #233,698 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #515 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Anthologies #803 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Magical Realism

Customer Reviews

Fiction offers a way to explore different worlds with humane viewpoints that respect and welcome difference. This anthology is one window into unusual ways of looking at the world through the eyes of writers bravely testing cultural boundaries. Each story challenges the common view of what is real and possible. "Gators in Kansas and Other Hazards of Modern Farming," by Ralph Walker, describes a farm unlike any other. It's part aquaculture and part conventional farm, where the fertile bottomland is literally the bottom of a broad, shallow body of water, and operators of the farm's machinery require a snorkel to plow the submerged fields. The ancient drive to have a piece of land to call your own motivates protagonist Salvatore to work his stake, while species that never belonged in Kansas or anywhere else north of Oklahoma in the past 250 million years threaten lives and limbs. Human dreams, however, are more powerful than invasive species and rising waters. Another story, "Walker Between the Worlds," by Ashleigh Gauch, gets to the

heart of why we need diverse voices in fiction. Gauch is part of the Haida First Nation, a powerful tribal group on the Pacific Coast of British Columbia. In her story, Shepherd Mercer, a trained Haida shaman, breaks a fundamental law by using his powers for personal gain, rather than community service. After learning that the cost of his transgression is the soul of his beloved Aria, he undergoes a series of frightening trials to earn redemption, rejoin the community, and save the life of Aria. Though most religions feature physical and spiritual tests on the path to redemption, readers rarely see how this plays out in indigenous cultures outside the monotheistic mainstream. *Walker Between the Worlds* fills a portion of this gap.

Note: I received a free/reduced price copy of this book with no obligation to post a review. I have also purchased my own copy.

Having read Jeremy Rodden's previous work, I was excited to get to read the short story "Somewhere I Belong" included in this anthology. The tale follows a character, Angel, who we were introduced to in the novel "Toonopolis: Gemini" as she discovers the true nature of her creation. We follow her adventure through Ao, which is the adult section of Rodden's continuously unfolding cartoon world, as she finds she doesn't seem to fit in anywhere. This a "coming of age" story of sorts. It was a fun, witty, easy read that I would recommend to Toonopolis fans. I have had this anthology on pre-order for some time, and I am really excited to get to read the other stories included.

This is a review of *CARCEREM* by Daniel Arthur Smith. I love this short but captivating story. It takes place in a world which is full of different races of being, mortals being one of them. I love stories with different species living in the same world. Carcerem is a prison. A plane from which there is no escape...or so everyone is told. But a prisoner, who is an ex military officer, called Blitz, has the skills to fix a machine that can travel to between the planes. But only if he can fix it. The story is filled with a great description of Carcerem, giving so much life to it. I love the whole idea of a world which is monochrome. I also love the whole idea of different planes of existence and the creatures that inhabit them. Blitz is a brilliant character and if you have read *Spectral Shift* you will understand why. Everyone has what are called 'mods' or modifications, this means that everyone gets to look like they want to. This is a really awesome idea and one which could well be part of reality in the future in our world. I love this story for its unique world and its cleverly used science mixed in with fantasy folklorish characters. I found the story really interesting and exciting, especially right at the end. I was disappointed when it ended...I really wanted more. The only thing I would say is a negative is that, if this was a stand alone read, it might be hard to understand the world that is being portrayed. I have

read Spectral Shift which is another in this series and therefore I understood this short story very well, but someone who has never read that book might find this hard to grasp. Having said that, I am giving this story a well deserved 4 stars.

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