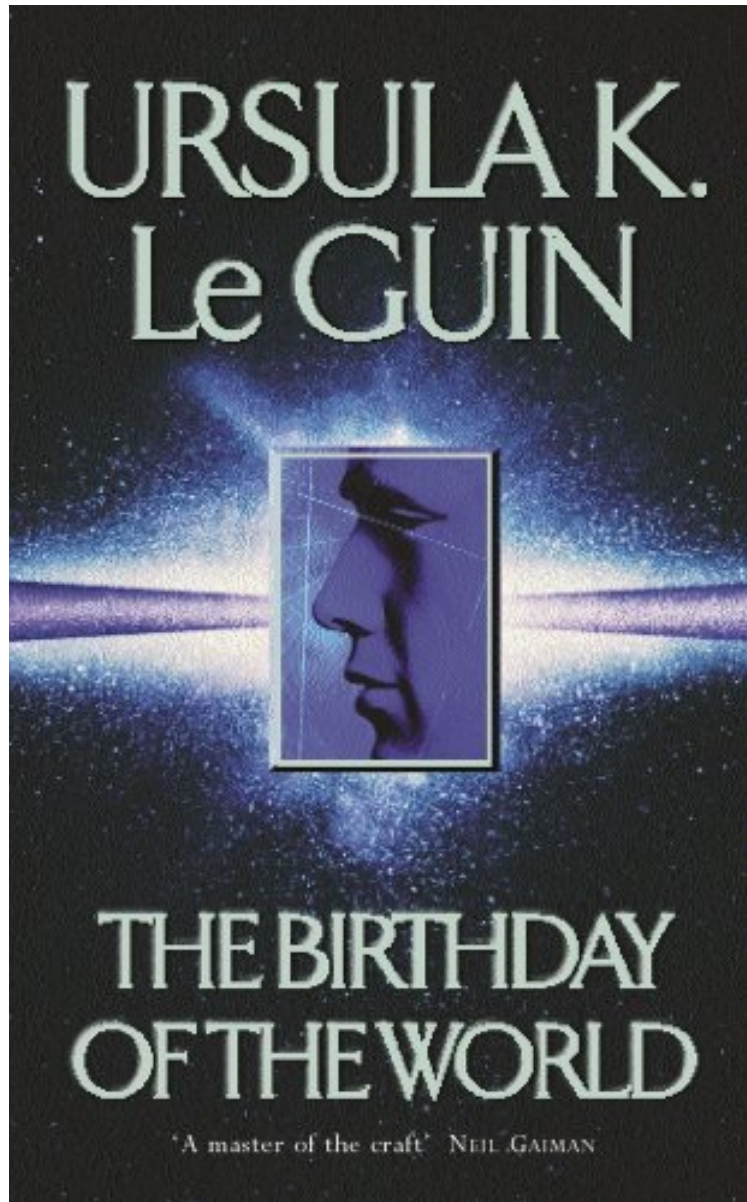


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The Birthday Of The World and Other Stories (GOLLANCZ S.F.) (English Edition)

Von Ursula K. LeGuin
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Von Ursula K. LeGuin : The Birthday Of The World and Other Stories (GOLLANCZ S.F.) (English Edition)
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Birthday Of The
World and Other Stories (GOLLANCZ S.F.) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Elegant, superior splendidVon Schulthe, HendrikThis book contains various stories published by Le Guin between 1994 and 2000. Six of the eight stories refer to the Hainish Universe, the place and time of her early novels such as Rocannon's World, Planet of Exile, City of Illusions and - most famous of all - The Left Hand of Darkness.The stories are:Coming of Age in Karhide (this one plays on Gethen, the world of The Left Hand...),The Matter of Seggri (Seggri is a newly discovered planet),Unchosen Love Mountain Ways (on planet O, which was occasionally mentioned in the novella A Fisherman of the Inland Sea),Solitude (on a world called Eleven-Soro) andOld Music and the Slave Women (a story closely related to the four novellas of Four Ways to Forgiveness, set on the planets Werel and Yeowe).The other two texts - The Birthday of the World and Paradises Lost - are sf, but not related to the Hainish Universe.Le Guin continues to enchant her readers with her superior, elegant and playful style. Her narrative approach to philosophical questions about culture is a good starting point for discussing gender and society.As all other books I know from Le Guin (with the exception of The Beginning Place), I found these stories real eye-openers, wise and delightful. I will read them again and again. The only slight disadvantage is, that this book may be not the perfect FIRST book to read of all Le Guin's books and is easier to understand for those familiar with her other Hainish stories and novels.

Kurzbeschreibung'Her most important book since ALWAYS COMING HOME and her most satisfactory collection since her first, the brilliant THE WIND'S TWELVE QUARTERS. A formidable and rewarding work, a prime candidate for best SF collection of the year. An essential book.' LOCUS Six of the eight pieces are set in Le Guin's classic Hainish cycle. The title story, 'The Birthday of the World', stands alone and the final piece, 'Paradises Lost', is a new short novel original to the collection, a major addition to the generation starship subgenre of science fiction..deUrsula Le Guin's latest title, The Birthday of the World, is her first short story collection since The Wind's Twelve Quarters (available in the Gollancz yellow jacket edition) and one of the most essential SF short story volumes published in many a while. Long-time fans of Le Guin will be delighted that several of the pieces are set in the already superbly realised worlds of her Hainish cycle, and there is a brand new novella called Paradises Lost. This is the SF of ideas, a lyrical, organic collection that explores visions of worlds where women outnumber men, where there exist societies without order and lands where sex is not determined at birth, but people slip between genders at a whim and are neither male nor female in between. While the word controversial doesn't really do it justice, the stories and the ideas Le Guin presents are certainly challenging to say the least, and she has some interesting ideas on the evolution of society and our own place in it. All in all a daring and bold collection, breathtaking and beautiful, that confirms why Le Guin is one of the genre's most celebrated writers. --Jon SnowFrom Publishers WeeklyDeeply concerned with gender, these eight stories, although ostensibly about aliens, are all about ourselves: love, sex, life and alienation are all handled with illuminating grace. Le Guin's overarching theme, the journey, informs her characters as they struggle to come to terms with themselves or their worlds. The journey can be literal, as in "Paradises Lost," set on a generational ship, where the inhabitants, living in a utopia, learn they will land on the planet their ancestors set out to colonize 40 years earlier; and as in "Unchosen Love," where a young man falls in love with someone in another country and must decide if he can build a new life in a new place. Or the journey can be figurative, as in "Coming of Age in Karhide," in which an adolescent in a genderless society enters sexual maturity; and in "Solitude," as outsiders visit and study a planet where the men and women live apart and a young woman seeks to perfect her soul in the only place she knows as home. In "The Birthday of the World," the nature of God is considered as hereditary rulers, literal gods to their subjects, give up their power when new gods aliens come, throwing their culture into chaos. Gender is a constant concern: "The Matter of Seggri" takes place on a planet where women greatly outnumber men, and in "Unchosen Love" and "Mountain Ways," society is based on complex marriage relationships comprising four people. Le Guin handles these difficult topics through her richly drawn characters and her believable worlds. Evocative, richly textured and lyrically written, this collection is a must-read for Le Guin's fans. (Mar. 13)National Book Award, Le Guin published two major books last year, Tales from Earthsea and The Other Wind.Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.