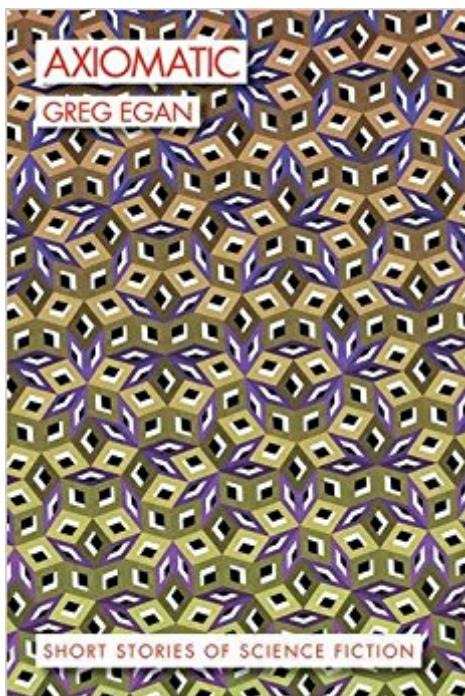


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# Axiomatic: Short Stories Of Science Fiction



## Synopsis

Wonderful, mind-expanding stuff, and well written too. —The Guardian

Axiomatic is a wonderful collection of eighteen short stories by Hugo Award-winning author Greg Egan. The stories in this collection have appeared in such science fiction magazines as *Interzone* and *Asimov's* between 1989 and 1992. From junkies who drink at the time-stream to love affairs in time-reversed galaxies; from gene-altered dolphins that converse only in limericks to the program that allows you to design your own child; from the brain implants called axiomatics to the strange attractors that spin off new religions; from bioengineering to the new physics; and from cyberpunk to the electronic frontier, Greg Egan's future is frighteningly close to our own present. Included in this collection are such wonderful stories as:

Axiomatic; Into Darkness; The Safe-Deposit Box; Blood Sisters...And many more! Axiomatic is the perfect collection for any science fiction fan, especially one who enjoys Greg Egan's work. The stories are imaginative and insightful, and written only the way that Greg Egan can do so. Skyhorse Publishing, under our Night Shade and Talos imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of titles for readers interested in science fiction (space opera, time travel, hard SF, alien invasion, near-future dystopia), fantasy (grimdark, sword and sorcery, contemporary urban fantasy, steampunk, alternative history), and horror (zombies, vampires, and the occult and supernatural), and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a *New York Times* bestseller, a national bestseller, or a Hugo or Nebula award-winner, we are committed to publishing quality books from a diverse group of authors.

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## Customer Reviews

Axiomatic is a collection of Greg Egan's short stories that appeared in various science fiction magazines (mostly Interzone and Asimov's) between 1989 and 1992. Like most of Egan's work, the stories focus on science and ideas, sometimes at the expense of the writing. But although Egan may lack a certain stylistic flare, he more than makes up for it with his wonderful visions of the future. Some of the more interesting stories include "Into Darkness," the tale of a rescue worker whose territory is a runaway wormhole, and the title story "Axiomatic," which is about a man looking to find meaning in the senseless death of his wife. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From junkies who drink at the time-stream to love affairs in time-reversed galaxies; from gene-altered dolphins that converse only in limericks to the program that allows you to design your own child; from the brain implants called axiomatics to the strange attractors that spin off new religions, Greg Egan's future is frighteningly close to our own present. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Wow - If you like hard science fiction then you LOVE this book of short stories (novellas) by my new favorite SF writer. I read a lot of SF and this has to be one of the top 3 books of short stories I have ever read. There are ten outstanding stories but my very favorite was the last one entitled "Unstable Orbits in the Space of Lies". You will want to reread this one several times. Amazing stories with the most unusual thought provoking plots and totally unexpected endings. Bravo to the best author in Australia and one of the best on the planet. I am now ordering all the rest of the work done by Egan.

Probably the greatest collection of SF short stories getting around... at least that I've read. (If you know of better please tell me. I'd love to read them!) High concept ideas well executed that will stick in your brain and eat away at your thinking for years afterwards. Egan doesn't hold back on the technical aspects and for the uninitiated he may feel like he doesn't care to carry you along. But I think the reality is that he just expects you to think and to lift to the ideas being portrayed without being treated like a child. Ideas that speak to social, personal and technological issues. Ideas that start as a seed and are taken to an extreme so we can see what they might really mean when we

look closer.

Definitely mind bending stuff with a handful of unique themes spread across a larger amount of stories (I.e. Some themes repetitive across different narrative structures). Egan seems especially interested in exploring the blurry line of humanity when considering advances in genetics and biotechnology.

Written in 1995 by a computer programmer. The ideas haven't aged well, and the writing... well, there's a reason why everyone calls this "hard science fiction" and not "good writing".

I give this a 4.5 but doesn't allow the half star. This is a very good collection of short stories, with some very interesting ideas. There are a couple of really marvelous stories in this collection and I don't think there are any that are weak. This is my first exposure to this author and I will be reading more of his work.

I may be late coming to the Greg Egan brain, but I'm perfectly happy to be spinning in its gravitational field. It's rare to find an author with the implied authority to describe the technology and psychology of the currently impossible but now, because of his insight, highly likely futures. Only a few authors, most notably Jules Verne, conceive or even perceive future realities. I can only hope to live long enough, perhaps no longer than tomorrow, for his varied, exciting, and scary speculations to be reported in the news or traded on Wall Street.

The stories are short and to the point, speculating upon the potential implications and complications of future technologies. Some of the technologies are very bizarre and mind-bendingly creative, but Egan makes the effort lay out a scientifically plausible explanation. The nature of consciousness, free will, and identity are the primary themes, with some dabbling in genetic engineering, quantum physics, parallel universes, and the cause/effect nature of time. Fans of Egan will find several concepts in these stories that are more fully developed in his later novels.

The science can be a little confusing, but I am in awe of the simple ways in which Egan causes one to think deeply about matters ranging from biotechnology to religion, what they mean today, and what they might mean tomorrow.

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