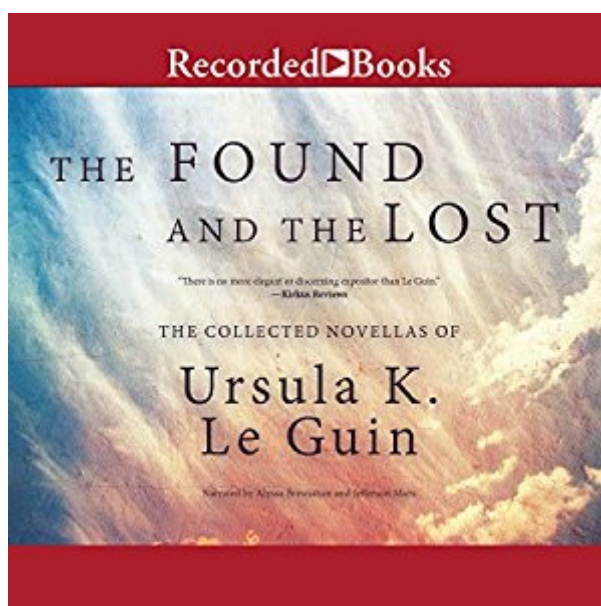


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The Found And The Lost: The Collected Novellas Of Ursula K. Le Guin



Synopsis

Every novella by Ursula K. Le Guin, an icon in American literature, collected for the first time - and introduced by the legendary author - in one breathtaking volume. Ursula K. Le Guin has won multiple prizes and accolades, from the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters to the Newbery Honor, Nebula, Hugo, World Fantasy, and PEN/Malamud awards. She has had her work collected over the years but never as a complete retrospective of her longer works, as represented in the wonderful *The Found and the Lost*. This collection is a literary treasure chest that belongs in every home library.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Overall a very good value (kindle edition) and the stories were all very good. Some overlap with the short story collection (*Buffalo Gals* and *The matter of Seggri*). There is a four story series on a slave holding planet and the revolutions that take place -- *Forgiveness Day*, *A Man of the People*, *A Woman's liberation*, and *Old Music and the Slave Woman* -- I recommend these be read in this order. Also the author seems to base the slave holding society on an English heritage model (UK, Canada, US, Australia etc). I am not sure her story would hold up in a more totalitarian model such as Mao's China or Stalin's Soviet Union. Never the less these are all very good stories that make you think. The other Novellas besides the six I mentioned already are *Vaster than Empires* and *More Slow*, *Hernes*, *Another Story* or *a Fisherman of the Inland Sea*, *The finder*, *On the High* *Paradises Lost*. These novellas introduce most of the concepts we see in Le Guin's other writings

and novels -- though these seem to fill in and not repeat what is in the novels. I think this would be a good introduction to the authors writing style and topics she covers. A major beef I have is that the author did not include any introduction or short summary about the stories. She did this for her recently released short story collection *The Unreal and the Real* which is also a great buy. All in all I highly recommend this novella collection.

This Thanksgiving I'd like to give thanks for the existence of one of the most wonderful women in Science Fiction. Ursula K. Le Guin. This collection of novellas is sure to blow your mind, over and over again. Everything Le Guin writes is amazing. These stories pack quite a punch. Every story is sure to send the reader into critical thinking mode, or hopeful thinking mode. This woman knows how to make you think, and it is evident that she has done a lot of deep thinking in her time. I especially enjoy her stories on alien civilizations and customs. She has gone to very far lengths to understand a civilization that only exists in her mind, it astounds me.

If you haven't read Ursula Le Guin... then stop reading this review and go get the very first book (any book of hers!) that you can get your hands on. Your welcome. If you have read Ursula Le Guin and are looking to add to your collection... Then this is a great collection. I will still be buying the little paperback first editions of her novellas when I can get my hands on them... But this is a great collection have around and pick up whenever I need a Le Guin fix. It is a big book. Lots of material - so it's a great price for the quantity of what you get. Unfortunately, nothing is really free... So it isn't the best paper or production quality. But still... I would definitely buy it again.

All kinds of difficult to find short stories presented in a consistent internal timeline.

This is a collection of novellas, so asking for a single word to describe plot and mood is not helpful. These are all novellas in the sense that the characters exhibit growth, but sometimes contain truths we don't want to know... like the facts that we're mortal and that many things are beyond our control. Some of the stories are uplifting and some aren't, but they are all complex and thought-provoking.

Ursula Le Guin, she's brilliant, and imaginative, and sensitive, and radical. Sometimes beautiful prose, always fast moving plots with fair amount of complexity, challenging our notions of ourselves as human, as gendered, as separate from nature. I've read about 1/4 of this collection, it's got a lot of material in it, and in that sense it's also a bargain!

Loved it!!! Kept me turning every page to see what character development would blend from one world to another. Fascinating!

For many years, I avoided Ursula LeGuin, on the mistaken assumption that she was essentially a fantasy author, by virtue of her Wizard of Earthsea novels. It was not until later that I discovered her science fiction work and grew to enjoy it immensely. But LeGuin is not your prototypical science fiction (or it turns out, fantasy) author. She does not write space opera, but instead focuses on character development and human (or alien) interaction. You could label her work anthropological or sociological science fiction, with the fact that aliens, or space travel, or wizards are involved, becoming almost secondary. This collection of thirteen novellas (very close to short stories) is a perfect example of her writing. There may have been a couple of duds (most particularly Hernes and to a lesser degree Buffalo Gals), but by and large there is good stuff here. Four of the stories involve elements of her Hainish science fiction novels, featuring the planet Weres, where slavery is practiced. In this set of three stories, the reader is taken through a planetary and societal evolution in which slaves are first freed, only to see the women become cultural slaves. Again, only nominally science fiction, to the extent that we are dealing with an alien species in a different time and galaxy. Three other stories are set in the author's Earthsea world, and while I am not a big fan of fantasy, like her science fiction, this fantasy is not heavy handed with extreme magic and fire breathing dragons. There is magic and there are dragons, but they are very subtly exercised or only mentioned in passing. The story is in the characters and their interaction. The final story, Paradise Lost, is the best in my opinion. Perhaps the most "science fiction" of the lot, it is set on a multi-generational, multi-ethnic starship as it approaches its destination. The story is outstanding as the author explores the various tensions and societal developments that can emerge in an isolated population, five generations removed from any knowledge or empathy for the civilization that launched their voyage; an excellent ending to a very nice collection.

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