



Impossible Things

By Connie Willis

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Winner of six Nebula and two Hugo awards for her fiction, Connie Willis is acclaimed for her gifted imagination and bold invention. Here are eleven of her finest stories, surprising tales in which the impossible becomes real, the real becomes impossible, and strangeness lurks at every turn.

The end of the world comes not with a bang but a series of whimpers over many years in "The Last of the Winnebagos."

The terror of pain and dying gives birth to a startling truth about the nature of the stars, a principle known as the "Schwarzschild Radius."

In "Spice Pogrom," an outrageous colony in outer space becomes the setting for a screwball comedy of bizarre complications, mistaken identities, far-too-friendly aliens--and even true love.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Willis (*Lincoln's Dreams*) demonstrates her sly wit and quirky perspective in this solid collection of 11 previously published science fiction pieces. Romance becomes entangled with interplanetary negotiations when a Navy linguist and the neglected fiancée of an officious NASA diplomat try to keep a visiting alien happy--even though language problems obscure whether the powers-that-be are arranging a space program or a spice pogrom. In a story that will look like SF only to readers who have steered clear of higher education lately, a consultant promoting "relevantness" and modern pedagogical theory nips at the heels of professors teaching paleontology at a state university. During the Battle of Britain, a Civil Defense worker gains a disturbing insight into himself and the war from a mysterious volunteer who has an uncanny ability to locate bombing victims buried under rubble. Willis's fondness for Shakespeare translates into two stories: one considers how much text would be left intact if all right-wing, left-wing and special-interest groups could delete the bits of which they do not approve; the other tackles the old conundrum, If Shakespeare wasn't Shakespeare, who was?

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From School Library Journal

YA?This must-have collection includes several of Willis's prize-winning (Hugo and Nebula) stories. Any library buffeted by the winds of censorship needs to include "Ado," a hilarious send-up in which the attempt to please everyone is carried to its logical extreme. "Spice Pogrom" makes it clear exactly how difficult real communication is, and "Schwarzschild Radius" is a fascinating whole-language addition to the physics curriculum. "Even the Queen," however, is the indispensable selection. The author's introductions to each piece are a lovely bonus.

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From Library Journal

Eleven short stories by one of sf's most exciting new voices explores topics that range from Shakespeare to feminism to quantum physics. Most of these stories have only seen magazine publication.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lydia Sanders:

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