



The Left Hand of Darkness

By Ursula K. Le Guin

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The Left Hand of Darkness By Ursula K. Le Guin

Ursula K. Le Guin's groundbreaking work of science fiction—winner of the Hugo and Nebula Awards.

A lone human ambassador is sent to Winter, an alien world without sexual prejudice, where the inhabitants can change their gender whenever they choose. His goal is to facilitate Winter's inclusion in a growing intergalactic civilization. But to do so he must bridge the gulf between his own views and those of the strange, intriguing culture he encounters...

Embracing the aspects of psychology, society, and human emotion on an alien world, *The Left Hand of Darkness* stands as a landmark achievement in the annals of intellectual science fiction.

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The Left Hand of Darkness By Ursula K. Le Guin Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Genly Ai is an emissary from the human galaxy to Winter, a lost, stray world. His mission is to bring the planet back into the fold of an evolving galactic civilization, but to do so he must bridge the gulf between his own culture and prejudices and those that he encounters. On a planet where people are of no gender--or both--this is a broad gulf indeed. The inventiveness and delicacy with which Le Guin portrays her alien world are not only unusual and inspiring, they are fundamental to almost all decent science fiction that has been written since. In fact, reading Le Guin again may cause the eye to narrow somewhat disapprovingly at the younger generation: what new ground are they breaking that is not already explored here with greater skill and acumen? It cannot be said, however, that this is a rollicking good story. Le Guin takes a lot of time to explore her characters, the world of her creation, and the philosophical themes that arise.

If there were a canon of classic science fiction, *The Left Hand of Darkness* would be included without debate. Certainly, no science fiction bookshelf may be said to be complete without it. But the real question: is it fun to read? It is science fiction of an earlier time, a time that has not worn particularly well in the genre. *The Left Hand of Darkness* was a groundbreaking book in 1969, a time when, like the rest of the arts, science fiction was awakening to new dimensions in both society and literature. But the first excursions out of the pulp tradition are sometimes difficult to reread with much enjoyment. Rereading *The Left Hand of Darkness*, decades after its publication, one feels that those who chose it for the Hugo and Nebula awards were right to do so, for it truly does stand out as one of the great books of that era. It is immensely rich in timeless wisdom and insight.

The Left Hand of Darkness is science fiction for the thinking reader, and should be read attentively in order to properly savor the depth of insight and the subtleties of plot and character. It is one of those pleasures that requires a little investment at the beginning, but pays back tenfold with the joy of raw imagination that resonates through the subsequent 30 years of science fiction storytelling. Not only is the bookshelf incomplete without owning it, so is the reader without having read it. --L. Blunt Jackson

Review

"[A] science fiction masterpiece."—*Newsweek*

"A jewel of a story."—Frank Herbert

"As profuse and original in invention as *The Lord of the Rings*."—Michael Moorcock

"An instant classic."—*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

"Like all great writers of fiction, Ursula K. Le Guin creates imaginary worlds that restore us, hearts eased, to our own."—*The Boston Globe*

"Stellar...A triumphant return to the magic-drenched world of Earthsea...Le Guin is still at the height of her powers, a superb stylist with a knack for creating characters who are both wise and deeply humane. A major event in fantasy literature."—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"Richly told...Le Guin hasn't lost her touch. She draws us into the magical land and its inhabitants' doings immediately."—*Booklist*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Novella Tinch:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They are reading whatever they consider because their hobby will be reading a book. Consider the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book after they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will want this The Left Hand of Darkness.

Ronnie Johnson:

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Michael Medellin:

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