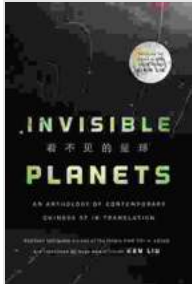


Invisible Planets: Exploring the Translated Landscape of Contemporary Chinese Science Fiction



Invisible Planets: Contemporary Chinese Science Fiction in Translation by Ken Liu

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1314 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 397 pages

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In a rapidly globalizing world, the exchange and translation of literature play a crucial role in bridging cultural divides and fostering mutual understanding. Science fiction, with its imaginative landscapes and explorations of future possibilities, is particularly well-suited to transcending cultural boundaries and sparking conversations about shared human experiences.

Invisible Planets: Contemporary Chinese Science Fiction in Translation, an groundbreaking anthology edited by Ken Liu, presents a diverse and captivating collection of stories from some of the most talented contemporary Chinese science fiction writers. Translated into English for the first time, these stories offer a unique window into the rich literary

landscape of China and shed light on the country's growing cultural and technological prowess.

Unveiling the Hidden Worlds

Through its diverse narratives, *Invisible Planets* showcases the breadth and innovation of Chinese science fiction. From dystopian visions of surveillance and control to utopian dreams of intergalactic exploration, this anthology covers a wide range of themes and styles, mirroring the complexity and vitality of Chinese society today.

The stories in this collection deftly explore pressing issues such as environmental degradation, gender equality, and the impact of technology on human lives. They grapple with the dualities of progress and tradition, human nature and artificial intelligence, and the ever-shifting boundaries between reality and imagination.

What makes this anthology particularly groundbreaking is its focus on female authors, who often face underrepresentation in the sci-fi genre. Writers like Xia Jia, Tang Fei, and Chen Qiufan bring their unique perspectives and experiences to bear, creating narratives that challenge societal norms and push the boundaries of speculative fiction.

Authors and Their Visions

Each author featured in *Invisible Planets* brings a distinct voice and vision to the collection. Ken Liu, himself an acclaimed Chinese-American author, has curated a diverse group of writers, ensuring that the anthology reflects the multifaceted nature of contemporary Chinese science fiction.

- **Hao Jingfang**, a Hugo Award-winning author, explores the intersection of technology and society in her story "Folding Beijing," where an ingenious solution to urban crowding creates unexpected consequences.
- **Liu Cixin**, known for his sprawling and ambitious "Three-Body Problem" trilogy, contributes "The Circle," a thought-provoking tale about the nature of reality and the limits of human understanding.
- **Xia Jia** delves into the realm of genetic engineering and ethical dilemmas in her story "A Thousand Generations," raising questions about the boundaries of human identity and the costs of scientific progress.
- **Tang Fei** weaves a complex and atmospheric narrative in "The Robot Who Loved Me," exploring the nature of love, memory, and the search for meaning in a rapidly changing world.
- **Chen Qiufan** challenges societal norms and the power dynamics between genders in her story "The Martian Child," showcasing the transformative power of imagination and the indomitable spirit of children.

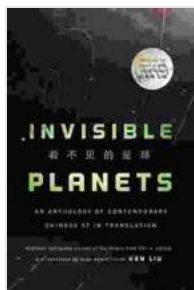
A Bridge Between Cultures

The translation of *Invisible Planets* into English opens up new avenues for cultural exchange and mutual understanding between China and the West. It allows global readers to engage with the diverse perspectives and imaginative worlds of Chinese science fiction writers, fostering a deeper appreciation for the richness and complexity of Chinese culture.

By presenting these stories to a wider audience, the anthology contributes to a more nuanced understanding of China's growing influence in the global literary landscape. It challenges stereotypes and misconceptions, promoting a dialogue between different cultures and fostering a sense of shared humanity through the universal language of storytelling.

Invisible Planets: Contemporary Chinese Science Fiction in Translation is a groundbreaking and essential anthology that offers a tantalizing glimpse into the vibrant and ever-evolving world of Chinese science fiction. Through its captivating stories, diverse voices, and profound themes, this collection invites readers to explore the hidden worlds of imagination, challenge conventional thinking, and embrace the transformative power of literature.

As we navigate the complexities of the 21st century, *Invisible Planets* reminds us of the importance of cultural exchange, empathy, and the boundless possibilities that lie ahead as we venture into the uncharted territories of human experience.

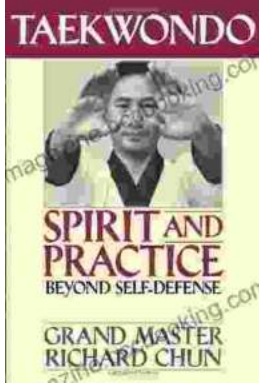


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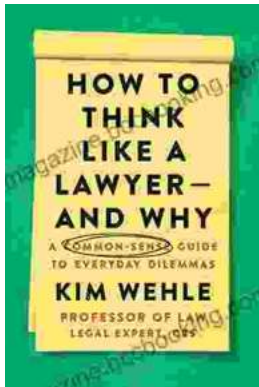
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