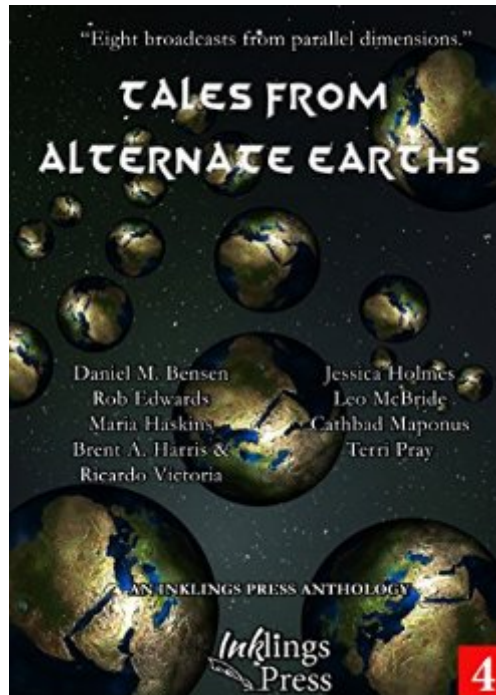


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Tales From Alternate Earths: Eight Broadcasts From Parallel Dimensions



Synopsis

Our world could have been so very different...Eight stories take us on a journey into how our world could have been. What if the nukes had flown that day over Cuba? What if Caesar had survived? Imagine the Tunguska meteor with a different outcome. What if there was a true story behind HG Wells' most famous tale? See the world as it might have been if China discovered the New World first. And what if all of this was never meant to be and dinosaurs ruled the Earth? Authors Jessica Holmes, Daniel M. Bensen, Terri Pray, Rob Edwards, Maria Haskins, Cathbad Maponus, Leo McBride, and collaborators Brent A. Harris and Ricardo Victoria show us the world that might have been - if the butterfly's wings had fluttered a different way, if the world changed between heartbeats, if a moment of decision saw another choice. This is the fourth anthology from Inklings Press, aiming to provide a platform for new and upcoming authors and to open the door onto different worlds.

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Customer Reviews

As a student of history, I've always been fascinated with great moments in time. Of course we can't change what happened but there's an entire branch of fiction dedicated to exploring the "what if's" of

history. Alternative history as a genre is often difficult to define and even harder to write. "Tales From Alternate Earths," the latest anthology from Inklings Press, presents eight tales of wonder and "what if's" that reach back to ancient Romans (and earlier) to events not far removed from our present. And the collection they've assembled does alternative history right. The collection starts with a fascinating tale from Jessica Holmes rewriting the events of Sept. 26th, 1983 when the Soviet early warning nuclear detection system incorrectly alerted that the US fired intercontinental ballistic missiles. She reimagines the events as if the Soviets believed the alert and the consequences of that action. Author Terri Pray follows with a detailed account of the last days of Julius Caesar, but not as we know it. It was so well written I forgot entirely about Caesar's true demise and found myself buying in to her retelling. From there the collection reimagines Earth as ruled by dinosaurs from the imaginative story "Twilight of the Mesozoic Moon" from Brent Harris and Ricardo Victoria. Nuclear war and the rise of JFK to presumed world leader in the story "One World" by Cathbad Maponus is an intriguing take on a very well known figure. Rob Edwards takes a real event, the meteorite that struck a remote Russian forest, and places it in another setting in urban London in his tale "Stargazing on Oxford Street."

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. Warning: Mild spoilers included in the review. I normally don't like anthologies and tend to avoid short stories. With that said, I loved this book. Tales from Alternate Earths addresses many of my daydreams. Time travel, slight changes that affect big outcomes, and what if possibilities abound. At the same time, you get the feeling you could turn a corner or wake up from a nap and the bent timelines would be real. As Brent A. Harris so deftly stated it, "The idea of alternate history is to create a world that's no matter how different is also just similar enough that there's this kinda creepy reflection of our own world, which hopefully provides the reader a new perspective." This book is full of tales that have that "creepy reflection of our own world" feeling. September 26th, 1983 by Jessica Holmes was well chosen as the opening short story. I will freely admit that I am not as well informed on either current world events or historical events as I should be. I was busy with my small life in 1983 and never heard of Stanislav Petrov. Despite not knowing the original history, this alternate version was so well written and compelling that it kept me glued to the page until the masterful twist at the end. What if the button had been pushed? After reading this story, I was eager to dive into the next one. One More Dawn by Terry Pray was a complete contrast in style and setting. The story opens with the knowledge that someone has come to the end of their life, yet the emotional impact is softened for the reader by descriptions of the lavish, luxury of the surroundings. Very soon I realized this story

was an alternative of ancient history in Egypt.

Some of you may not know this, but one of the most fascinating scientific theories I've ever found in life has been the theory of alternate realities. The theory that our world is one of an infinite amount of realities, with each reality similar in all but one way, is one of the most incredible and interesting scientific theories in the world, and I love anything that revolves around this subject. So I jumped at the opportunity to review a brand new anthology from Inklings Press, called "Tales From Alternate Earths". Released a couple of days ago, the anthology covers tales of various alternate histories and worlds, some that emerged from a small change to our history, and some from a massive change. Tales of horror, science fiction and thrillers make up the heart of this anthology, showcasing our world from various different viewpoints. The incredible authors in this anthology include Jessica Holmes, Daniel M. Bensen, Terri Pray, Rob Edwards, Maria Haskins, Cathbad Maponus, Leo McBride, and collaborators Brent A. Harris and Ricardo Victoria. The stories range from political upheaval in the form of a President Kennedy who was never assassinated and a Cuban Missile Crisis that hadn't been diffused, but rather the nukes had flown. Tales of ancient rulers living past their time or the dinosaurs having never gone extinct and becoming the dominant species on Earth. The most fascinating thing about these altered histories however is just the sheer amount of knowledge one gains from reading these stories.

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