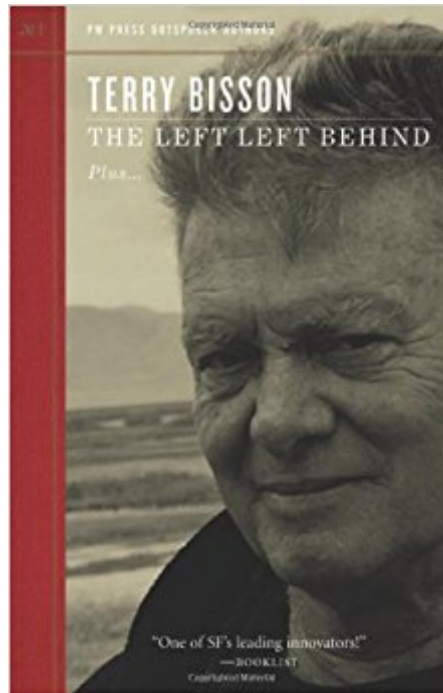




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The Left Left Behind (Outspoken Authors)



Synopsis

Sardonic and merciless, this satire of the entire apocalyptic enterprise provides a humorous and timely interpretation of the bestselling Left Behind series; the adventures of those "left behind" to battle the Anti-Christ after all Born-Again Christians have ascended into heaven. From predatory preachers and goth lingerie to Indian casinos and art cars at Burning Man, this religious spoof deftly pairs the personal with the fictional. Featuring an extensive author interview and biography, this contemporary parody also includes the unique one-act drama, Special Relativity, which asks the question: When Paul Robeson, J. Edgar Hoover, and Albert Einstein are raised from the dead at an anti-Bush rally, which one wears the dress?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Terry Bisson is the host of the popular reading series SF in SF, the editor of the Outspoken Authors pocketbook series, and a recipient of the Hugo and Nebula awards. He is the author of Crossfire, The Fifth Element, Greetings, Numbers Don't Lie, and Star Wars. He lives in San Francisco.

The Left Left Behind is a parody of the Left Behind series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins--stories based on a Christian belief in a future event called the Rapture. Terry Bisson's humorous story has Christians in authoritarian positions disappearing (presumably going to heaven) and leaving behind

liberals, socialists, and litterbugs, rather similar to LaHaye and Jenkin's Left Behind book. The difference is Bisson finds this premise ridiculous and plays with it while LaHaye and Jenkins take it seriously. In writing this review I wanted to congratulate Bisson on a his hilarious parody but I realized that what made me think this way was largely my low regard for the Left Behind series. So, I looked for what it was about the series that made me dislike it. In a delightful coincidence, I had read J.R.R. Tolkien's essay On Fairy Stories about the same time I read Bisson's parody. Much like the Lord of the Rings trilogy, LaHaye and Jenkin's series is fantasy. Granted, many Christians would argue the Rapture is real, but their support lies in their willingness to ignore reality, suspend disbelief, and have faith in a future supernatural event that is physically impossible. I'd say that is fantasy. Tolkien addressed the willingness to suspend disbelief and described it as a prerequisite to enjoying fairy tales. An author, he claimed, must create for his readers a secondary world, outside their primary world (reality), where the audience can willingly suspend disbelief and accept as true impossibilities like: elves, goblins, hobbits, magic, wizards, and supernatural events. A good fantasy writer works very hard to create a credible secondary world for his or her readers in which these creatures and events can plausibly exist. LaHaye and Jenkins, however, skipped this creative step. They expect their readers to already believe in the Rapture premise, their secondary world. In essence, they use religious dogma in place of hard work, creativity, and talent. It is this cheap trick that The Left Left Behind book so rightly exposes and makes fun of. I applaud Bisson for his parody. It was needed. Z is for Xenophobe (The Bob Putnam series)

Very thin, two feeble short stories and a thin biography that may have been suitable for a Sun supplement for a small fishing village, plus several pages of ads for other no doubt feeble books. Terry Bisson is a great writer, but he's not terribly prolific, not like Sheckley or Dick. It's hard to imagine how Bisson can feed his cats on the little writing he does.

The two fiction pieces in this book are each pretty cute, and mildly entertaining. Both have the feel, however, of a cute idea that didn't quite warrant the length they were given. For short works by Bisson that are tighter and better paced, I recommend the 'Bears Discover Fire' collection instead.

If you can't take "The Rapture" seriously, then you'll enjoy this book because it doesn't either. An added plus a of a short play makes this a real fun book to read.

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The Left Left Behind (Outspoken Authors) Left Behind (Left Behind (Recorded Books Audio))

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