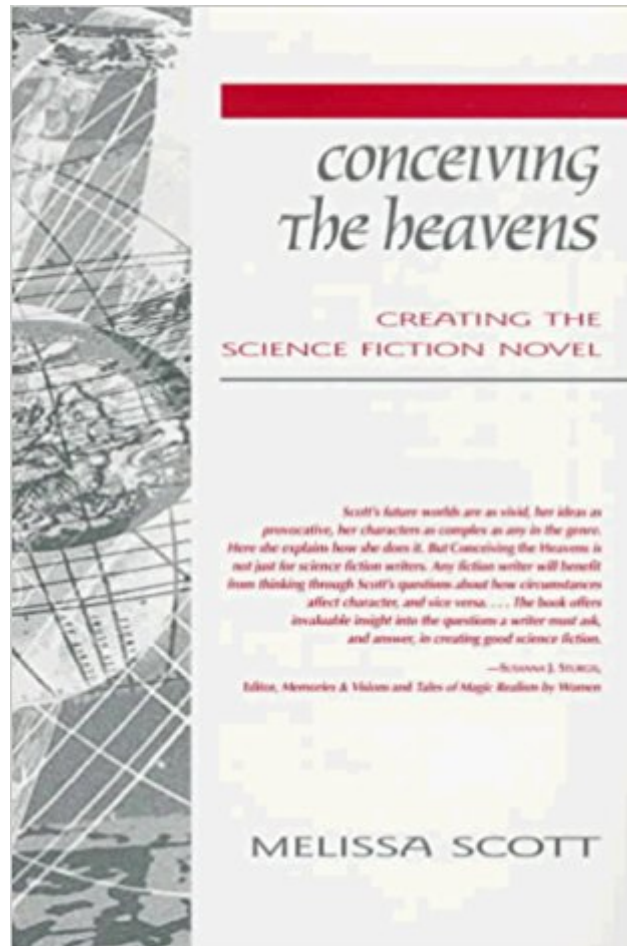


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Conceiving The Heavens: Creating The Science Fiction Novel



Synopsis

One of the field's most celebrated authors shares successful tips and techniques to help would-be science fiction writers turn their own ideas into imaginative stories.

Book Information

Paperback: 198 pages

Publisher: Heinemann Drama; First Edition edition (August 26, 1997)

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (3 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Melissa Scott starts the book off with "A brief defense of science fiction, or why does someone who went to Harvard write this stuff anyway?" - and the book takes off. Even though the book is less than 200 pages long she covers important points of world building, characters, research, ideas and provides suggestions for getting published.

This book has some good suggestions, prompts, and challenges, but it felt a lot longer than it needed to be. It's well-written, but it's out of date with some of the suggestions as the industry has moved on. The best parts, of course, were the sci-fi-building bits. The most helpful chapter covered character. Bottom line: check out the following free list instead of purchasing the book:

<http://www.sfga.org/2009/08/fantasy-worldbuilding-questions/>

I've been a fan of Melissa Scott's fiction for many years and recently found a copy of her book about how to create a Science Fiction novel. I wish more SF authors would follow her advice. She is clear and concise about how to edit down your manuscript and decide how much detail to leave in. If you want to write a novel that I would buy, mine this book for technique. A good SF novel is more than a

great idea that you've had while talking to your friends. :) Or you could just follow Harlan Ellison's comment "A writer is someone who writes"

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