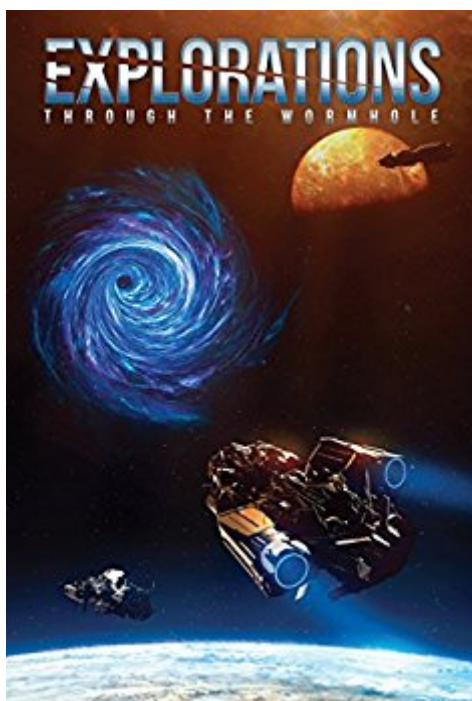


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Explorations: Through The Wormhole



Synopsis

It's 2052 and the first known wormhole appears in lunar orbit. Earth sends a ship to investigate and the future of space travel changes forever. The Solar System develops in many ways over the centuries, but one thing remains constant; the wormholes continue to appear. Join many of today's most exciting indie science fiction authors as they chart a shared universe and future-history, each telling us stories of:

Explorations: Through the Wormhole - Ralph Kern
Through Glassy Eyes - PP Corcoran
Here, Then, Forever - Chris Guillory
AI Deniers - Rosie Oliver
Flawed Perspective - PJ Strebor
The Lost Colony - Josh Hayes
The Aeon Incident - Richard Fox
The Doors of the Temple - Jo Zebedee
Dead Weight - Thaddeus White
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When the Skies Open - Shellie Horst
A Second Infection - Stephen Palmer
Personal Growth - Stephen Moss

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Customer Reviews

Most anthologies of shorts are, by definition, a mixed bag, and the subjectivity of the reader is

forced not merely to interpret one author's work, but at least a dozen of them. With that in mind, one has to be both trepidatious and generous when approaching an anthology. A bad story is no reason to put down the whole book, for a gem may be hiding amid the rough prose. Happily, *Explorations 1: Wormholes* is light on the rough and dispenses more than its fair share of gems, and a couple of startling diamonds when you least expect it. The stories of *Explorations* take place in a shared universe, though it often is light on the shared but heavy on the universe. The stories don't feel as tightly-wound together as, say, the stories from Woodbridge's earlier anthology, *The Haunting Of Lake Manor Hotel*, where the stories took place in the same building; in *Explorations*, they take place in the same, er, cosmos. So there's less scope for overlap, but perhaps greater scope for ambition. *Explorations* opens with *The Challenge*, by Ralph Kern, who also acts as the anthology's co-editor. It's a steady if unexplosive start, providing thematic exposition and a hint at the dichotomy of the wormhole's nature as a device of hope versus doom, and, in a quantum twist, often both simultaneously. While it doesn't offer any thrills or spills, it does strap us in for the ride. It takes a little while for *Explorations* to hit its stride. The shared universe aspects of *Through Glassy Eyes* (PP Corcoran) seem a little detached from the rest of the book thematically, while the language and mood of *AI Deniers* (Rosie Oliver) veered from faux-comedic at the beginning to stylized noir toward the end, leaving a sense of inconsistency.

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