

THE BEST AUSTRALIAN  
SCIENCE  
FICTION  
WRITING

---

A FIFTY YEAR COLLECTION

---

EDITED BY ROB / GERRAND

# CONTENTS

*Australian Science Fiction: A Feast of Wonder*

Russell Blackford xiii

INFANT PRODIGY

**Frank Bryning** 1

THE CAGE

**A. Bertram Chandler** 12

DEBT OF LASSOR

**Norma Hemming** 23

THE DOORWAY

**Wynne N. Whiteford** 38

PARKY

**David Rome** (David Boutland) 55

ALL LACED UP

**George Whitley** (A. Bertram Chandler) 62

THE CASE OF THE PERJURED PLANET

**Martin Loran** (John Baxter and Ron Smith) 73

THERE IS A CROOKED MAN

**Jack Wodhams** 115

THE FINAL WEAPON

**Damien Broderick** 166

DANCING GERONTIUS

**Lee Harding** 178

THE MAN OF SLOW FEELING

**Michael Wilding** 192

RE-DEEM THE TIME

**David Lake** 198

IN A PETRI DISH UPSTAIRS

**George Turner** 211

THE CHANCE

**Peter Carey** 239

THE PARADIGM

**Randal Flynn** 269

INHABITING THE INTERSPACES

**Philippa Maddern** 299

ODD MAN SEARCH

**Cherry Wilder** 313

THE GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

**Paul Collins** 326

THE TOTAL DEVOTION MACHINE

**Rosaleen Love** 335

THE CARESS

**Greg Egan** 342

RED OCHRE

**Lucy Sussex** 366

THE SOAP BUBBLE

**Sean Williams** 384

ANGEL THING

**Petrina Smith** 420

THE SWORD OF GOD

**Russell Blackford** 434

NIAGARA FALLING

**Janeen Webb and Jack Dann** 452

A WALK-ON PART IN THE WAR

**Stephen Dedman** 475

HE TRIED TO CATCH THE LIGHT

**Terry Dowling** 484

THE BOY WHO DIDN'T YEARN

**Margo Lanagan** 505

THE DIAMOND PIT

**Jack Dann** 517

TOWER OF WINGS

**Sean McMullen** 580

*Notes on Contributors* 607

*Sources* 614