

The Deathbird Other Stories: The Voice from the Edge, Volume 4

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Volume 4
YF-78630
USmix/Data/US-2011
5/5 From 518 Reviews
Harlan Ellison
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11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. when dealing with the gods...By Lindsey B. Goddard I enjoy reading Harlan Ellison. This three star review is aimed strictly at the collection "Deathbird Stories", and not directed at the author himself, as I will continue to read Ellison in the future. "Deathbird Stories" simply didn't do it for me. It was hit and miss. Half the stories moved me, inspired me, and the other half fell flat. Take, for instance, "Shattered Like A Glass Goblin". I can only assume this story was a response to the time period in which it was written, when many American youths were lost in a haze of drugs. Ellison paints a picture of the dangers of drug dependency, and although I can respect the moral, this story was lacking something, in my opinion. I need characters who develop alongside a thickening plot, and this tale is little more than a downward spiral into the hallucinations of a drug-addled mind. Good imagery, but no real structure. "At The Mouse Circus" and "The Place With No Name" are in the same vein as far as losing me. Lots of far-fetched, otherworldly gobbledegook. "At The Mouse Circus" had great visuals, but it was rather confusing. I couldn't tell you the actual point of the story. If anyone knows, please message me! "The Place With No Name" follows a down-on-his-luck pimp who is offered an escape from a police manhunt by entering another world. From there I got lost. I can understand why so many people put Harlan Ellison on a pedestal. It is a throne he rightfully earned through diligence and honing his craft over the years. The stories that were good were extremely engaging. Among them were: "The Whimper Of Dogs", "Along The Scenic Route", "Basilisk", "Pretty Maggie Money Eyes", "The Face Of Helene Bournouw", and "Bleeding Stones". I must say it brought a smile to my face to see Ellison do horror so well in the aforementioned "Bleeding Stones". The story was brutal and dark. Many kudos. The longer stories at the end of this book are worth a read, too, although very strange, as tends to be the case in this collection. All in all I give "Deathbird Stories" three stars. I enjoyed most of it, though there were stories that made me scratch my head as to why this book receives raving reviews. Maybe it's just me. Maybe the theme of gods and goddesses is lost on me because I prefer more boundaries in the fiction I read. It seems like anything goes when you're dealing with gods, afterlives, and dreams. This could be the same reason I gave three stars to Neil Giaman's "American Gods"; when all my peers were so impressed by it. The writing is good, the talent is