

Stories of Your Life

By Ted Chiang

Science Fiction short stories where people and culture make up the variant, not some scientific development. One of the most unusual Science Fiction volumes I have ever read

Tower of Babylon:

The tower reaches to the sky, then through the sky into the earth beneath your feet. The circular nature of infinity.

Understand:

As you approach using the full power of your mind there are still differences between what you do with your knowledge.

Division by Zero:

If you build your life on the absolute order of mathematics, but then you prove the underpinning of your beliefs is false, what then is your life but Hell.

Story of Your Life:

A life story told in a disconnected timescape, where the future can be known and appreciated/feared as part of the process. Looking back is looking forward for a younger self.

Seventy-Two Letters:

Taking the story of golems to an extreme science - humanoid robots with names - and combining them with the concept of organisms existing fully formed in the germ cells of their parents.

The Evolution of Human Science:

As superhuman intelligence replaces human intelligence, there may be fewer and fewer parents who opt into this intelligence for their children. The children become almost non-human, and are therefore not desired by the parents.

Hell Is the Absence of God:

Angels as a phenomena of terrifying power, whose visitations resembled natural disasters and impacted the devout and innocent suffering alike. Virtue isn't always rewarded, nor evil always punished.

Liking What You See: A Documentary

We are a species focused on beauty as a singular asset. How would the removal of this asset in human affairs be accepted by the general culture - specifically by marketing and advertising?