



21ST  
CENTURY  
PULPS

A PULP FICTION ANTHOLOGY



COMPILED BY SCOTT A. MEEHAN  
A MULTI-AUTHOR ANTHOLOGY

21ST  
CENTURY  
PULPS

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## Baseball Cards

# Foreword

by Lisa Orban

I was 10 years old before I learned to read. Not because I was slow or because the school I went to was poor, but because I am dyslexic. It wasn't something schools tested for when I was young, and for years I struggled to make sense of the ever-moving and flowing symbols in front of me that refused to settle down and speak to me in any coherent way.

But then one day, after years of frustration and failure, there was an almost audible click inside my head and all those indecipherable symbols suddenly became words and whole new worlds opened to me. I devoured everything in an insatiable voracious hunger, from shampoo bottles to the books on my mother's nightstand, I read everything I could get my hands on.

Four years later, wandering around a bookstore while visiting my grandmother, I saw a title that grabbed my attention, and I had no idea how much this one book would change me when I picked it up. The book was *Friday* by Robert A. Heinlein. I fell in love with science fiction that day, and I fell hard. I read *Friday* in one big gulp, and then went back and bought everything else in the bookstore with his name in it, and finished all of those in a single week.

When I ran out of Heinlein books, I went to my local library and asked the librarian to help me find more books like these and she introduced me to Asimov, Clark, Bradbury, Wells, Herbert and more. I spent my summer inhaling every science fiction writer I could find, barely coming up for air in between books. And I've never stopped.

Thousands of books and 40 years later my love is as bright as it was when I picked up my first science fiction book. I carry inside me the echos of all of those possible futures, the voices of those authors guiding me still with their words of warning and wisdom undiminished by time.

More than anything else, Science Fiction (for me) and other genres of fiction, give people a chance to explore new technology as well as their moral and ethical implications, before they become reality. They give humanity time to ponder the consequences of our current and future actions, asking us to think not only of can we, but should we and what may become of us if we do. It attempts to part the veil of time to offer us future histories of what could be and what may be, often given in equal parts, dire warning and eternal hope that we will choose the right path for ourselves.

It is said that the golden age is past us, and we live in lesser times for science fiction, but I disagree. The grand-masters of old may now be gone, but new authors are stepping up to fill their shoes to once again offer another generation of readers new future histories of their own in 21st Century Pulp.

In a nod back to all those great fiction anthologies of the past, Indies United is pleased to present you authors from all over the world who have come together in this collection to give you their vision of the future. So, step out of the ordinary and into the extraordinary with these twenty-three short stories and poetry of the present time and for the future.

**TURN THE  
PAGE  
TO ENTER  
NEW  
WORLDS**