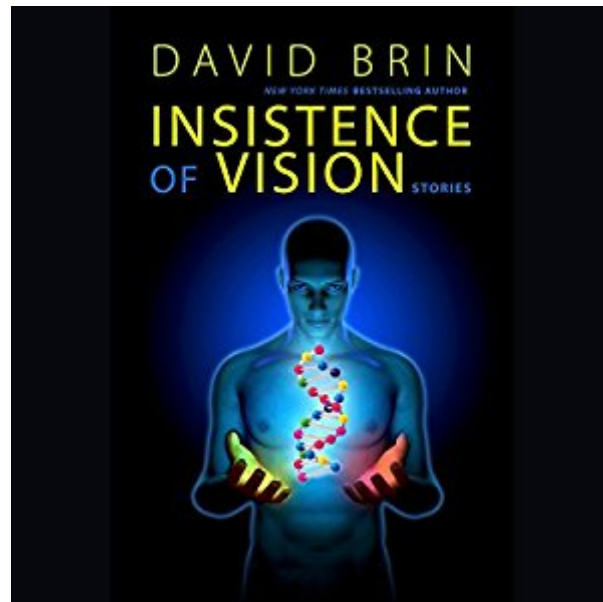


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# Insistence Of Vision



## Synopsis

What may we become? How will we endure? The future is a daunting realm, filled with real and imagined perils. So enter it prepared! Here are vivid tales about possible tomorrows, from the keen eye and colorful pen of David Brin, a modern master of speculative fiction. Visit a chillingly plausible tomorrow, when prisoners may be sent to asteroidal gulags. Or might prisons vanish and felons roam, seeing only what society allows? Suppose, amid lavish success, we gain the superpower to fly! Will we even appreciate it, or will we find new reasons to complain? In "Mars Opposition", you'll experience an alien invasion like no other, confronting humanity with a stark and terrible choice; followed by several more tales of conquest from beyond, each of them wildly different. On the other hand, might fantastically potent new beings emerge out of ourselves, as revealed in "Chrysalis"? Featuring guest appearances by Gregory Benford, Jules Verne, and Galileo, this adventure takes you beyond the very singularity in "Stones of Significance", pondering what could happen after humans are like gods. And "Reality Check" asks one of you listeners - just one of you - to wake up! Tomorrow awaits. We can face it and prevail. So long as our stance is brave Insistence of Vision.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

While David Brin has not been a prolific novelist lately, with only two novels this century, he has continued to write short stories. *Insistence of Vision* collects some of his recent stories into a volume grouped thematically with illuminating afterwords. The stories are excellent examples of hard science fiction and sufficiently varied to keep the book interesting. The book opens with an

introduction by Vernor Vinge and an essay, "The Heresy of Science Fiction" in which Brin tries to define science fiction. He contrasts science fiction as thought experiments about change with fantasies in which lords, priests, and wizards continue to rule. The book ends with another essay "Waging War with Reality" on logic and imagination. The essays are very thought-provoking about science fiction, science, and the universe. Overall Brin is strongest in creating intriguing situations and working philosophical ideas into his plots. He writes idea driven science fiction with mostly straightforward prose. Nearly all of the stories have little characterization beyond what is needed for the plot. Brin's writing comes from his head, not his heart. I really liked the Uplift novella, "Temptation", about the dolphins left behind when Streak left Jijo in Heaven's Reach. Both Makanee, the caregiver for the dolphins losing their sapience, and Peepoe, a captive of dolphins reverting to primitive behaviors, are well-drawn characters. The title story, is an interesting story on how technology affects crime, punishment, and what we choose to see and un-see. "Stones of Significance" considers the nature of reality with a first person narrator asked to stop a political movement to give simulated beings (created from fiction) civil rights. The narration is unusual as it is filled with comments from different parts of his brain. In "Mars Opposition", Martians come to Earth to murder Bill Nye, Joe Haldeman, and others on a list. This is a puzzle story that turns into an examination of pragmatism. "A Professor at Harvard" presents an alternate history of how one man in the 1600s led to a more scientifically advanced world. Readers who like traditional hard science fiction, who enjoy Analog magazine, and who like stories that make the reader think will enjoy *Insistence of Vision*.

I just love David Brin. He constantly surprises me. He takes some interesting concept/idea and and stretched into something new. And he does with emotion, humor, wisdom that makes me smile and engages my brain. Kudos to David!

Many of these I had read before. I was hoping for more new stories! But overall a pretty good read

David Brin at his imaginative best, in his best format - the short, well thought story.

One wonders whether the ideas here could be presented as essays or through a "story" format. The issue in either case is to edit for clarity in the former and to maintain momentum in the latter. Brin's ideas here are worth the effort to understand but Brin seems to want to make sure the reader understands in a story where close reading as of an essay may not be exercised.

Thought provoking as always, this series of stories is a collection of themes and perspectives that startle and amuze. The cherry on top is the uplift side story.

I confess, I haven't read it yet. I bought it and gave it a "Great" because I like David Brin, a man who sees the stars from the trenches.

Great read. I have read a few of these stories before but enjoyed revisiting. Big treat was a short from the Uplift Series.

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