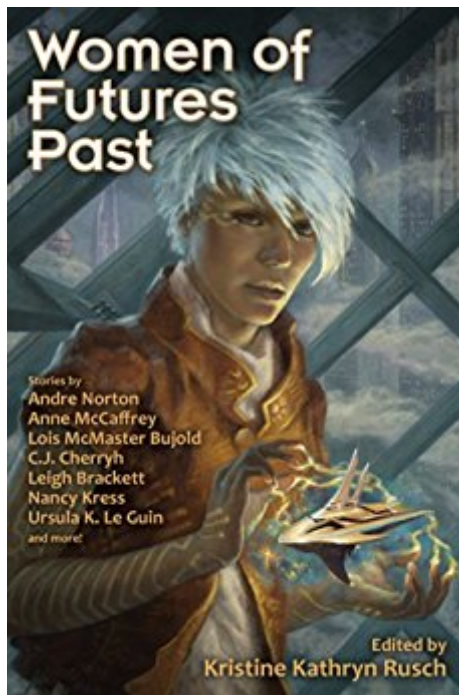


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# Women Of Futures Past: Classic Stories



## Synopsis

Meet the Women of Futures Past: from Grand Master Andre Norton and the beloved Anne McCaffrey to some of the most popular SF writers today, such as Lois McMaster Bujold and CJ Cherryh. The most influential writers of multiple generations are found in these pages, delivering lost classics and foundational touchstones that shaped the field. You'll find Northwest Smith, C.L. Moore's famous smuggler who predates (and maybe inspired) Han Solo by four decades. Read Leigh Brackett's fiction and see why George Lucas chose her to write *The Empire Strikes Back*. Adventure tales, post-apocalyptic visions, space opera, aliens-among-us, time travel—these women have delivered all this and more, some of the best science fiction ever written! Includes stories by Leigh Brackett, Lois McMaster Bujold, Pat Cadigan, CJ Cherryh, Zenna Henderson, Nancy Kress, Ursula K. Le Guin, Anne McCaffrey, C.L. Moore, Andre Norton, James Tiptree, Jr., and Connie Willis. At the publisher's request, this title is sold without DRM (Digital Rights Management). Kristine Kathryn Rusch is an internationally best-selling author and award winning editor. She won a Hugo as editor of *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, and was the first female editor in that magazine's storied history. Along with husband Dean Wesley Smith, Kris is series editor for the bimonthly anthology magazine, *Fiction River*. As an author, she is the recipient of the Anlab, the *Analog Magazine* reader award for best science fiction short story of the year, and she is a two-time Shamus award finalist in the mystery field. Kris is the author of the *Anniversary Day Saga*, a mini-series inside the larger *Retrieval Artist* series, and under Kristine Grayson, she's the author of three novels in her *Interim Fates* series. Kris also writes a weekly blog about the state of the publishing industry, [kriswrites.com](http://kriswrites.com). Her blog entries are also collected in several volumes of *The Write Attitude*. She's the author of *Discoverability*, a go-to book for writers on marketing their work, and *Freelancer's Survival Guide*, considered a bible for freelance writers of all stripes.

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## Customer Reviews

An essay in Cirsova issue #2 convinced me to pick up *Women of Futures Past*. And, oh, how I am glad I did. I hadn't read any of the twelve authors she features. I hadn't even heard of several. Six of the twelve stories are Vintage SF by my own arbitrary measure, and two more published in 1982 skirt the edge. All three of the Big 3 female pulp masters are featured. It's hard to imagine who belongs here instead. Octavia Butler? She is the one Rusch wanted, and couldn't get, about which she is quite open. Francis Stevens? Jo Walton? Joanna Russ (good riddance)? Margaret Atwood? In my review of Rusch's essay, I mentioned young female writers erasing or ignoring their forebears' contributions. There is a danger to that. Rusch puts stories by Leigh Brackett, Andre Norton, and Lois McMaster Bujold in that order because Norton cited Brackett as a major influence, and Bujold Norton. Any young female writers—hell, any writers—who ignore the writers in this anthology do their craft a disservice. Rusch takes pains to point out women have always been writing science fiction, and doing so with enormous success. That includes awards, which Rusch returns to with each story introduction. But women haven't found the same success in anthologies. Rusch fingers bias, if only unconscious. Sure, but why is that bias stronger in pulling together anthologies than in accepting stories in the first place or in giving awards? Rusch hints at a couple other possibilities. One may be a bias toward hard science fiction, which skews heavily toward men in writer and reader for the same reasons the STEM fields do. The other is the tendency to ghettoize speculative fiction by women into feminist anthologies.

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