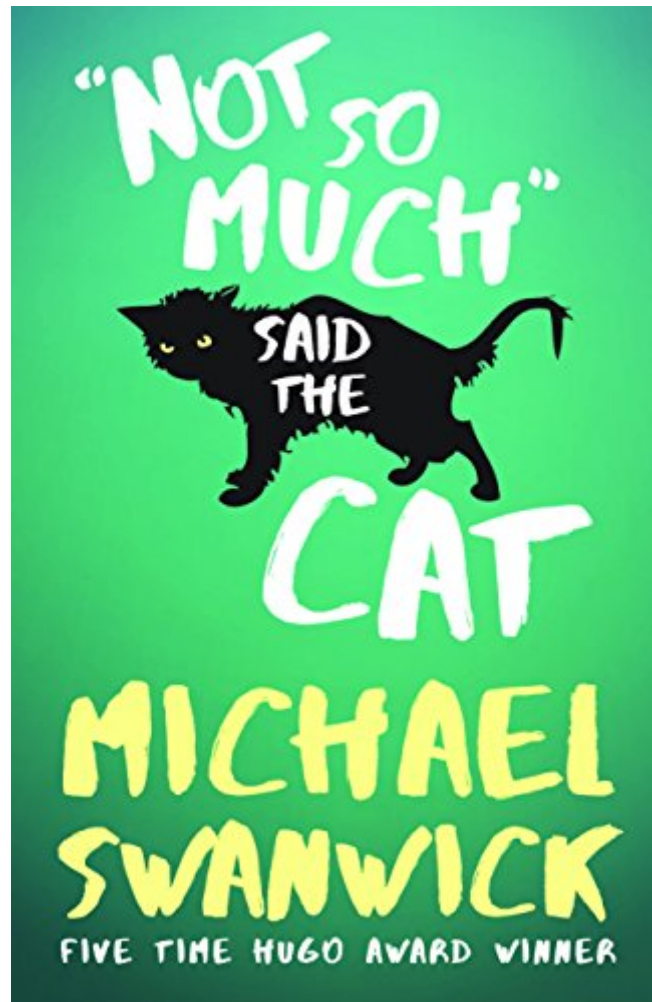


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# Not So Much, Said The Cat



## Synopsis

The master of literary science fiction returns with this dazzling new collection. Michael Swanwick takes us on a whirlwind journey across the globe and across time and space, where magic and science exist in possibilities that are not of this world. These tales are intimate in their telling, galactic in their scope, and delightfully sesquipedalian in their verbiage. Join the caravan through Swanwick's worlds and into the playground of his mind. Travel from Norway to Russia and America to Gehenna. Discover a calculus problem that rocks the ages and robots who both nurture and kill. Meet a magical horse who protects the innocent, a semi-repentant troll, a savvy teenager who takes on the Devil, and time travelers from the Mesozoic who party till the end of time...

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Collected stories, from 2008 to 2014. They're all good, all different, all | Amazing! Fantastic! Astounding! Comments on individual stories follow. If you somehow missed • From Babel's Fall'n Glory We Fled • STOP RIGHT NOW and go read it! (link below). By far the best in the book, in my pointy-head Space Cadet opinion | • Introduction: • Where I am now, I think • Original

essay, and one of the high-points, for me. • [The Man in Grey](#) • (2011, Eclipse 4). All the world's a stage. POV of a stage-hand. • [The Dala Horse](#) • (2011, tor.com) • novelette. Russian-themed science-fantasy. Check out the great Julie Dillon art at the link:(see first comment, per house rules) • [The Scarecrow's Boy](#) • (2008, F&SF) . Housebot and carbot to the rescue! • [Passage of Earth](#) • (2014, Clarkeworld). • [The Agency needs you to perform an autopsy](#) • lck. (Link below) • [3 A.M. in the Mesozoic Bar](#) • (2014, Far Voyager) . • [Chicxulub falls at Dawn](#)! • [Of Finest Scarlet Was Her Gown](#) • (2014, Asimovs) • novelette. Beelzebub, the Cover Cat from Hell. • [The Woman Who Shook the World-Tree](#) • (2012, tor.com) . Love over Science, and a BIG bang. One of 5 stories based on an intriguing painting by John Jude Palencar: (Link below) • [Goblin Lake](#) • (2010, STORIES anthology). An oddball historical fantasy. Didn't work well for me. • "From Babel's Fall'n Glory We Fled ..." • (2008, Asimovs). A great story, one of his best short space-operas. • [Hello. I'm Rosamund. I'm Dead](#) • (Link below) • [For I Have Lain Me Down on the Stone of Loneliness and I'll Not Be Back Again](#) • (2011, Asimovs). Future terrorism, Irish style, with a sexy master (mistress?)-mind. Why oh why didn't this story win a major award?

It was the last day of Sasquan, last year's WorldCon, when I wandered, mostly intentionally, into Michael Swanwick's reading. Swanwick is an author I first read back in 1998 when I read his Hugo nominated novel JACK FAUST. I didn't read him again until 2002's BONES OF THE EARTH. I remember enjoying both books, enough to want to read more. I'd bought STATIONS OF THE TIDE from the Science Fiction Book Club back when they'd offered it, but I never got around to reading it. So the two aforementioned novels were my only experience with Swanwick. I knew he was well-respected in the field, with 5 Hugo awards, a Nebula (for STATIONS OF THE TIDE), a Sturgeon award as well as a World Fantasy award. Again, it being the last day of the convention, I felt the reading would be a rather relaxed and informal affair, and it was. Swanwick read from his then forthcoming Darger and Surplus novel, CHASING THE PHOENIX. It was a pleasant reading, and I enjoyed what I'd heard. And then, for some reason, Swanwick floated out of my awareness. Until I was presented with an opportunity to read an advance copy of his latest short story collection, "Not So Much, Said the Cat". The book contains short fiction originally published between 2008 and 2014. Every story in this collection is a gem - well written (I think that probably goes without saying), engaging, and enchanting. Most readers will find something they like here, whether it be science fiction, fantasy, or a little bit of both in the same story. Favorites? There were many. "3 A.M. in the Mesozoic Bar" is a tale of explores who have gone back in time to when the

dinosaurs were destroyed, with those explorers having their last drinks because they had no way home.

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