



Three Moments of an Explosion: Stories

China Miéville

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NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY *The Washington Post* • NPR • *The Guardian* • *Kirkus Reviews* • The fiction of multiple award-winning author China Miéville is powered by intelligence and imagination. Like George Saunders, Karen Russell, and David Mitchell, he pulls from a variety of genres with equal facility, employing the fantastic not to escape from reality but instead to interrogate it in provocative, unexpected ways.

London awakes one morning to find itself besieged by a sky full of floating icebergs. Destroyed oil rigs, mysteriously reborn, clamber from the sea and onto the land, driven by an obscure but violent purpose. An anatomy student cuts open a cadaver to discover impossibly intricate designs carved into a corpse's bones—designs clearly present from birth, bearing mute testimony to . . . what?

Of such concepts and unforgettable images are made the twenty-eight stories in this collection—many published here for the first time. By turns speculative, satirical, and heart-wrenching, fresh in form and language, and featuring a cast of damaged yet hopeful seekers who come face-to-face with the deep weirdness of the world—and at times the deeper weirdness of themselves—*Three Moments of an Explosion* is a fitting showcase for one of literature's most original voices.

Praise for *Three Moments of an Explosion*

“Even when he is orbiting somewhere in a galaxy too far away for normal human comprehension, the genre-subverting English novelist China Miéville is dazzling. His latest collection of short stories, *Three Moments of an Explosion*, crowds virtuosity into every sentence. . . . There are things to admire in every story, even the ones you can't quite grasp. The book left me feeling unsettled, uneasy, nervous, and I think that is Mr. Miéville's point. He wants to draw attention to the scratching under the floorboards, the panic in our heads, the rebellion of nature and inanimate objects. As he says, ‘These days there are so many odd and troubling noises in the city.’”—**Sarah Lyall, *The New York Times***

“You can't talk about Miéville without using the word ‘brilliant.’ . . . His wit dazzles, his humour is lively, and the pure vitality of his imagination is astonishing. . . . My favourite of all these tales is ‘The Rules,’ two and a half pages long. Read it. You won't regret it, or forget it.”—**Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Guardian* (U.K.)**

“*Three Moments of an Explosion* is a book filled with fabulous oddities.”—***Entertainment Weekly***

“Horror, noir, fantasy, politics, and poetry swirl into combinations as satisfying intellectually as they are emotionally. . . . Bradbury meets Borges, with Lovecraft gibbering tumultuously just out of hearing.”—***Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)**

“Miéville moves effortlessly among realism, fantasy, and surrealism in this dark, sometimes horrific short story collection. . . . His characters, whether ordinary witnesses to extraordinary events or lunatics operating out of inexplicable compulsions, are invariably well drawn and compelling. Above all, what the stories have in common is a sense that the world is not just strange, but stranger than we can ever really comprehend.”—***Publishers Weekly* (starred review)**

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