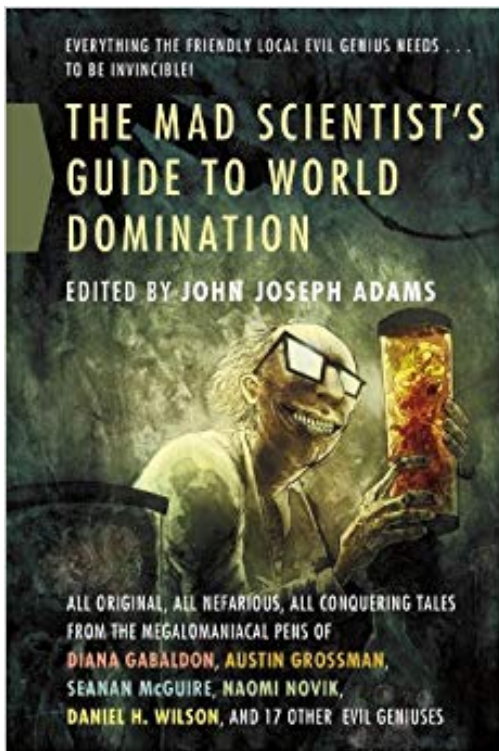


The Mad Scientist's Guide to World Domination: Original Short Fiction for the Modern Evil Genius *by* John Joseph Adams



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From Victor Frankenstein to Lex Luthor, from Dr. Moreau to Dr. Doom, readers have long been fascinated by insane plans for world domination and the madmen who devise them. Typically, we see these villains through the eyes of good guys. This anthology, however, explores the world of mad scientists and evil geniuses—from their own wonderfully twisted point of view.

An all-star roster of bestselling authors—including Diana Gabaldon, Daniel Wilson, Austin Grossman, Naomi Novik, and Seanan McGuire...twenty-two great storytellers all told—have produced a fabulous assortment of stories guaranteed to provide readers with hour after hour of high-octane entertainment born of the most megalomaniacal mayhem imaginable.

Everybody loves villains. They're bad; they always stir the pot; they're much more fun than the good guys, even if we want to see the good guys win. Their fiendish schemes, maniacal laughter, and limitless ambition are legendary, but what lies behind those crazy eyes and wicked grins? How—and why—do they commit these nefarious deeds? And why are they so set on taking over the world?

If you've ever asked yourself any of these questions, you're in luck: It's finally time for the madmen's side of the story.



Reviews of the **The Mad Scientist's Guide to World Domination: Original Short Fiction for the Modern Evil Genius** by John Joseph Adams

Steelrunner

Are you a Villain Sympathizer!? Do you have delusions of grandeur? Stay up late night plotting a world takeover? Or perhaps find yourself with an insane cackle or a desire to create weapons of mass destruction!? You do!!? Well then *The Mad Scientist's Guide to World Domination* is EXACTLY the short fiction collection for you! Villains can make or break a book for me, and I think if I could picture myself in a story, I would so be a villain. They have the best toys, and the in my mind some outrageous looking nutso fun. Alright maybe up until they die anyhow.

When I came across this collection, a little voice inside my head was chanting, please don't suck, please don't suck. Haha! Thankfully a mad genius must have compiled it because there was nary a story I didn't enjoy. Be warned the content, style, and overall atmosphere of the stories vary greatly. Some are hilarious (*Professor Incognito Apologizes: An Itemized List*), others are dire and some can even be a bit crass.

I was going to hash out and rate each individual story, but alas I got so wrapped up that I just couldn't be bothered to stop between stories. Plus there is a nifty little description at the front of each so why should I ruin the fun for you. I can tell you this though, if the theme of the collection appeals to you, I have no doubt that it will be enjoyed.

What...you're still here!? *Breaks out her mind control ray gun* - if you're a fan of the super villain, mad scientists, or just like to root for the bad guy at times, *The Mad Scientist's Guide to World Domination* is a collection definitely worth its salt.

Xisyaco

One of the better points of this book is the wide variety of angles presented. Most are funny-to-hilarious, but everything hews to the topic. I was especially amused to see some villains turn out to be the actual heroes, because the 'hero' was an idiot or a real mess. From the Lex Luthor analog protecting the world from a 'Superman' with an unusual and dangerous component to the wives of 'monsters' such as Victor Frankenstein winding up as Victorian roommates of convenience, I haven't encountered such a wild mix in a long time. Definitely an A+.

Onaxan

A collection of short stories by different authors about Mad Scientists. The idea was so intriguing that I purchased this. Regretfully, I could not get into the book and abandoned it after reading half of the stories. The book did not hold my interest. The writing, editing and what not were acceptable, but the stories themselves did not engage me.

Zuser

This anthology was so long and the stories so drawn out that I had to put it down for a month or two before tackling it again. I loved the premise, but the execution by some of the author's was just not to my liking at all. In particular Galbadon's story was ridiculous. It was pointless, often incoherent, and a waste of time. I couldn't even finish it. The rest of the book wasn't nearly as awful, but some stories were close.

Anarius

I enjoyed this series of short stories. It includes a WIDE VARIETY of styles, tales, perspectives, weight, and mad sciences - just what you like in a compilation of shorts. Very entertaining and glad that I made the purchase. Fun.

The stories at the start and end of the book were my favorites, including Father of the Groom (!), Letter to the Editor, Vectors and Properties in Nemesis Relationships, Rural Singularity, Rocks Fall, & Mofongo knows. The Space Between didn't do much for me, a bit drawn out in getting to the point.

Kiutondyl

A mostly mediocre collection of stories, with a few which actually had good twists on the mad scientist concept.

Highlights:

Laughter at the Academy - Seanan McGuire

Ancient Equations - L.A. Banks

Clunkers:

The Space Between - Diana Gabaldon

The Pittsburgh Technology - Jeffrey Ford

The Food Taster's Boy - Ben H. Winters

The blurbs before each story were also very annoying, and often gave away plot elements which should not have been revealed. And after each story, the editor made sure to plug as many of his anthologies as possible.

Frei

I was surprised at how good most of the stories were. I really enjoyed the different writing styles, and the way the authors portrayed evil geniuses under a new light. As a science fiction fan, I find it refreshing to see a new outlook in the whole concept of good vs evil.

Most of the stories were solid (character description, plot, etc...), and captured my attention to the end, there were only a couple of them (I won't say which) I could've done without. And although I REALLY enjoyed Diana Gabaldon's The space between, I felt that it didn't belong in this anthology.

Overall a really good book, I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys short stories and to those who were always rooting for the bad guy instead of the superhero!

A lovely guilty pleasure. One of the downsides of Big Science is that everything is a Team Effort. The role of the individual is overlooked. Also, let's admit that many traditional superheroes are severely lacking in the sense of humor department. My favorite was the female consultant and coach who not only took over the supervillians technology, but took over the world and added herself to Mt. Rushmore. There are just times when you've got to admire chutzpah.

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