

Praise for the author's previous collection,
Blue Kansas Sky:

"...In juxtaposition with one another, [these four stories]...finally emerge as something bigger: a thorough examination of human potential and frailty, as well as a sort of 'meta' science fiction that comments upon the genre even while stretching its limits."

—John Mark Eberhart, *The Kansas City Star*



The author, the cover artist, and a noted starship captain grince in unison, thirty-odd years ago.

MICHAEL BISHOP'S sixteen novels include *No Enemy But Time*, winner of the 1982 Nebula Award; *Unicorn Mountain*, winner of the 1988 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award; and *Brittle Innings*, winner of the Locus Award for Best Fantasy Novel of 1994. He has published criticism, a volume of poetry entitled *Time Pieces* (1998), and numerous short story collections, most recently *Blue Kansas Sky* (2000, Golden Gryphon Press). Also an editor and teacher, Bishop lives in Pine Mountain, Georgia, with his wife Jeri, an elementary school counselor.

GOLDEN GRYPHON PRESS
3002 Perkins Road ♦ Urbana, IL 61802
<http://www.goldengryphon.com>

JACKET PAINTING
JAMIE BISHOP

JACKET DESIGN
LYNNE CONDELLONE

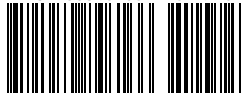
Michael
BISHOP

Brighten
to
Incandescence

GOLDEN
GRYPHON

ISBN 1-930846-16-9

9781930846166 52495



Brighten to Incandescence

17 Stories

by

Michael
Bishop

\$24.95 (\$37.95 in Canada)

"A serious writer who doesn't shirk the full complexities of the tasks he sets for himself, a writer of deep human insight, powerful visionary imagination and masterful prose."

—Publishers Weekly

BEFORE WE FADE TO BLACK...

Brighten to Incandescence is the second Golden Gryphon Press short-fiction collection from Nebula Award-winning author Michael Bishop, whom author and physicist Gregory Benford calls "one of the foremost lyrical voices in science fiction." These seventeen handpicked stories, Bishop's favorites from his previously uncollected works, include the early "A Tapestry of Little Murders" (1971), the tale of a murderer's attempted escape along a (literal) road to self-destruction, to the more recent "Help Me, Rondo" (2002), a poignant perspective on the life and times of Hollywood B-movie actor and acromegalic Rondo Hatton.

Nearly all these stories appeared in small-press publications and anthologies. Gathered here for the first time in one place, they provide a fresh smorgasbord of some of Bishop's most delicious offerings. In "An Unexpected Visit of a Reanimated English Woman," the author converses at length with the specter of Mary Shelley. A medical missionary, tortured by government thugs, discloses her dying wish in "With a Little Help from Her Friends." In "The Procedure," a traveler to a world of institutionalized rationality undergoes an operation that will free his mind, and his body, from all tendencies toward faith and superstition. The disorienting "O Happy Day" shines a humorous light on our contemporary rat race and on a persistent interspecies antipathy. And "Last Night Out," a new story exclusive to this collection, lets us monitor the incongruous actions of two men shortly before they help unleash the horrific events of September 11.

From unconventional dog story ("Chihuahua Flats") to futuristic SF mystery ("Murder on Lupozy Station") to Vietnam-era dark fantasy ("The Tigers of Hysteria Feed Only on Themselves") to unorthodox speculation on Christ's death ("Sequel on Skorpis"), Michael Bishop speaks to us in a variety of lyrical voices. You have but to read, let go, and marvel.

With a 5000-word essay by the author on the genesis of the individual stories, an Introduction by Hugo, Nebula, and World Fantasy Award-winning author Lucius Shepard, and a wraparound cover illustration by the author's son, Jamie Bishop.