

## Alan Dean Foster – With Friends Like These and Who Needs Enemies?

Two linked anthologies by Foster. He writes fairly straightforward stories, but they have their charm and I enjoyed both books.

## Alastair Reynolds - Zima Blue

Anthology. It's a really good showcase of Alastair Reynolds's writing and less hard work than his novels.

## Adam Roberts – Bete

A man is about to kill a cow. He discusses life and death and his right to kill with the compliant animal. He begins to suspect he may be about to commit murder. But kills anyway...

It began when the animal right movement injected domestic animals with artificial intelligences in bid to have the status of animals realigned by the international court of human rights. But what is an animal that can talk? Where does its intelligence end at its machine intelligence begin? And where might its soul reside.

## Eric McCormack - The Paradise Motel

On his deathbed, Ezra Stevenson's grandfather bequeaths him a macabre tale of domestic violence. Driven to investigate his grandfather's account of the four Mackenzie children and their monstrous family history, Ezra embarks on a horrific voyage of discovery, deception and revelation.

## Frank Herbert – Dune

Since it's being screened over the next few years. Although John's view is the book is edging towards the pretentious side of deep and meaningful.

## James Dorr – Tombs

Collection of linked short stories in a vaguely "Dying Earth" style.

It had been a time when the world needed legends, those years so long past now. Because there was something else legends could offer, or so the Poet believed. He didn't know quite what—ghouls were not skilled at imagination. Their world was a concrete one, one of stone and flesh. Struggle and survival. Survival predicated on others' deaths. Far in the future, when our sun grows ever larger, scorching the earth. When seas become poisonous and men are needed to guard the crypts from the scavengers of the dead. A ghoulish poet will share stories of love and loss, death and resurrection. Tombs is a beautifully written examination of the human condition of life, love, and death, through the prism of a dystopian apocalypse.

## Patricia Geary – Strange Toys

At the age of nine, Pet is struggling to protect her family from the horrors predicted in her older sister's book of secrets – horrors that indeed come true. At sixteen, Pet is hunting down her sister to wreak vengeance. At thirty, Pet attains strength and power enough to protect her from the present – but not from her sister's raging past.