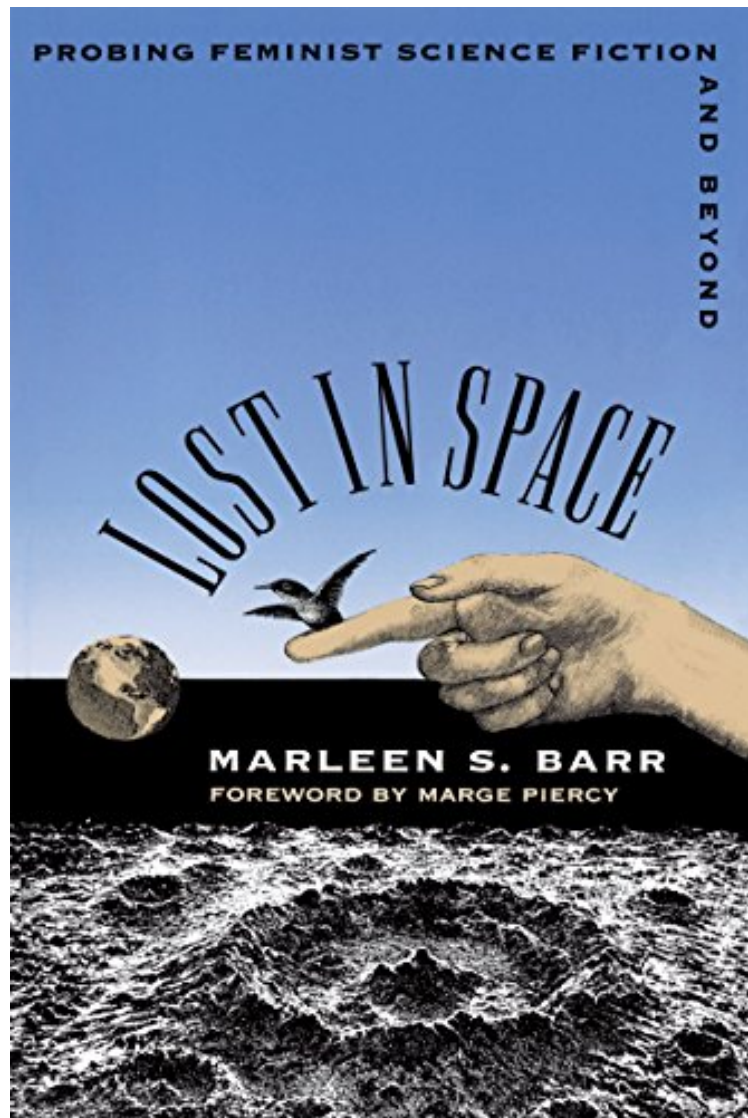


[Free] Lost in Space: Probing Feminist Science Fiction and Beyond

## Lost in Space: Probing Feminist Science Fiction and Beyond

Marleen S. Barr

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**Marleen S. Barr : Lost in Space: Probing Feminist Science Fiction and Beyond** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lost in Space: Probing Feminist Science Fiction and Beyond:

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. As Sharp as a Serpent's Tooth and Twice as Venomous By Prof. DragonBarr's collection of reviews is as sharp in its writing style as it is venomous against patriarchy. Her creation of "Feminist Fabulation" as a new literary category is clever and perhaps necessary to distinguish a sub-genre but threatens to further marginalize feminist science fiction to the most outer orbit of fiction's solar system. A more

synthetic approach might have served as a better vehicle for launching a new literary genre. I assigned the book for a graduate course in "The Future of Law: Science Fiction and Legal Fiction". Students, mostly women, were not receptive to the book or its ideas finding them too extreme in attacking males even within the context of discussions of cyborg sexuality and other fantastic ideas such as futuristic sex role reversal and males bearing children. Although the book did not meet the needs of this class, it is insightful as a work in the feminist genre and might indeed have a place in another curriculum. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great collection of literature reviews! By TammyJo Eckhart Marleen S. Barr decided that she was going to be a reviewer for what was important to her and not what was important to her academic career -- would that more of us made that decision. The result of over a decade of her reviewing this important work, feminist science fiction and feminist fiction in general, is presented in this one volume of thirteen of her essays. For Barr feminist fiction challenges the patriarchy, it speaks the truth through exaggeration, and it pushes for change. And while most men can only manage to write antipatriarchal fiction, some can indeed become male feminists just as not all women can be feminists. While I do not agree with her that we need a new category, which she calls fabulation, to replace other genre, I did find a lot of her commentary to be strong and well-reasoned. If you like literature criticism or need suggestions for good feminist or antipatriarchal work, this collection is well worth your time.

Archaeologists and anthropologists discover other civilizations; science fiction writers invent them. In this collection of her major essays, Marleen Barr argues that feminist science fiction writers contribute to postmodern literary canons with radical alternatives to mainstream patriarchal society. Because feminist science fiction challenges male-centered social imperatives, it has been marginalized and dismissed from the canon--thus, lost in space. Moving beyond feminist science fiction itself, Barr goes on to examine other literary genres from the perspective of 'feminist fabulation'--a term she has coined to encompass science fiction, fantasy, utopian literature, and mainstream literature that critiques patriarchal fictions. Discussing the works of such writers as Margaret Atwood, Joanna Russ, Salman Rushdie, Paul Theroux, Ursula Le Guin, Herman Melville, Saul Bellow, Edgar Allan Poe, and Marge Piercy, Barr illuminates feminist science fiction's connections to other literary traditions and contemporary canons. Her critical analysis yields a new and expanded understanding of feminist creativity.

"Excellent and ground-breaking scholarship. Donna Haraway, University of California, Santa Cruz" "What looks at first glance like a typical lit-crit, academic study is really a delight." The Progressive "Excellent and ground-breaking scholarship. Donna Haraway, University of California, Santa Cruz" "What looks at first glance like a typical lit-crit, academic study is really a delight." The Progressive "What looks at first glance like a typical lit-crit, academic study is really a delight.--The Progressive" Excellent and ground-breaking scholarship. . . . [Barr's work] redraws the basic categories of analysis and has an impact on the study of literary practice in general.--Donna Haraway, University of California, Santa Cruz

From the Back Cover Archaeologists and anthropologists discover other civilizations; science fiction writers invent them. In this collection of her major essays, Marleen Barr argues that feminist science fiction writers contribute to post-modern literary canons with radical alternatives to mainstream patriarchal society. Because feminist science fiction challenges male-centered social imperatives, it has been marginalized and dismissed from the canon--thus, lost in space.