



The Ant King: and Other Stories

Benjamin Rosenbaum

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"Rosenbaum's *The Ant King and Other Stories* contains invisible cities and playful deconstructions of the form. In "Biographical Notes to 'A Discourse on the Nature of Causality, With Air-Planes,' by Benjamin Rosenbaum"—yes, his name is part of the title—the author imagines a world whose technologies and philosophies differ wildly from ours. The result is a commentary on the state of the art that is itself the state of the art."

—*Los Angeles Times* Favorite Books of 2008

* "Give him some prizes, like, perhaps, "best first collection" for this book."

—*Booklist* (Starred review, Top 10 SF Books of the Year)

"Featuring outlandish and striking imagery throughout—a woman in love with an elephant, an orange that ruled the world—this collection is a surrealistic wonderland."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"Rosenbaum proves he's capable of sustained fantasy with "Biographical Notes," a steampunkish alternate history of aerial piracy, and "A Siege of Cranes," a fantasy about a battle between a human insurgent and the White Witch that carries decidedly modern undercurrents.... Perhaps none of the tales is odder than "Orphans," in which girl-meets-elephant, girl-loses-elephant."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Urbane without being arch, sweet without being maudlin, mysterious without being cryptic."—Cory Doctorow, *Boing Boing*

"Lively, bizarre, and funny as well as dark, sinister, and sensual."

—*Boston Phoenix*

A dazzling, postmodern debut collection of pulp and surreal fictions: a writer of alternate histories defends his patron's zeppelin against assassins and pirates; a woman transforms into hundreds of gumballs; an emancipated children's collective goes house hunting.

Benjamin Rosenbaum's stories have appeared in *Asimov's Science Fiction* and *McSweeney's*, been translated into fourteen languages, and listed in *The Best American Short Stories 2006*. Shortlisted for the Hugo and Nebula awards, Rosenbaum's work has been reprinted in *Harper's* and *The Year's Best Science Fiction*. He lives in Switzerland with his family.

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