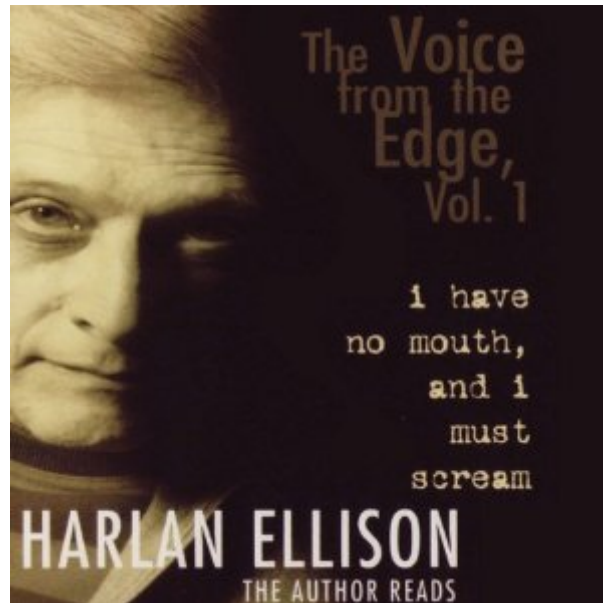


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The Voice From The Edge, Vol. 1: I Have No Mouth And I Must Scream



Synopsis

Harlan Ellison has won more awards for imaginative literature than any other living author, but only aficionados of Ellison's singular work have been aware of another of his passions...he is a great oral interpreter of his stories. His recordings have been difficult to obtain...by his choice. In 1999, for the first time, he was lured into the studio to record this stunning retrospective. Contents include: "I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream," "Laugh Track," "Grail," "'Repent, Harlequin!' Said the Ticktockman," "The Very Last Day of a Good Woman," "Paladin of the Lost Hour," "The Time of the Eye," "The Lingering Scent of Woodsmoke," and "A Boy and His Dog." Copyright on all content as follows: Introduction by Harlan Ellison. Copyright © 1999 by The Kilimanjaro Corporation. All rights reserved. "I Have No Mouth, and I Must Scream" by Harlan Ellison. Copyright © 1967 by Harlan Ellison. Renewed, 1995 by The Kilimanjaro Corporation. All rights reserved. "Laugh Track" by Harlan Ellison. Copyright © 1984 by The Kilimanjaro Corporation. All rights reserved. "Grail" by Harlan Ellison. Copyright © 1981 by The Kilimanjaro Corporation. All rights reserved. "'Repent, Harlequin!' Said the Ticktockman" by Harlan Ellison. Copyright © 1965 by Harlan Ellison. Renewed, 1993 by The Kilimanjaro Corporation. All rights reserved. "The Very Last Day of a Good Woman" by Harlan Ellison. Copyright © 1958 by Harlan Ellison. Renewed, 1986 by The Kilimanjaro Corporation. All rights reserved. "The Time of the Eye" by Harlan Ellison. Copyright © 1959 by Harlan Ellison. Revised version, copyright © 1971 by Harlan Ellison. Renewed, 1987 and 1999 by The Kilimanjaro Corporation. All rights reserved. "Paladin of the Lost Hour" by Harlan Ellison. Copyright © 1985, 1986 by The Kilimanjaro Corporation. All rights reserved. "The Lingering Scent of Woodsmoke" by Harlan Ellison. Copyright © 1996 by The Kilimanjaro Corporation. All rights reserved. "A Boy and His Dog" by Harlan Ellison. Copyright © 1969 by Harlan Ellison. Renewed, 1997 by The Kilimanjaro Corporation.

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Customer Reviews

This collection of short fiction by Harlan Ellison consists of only seven stories. It was originally published in the late 1960s and a second edition was released in 1983—the latter being the edition I read. Despite a bit of Cold War zeitgeist—most notably in the title story—this collection holds up well to time. I'll proceed by discussing each of the seven stories. 1.) "I Have No Mouth & I Must Scream": It's after World War III, the Soviets, Americans, and Chinese had built artificial intelligences (AIs) to help prosecute the war. The AIs ganged up against humanity and exterminated all humans—excepting five individuals (4 men and 1 woman.) The AI finds a way to indefinitely extend the lives of the five so that it can keep its playthings around. The AI is kind of like a sadistic child with an ant farm. The story is told from the perspective of one of the five remaining humans. 2.) "Big Sam Was My Friend": A folksy narrator tells the tale of how a fellow interstellar circus performer met his end. The deceased, Big Sam, was capable of teleportation, like the character Nightcrawler (Kurt Wagner) in the X-men. Ellison does an excellent job of creating a unique character and tone in this story. 3.) "Eyes of Dust": On a planet of beautiful people, there remains a family of uglies—and the child is the ugliest of all. However, ugliness isn't the boy's only unique trait. This is one of the weaker stories of the collection in my opinion, but it's not bad. 4.) "World of The Myth": The three-person crew of a spaceship crashes on an unfamiliar planet. The planet is inhabited by ant-like creatures that can form complex shapes, and through such displays the creatures can reflect the essence of who a person is back at them.

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