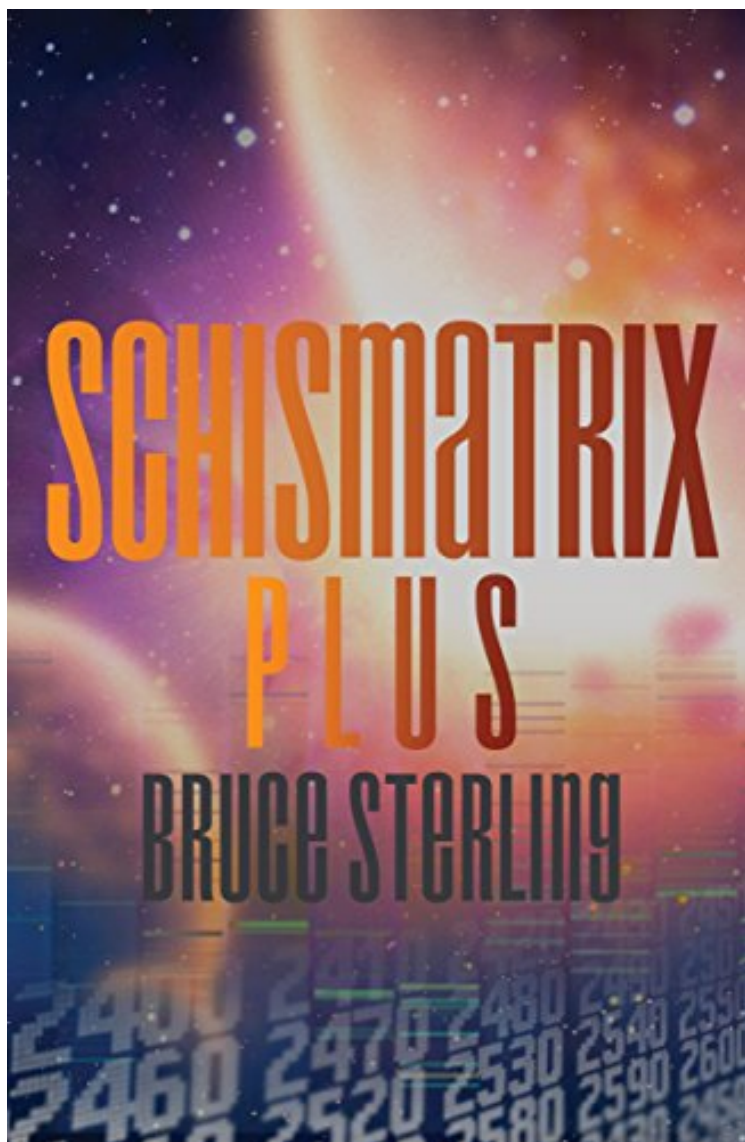


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## Schismatrix Plus (English Edition)

*Von Bruce Sterling*

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**Von Bruce Sterling : Schismatrix Plus (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Schismatrix Plus (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen6 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. visionary, mystical, sci-fi as it must beVon Ein KundeI've read hundreds of good books in my life, books that have altered my ideaologies, infused my writing style with subtle energy, reinvented my understanding of character, and reaffirmed my love of life and creation. Then every once in awhile a book comes along that makes me what to give up

writing because I'll never be able to write that well. Schismatrix is the second kind of book. I took the time to write this review in the hopes that others will see its preternaturally bright bonfire in the darkness and come to its call, moth like, fluttering. I'm still reeling from this book, deconstructing it and rereading it again and again. The images contained in its leaves are better than the ones in my own damn head! It's been so influential in my own writing that sometimes I can't think outside of the still drying borders that it's constructed in my mind. Sterling manages to step outside some of the major problems that have plagued sci-fi since its inception date. For one most sci-fi prose is boring, horribly boring, recitilinear prose, laid out as if it were some hypercontrolled mathematical equation. The massive wads of techno-jargon that riddle most sci-fi have a habit of spilling over into the character descriptions and scene descriptions, making them Mars-dry. Asimov is a monster of the imagination but let's face it his prose is dull. It doesn't have to be this way as proved by some of the earlier sci-poets like Bradbury and Le Guin and the early work of A.C. Clark and now as proved by the crammed prose, acid bright style of cyberpunk idoru, Bruce Sterling. Some of his sentences are woven together with such alien majesty that the shock of the word-blasts are still felt pages later. I found myself asking what secret deal had he made with the devil to be allowed to write with such superfluidity. The second problem of most sci-fi is that it confines itself solely to hard science. While a hard science background is admirable it is utterly limiting. The power of sci-fi to evoke the undiscovered mindscape of the deep brain are what I read sci-fi for, not sure about you. The major problem with basing all of your future book on "known" science is that what we "know" is severely limited and limiting. Look back just 100 years and what was considered state of the art is laughable. "We don't know one millionth of one percent about anything," said Einstein. If a person were fired into the future today (assuming that he could possibly get to 'our' future and not some alternate Sliders-bootstrap like universe) he would probably come back insane due to the unseen technological flourishes and the way they have altered known space. Sterling knows all this and masterfully threads superstrings of as yet undiscovered science into the tapestry of known science. And with all this Sterling still manages a nucleus of larger than life characters. Many sci-fi stories such as Ender's Game achieve master character portraits that would make the Greeks weep, but only by sacrificing the science that goes with it. In Schismatrix the characters develop with the technology and change over time together. By the end of the book, a 200 year scope, society, its technology and its characters have changed drastically from the first page, in a way that is so eerily realistic that you feel as if you have aged with the book. Very few novels can capture the passage of time this beautifully. By the end I found myself wondering about what I would do without the main character in my life, as if he were somehow palpable. I'd need a whole new page to go in depth on the masterful word play he employs. His sense of double entendre rivals Hemingway and at a lower octave Virginia Woolfe. Not one word can be cut from this smoothly bulking word trip. Every character, gadget, development, is essential to the story as a whole. Sadly Sterling has never achieved this kind of mastery again in any of his novels. After closing the book I went out stalking for more Sterling, only to find that he had stripped away his crammed prose style and panoramic scope for small niche futures that seemed to crib heavily from his earlier work. The divine fire of creation that he had once infused his prose seemed to have burnt itself out. I'm deeply sorry to have to say this because I wouldn't want to cause any harm to an author who made me fall in love with reading again. But maybe he'll take this as a challenge and rise to his former height as I have taken the challenge that his book offers me. In the words of one of his characters "Don't be afraid Pilot. It's done you a favor. You've seen the potential. Now you'll have something to aim for." Maybe he is never again meant to achieve something like Schismatrix. Perhaps it is like final dance of a warrior at his death in Carlos Castaneda's Journey to Ixtalan. I hope not. People are always demanding more Shaper/Mechanist work from him. Though sometimes I am tempted to join in the shouting, in my heart I agree with Sterling that this should be all there is. Like a human life it is fleeting and that very transience is what makes it so powerful. That there will never be another Schismatrix is terrible is heart-wrenching just as there will never be another you. But that doesn't mean that he can't go for the potential again, in a new way. Here is to hoping that like his sun dog rebel hero Abelard Lindsey, he'll embrace the ultimate once more, and be back up where he damn well deserves to be, cutting fresh swaths in a field of stars.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. it's like us...only crazier  
Von Ein Kunde I needed a quick fix after reading the Neuromancer series. I picked up this book and became hooked ever since. It's very similar to our world as we know it. Our politics, our society, our goals and our failures. Only real difference was that somebody left the fast forward button on a little too long. Very quick read.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sterling's vision shines in Schismatrix  
Von Ein Kunde Scared about the future? Is rapid technological change getting your panties in a bunch? If yes, then Schismatrix is your worst nightmare. For those of us that like cracking paradigms with a hammer, this is an excellent book. Why? Bruce shows us a compelling -- although unsettling -- view of the future that is at odds with much of today's received wisdom. Here are the two themes he developed that I think set him apart from the mainstream: 1) Will rapid technological advancement, particularly in biology, challenge our idea of what is human? Sterling's answer: Heck yes. You better broaden your definition of which attributes are necessary to be a human, anything and everything is possible when we take control of our own evolution. And there is nothing you can do about it. 2) Will the conquest of space be an orderly process akin to Star Trek? Sterling's answer: Hell no! It's a Diaspora -- everybody with an axe to grind heads for the hills, and frankly, they don't want to be bothered with some remote government's laws, taxes, or ethics. And there is nothing you can do about it. To unite these two themes Bruce

developed an entertaining story line and a single powerful philosophy for the future: we live in a world of unlimited possibilities which will be more strange, awful, and wonderful than you can imagine. To survive in this new world people must create their own reality and ignore what everybody else is doing. Don't think civilization, think tribe. \_\_\_\_\_ My recommendation: Read this book. A lot of what Bruce sees will happen.

**Kurzbeschreibung** The Nebula-nominated novel of a brave new world of nearly constant future shock plus all the short fiction of the Shaper/Mechanist universe (The Washington Post). Acclaimed science fiction luminary and a godfather of the genre's remarkable offspring cyberpunk Bruce Sterling carries readers to a far-future universe where stunning achievements in human development have been tainted by a virulent outbreak of prejudice and hatred. Many thousands of years in the future, the human race has split into two incompatible factions. The aristocratic Mechanists believe that humans can only achieve their greatest potential through technology and enhancing their bodies with powerful prosthetics. The rebel Shapers view these improvements as abominations, and their faith in genetic enhancements over mechanical ones has led to violent, even murderous, clashes between the two sects. One man is caught in the middle. The child of Mechanists, Abelard Lindsay is a former Shaper diplomat who was betrayed and cast out of the fold. Scrupulously trained in the fine art of treachery and deceit, he travels freely between the warring camps during his never-ending exile, embracing piracy and revolution all along the way. But while saving his own skin is Lindsay's main motivation, a greater destiny awaits him, one that could offer a bold new hope for a tragically Sundered humankind. A breathtaking flight of unparalleled imagination, Bruce Sterling's Schismatrix Plus also includes every subsequent excursion into the Mechanist and Shaper universe, complementing his acclaimed novel with the complete collection of mind-boggling Schismatrix short fiction. The result is a total immersion into the Mechanist/Shaper universe from the Hugo, Campbell, and Arthur C. Clarke Award-winning author called a writer of excellent fineness by Harlan Ellison and one of the very best by Publishers Weekly.