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# Sorry Please Thank You: Stories

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author of HOW TO LIVE SAFELY IN A SCIENCE FICTIONAL UNIVERSE

Username:

CHARLES YU

Password:

SORRY PLEASE THANK YOU

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STORIES

Performed by various narrators



## Synopsis

New York Times Notable Book author Charles Yu wrote the best-selling novel *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe*. In his stunning, often humorous, collection *Sorry Please Thank You*, Yu draws on pop culture and science to make incisive observations about society - and to offer touching insight into the human condition. In two of Yu's remarkable stories, he focuses on a big-box-store night-shift employee with girl trouble and a company that outsources grief for profit.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There were elements of Charles Yu's debut novel (*How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe: A Novel* (Vintage)) that I absolutely loved, and yet it didn't hold together as a whole for me. I have no such reservations about this story collection. It is fantastic. With that said, I can't honestly claim every single story within it is a five-star read, but I'd say the majority of them are. (I really wanted to give this collection as a whole a five star rating, but I'm trying to contain my enthusiasm.) And they'll speak to the same fans of geek culture that enjoy books like Ernest Cline's *Ready Player One*, as well as Yu's own debut. I'm not going to discuss every story in the collection here, but will cherry pick some of my favorites. The opening tale, "Standard Loneliness Package," plays up to the author's strengths. I'd describe it as, "very Yu-ish, with a soupçon of Shteyngart." It's the first-person account of an Indian worker in a new industry--the outsourcing of emotion. "An industry was born. The business of bad feeling. For the right price, almost any part of life could be avoided." Later, the worker relates: "Of all the types of tickets, this is the worst.

Heartbreak. When I first started at this job, I expected the hardest would be physical pain. But it's not. This is the hardest."In "First Person Shooter," a worker on the graveyard shift at WorldMart announces, "There's a finger in Housewares.

One of the most celebrated emerging writers of literary science fiction of our time, Charles Yu's magnificent "Sorry Please Thank You" is yet another remarkable literary achievement, demonstrating both the ample originality and vitality of his writing. Yu has breathed astonishingly new life into such time-honored fantasy, science fiction and horror tropes as zombies, space opera and Artificial Intelligence into his latest short story collection; one which will resonate strongly with fellow admirers of science fiction and fantasy as well as a more mainstream literary audience which recognizes just how astute and humorous Charles Yu is as an observer of modern society and its emphasis on science and technology. The opening story, "Standard Loneliness Package", is a witty post-cyberpunk tale of sharing one's emotions that reads as a hilarious cross between Neal Stephenson's "Snow Crash" and Gary Shteyngart's "Super Sad True Love Story". It's followed by the irresistibly funny "First Person Shooter" about a department store clerk thinking how he'll win the affections of a fellow employee while contending with a zombie obsessed in making her own "fashion statement"; Yu's zombie tale is the most original one I have stumbled upon in years. "Hero Absorbs Major Damage" chronicles the epic quest of one noble warrior leading a ragtag band of warriors across a desolate, often dangerous, computer-generated landscape. "Yeoman" is a hysterically humorous send-up of "Star Trek", describing a lowly crewmember's feelings as he finds himself tempting fate as the "expendable" member of a starship's "away team" as the starship hurls deeper into the "final frontier".

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