

Reforming Genre and Gender from Within: Alice Sheldon/James Tiptree, Jr.'s Short Stories (1973-1981)

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Abstract

This article analyzes a selection of Alice Sheldon's SF short stories which she wrote under the pseudonym of James Tiptree, Jr. and which revolve around gender equality and women's sociocultural role. Sheldon stood out within the SF literary context of her time thanks to the original handling of traditional SF tropes as tools used to account for the female experience and to effectively investigate human nature.

Through the close reading of the stories, this article highlights Alice Sheldon's innovativeness and tackles some of her most recurrent and feminist-coded thematic nuclei. It argues for the importance of Sheldon's SF and for its influence and relevance within an entire literary genre, whose potentiality she harnessed to make space for female presence and action.