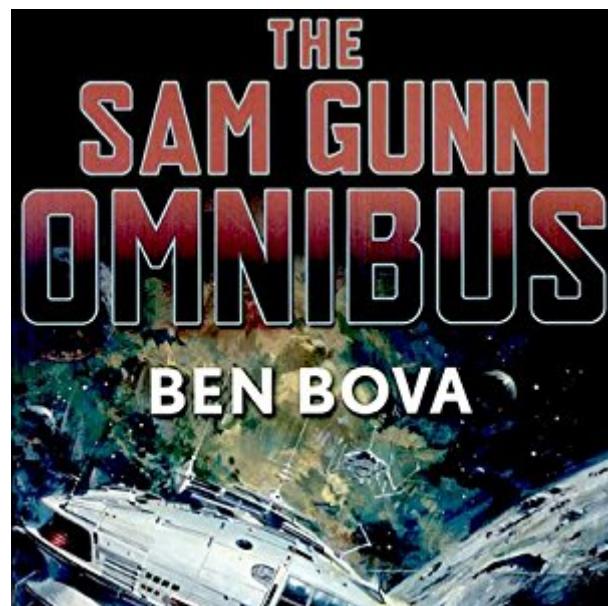


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The Sam Gunn Omnibus



Synopsis

A hero without peer or scruples, Sam Gunn has a nose for trouble, money, and women, though not necessarily in that order. A man with the ego (and stature) of a Napoleon, the business acumen of a P. T. Barnum, and the raging hormones of a teenage boy, Sam is the finest astronaut NASA ever trained and dumped. But more than money, more than women, Sam Gunn loves justice-and he really does love money and women. Whether he's suing the Pope, helping twin sisters entangled in the virtual sex trade, or on trial for his life on charges of interplanetary genocide, you can be sure of one thing: this is one space jockey who'll meet every challenge with a smile on his lips, an ace up his sleeve, and a weapon in his pocket. Now, for the first time in one volume, Hugo-winner Ben Bova presents all the tales of Sam Gunn to date, including three never-before collected in book form. Here is the entire chronicle of Sam Gunn, trailblazer and scoundrel, as he scams his way from one end of the solar system to the other, giving bold new meaning to the term venture capitalist.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Just a lot of fun - not much science but plenty of skulduggery and fast thinking by the hero- well worth the cost and the time.

Ben Bova does tell a great story....I started with the grand tour, this book fills in some gaps very well.

THIS IS TYPICAL Ben Bova with real life people in every quandry you can imagine but in a SciFi

setting. I was unable to put it down and it lifted my dire mood about the economy!

The Sam Gunn Omnibus (2007) is an omnibus edition of ALL the Sam Gunn stories. It includes stories from "Sam Gunn, Unlimited" and "Sam Gunn Forever". It also contains a very interesting -- and rather old fashioned -- framing story tying the others together. The following short stories concern Sam Gunn himself. Many were previously published and then incorporated into the Sam Gunn collections: "The Supervisor's Tale" (F&SF, 1983) tells of a stranded group of NASA astronauts on the Moon who have to wait for a rescue mission. The physicians suggest using tranquilizers, but Sam finds an alternative. "The Long Fall" relates the story of a sadistic space station commander and a video company technician. When Gloria Lamour is rumored to be coming to Freedom station, everybody aboard gets excited. "Diamond Sam" (F&SF, 1984) uncovers the relationship between Sam and the Russian space station crew. Once Sam gets his foot in the door -- or airlock -- the Russians are beguiled by his words. "Tourist Sam" (Analog, 1998) depicts an early enterprise created by Sam to encourage rich tourists to experience space. Suspicious of his requested leave of absence, Sam's boss turns loose his niece -- a DEA agent -- to check out his operation. "Isolation Area" (F&SF, 1988) recounts the time that Sam is kept in quarantine within the Mac Dac Shack with a patient undergoing an experimental treatment for AIDS. Sam definitely impresses Malone with his total lack of fear of the disease and his efforts to seduce the nurses. "Vacuum Cleaner" (F&SF, 1989) shows the development of Vacuum Cleaners Inc. by Sam Gunn. Sam hires two graduate students who have come up with a different way of removing orbital debris. "Nursery Sam" (Analog, 1995) involves Sam with a US Senator, a teenaged boy and a sixteen month old child who loves microgravity. Sam is trying to steal a space sickness medication, but ends up a hero instead. "Sam's War" (Analog, 1994) exposes the beginning of Sam's partnership with Ecuador. It all starts with the Presidential daughter who goes to work for Sam as a spy and saboteur. "Grandfather Sam" extols Sam's role in the construction of a free and unstructured playground within the New Chicago habitat. A large construction company wants to build a giant condominium on the lot, so Sam gains the permit by winning a game of sandlot baseball on the disputed field. "Two Years Before the Mast" discloses the events of the voyage of Sam and his partners to the asteroid belt. After the first month of a two year voyage, the partners are ready to kill each other as well as Sam. Then the sabotage becomes evident. "A Can of Worms" conveys the conflicts between the Peruvian sculptress Elverda Apacheta and a Moralist Sect building a space habitat. The sect tries some underhanded manipulations with the International Astronautical Authority to evict Elverda from her asteroid to use it for building material. "Einstein" (Omni, 1990)

expounds on the discovery of a small black hole. Sam gets a little too close to the event horizon. "Acts of God" (Science Fiction Age, 1995) divulges the reasons for Sam suing the Pope -- really the Vatican -- for the events that destroy property belonging to his company. After all, the Pope is God's Vicar on Earth, so why shouldn't he reimburse people for God's negligence? "(Sam and the) Prudent Jurist" (Science Fiction Age, 1997) states the circumstances that led to Sam being tried for genocide and other crimes by the Interplanetary Tribunal. Naturally, Sam was only trying to rescue the Porno Twins. "Piker's Peak" explains the origins of the Hell Crater entertainment complex. Rockledge Industries invests in Sam's idea, but plans to freeze him out of the deal. It doesn't quite work out that way. "The Mark of Zorro" concerns the efforts of the Interplanetary Security Commission to regulate the commodities market. Sam Gunn was obviously cheating and Carole C. Chatsworth is out to get him. "The Flying Dutchman" reveals the visit of Amanda Cunningham Humphries with Sam. She asks him to deliver an encoded message chip to Lars Fuchs. "Takes Two to Tangle" describes the return of Sam from a black hole and the construction of a matter transmitter. Many think that one of him is bad enough, so what about two or more Sams? "Orchestra(ted) Sam" is the last story in this volume. It is almost certainly the first story about Jane Avril Innocu. Jade is a reporter who has produced videos about Sam. In this story, Sam is hiding from Jill Meyers and Jennifer Marlowe, the Beryllium Blonde. Both claim to want to marry him, but Jennifer is more motivated by revenge than romance. She would much prefer to sue him for everything he has. This volume actually contains thirty-one more short segments of the framing story, featuring Jade. A young woman born on the Moon, Jade is forever barred from going to Earth due to brittle bones. Jade is a truck driver in the vacuum of the Moon when she hears the first story about Sam Gunn from her supervisor. She is so intrigued that she sets out to become a news reporter and then starts tracking down people who know Sam Gunn for a video biography. So the longest tale in this collection is really the framing story about Jade rather than the ones about Sam Gunn. Highly recommended for Bova fans and for anyone else who enjoys tales of womanizing astronauts, spacegoing entrepreneurs, and defenders of the common justice. -Arthur W. Jordin

Got a hankering for that old-time science fiction? You know, where men are men and they chase skirts (usually inhabited by blonde bombshells) after performing death-defying feats of derring-do? Oh, and though they bend the rules sometimes, they always wind up doing good in the end, and the only people who don't like them are bloated bureaucrats or pasty-faced lawyers who wouldn't know their asteroid from a hot rock? And though the women are tough and smart, their goal in life is to get that MRS degree, even if they're high-powered lawmakers with brains aplenty? If so, run right out

and buy "The Sam Gunn Omnibus" (Tor, \$19.95, 704 pages) by Ben Bova. The 77-year-old can't really be expected to be name-checking L'il Wayne, though actually the stories aren't quite as 1950s as I made them sound. In fact, Sam Gunn is a pretty likable hero - not handsome, not big, not really strong, but very smart and very tough. The Omnibus is a collection of a bunch of short stories about Sam Gunn, strung together through a reasonable narrative device. There's nothing really serious going on here, as Gunn works his way from astronaut to interplanetary entrepreneur, but Bova enjoys his hero, and as a result, so do we. No, it's not the bloody, dark and gloomy world of most modern antiheroes, and it's definitely not 21st century cool, but "The Sam Gunn Omnibus" is pleasant, positive and fun - and there's a lot to be said for those three attributes, even if they are a bit passé.

Described by author Ben Bova as "a combination of Huckleberry Finn and Long John Silver with a bit of Chuck Yeager thrown in," Sam Gunn is one of the most important literary heroes of the Space Age. For the first time ever, all of the Sam Gunn stories, about 50 in total, are together between the covers of one book, *The Sam Gunn Omnibus*. The tales of the legendary Sam Gunn are told by a journalist named Jane. As reporter Jane learns more about Gunn, she keeps her readers informed about his exploits ranging from suing the Pope to building a giant statue of himself to be placed on the Moon. Truly, Sam Gunn was a legend of his futuristic time. Sam Gunn is a capatalistic hero who comes across as a sort of private free enterprise version of James Bond except that Gunn basically worked for himself. Gunn goes from failed NASA astronaut to becoming a futuristic space jockey who becomes the most controversial figure of his time. Sam Gunn is author Ben Bova's greatest creation. If you have never tried one of Bova's books before, then *The Sam Gunn Omnibus* is a great work to try.

The Sam Gun Omnibus was a collection of science fiction stories about a very inventive fellow who gets himself into and out of fantastic situations ingeniously. Sam Gun, the overall hero, is constantly getting himself into trouble doing dubious activities throughout the galaxy. He is a business entrepreneur who takes outlandish risks to make big bucks, but at the same time ends up helping people along the way. I found the stories a lot of fun.

Large Collection of Short Stories revolving around the exploits of a strange/short semi-likable character Sam Gunn, who manages to get involved in all of the events surrounding the initial exploration of the Solar System. These are generally fun short stories, although there are a few duds

in the mix. One of the duds occurs rather early in the series (the fake "Space Ride" Adventure), it is quite unbelievable; and, while it plays a pivotal role in the sequence of stories, the fact that it is unbelievable detracts from the whole collection.

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