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Wealth And New Zealand (BWB Texts Book 33)

Wealth and New Zealand

Max Rashbrooke

BWB Texts



Synopsis

We are heading towards Thomas Piketty's predicted steady state of wealth being worth six times national income. We are not immune to his prognosis of a return to Victorian-style levels of inequality. The most recent NBR Rich List has revealed the biggest proportional increase in wealth since the list first appeared in 1986. But what do these figures mean and what else do we know about New Zealand's fortunes? Following his groundbreaking work on income inequality, Max Rashbrooke examines how wealth shapes our experience. Drawing on previously unpublished data, he explores what constitutes wealth in New Zealand — where, how and why it is held. In doing so, he addresses how wealth has come to be so unevenly distributed, and why this imbalance is something we can no longer ignore.

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Customer Reviews

I think I most enjoyed Tim Jones shortish thriller of the future in which some measure of compassion still exists and I.K. Paterson-Harkness's *Pocket Wife* where a husband tries to hide

his adultery from his wife, who, because of the technology, is able to 'see' and 'feel' him far more than he wants her to. These two stories were tightly written, and came to satisfying conclusions. Lee Murray and Piper Mejia's 'Mika' took a bit of a Mad Max approach, though without the devastation of that world. I didn't find the characters rang true to me, though the premise was intriguing. Equally Bree's 'Dinosaur' by A C Buchanan was mysterious without sufficient explanation and Grant Stone's 'The Last', while it was clear when working in a real world, didn't quite manage to make the surreal aspects work. Octavia Cade's 'The Ghost of Matter' looked promising early on, and is interesting in its back and forth approach to real-life scientist Ernest Rutherford's life and career, but it gets to a point where it seems to be meandering, without ever resolving anything very clearly. The stuff about the possibilities of Rutherford's discoveries being used for destructive purposes seems a bit tacked on, and doesn't connect to the three ghosts who keep on appearing, as far as I could tell. However, this is an interesting collection, and even those stories that didn't quite grab kept me reading to the end. Other people may well prefer different stories in the collection as their 'favourites.'

Clearly written in simple language, this book is well worth reading.

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