

## **Ball Lightning**

By Cixin Liu



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A new standalone military science fiction adventure from the *New York Times* bestselling and award-winning author of the Three-Body Trilogy.

When Chen's parents are incinerated before his eyes by a blast of ball lightning, he devotes his life to cracking the secret of mysterious natural phenomenon. His search takes him to stormy mountaintops, an experimental military weapons lab, and an old Soviet science station.

The more he learns, the more he comes to realize that ball lightning is just the tip of an entirely new frontier in particle physics. Although Chen's quest provides a purpose for his lonely life, his reasons for chasing his elusive quarry come into conflict with soldiers and scientists who have motives of their own: a beautiful army major with an obsession with dangerous weaponry, and a physicist who has no place for ethical considerations in his single-minded pursuit of knowledge.

*Ball Lightning*, by award-winning Chinese science fiction author Cixin Liu, is a fast-paced story of what happens when the beauty of scientific inquiry runs up against a push to harness new discoveries with no consideration of their possible consequences.

Tor books by Cixin Liu

#### The Remembrance of Earth's Past

The Three-Body Problem The Dark Forest Death's End





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#### **Ball Lightning By Cixin Liu Bibliography**

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#### **Editorial Review**

Review

#### Praise for The Three-Body Trilogy

"Wildly imaginative, really interesting." ?President Barack Obama on *The Three-Body Problem* trilogy

"The Three-Body epic concludes with sweep and scope and majesty, worthy of Frederik Pohl or Poul Anderson, Scholar Wu or H. G. Wells. The universe is likely to be a rough neighborhood. See just how rough...and how life might still prevail." ?David Brin on *Death's End* 

"If you thought *The Three-Body Problem* and *The Dark Forest* were expansive, they're nothing compared to *Death's End....* A testament to just how far [Liu's] own towering imagination has taken him: Far beyond the borders of his country, and forever into the canon of science fiction." ?NPR on *Death's End* 

"Compelling reading...the most mind-bending of them all.... Liu's picture of humanity's place in the cosmos is among the biggest, boldest and most disturbing we've seen." ?The Los Angeles Times

Liu Cixin's writing evokes the thrill of exploration and the beauty of scale.... Extraordinary. ?The New Yorker

[Cixin h]as gained a following beyond the small but flourishing science-fiction world here [and] breathed new life into a genre . . . The "Three-Body" tomes chronicle a march of the human race into the universe set against the recent past, the tumultuous years of the Cultural Revolution. It is a classic science-fiction story in the style of the British master Arthur C. Clarke. ? The New York Times

Utterly, utterly brilliant. The Three-Body trilogy is nothing short of a masterpiece. *?Lavie Tidhar*, World Fantasy Award winning author of *Osama* 

"A breakthrough book . . ., a unique blend of scientific and philosophical speculation, politics and history, conspiracy theory and cosmology." ?George R. R. Martin on *The Three-Body Problem* 

*The Three-Body Problem* deserves all of its plaudits. It's an exceptional novel, and Ken Liu's translation is both smooth and unintrusive. ?Mike Resnick, multiple Hugo Award winner

"Ken Liu's excellent translation combines fluid clarity with a continuous view into Chinese worldviews, adding to the fun and making this the best kind of science fiction, familiar but strange all at the same time.I hope we'll get to read more by Cixin Liu, and for now applaud this great entry." ?Kim Stanley Robinson on *The Three Body Problem* 

A tour-de-force walk through Chinese and world history. *The Three-Body Problem* merges virtual realities, alien invasions and exciting science, and manages to make them all fresh. ?Aliette de Bodard, Nebula Award winner

Cixin Liu brings to the reader a deep and insightful vision of China past and future. First-rate work by a powerful new voice. ?Ben Bova, multiple Hugo Award winner, on *The Three Body Problem* 

#### About the Author

CIXIN LIU is a prolific and popular science fiction writer in the People's Republic of China. Liu is a winner of the Hugo Award and a multiple winner of the Galaxy Award (the Chinese Hugo) and the Xing Yun Award (the Chinese Nebula). He lives with his family in Yangquan, Shanxi.

JOEL MARTINSEN (translator) is research director for a media intelligence company. His translations have appeared in *Words Without Borders* and *Pathlight*. He lives in Edinburgh.

#### **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### **David Robinson:**

People live in this new time of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the time or they will get great deal of stress from both way of life and work. So, when we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is actually Ball Lightning.

#### Jennifer Mendoza:

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#### **Bertha Wood:**

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#### John Coffin:

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