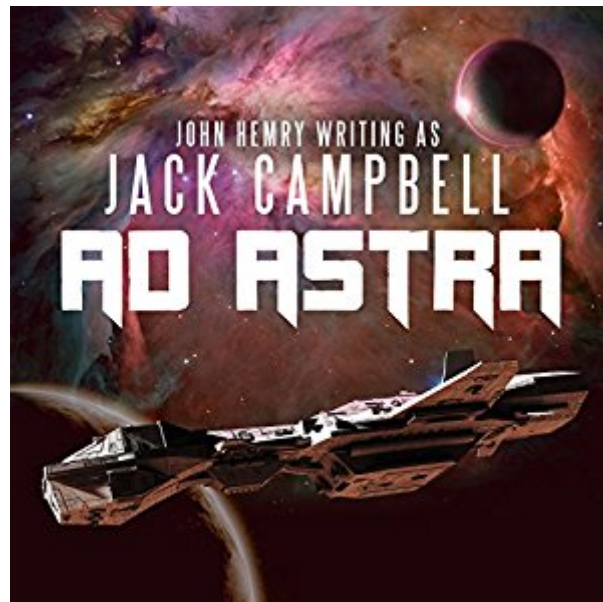


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# Ad Astra



## Synopsis

In this collection of short stories, New York Times best-selling author Jack Campbell explores what kinds of problems mankind might face as our horizons expand. "Lady Be Good": The Lady Be Good is an old ship, running obscure routes with her loyal first officer Kilcannon and reclusive captain. When Kilcannon decides to rescue the survivors of an attack on a Vestral Company ship, a mysterious new passenger thanks him by asking difficult questions about the Lady, with unexpected answers. In "Kyrie Eleison," the Verio, shipwrecked centuries ago on an out-of-the-way planet, and the descendants of the ship's survivors have gotten along as well as they can by following the orders that were passed on to them. But when the Bellegrange arrives on a rescue mission, her captain will have to reckon with the unexpected social order on the planet. In "Do No Harm," a ship is so technologically advanced that it can repair itself - but turning over the keys might not be the best idea. And in "Down the Rabbit Hole," a series of failed attempts at faster-than-light travel leads to a novel approach: sending an untested naval captain out in a space ship to see if he can figure out what's gone wrong.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ad Astra (2013) is a SF collection. This volume contains eleven stories by John Henry under his pseudonym of Jack Campbell. - "Lady Be Good" (Analog, 2006) rescues a few crewmen from a pirated starship. - "As You Know, Bob" (Analog, 2007) concerns a story for an editor who wants more. - "Do No Harm" (Analog, 2007) builds a spaceship with autonomous systems like the human

body. - "Down the Rabbit Hole" (Analog, 2001) assigns a systems officer to fly the seventh FTL ship. - "Generation Gap" (Analog, 2002) confronts a generation ship with a stable society with a typically chaotic planet. - "Kyrie Eleison" (Analog, 2006) brings a starship to a failing colony ruled by officers who revise the survival manual. - "Odysseus" (Analog, 1999) puts a starship out of U-Space near an ancient derelict. - "One Small Spin" (Analog, 1994) modifies the news of ROVER landing on Mars to sound more positive. - "Section Seven" (Analog, 2003) delivers a Federation agent to Valentia to eliminate attempts to change standards. - "Standards of Success" (Analog, 2005) requires astronauts on Mars to accommodate instructions from Earth. - "The Bookseller of Bastet" (Analog, 2008) relates the fate of a bookstore owner on a warring planet. These tales cover a wide range of strange circumstances. Each has an introduction telling of the origins of these stories. Unfortunately, most deal with typical human errors, but some overcome these problems. The most satisfactory story in this collection is probably "Kyrie Eleison". "Lady Be Good" is more typical of the author's novels.

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