

SPECULATIVE FICTION REVIEW by Stephanie Young

TITLE *Pushing Ice*
AUTHOR Alastair Reynolds
PUBLISHER Ace
COPYRIGHT 2005
PRINTING 2007

This is the first novel I have read by Alastair Reynolds and I am wondering why I haven't read any before. We have several in the library, but I had no idea how good a writer he is. I am definitely going to pull some of his stuff off the shelves and onto my pile to read soon.

In this novel we have the story of a group of ice miners who extract water ice from comets and ship it to colonies on planets that have very little or no water like the Moon or Mars. They work for a large corporation and because of a phenomenon on Janus, one of Jupiter's moons, they are directed there from a scientific mission. As it turns out, it is a life changing assignment and one which has an impact on them and the Earth that is unique.

What makes this story so good is the tight plot, excellent characterizations, and the totally unexpected ending. I really was not prepared for it at all. The characterization is so good that I actually cried in a couple of spots and got very angry and the main antagonist. That to me is what great writing is all about.

Read this book!

I give it 4.5 rings of Saturn.