The Starry Rift by James Tiptree Jr.

Before her death, Alice Sheldon--writing under the name James Tiptree, Jr.--repeatedly won Hugo and Nebula Awards for excellence in science fiction. In this, her last published work, she offers three tales of danger, heroism, and adventure. A truly great writer, perhaps the greatest in science fiction today.--The Baltimore Sun.

My Personal Review:
I found the stories here a beautiful collection. Each story is original and different from many science fiction works, concentrating not on epic battles and races and wars, but instead on noble characters who are, despite their heroics, still human at their core. This collection is about characters with incomplete desires, who are empty at their heart for something found in the stars, and while they find what they are searching for it draws a sacrifice from each. They are very easy to connect with on different levels for different reasons, and Tiptree is a master at putting such well-developed characters into so few pages.

My favorite part of Tiptree's writing is her style. It was strange to get used to at first, because her stories here are told in a tense not many toy with, but the words are so powerful and strong and contain the same type of yearning with which her characters are wrought.

All the works in this collection are extremely bittersweet and sentimental, so I wouldn't suggest it for fans of purely happy endings.

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