

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910156272803321
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Titolo	The Great Explosion
Pubbl/distr/stampa	San Francisco : , : Hauraki Publishing, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	1-78625-899-4
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (184 pages)
Disciplina	813.54
Soggetti	Science fiction, English Rosenberg, Isaac, 1890-1918 Science fiction
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- TABLE OF CONTENTS -- PROLOGUE -- 1 -- 2 -- 3 -- 4 -- 5 -- 6 -- 7 -- 8 -- 9 -- 10 -- 11 -- 12.
Sommario/riassunto	MISSION OF EMPIRE Earthmen had colonized hundreds of planets in the four centuries of deep space exploration--independent new civilizations founded by the discontented and adventurous of Terra. Trouble was, they were too independent--and the Terran government had ambitions for a space empire. A giant battle cruiser went out into the starlanes, with instructions to persuade the colonial planets to join the Empire--and with a couple of thousand troops to back up the persuasion ! It looked like an interesting, if easy, mission--after all, what kind of opposition could a bunch of backwoods planets offer to the most advanced military power in the Galaxy? Quite a lot, as it turned out ... and all of it wildly unexpected! One of the "old pros" of science-fiction, Eric Frank Russell has, in THE GREAT EXPLOSION, written a fast-paced and compelling adventure--a fascinating look at a possible tomorrow. A satirical Classic.