

as Mack Reynolds. Read Jerry Pournelle's T_h_e_E_n_d_l_e_s_s
F_r_o_n_t_i_e_r

Volumes I & II as preparation. Also check out Joe Haldeman's
W_o_r_l_d_s and W_o_r_l_d_s_A_p_a_r_t.

[Both volumes of T_h_e_E_n_d_l_e_s_s_F_r_o_n_t_i_e_r and
W_o_r_l_d_s are available from
the LZ SF Club Library. -ecl]

THE MT VOID

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2. A while back I made some comments about health food stores being unappetizing places dedicated not to seducing the palate but to convincing the mind that this stuff is good for you so you should eat it no matter how it tastes. And I still think that health food stores are palaces of flim-flammery, dedicated to selling you things like "organic vitamins." Anyone who thinks that a molecule of vitamin C remembers whether it grew up in a rose hip or a Pyrex test tube has some darn funny ideas about chemistry. I remember how bad vitamins tasted when I was a small child and it seems to me that my ape ancestors, who must have been pretty healthy, never ate anything that tasted that bad to them.

But of late I have been thinking that I ought to be concerned more about a healthy diet. Well, I always knew I would get to that point. I remember reading cereal boxes when I was young and seeing that a serving contained 25% of the daily requirement of niacin, iron, and that sort of thing. I remember telling myself that someday I was going to get really health-conscious and start having four bowls for breakfast.

So anyway, over the past few years I have been cutting down on the amounts of the fun foods I eat. I eat less cholesterol-packed steaks. I like soups but let's face it, they contain enough sodium to qualify as liquid salt-licks. And chocolate is right out, what with the headaches and acne it causes, the tooth decay it causes, and all the calories it has. Pasta was what made The Great Caruso great, and not in a good sense.

Well, of late I see ads telling me that these foods are not the culprits I always thought they were. No more unbiased source than the cattle-growers are telling me that beef is not just good for

me, it is real food. Jeez! I've been trying to survive eating fake food, I guess. Uh, care for another wax apple? Chocolate no longer causes acne and is now thought to inhibit tooth decay. And as we know, "Soup is good food" and no diet is healthy without pasta. So the time has come for me to become a health nut. I am going to eat all the foods I like but be very careful to read only the right ads. My health deserves it. 3. Recent SF Library acquisitions include:

Asimov, Isaac	ROBOTS AND EMPIRE (MT)
Carter, Carmen	DREAMS OF THE RAVEN (LZ)
Delany, Samuel R.	BABEL-17 (MT)
Drake, David	HAMMER'S SLAMMERS (MT)
Heinlein, Robert A.	FRIDAY (MT)
Powers, Tim	ON STRANGER TIDES (LZ)
Smith, Clark Ashton	POSEIDONIS (MT)
Sterling, Bruce	MIRRORSHADES (LZ)
Van Vogt	SLAN (MT)
Wylie, Philip	GLADIATOR (MT)

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4. Note in the heading that the LZ Librarian's phone number has been corrected, the HO Chair's e-mail address has changed, and I seem to have inherited the MT Librarian's job. [-ec]

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I have yet to see any problem, however complicated, which, when you looked at it the right way, did not become still more complicated.

--Poul Anderson

THE MIGHTY QUINN
A film review by Mark R. Leeper
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Capsule review: Likable, boyish police chief on a Caribbean resort island solves a murder involving a childhood friend. Just an okay mystery story, this film

has "TV pilot" written all over it. Rating: low +1.

As they say in the song, "You've not seen nothing like T_h_e_M_i_g_h_t_y_Q_u_i_n_n. Resolving the double negative, it means you have seen something like T_h_e_M_i_g_h_t_y_Q_u_i_n_n and indeed you have. Ever since H_a_w_a_i_i_F_i_v_e-O, it has been common knowledge that television producers have wanted to set police films in pleasant climates. We've had C_a_r_i_b_e and M_i_a_m_i_V_i_c_e actually make it to production. Though nobody has said it anywhere, my natural cynical suspicion is to believe that Jamaica is some producer's dream and T_h_e_M_i_g_h_t_y_Q_u_i_n_n is the pilot for a television series. The film has the unmistakable (or maybe only semi-mistakable) feel of a television pilot.

Our hero is a young, idealistic Chief of Police, Xavier Quinn (played by Denzel Washington). Born on a large Caribbean island, Quinn went to the United States to get his training from the FBI. He returned to the island to keep the peace driving an open jeep and wearing a conveniently photogenic uniform with short pants and short sleeves. His boyish charms are irresistible to women regardless of social status. Quinn has his problems dealing with the island governor, an ex-chicken inspector, whose chief concern is to keep a lid on things for the resort business. The governor is played by Norman Beaton, who looks a bit like the late Adolph Caesar but, without insulting Beaton, lacks Caesar's magnetic screen presence.

In this case Maubee, Quinn's boyhood friend, is suspected of being involved in the murder of a resort owner who has been found with his head cut off. Maubee is even more boyish and winning than is Quinn and he seems to be magical to boot. Maubee is very disappointingly played by Robert Townsend (of H_o_l_l_y_w_o_o_d_S_h_u_f_f_l_e). Townsend has a bad habit of grinning at the camera that director Carl Schenkel should have curbed but did not. This is one of those films when you are never more than ten minutes from a break in the action for the next song (in this case, reggae).

Lest you think that this is an actively bad film, the basic story is okay as a mystery--not great, but not all that bad either, though the villain is perhaps a bit predictable. M.~Emmet Walsh and Esther Rolle are present and are always assets. (Though having just seen Rolle in PBS's superior production of A_R_a_i_s_i_n_i_n_t_h_e_S_u_n, I find her performance here and this whole film tepid by comparison. You want a recommendation? See A_R_a_i_s_i_n_i_n_t_h_e_S_u_n.) Other assets of T_h_e_M_i_g_h_t_y_Q_u_i_n_n include some likable interaction between Quinn and his young son, and the fact that the movie does not become a real action film, at least not until the last few minutes and then only half-heartedly. There are at least a couple of in-jokes, one a reference to G_u_e_s_s_W_h_o's_C_o_m_i_n_g_t_o_D_i_n_n_e_r? and another a visual reference to D_r._N_o. I'd rate T_h_e_M_i_g_h_t_y

_ Q_ u_ i_ n_ n an ambivalent low +1 on the -4 to +4 scale.