

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW

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SPECIAL REVIEW

DREADFUL SANCTUARY, by Eric Frank Russell. Lancer, N.Y. 74-819, 1963. 174 pp. 75¢

DREADFUL SANCTUARY is the latest addition to the Lancer Science Fiction Library. It originally appeared in Astounding (June, July, August, 1948), and was published in 1951 by Fantasy Press. Both of these editions were over 90,000 words in length. Although the Lancer edition claims to be "complete and unabridged," it has been cut down to about 70,000 words (or, by roughly twenty-five percent). Not only has DREADFUL SANCTUARY been cut, "revised by the author for this edition," but the ending has been changed—"ruined" would be a much better word.

On the basis of the revised portions, we have dropped the novel's rating from a 3 in the old editions to an 8 in the new one. Whether Lancer or the author is responsible for the unfortunate revision is unimportant in one respect: as revised, the book is not worth buying.

The story's hero is a man who is financing the eighteenth Venus rocket (Moon rocket in the original edition); the first seventeen failed mysteriously.

He runs into opposition - the Norman Club, a group which provides him with a fantastic revelation of the origins of Man. Then follows a running battle between the hero's faction and the Norman Club.

If you wish to read this novel, get an earlier edition. We ask whoever is responsible for this revision not to revise any more books.

SFR should be of interest to all types of science fiction readers. To the fan who buys everything but doesn't have time to read it all, SFR is a means by which he may select his reading to some degree. To someone who buys only occasionally, it can serve as a purchasing guide.

THE TIME AGENT SERIES

A bibliography of Andre Norton's Time Agent stories:

THE TIME TRADERS, World, 1958.
(Ace, 1958, D-461).

GALACTIC DERELICT, World, 1959.
(Ace, 1959, D-498).

THE DEFIANT AGENTS, World, 1962.
(Ace, 1962, F-183).

KEY OUT OF TIME, World, 1963.
(See page 3 for review).

We recommend this series, and hope that Ace Books will soon reprint KEY OUT OF TIME.

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SFR STORY RATINGS

Story category	NOVELLAS	NOVELETS ...	SHORT STORIES
Length in words	(19-39,000) ...	(10-18,000) ..	(up to 9,000)
Worth buying magazine for .	I-IV	A-C	a-b
Worth reading	V-VI	D-E	c-d
Read at your own risk ...	VII-IX	F-H	e-g

NOVELS

(40,000 + words)

Worth buying	1-5
Marginal	6-7
Buy at your own risk .	8-10

The ratings designate how well we liked the story. We do not rate collections or anthologies. Two stories "worth reading" usually make an issue worth buying.

MAGAZINES

We review all of the science fiction magazines as soon as they appear. Since they all do not appear at the same time, not all can be reviewed in the same issue.

Amazing, October, 1963. 130 pp. 50¢

Cordwainer Smith's "Drunkboat" is about a man who is driven insane by a trip into a new kind of subspace. (F)

"The Prince of Liars," by L. Taylor Hansen (the Classic Reprint), is based on the time contraction for an interstellar traveler. (F)

There is also a biography of Edmond Hamilton, written by Sam Moskowitz. Hamilton will be Guest of Honor at the 1964 World Science Fiction Convention.

Worlds of Tomorrow, October, 1963. 162 pp. 50¢

"The Night of the Trolls," by Keith Laumer, tells of a man who finds himself in the future, hunted because he is useful. (E)

"All We Marsmen," by Philip K. Dick. Second of three parts. While the first installment of this novel about life on Mars in 1994 was merely dull, this one degenerates into a tale kept going by sick characters. Not much plot. (We do not grade serials until the final installment appears).

Fantasy and Science Fiction, October, 1963. 130 pp. 40¢

The Fourteenth Annual All-Star Issue contains Zenna Henderson's latest story of The People, "Deluge" (an "E" novel-let), as well as a special article by L. Sprague de Camp and stories by Bester, Davidson, and others.

Fantastic, Sept., 1963. 130 pp. 50¢

"The Demon of the North," by C.C. MacApp, is the story of an ancient trip to the far North to investigate the source of compass attraction. (E)

Correction: Murray Leinster's THIS WORLD IS TABOO originally appeared as "Pariah Planet" in the July, 1961, Amazing.

EXPLORERS OF THE INFINITE, by Sam Moskowitz. World, Cleveland, 1963. 353 pp. \$6.00

This excellent book by one of the foremost authorities on the history of science fiction is subtitled "Shapers of Science Fiction." It covers the early writers of science fiction, with chapters on Poe, Verne, Burroughs, and many others. The book also mentions such interesting items as the first story about an Earth satellite, written in 1869. Most of the chapters were originally articles in the SF magazines.

AWAY AND BEYOND, by A.E. van Vogt. Berkley, N.Y. #812, 1963. 190 pp. 50¢

This good collection of stories by a top science fiction author includes: "The Great Engine" (D), a story about a mysterious machine; and "The Harmonizer" (d), a tale of a long-lived extraterrestrial plant. This reprint contains seven of the nine original stories. I recommend it highly. - Bill Pond

THE COLORS OF SPACE, by Marion Zimmer Bradley. Monarch, Derby, Conn. 368, 1963. 124 pp. 35¢

The plot stems from the premise that color-blind aliens have a star drive, but Man does not, as the aliens are keeping it a secret. The secret of the star drive is a very rare substance with a distinctive color. The hero tries to break the monopoly that the aliens have on faster-than-light interstellar transportation. NOVEL - 6

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW brings you timely reviews of science fiction magazines and books.

THE MILLION CITIES, by J.T. McIntosh. Pyramid, N.Y. F-898, 1963. 141 pp. 40¢

THE MILLION CITIES begins fairly well, but the last quarter of the book nearly ruins it. In the story, spaceflight has been abandoned and the Earth is one huge city. A semi-secret group called the Chartists opposes the government. NOVEL - 7

THE GRAY ALIENS, by J. Hunter Holly. Avalon, N.Y., 1963. 192 pp. \$2.95

THE GRAY ALIENS is one of the few novels about what some call the "supernatural" that manages to refrain from degenerating into a horror story. The Ghostmakers, intelligent beings without solid form, are systematically exterminating mankind because they believe that the existence of Man prevents them from attaining their full potential. NOVEL - 5

Tell your friends about SFR.

STAR WAYS, by Poul Anderson. Ace, N.Y. D-568, 1956. 143 pp. 35¢

This reprint (D-255) is about the conflict between the galactic Nomads (a group of Terrans), and a race whose very existence has not been verified. The existence of such a race is apparently the only possible explanation for the disappearance of several Nomad ships "beyond the edge of the known." (6)

KEY OUT OF TIME, by Andre Norton. World, Cleveland, 1963. 224 pp. \$3.00

This is the fourth book in Miss Norton's longest series. In this book, the Time Agents are probing the past of an alien planet to find out why the planet does not match the description given in the Baldy course tapes, found in a crash-landed alien starship in Terra's own past. (See page 1). NOVEL - 5

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FIRST FLIGHT: Maiden Voyages in Space and Time, ed. by Damon Knight. Lancer, N.Y. 72-672, 1963. 160 pp. 50¢

The first science fiction stories of some of the best authors are reprinted in this anthology. The stories include a "C," an "E," a "c," and three "d's." Worth buying.

THE DAY THE WORLD DIED, by John E. Muller. Vega, Clovis, California, VSF-3. 137 pp. 50¢

THE DAY THE WORLD DIED is a story of how Russians and Americans try to survive together after an alien attack. (VII)

RADAR ALERT, by Karl Zeigfreid. Vega, Clovis, California, VSF-4. 134 pp. 50¢

RADAR ALERT is about a man whose mind is invaded by creatures from space, by means of a radar beam. NOVELLA - VIII

These paperbacks seem to have covers printed in Britain and the contents printed in America. They are cheaply made and carry no copyright notice. Both are novellas and neither is worth buying or reading.

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Wanted: A hardcover copy of THE INCOMPLETE ENCHANTER, by de Camp. Robert Franson, Box 1568, San Diego, California 92112.

THREE IN ONE, ed. by Leo Margulies. Pyramid, N.Y. F-899, 1963. 144 pp. 40¢

Included are 3 novelets: "There is No Defense" (E), by Sturgeon, wherein the Solar System is menaced by a lone invading interstellar ship; "Galactic Chest" (D), by Simak, in which Brownies are logically explained; and "West Wind" (D), by Leinster, the story of a small nation defeating an invasion by a larger one. We recommend this anthology.

THREE TIMES INFINITY, ed. by Leo Margulies. Gold Medal, Greenwich, Conn. d1324, 1963. 176 pp. 50¢

Don't buy this unless you especially like Heinlein. His "Destination Moon" (V) is the only novella of the three worth reading. There is a shortage of fuel on the first moon flight. In "The Golden Helix" (VII) by Sturgeon, colonists on a planet have children down the evolutionary scale. Bradbury and Brackett's "Lorelei of the Red Mist" (VIII) is a poor adventure-fantasy set on Venus.

Coming soon - IS THERE LIFE ON OTHER WORLDS? a non-fiction book by Poul Anderson.

17 X INFINITY, ed. by Groff Conklin. Dell, N.Y. 7746, 1963. 272 pp. 50¢

These seventeen short stories are a disappointment when you consider the well-known authors who wrote them. For the most part the stories are average with only two stories that are fairly good: Fast's "Cato the Martian" and Sturgeon's "Never Underestimate" (d's). If you are able to obtain a better than average book, don't buy this one. —Glenn Keene

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