



a hypertext version of Vernor Vinge's \_ F \_ i \_ r \_ e \_ U \_ p \_ o \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ e \_ D \_ e \_ e \_ p ,  
complete  
with the author's annotations.

But of course you need a computer and software to view the contents of this CD. So next Wednesday, March 16, at noon in Middletown 3D-441 (yes, our august chairperson's office) we will have a PC set

THE MT VOID

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up to demonstrate this new technology. You won't have time to read all of a novel, or even an entire short story, but you can see some impressive artwork by the leading science fiction artists and get a glimpse into what the electronic future may hold. Join us! (You don't even have to read a discussion book ahead of time!) [-ecl]

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2. Well, we had another storm of the century this year. That phrase is something of a joke with Evelyn and me since last year we had three storms and each one was dubbed "the storm of the century" and not one dropped enough snow on our driveway to make it necessary to shovel. For five years, give or take a year, I have been writing on how some mysterious force watches over Evelyn. At the risk of boring long-time readers, I will just say that it is nominally Evelyn's responsibility to keep the driveway clear. That is a figurehead position like the fact that the Queen of England is the nominal head of the Anglican Church, but I kind of doubt that she goes around getting stuck up about it and telling people what to believe and exercising power. Evelyn is stuck up, tells me what to believe, and exercises power, but not really over the driveway. But somehow she became the driveway queen for one year and suddenly the driveway stopped needing to be done. It was something supernatural, I think. Since then we have had snow deep enough to shovel only once, though other areas relatively nearby seem to get more than we do. Oh, we might get an inch, but it goes away soon enough, but something seems to be watching over Evelyn and the driveway. I wonder if this is how new religions are born?

Anyway, earlier this year when the Northeast was just lambasted with a storm, it left a little ice on our driveway and really bent

over the tree in our front yard, but had done little otherwise. But in the papers I read that it was a devastating storm. (Even this last storm was small compared to the Massachusetts snows of my youth.) There was a commentator on NPR who mentioned that perhaps ice storms and cold weather are good for you. He says that in warm climates people don't work as hard. They are laid back and go out picnicking. Cold, he thinks, is nature's way to tell us we should get to work. Well let me quote from Orson Welles from T\_h\_e T\_h\_i\_r\_d M\_a\_n. "In Italy, for thirty years under the Borgias, they had warfare, terror murder, and bloodshed, but they produced Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and the Renaissance. In Switzerland, they had brotherly love they had 500 years of democracy and peace--and what did they produce? The cuckoo clock." Well you know what else they had in Italy? A warm Mediterranean climate. What did Switzerland have? Snow. Lots of snow.

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3. THE ALIENS OF EARTH by Nancy Kress (Arkham House, ISBN 0-87054-166-8, 1993, 327pp, US\$20.95) (a book review by Evelyn C. Leeper):

This book of eighteen stories is Nancy Kress's second collection.

(The first T\_r\_i\_n\_i\_t\_y\_a\_n\_d\_O\_t\_h\_e\_r\_S\_t\_o\_r\_i\_e\_s was published in 1985 by

Bluejay and is out of print.) This one includes the two Hugo-nominated stories "And Wild for to Hold" and "The Mountain to Mohammed." (They were both nominated for Best Novelette for 1990, and when "The Mountain to Mohammed" won, Kress was presented with a button that read, "I lost the Hugo to Nancy Kress.")

All but one of the stories in T\_h\_e\_A\_l\_i\_e\_n\_s\_o\_f\_E\_a\_r\_t\_h share one common

element: they take place on Earth (hence the title). Beyond that they range from horror ("To Scale" and "Philippa's Hands") to fantasy ("Spillage") to straight science fiction ("People Like Us" and "The Mountain to Mohammed"). Though no medical training is listed in Kress's biographical data, many of her stories deal with disease and the medical profession: "Inertia" has the victims of a

disfiguring plague in a quarantine camp; "The Mountain to Mohammed" deals with the allocation of medical care in the future "Cannibals" looks at the dying-off of an alien species; "In Memoriam" examines a new treatment for the elderly. Time travel and parallel worlds are also common themes ("The Price of Oranges" and "And Wild for to Hold"). "The Battle of Long Island" combines the two, being a story of parallel worlds told in the setting of a battlefield hospital.

My personal favorite is "The Price of Oranges," but all the stories are excellent examples of how we are the "aliens of earth." I recommend this collection.

(Note: Kress's B\_e\_g\_g\_a\_r\_s\_i\_n\_S\_p\_a\_i\_n has just been released in paperback by Avonova. I recommend that as well.)

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4. The Black Maria Film Festival, a collection of short films, is making its annual tour. The program at each location differs, and there are several films of science fiction or fantasy interest. The remaining screenings near our membership include:  
2/15, 7:40PM, Kean College, Hutchenson Hall J-100,  
Morris Ave, Union NJ, 908-527-2307 (ext 2693)  
2/24, 8PM, Montclair State College, Calcia Fine Arts Bldg. Aud.,  
Upper Montclair NJ, 201-893-4307  
3/3 & 3/4, 8PM, Hirshhorn Museum, Independence Ave at 8th St SW,  
Washington DC, 202-357-3280  
3/11, 8PM, Saratoga Springs Public Library, 320 Broadway,  
Sarasota Springs NY, 518-584-7860  
3/12, 8PM, Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. 21 Normandy Heights Road,  
Morristown NJ, 201-540-1177

3/31, 3PM & 8PM, Monmouth College, Guggenheim Theatre, Cedar Ave,  
West Long Branch NJ 908-571-3449  
4/10, 3:30PM & 8PM, Burgdorff Cultural Center, 10 Durand Rd,  
Maplewood NJ, 201-763-6808  
4/21, 7:30 PM, New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, 68 Elm ST,  
Summit NJ, 908-273-9121

4/24, 8PM, University of Massachusetts, Herter Gallery, Fine Arts Center,  
Amherst MA, 413-545-6964

4/29, 7PM, Rutgers Film Co-op & NJ Media Arts Center, Rutgers Univ,  
Milledoler Hall, Room 100, New Brunswick NJ, 908-932-8482

5/5, 8PM, Zone Art Center, 395 Dwight St, 2nd Floor,  
Springfield MA, 413-732-1995

Some of these are free; some charge admission. Call the numbers  
given for further information. [-ecl]

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A religion that requires persecution to sustain it is  
of the devil's propagation.

-- Hosea Ballou