

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW

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ROBERT W. FRANSON
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RECOMMENDATIONS

We all have friends who do not read science fiction, even though we may have prodded them to at least try it. Which books to recommend to get them interested depend on their age and their interests.

Children are best introduced to science fiction through "juvenile" novels, especially those of Robert A. Heinlein and Andre Norton (which make good reading for adults as well).

Older people who have read little if any science fiction cannot be immediately introduced to van Vogt's *THE WORLD OF A* (3) and its sequel (extreme cases) and logically be expected to appreciate them. Be selective when first recommending books to them. For instance, if they are interested in history, give them Asimov's Foundation books (average book: 3). If they enjoy stories with a strong mood, let them try Simak's *CITY* (2).

Excellent general interest science fiction such as Heinlein's *DOUBLE STAR* (2), van Vogt's *SLAN* (2), and Russell's *WASP* (1) are always quite suitable for potential science fiction readers.

"It does not pay a prophet to be too specific."

— L. Sprague de Camp

SIR KENNETH MALONE

FBI agent Kenneth Malone is the hero of the three-novel series written by Randall Garrett and Laurence M. Janifer, and published under the pseudonym of Mark Phillips.

The overall theme of the series is psionics and how it concerns Malone (who has some latent psionic talents himself). The first novel is about the mad hunt for a telepathic spy. The second novel deals with teleporting juvenile delinquents with a penchant for borrowing red 1972 Cadillacs. For a review of the third book, see page four.

The three novels in the series are:
BRAIN TWISTER, Pyramid, F-783, 1962; *Astounding*, September-October, 1959, as "That Sweet Little Old Lady" (4)
THE IMPOSSIBLES, Pyramid, F-875, 1963; *Analog*, April-June, 1960, as "Out Like a Light" NOVEL - 4
"Occasion for Disaster," see *SUPERMIND*
"Out Like a Light," see *THE IMPOSSIBLES*
SUPERMIND, Pyramid, F-909, 1963; *Analog*, November, 1960-February, 1961, as "Occasion for Disaster" (5)
"That Sweet Little Old Lady," see *BRAIN TWISTER*

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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. We do not rate serials until the final installment is reviewed.

New Worlds, September, 1963.
 No. 134, 128 pp. 3/- (45¢)

"To Conquer Chaos," by John Brunner, (second of three parts) is about an exploration party into the "barrenland" to investigate the source of one-of-a-kind monsters.

"Deep Freeze," by John Rackham, concerns "X"-people, people with a special mind that gives them the ability to think of all possible aspects or viewpoints of something. (d)

Fantastic, November, 1963. 130 pp. 50¢ (3/6)

Neal Barrett, Jr.'s "I Was a Spider for the SBI" is a fairly amusing tale of three spies from Earth disguised as an alien. (D)

"Witch of the Four Winds," by John Jakes. First of two parts. This is an average adventure-fantasy in which the hero, Brak the barbarian, is captured by a witch for her evil purposes, after he saves a friend from her.

Analog, November, 1963. 96 pp. 50¢ or 5/-

Walt and Leigh Richmond's two-part serial, "Where I Wasn't Going," concludes in this issue. The second part has more plot and less description than the first, increasing its readability. The story is set only a hair's breadth in the future, with Man's first space station, an orbital laser beam projector, and saboteurs, but it is still interesting.

NOVEL - 6

"Take the Reason Prisoner," by John J. McGuire, is an overly long story about the part psychology will play in prisons of the near future. NOVELLA - VI

For the first time, we are able to list both American and British prices for a magazine without putting one of them in parentheses to show that it is just an approximate translation. The British Reprint Edition of Analog has been discontinued, and the American edition is now generally available in Great Britain, the first time since 1939. All subscription copies and British newsstand copies carry the five shillings price, while American newsstand copies do not.

Analog is erratic about sending its subscribers' copies in mailing wrappers. For the first time since the November, 1961, issue, the year is on the front cover as well as the spine.

Amazing, November, 1963. 130
pp. 50¢ (3/6)

"Savage Pellucidar," by Edgar Rice Burroughs, is a previously unpublished novella, set in his underground world of Pellucidar. It is inhabited by primitive peoples, and humans from the surface have visited it. Technically the story is fantasy, but that is not its emphasis. It is enjoyable reading.

"Down to Earth," by Harry Harrison tells what happens when the crew of the first moon-expedition returns to Earth - and finds an alternate world. (d)

INFORMATION ABOUT NEW WORLDS

New Worlds' subscription addresses are:

Nova Publications Ltd.
7 Grape Street
Holborn, London, W.C. 2
England

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Gordon & Gotch (Australia)
Ltd.

New Zealand:

Messrs. P.B. Fisher
564 Colombo Street
Christchurch, New Zealand

Subscription rates are 12 issues for 40/- (in North America, 12 issues for \$7.00).

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Box 668-SFR, San Diego, California 92112.

Wanted: OF WORLDS BEYOND, edited by Lloyd Arthur Eshbach.
Robert Franson, Box 1568, San Diego, California 92112.

NO ROOM FOR MAN, by Gordon R. Dickson. MacFadden, N.Y. 50-179, 1963. 158 pp. 50¢

The title of the hardcover edition, published by Doubleday, was NECROMANCER. This is a very fast-moving psionic adventure set in a machine-bound world of the future where a world-controlling computer threatens to destroy men's individualistic and creative drives. The main character is carried through a series of fantastic events by a cult of people who are trying to destroy Man's super-technical society. Although slightly confusing at times, the author manages to bring all events to a good ending.

NOVEL - 5
— Robert Merryman

BOOK DEALERS

The function of this department is to recommend good science fiction book dealers, such as: SCIENCE-FICTION & FANTASY PUBLICATIONS, Denver, N.Y. 12421. Send for their catalog.

FACT AND FANCY, by Isaac Asimov. Pyramid, N.Y. WS-15, 1963. 206 pp. 75¢

This is a group of seventeen articles on science - all but one from Fantasy and Science Fiction - divided into four sections: "The Earth and Away," "The Solar System," "The Universe," and "The Human Mind." Dr. Asimov is at all times easily understood and of course highly entertaining. This book is well worth the price to anyone claiming to have an imagination. These articles run the gamut from a simple description of our atmosphere ("Thin Air") to the imagination-stretching "Here It Comes; There It Goes," speculating on continuous creation of matter. Doubleday published the original hardcover edition of this book, and has recently published a sequel, VIEW FROM A HEIGHT.

6 X H, by Robert A. Heinlein.
Pyramid, N.Y. F-910, 1963. 40¢

Here are five short stories and a novel, "The Unpleasant Profession of Jonathan Hoag" (6) (the title of the collection in the original Gnome Press edition). The novel first appeared in Unknown Worlds. It concerns a man whose memory of what he does during the day is blank, and a detective couple who investigate him at his own request. They run into supernatural opposition. The best short stories are "And He Built a Crooked House" (b), about a four-dimensional house; and "Our Fair City" (d), about an intelligent whirlwind.

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

SUPERMIND, by Mark Phillips.
Pyramid, N.Y. F-909, 1963. 40¢

This is the third and last novel in the series recounting the adventures of Kenneth Malone, FBI agent extraordinary. (For a description of the series, see page one.) The novel has been greatly altered from its original appearance in Analog, retaining the plot but with many of the details changed. The revision is more comprehensible than the original version. Malone is investigating a sudden upsurge in inefficiency in the government and elsewhere, which is apparently caused by psionic sabotage.

NOVEL - 5

THE SKYLARK SERIES: II

This review is intended to give background to Dr. Edward E. Smith's new novel soon to be published in If, "Skylark Duquesne," which will be the fourth in the Skylark series. In order, the first three books are: THE SKYLARK OF SPACE, SKYLARK THREE, and THE SKYLARK OF VALERON. This issue reviews:

SKYLARK THREE, by Edward E. Smith, Ph.D.

The second novel of the series was first published in Amazing Stories in 1930. Fantasy Press published a hardcover edition. Richard Seaton, Martin Crane, and their wives travel through the galaxy meeting alien races, including the Fenachrone - who are bent on taking over the galaxy. Seaton and his companions, with other races - especially the venerable Norlaminians, who possess a greatly advanced knowledge of science - fight the menace, using such devices as a barrier impervious to matter and energy. The war is fought down to the final chapter of this exciting book.

NOVEL - 4

The third novel of the series, THE SKYLARK OF VALERON, will be reviewed in a future issue. Pyramid Books will soon publish SKYLARK THREE and THE SKYLARK OF VALERON in paperback format, according to the author. Pyramid has already reprinted the SKYLARK OF SPACE, and sold over 100,000 copies of it.

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