

The Space Merchants

The Space MerchantsThe Space MerchantsThe Space MerchantsThe Space MerchantsSpace MerchantsThe Space MerchantsThe Space Merchants - Kiss The DirtScience Fiction WritersBulletinFoundationParkingNewspaperdomReports of All the Cases Decided by All the Superior Courts Relating to Magistrates, Municipal, and Parochial LawCoastlinesPar RapportRefrigerated & Frozen FoodsAdvertising & Selling and the Advertising AgencyPort of Baltimore HandbookAir ForceAdvertising Fortnightly Frederik Pohl Frederik Pohl Frederik Pohl Frederik Pohl Bing Professor of Biological Sciences Paul R Ehrlich Wendie Nordgren The Space Merchants Richard Bleiler Victoria Department of Agriculture Robert H. Burrage Great Britain. Magistrates' cases Baltimore Association of Commerce

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in a vastly overpopulated near future world businesses have taken the place of governments and now hold all political power states exist merely to ensure the survival of huge transnational corporations advertising has become hugely aggressive and boasts some of the world s most powerful executives through advertising the public is constantly deluded into thinking that all the products on the market improve the quality of life however the most basic elements are incredibly scarce including water and fuel the planet venus has just been visited and judged fit for human settlement despite its inhospitable surface and climate colonists would have to endure a harsh climate for many generations until the planet could be terraformed mitch courtenay is a star class copywriter in the fowler schocken advertising agency and has been assigned the ad campaign that would attract colonists to venus but a lot more is happening than he knows about mitch is soon thrown into a world of danger mystery and intrigue where the people in his life are never quite what they seem and his loyalties and core beliefs will be put to the test

teagan green dreams of escaping the drudgery of earth and traversing the stars will her dreams come true or will events from her past destroy her

cover designed by braulio amado plus a 100 page printed graphic novel featuring the artwork of joshua ray stephens somewhere between the astral plane and the sticky floors of a biker bar that s the sonic zone inhabited by kiss the dirt at once heavy and propulsive blissed out and southern fried the highly anticipated sophomore release from brooklyn s the space merchants sits in constant tension between grit and transcendence grammy winning engineer james brown foo fighters spoon kings of leon produced and mixed the record

building on the promise of the band's acclaimed 2015 debut that record's sunny psych vibes earned raves from the likes of Magnet and scored a KEXP Song of the Day. The Space Merchants though took their name from a 50s sci-fi novel and on *Kiss the Dirt* they set their controls for the ends of infinity with a thematic sweep that explores notions of mortality, rebirth and chaos. Brown's production adds muscle and finesse, recalling Black Mountain in joining Sabbath weight, power moves and Texian swagger to the earthy groove of the band and Bobbie Gentry's crossover twang. But it's Mike Guggino and Ani Monteleone's laser-guided harmonies that coupled with a layer of atmospheric psych-space tones launch these ten songs into the cosmos. On the title track, drummer Carter Logan (also one half of Jim Jarmusch's musical vehicle *Squirrel*) and bassist Aileen Brophy lay down supple slabs of rhythm for Guggino's slithery riffs and Monteleone's organ pads. Guggino and Monteleone trade vocals, toggling between her pure-as-light clarity and his silky crooner's rock as they interrogate cosmic forces. I named a lot of stars but I never named the sun, so do you think it knows like I know? A Fleetwood Mac-worthy harmony supported by Brophy on backing vocals sets up an ascendant and as usual, ripping Guggino solo. Another standout, *Not Tonight*, punctuates its revved-up last dance in a cosmic honkytonk groove with explosive tremolo bursts that would make Jason Pierce proud. While *All the Love* struts in low and slow, slinking toward an epic jam that crescendos with crashing drums and taught, twined guitar lines before drifting back to earth and summoning an even bigger wave of sound. In the coda, a Stone Roses-style Brit-pop jangler, *Side 2* opener *The Edge of the World* adds another brighter hue to the aural palette. *Kiss the Dirt* features cover art by internationally renowned artist and designer Braulio Amado, who has worked on design projects for Beck, and it's accompanied by a 100-page psychedelic sci-fi graphic novel illustrated by Joshua Ray Stevens. Creator of album art for sub-pop's hip-hop supergroup Shabazz Palaces, inspired in part by a Donovan interview, the novel explores notions of mortality, entropy, chaos and control. In it, the band transcends time and space to drink with Alexander the Great from his victory chalice only moments before his death and the collapse of his empire. The songs on the record are all about being painfully aware of the limitations of mortality. Guggino says we are set adrift in a sea of chaos that is the universe, so the graphic novel envisions the opposite: a universe where we are in control but only for a moment. Elsewhere, Guggino's limitations of mortality manifest as world-weary laments: *I've Done Too Much Living for This World*, *I Know That It Hurts* and country-style narratives. *Not Tonight* for example is a story of star-crossed dance-floor romance while *City Lights* tells the tale of a sordid breakup. *Leave Your Coat On 'Cause You Ain't Gonna Come Inside* but on *Kiss the Dirt*, everything rooted in the ways of the world is just a means for transcending it, so it's no surprise when you hear the record's last lyric: *In that fire, I'll be reborn and I wanna help it burn*.

on science fiction authors

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