

The Space Merchants

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mitchell courtenay an advertising copywriter of the future is assigned to sway public support for the american colonization of venus

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 taunt-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*.

cyril kornbluth is a legendary figure in science fiction as a teenager in the years before world war ii he wrote prolifically and brilliantly under multiple pennames after military service he developed a voice distinctive for its commanding intelligence passion and wit displaying it in a string of novels and short stories including his award winning the little black bag his sudden death in 1958 at the early age of 35 marked the end of an era it was a time when his chosen literary field was contemplating its potential demise this comprehensive biography tells the story of this remarkable writer and his works for the first time

american science fiction in both literature and film has played a key role in the portrayal of the fears inherent in the cold war the end of this era heralds the need for a reassessment of the literary output of the forty year period since 1945 working through a series of important texts david seed investigates the political inflexions put on american narratives in the post war decades by cold war cultural circumstances nuclear holocaust russian invasion and the perceived rise of totalitarianism in american society are key elements in the author's exploration of science fiction narratives which include fahrenheit 451 invasion of the body snatchers and dr strangelove written in a lively and engaging style the author's approach draws on the significant body of nuclear criticism and the historicism of hayden white and others in order to bring out the ideological tensions and urgencies in this fiction relating the theory to a range of popular novels stories and films makes this book accessible to students academics and general readers alike

the historical dictionary of science fiction in literature is a useful reference to the broad and burgeoning field of science fiction literature science fiction literature has gained immensely in critical respect and attention while maintaining a broad readership however despite the fact that it is a rapidly changing field contemporary science fiction literature also maintains a strong sense of its connections to science fiction of the past which makes a historical reference of this sort particularly valuable as a tool for understanding science fiction literature as it now exists and as it has evolved over the years the historical dictionary of science fiction in literature covers the history of science fiction in literature through a chronology an introductory essay and an extensive bibliography the dictionary section has over 300 cross referenced entries including significant people themes critical issues and the most significant genres that have formed science fiction literature this book is an excellent access point for students researchers and anyone wanting to know more about this subject

this book is a fast paced account supported by striking compelling renderings of how spaceflight has been forever changed since nasa heralded the commercial orbital transportation services cots program on january 18th 2006 spaceflight was once a clunky

affair ruled by inefficient cost plus models that gravely hampered the rapid pace of innovation while extorting a tremendous ransom to the taxpayers in a single volume you will embark on a thrilling journey of how major and lesser known launcher and spacecraft manufacturers have devoted their resources to bring forward a vision of profit by rapid innovation offering transportation services from leo through cis lunar space and beyond earth s sphere of influence this book recognizes nasa s cots program as a pivot point in the history of the space agency and worldwide space industry and charts two story arcs before cots bc and after cots ac the reader will understand how much the space industry has benefitted from the introduction of cots in the pursuit of making humankind a spacefaring civilization this book will feature numerous stunning original illustrations cross sections close up views and many more meticulously crafted by renowned space artist giuseppe de chiara as the saying goes a picture is worth a thousand words and these stunning images will capture the reader offering an exclusive intellectual experience

not since man set foot on the moon over four decades ago has there been such passion and excitement about space exploration this enthusiasm and eagerness has been spurred on by the fact that for the first time since the very beginning of the space age space travel is no longer limited to an elite group of highly trained and well disciplined military officers and test pilots instead we must understand that the possibility of commercial space travel is already on our horizon and that it comes with a number of significant practical and moral challenges our level of scientific development and ability to influence international affairs and policy confers upon us an obligation to study the ethical legal and social considerations associated with space exploration and understanding the potential consequences from the beginning is critical this volume provides the first comprehensive and unifying analysis concerning the rise of private space exploration with a view toward developing policy that may influence real world decision making the plethora of questions demanding serious attention privatisation and commercialisation the impact on the environment health futures risk assessment responsibility and governance are directly addressed in this scholarly work

the great account executives of earth will stop at nothing not even war to crush the handful of rebels on venus who oppose their all encompassing domination

on science fiction authors

following its acclaimed three volume edition of the novels of science fiction master philip k dick the library of america now presents a two volume anthology of nine groundbreaking works from the golden age of the modern science fiction novel works by turns satiric adventurous incisive and hauntingly lyrical long unnoticed or dismissed by the literary

establishment these visionary outsider novels grappled in fresh ways with a world in rapid transformation and have gradually been recognized as american classics that opened new imaginative territory in american writing this first volume contains frederik pohl c m kornbluth the space merchants theodore sturgeon more than human leigh brackett the long tomorrow richard matheson the shrinking man library of america is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation s literary heritage by publishing and keeping permanently in print america s best and most significant writing the library of america series includes more than 300 volumes to date authoritative editions that average 1 000 pages in length feature cloth covers sewn bindings and ribbon markers and are printed on premium acid free paper that will last for centuries

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