

The Space Merchants

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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

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

the science fiction handbook offers a comprehensive and accessible survey of one of the literary world s most fascinating genres includes separate historical surveys of key subgenres including time travel narratives post apocalyptic and post disaster narratives and works of utopian and dystopian science fiction each subgenre survey includes an extensive list of relevant critical readings recommended novels in the subgenre and recommended films relevant to the subgenre features entries on a number of key science fiction authors and extensive discussion of major science fiction novels or sequences writers and works include isaac asimov margaret atwood george orwell ursula k le guin the war of the worlds 1898 starship troopers 1959 mars trilogy 1993 6 and many more a science fiction glossary completes this indispensable handbook

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 key texts american science fiction and the cold war investigates the political inflections 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 that include fahrenheit 451 invasion of the body snatchers and dr strangelove

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 t rexian swagger to the earthy groove of the band and bobbie gentry s crossover twang but it s mike guggino and ani monteleone s lazer 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 sqürl 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

this encyclopedia is the most up to date concise clear and affordable guide to all aspects of science fiction from its background to generic themes and devices from authors established and new to films science fiction has evolved into one of the most popular cutting edge and exciting fiction genres with a proliferation of

modern and classic authors themes and ideas movies tv series and awards arranged in an a z format and featuring a comprehensive index and cross referencing system the mammoth encyclopedia of science fiction is also the most accessible and easy to use encyclopedia of its kind currently available

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