

REVIEWS

GOLD THE MAN by Joseph Green.
published by Pan at 30p.
Reviewed by Belladonna.

I hardly ever read Science Fiction- it isn't really "My scene". But this was sent me to review. It reached me on a morning when I was lying in bed with 'flu, and the cover showed an anatomised brain in throbbing psychedelic colours, with little people running about inside it - just the way my head was feeling at that moment. I closed my eyes...

Later I went back to the book and was surprised to find myself gripped by it against my will- it is such an imaginative exercise in "Just supposing"...What would happenif...

What would happen if a three-hundred foot giant from another solar system landed upon "our" moon-base and some terribly clever scientists constructed a control-cell inside that giant's brain, where one terribly clever scientist (who was a super-brain) and another, (who was -guess!- a woman) could take up quarters indefinitely and control the giant, returning him, eventually to his planet....

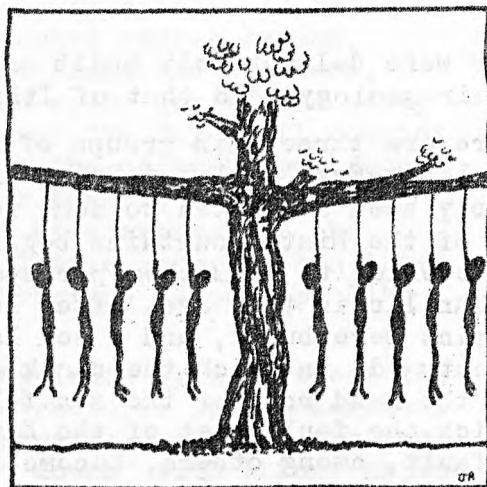
And so on. The possibilities are explored with a lively curiosity which ranges all the way from the genes of our principal character to the conscious intelligences embodied in cosmic clouds which are bombarding the giant's home sun and forcing his people to contemplate taking over the earth. The author is interested in everything, including, it would seem the destination of every drop of blood or other bodily fluid. He describes everything, including a great deal of sex in quite clinical and antiseptic detail - I suppose we have to get used to this. The frequent flash-backs to Gold's previous sexual adventures (in detail) seem to me, however, unnecessary and rather in the nature of "padding"; however, highly spiced padding. The story could carry itself without them, though it would be shorter.

We are given a good cliff-hanging climax -I just had to know how the baby would get born in such very peculiar circumstances! -- and a reasonable "catastrophe"- the intelligences in the cosmic clouds are amenable to reason after all. But no hope is held out for the miserable degenerate earthlings (known as the technots- the have-nots of the technical age)described in the earlier chapters. I fear the author forgot them.

Good of its kind, as far as I can judge its kind - but a long way from Tolkien.

STAG-BOY by William Rayner.
Published by Collins.
Reviewed by Susan Adler.

I read this book almost by accident - It had an interesting cover so I picked it up and took it home. While I was reading it, I was so deeply immersed that I didn't hear when people talked to me - something that hasn't happened to me for a long time, and although it only took me two hours to read it, at the end of it, I felt that I didn't want to read anything else for a while, so that I could



The Fenny family tree