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SCIENCE FICTION PICTURES

ADRIAN BUCKLEY

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With thanks to Nigel Suckling for his help in the production of this book

INTRODUCTION

My interest in the infinite variations and possibilities of science fiction began a long time ago with the stories of H.G. Wells, Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke and Ray Bradbury - to name but a few. It may have started after reading H.G. Wells' "The Invisible Man". Which reminds me of the story of the Managing Director's secretary entering his office to tell him, "The Invisible Man's outside". The Managing Director says, "Tell him I can't see him". But I digress.

Some of science fiction's motifs and themes are reflected in these illustrations. For example, space travel, time travel, utopias and dystopias, artificial intelligence and encounters with extraterrestrials. The stories were written between the early 19th century and the 21st, a span of three centuries in chronological time. Science fiction can and often does, embrace all time - from the beginning to the end of the universe. And sometimes beyond!

Adrian Buckley
2023

WALTER M. MILLER JR. (1922 - 1996) American writer

A Canticle For Leibowitz
Published in 1959

Brother Francis Gerard of Utah might never have discovered the blessed documents had it not been for the pilgrim with girded loins.

The survival of the human race after the nuclear holocaust of the 26th century and the succeeding Dark Ages, hung in the balance. In the scorched desolation of the Utah desert Brother Francis, a monk of the Blessed Order of Saint Leibowitz, stumbled upon holy relics dating from the time of the saint himself. These included the blessed blueprint, the sacred shopping list and the shrine of the Fallout Survival Shelter; artifacts destined to prove vital in humanity's long struggle back to civilization and eventually the stars.



KEITH LAUMER (1925 - 1993) American writer

A Trip to the City, also published as It Could Be Anything
first appeared in Amazing Stories 1963. Included in the collection Nine by Laumer, 1967

The rails ran straight through the dry fields. He stepped down to the ground.

Brett Hale set out to discover what was on the other side of the hill. On the train he dozed. He awoke to find himself alone on three stranded railroad cars abandoned in the middle of nowhere. He had no option but to start walking. Scattered across the arid dusty fields were fragments of some lost civilization. The next day he reached the seemingly deserted city. When he did encounter the inhabitants he was at first puzzled and then horrified. What could it mean? Was reality an illusion after all? If so, it could be anything...


PREPARE
TO MEET
GOD
BUY
NOW
PAY
LATER

CORDWAINER SMITH (1913 - 1966) American writer

Alpha Ralpha Boulevard
Published in 1961

"The Instrumentality could not have contrived this. What a clever old machine! Is it a god or a devil, Paul?"

The Instrumentality had governed the world for so long, humans had forgotten how to be individuals, take risks, experience danger and excitement. When the government decided to relax its rules, people rediscovered the world their ancestors had known 14,000 years previously.

Paul and Virginia were in love and rejoiced in their new freedom. Maximilien Macht told them of the Abba-dingo, the ancient computer that could predict the future. It was reached by ascending Alpha Ralpha Boulevard; once a processional highway, the aerial street was now a ruin. After setbacks and scares, they reached the Abba-dingo. Paul realized with horror that they had made a terrible mistake.


Abba-dingo

JAMES BLISH (1921 - 1975) American writer

Cities in Flight
Originally published as his four-part "Okie" novels between 1950 and 1962
Omnibus edition 1970

With the spindizzy field up, Scranton lifted.

Civilization on Earth was in decline. Thanks to two discoveries, the spindizzy which enabled whole cities to leave Earth, and an anti-ageing drug allowing the inhabitants to live vastly extended lives, humanity now had a second chance. But for the universe, time itself was running out.



CLIFFORD D. SIMAK (1904 - 1988) American writer

City
Published in 1952

"The ants were *pulling carts. And there* were *chimneys sticking from the hill, chimneys that belched acrid smoke which told of smelting ores."*

As far as the dogs were concerned, human kind had become no more than a collection of stories told around the hearthstone on winter nights. The pups sat quietly and afterwards would ask, "What is Man?" "What is a City?" "What is War?" Questions to which there were no answers. One of these tales told of a man called Webster who long ago had enabled the dogs to speak and to see more clearly. The ancient Webster clan and their family robot, the seemingly immortal and ever loyal Jenkins, were often the focus of the stories, which stretched back across centuries.

Humans had abandoned the cities for the isolation of country estates. Wandering mutant geniuses turned capricious whims into realities. One such was Joe who set a colony of ants on a new evolutionary path – just for the heck of it. And later – just for the heck of it – put his boot through the anthill. But it didn't matter. As Jenkins was to discover many tens of thousands of years later, one characteristic the ants possessed in abundance was patience.



WILLIAM MORRISON (1906 - 1980) American writer

Dead Man's Planet
Published in1955 in the British edition of Galaxy Science Fiction Magazine No. 28

The ship rose into the air. Sam imagined he heard the long doleful whine of a creature whose mindless grief was doomed to last for all eternity.

Though reluctant to admit it to each other, Sam and his son Mark welcomed the cessation of their aimless wanderings through space, even if planet-fall had brought them to a desolate and inhospitable world. But they weren't the first to set foot there. Not far from the ship were a cairn and a sizeable block of some synthetic substance. The cairn was guarded by a dog. The block turned out to be a container and inside was a collection of sheets of paper covered in an unknown script. Once deciphered by the ship's translator, they revealed a terrible tale of loss, hubris and an experiment gone hideously wrong. The dog's existence was proof of a hopeless bid for immortality eight hundred years previously.



ISAAC ASIMOV (1920 - 1992) American writer

I'm in Marsport Without Hilda
Published in 1957

"...guess what! I'm in Marsport without Hilda."

Max was in Marsport for a three-day stop over between assignments. Max's wife Hilda couldn't join him, as her mother was unwell. Ever the opportunist, Max seized the chance to phone Flora, an old acquaintance. But even the best laid schemes etc... Boss, Rog Crinton, had a little job for him. Three dangerous hoodlums were due in from Sirius aboard the *Antares Giant* and one of them would be carrying a precious but highly addictive and illegal cargo - the drug, *Altered* Spaceoline. Without Spaceoline, first time space trippers were turned into screaming psychotics. The altered variety was more potent and far more dangerous and The Service was determined to stop it at source. In other words ban Spaceoline. But the Spacelines depended on it to keep them in business. So Max had to use every atom of cunning and deviousness he possessed to identify the carrier. It all went to plan and still left time for Max to keep his rendezvous with Flora.

He phoned her to confirm their arrangement. It was then he heard a voice calling, "Max! Max!" and running footsteps. "Mamma's all right after all, so I got a special passage on the *Space Eater*". Max managed a smile as he turned to greet Hilda.

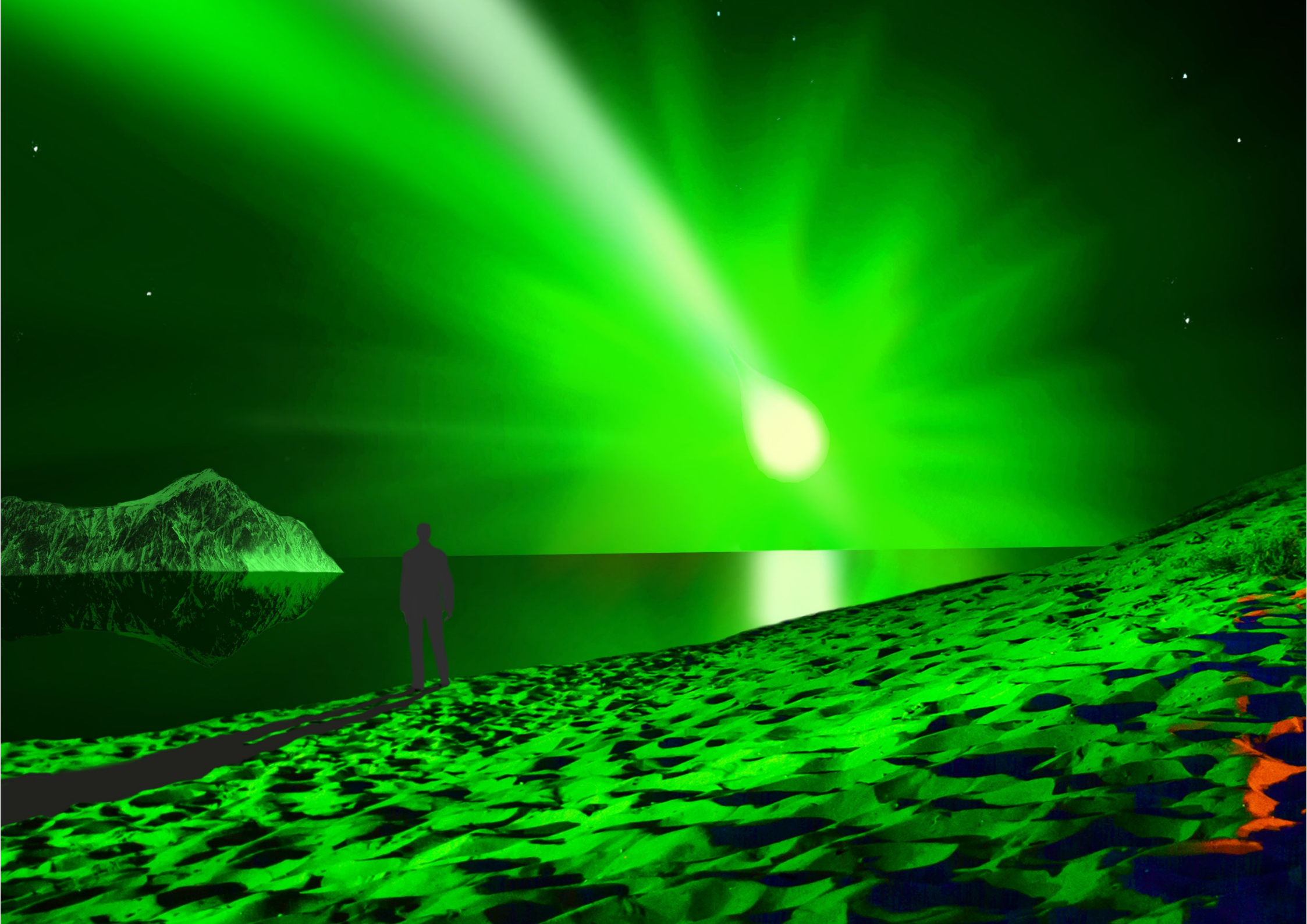

PHONE
LOCAL CALL
10¢

H.G. Wells (1866 - 1946) English writer

In the Days of the Comet
Published in 1906

The sands were changed to a whirl of green moonshine, the air was thunder.

"The Change" came close on the heels of the comet. It grazed the earth with its green vapours and left it with a new atmosphere. The effects of this were profound, beneficial and lasting. A utopian future beckoned. Humanity turned its back on an industrial catastrophe and imminent war and instead embraced an age of pacifism and Wellsian free love.



RAY BRADBURY (1920 - 2012) American writer

The Martian Chronicles
Published in 1950
August 2002, Night Meeting

"Hello!" he called.
"Hello!" called the Martian in his own language.

Although neither spoke the other's language, they understood each other perfectly. Mounted on a glittering insectoid machine, Muhe Ca, the Martian had touched Tomás Gomez's head without touching it and the Earth Man accepted it. But when they tried to shake hands another strange thing happened. Their hands met and passed through each other. Each was a ghost, a phantom to the other, separated by a million years. They agreed to disagree as to which one of them was real.

The Martian told Tomás that he was on his way to a festival at the canal near the Eniall Mountains. Tomás told Muhe Ca that he was on his way to a shindig in Green City, the new colony near Illinois Highway.

They parted as friends and the road remained empty and quiet under the stars.



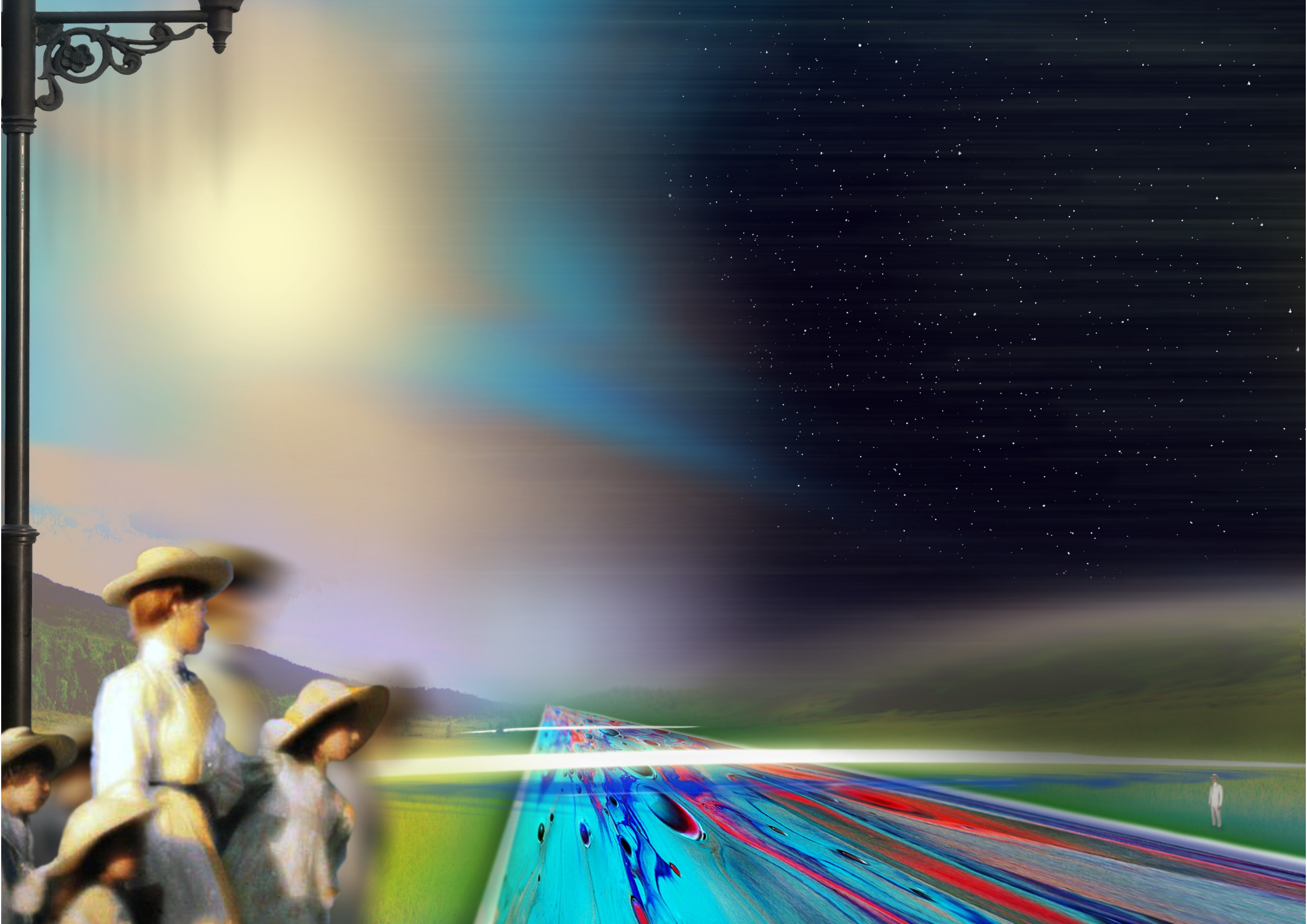
CHRISTOPHER PRIEST (1943 -) English writer

Palely Loitering

Written in 1978. Published in An Infinite Summer, 1979

"Can we cross into Tomorrow, Mother?"

The Flux Channel, which traversed dimensions, had taken over twenty years to build at great cost in lives and money. In an era of space flight, the Flux Channel's purpose had been to launch a craft and its crew at unimaginable velocities toward the stars. The ship vanished never to be heard from again and in the following years space flight ceased. After the launch the flux-field took several years to stabilize. Then the park and the time-bridges were constructed. By crossing any of the three bridges one could walk at will between Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.



LEE HARDING (1937 -) Australian writer

Quest
Published in 1963

He had been tricked.

Something *real*. That was all Johnson had ever wanted. Anything not made by man, not artificial. And so he set out on his quest. He had been travelling for five days and the buildings and streets continued without a break. From an air-car he looked down on the endless megalopolis. Then he glimpsed something a long way off which was different - a smudge of green. He'd found the Great Park.

The Caretaker warned him not to pick any of the roses growing around the old man's cottage. But it was impossible to resist. Here at last was something real. Or so he thought. He plucked one and saw thin electric tendrils whipping back into the ground and the roses wilting. It was then he comprehended the massive lie. The park with its trees, grass and flowers, was a trick and a fake. Just like all the living things on Earth. And, irony of ironies, he realized, as the policemen cancelled his soulless existence with ion rays, so was he.



ARTHUR C. CLARKE (1917 - 2008) English writer

Rendezvous with Rama
Published in 1973

"But at least we have answered one ancient question. We are not alone."

Entering the Solar System in 2131, the vast cylinder, 34 miles long, 10 miles wide and weighing some ten trillion tons, turned out to be indifferent to Planet Earth, let alone its inhabitants. It merely needed the gravitational force of the Sun to help it change course and set it on a new trajectory into interstellar space. During its brief time in Earth's vicinity, the crew of the solar survey vessel *Endeavor* landed and gained access to the starship - now named Rama. Inside were geometric constructions resembling towns with streets and trenches. But the cylinder's builders remained elusive and apart from the hybrid biots and a solitary flower, Rama appeared to be lifeless. Then it was time to leave – *Endeavor's* crew back to Earth and Rama towards the Large Megallanic Cloud and destinations unknown.



BRIAN ALDISS (1925 - 2017) English writer

Report on Probability A
Published in 1968

She waited.
He waited.

A house. In the garden were three outbuildings from which three ex-employees of the house owners, Mr. and Mrs. Mary, watched. They were G, S and C. They were part of a seemingly endless chain of watchers each observing and being observed. Copies of a painting, *The Hireling Shepherd*, by the Pre-Raphaelite artist William Holman Hunt, hung in each outbuilding as well as in certain other continuums. The girl in the painting and a book called Low Point X, perhaps pointed to a world where time stood still.


LOW
POINT
X

ARKADY STRUGATSKY (1925 - 1991) & BORIS STRUGATSKY (1931 - 2012) Russian writers

Roadside Picnic
Published in 1972

"Take it slow," I say. "Don't rush. Don't raise dust."

The visitors from the stars came and left, paying humanity no heed and leaving behind mysterious artifacts like careless picnickers scattering litter. As well as the hell slime and bug traps, the burning fuzz and the meatgrinder, there were empties, pairs of saucer-sized copper discs about eighteen inches apart which resisted all attempts to bring them together or separate them. Empties demanded high prices on the black market. Red Schuhart, known as a stalker because of his ability to navigate the Zone, agreed reluctantly to take Kirill and Tender into the wasteland to retrieve a rare full empty. Such forays were illegal and perilous especially for the stalker. But needs must when the Devil drives.



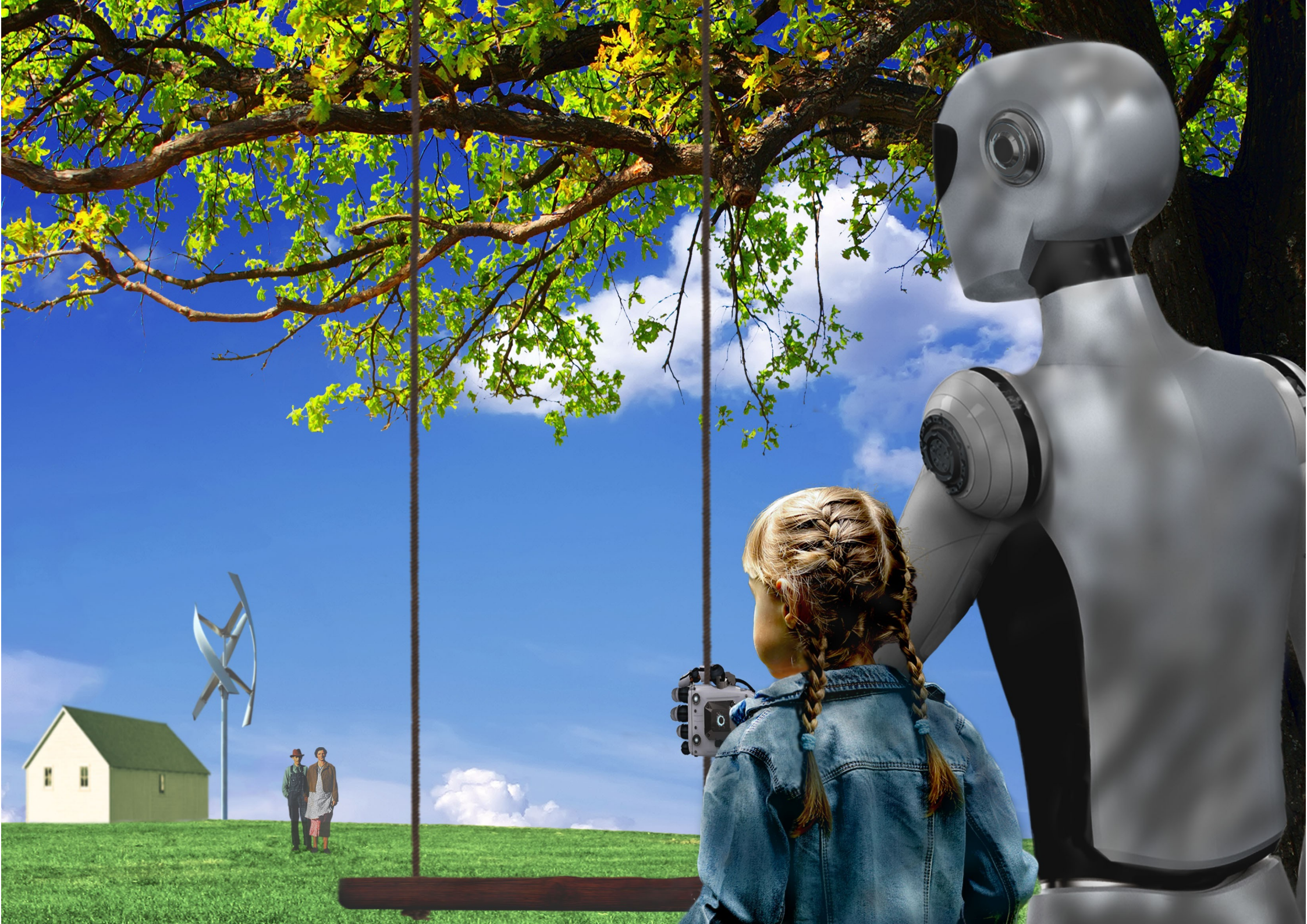
ISAAC ASIMOV (1920 - 1992) American writer

Robbie

First published as Strange Playfellow in 1940, Robbie reappeared as the first of nine linked stories in I, Robot published in 1950

"Gloria!"

Robbie, a sympathetic but mute robot, was the property of Mr and Mrs Weston and originally bought as a "nursemaid" for little Gloria. Mrs Weston came to resent the child's growing attachment to Robbie. Following a bungled attempt by Mrs Weston to get rid of him, Robbie saved the child's life. Mrs Weston relented and allowed Robbie to stay.



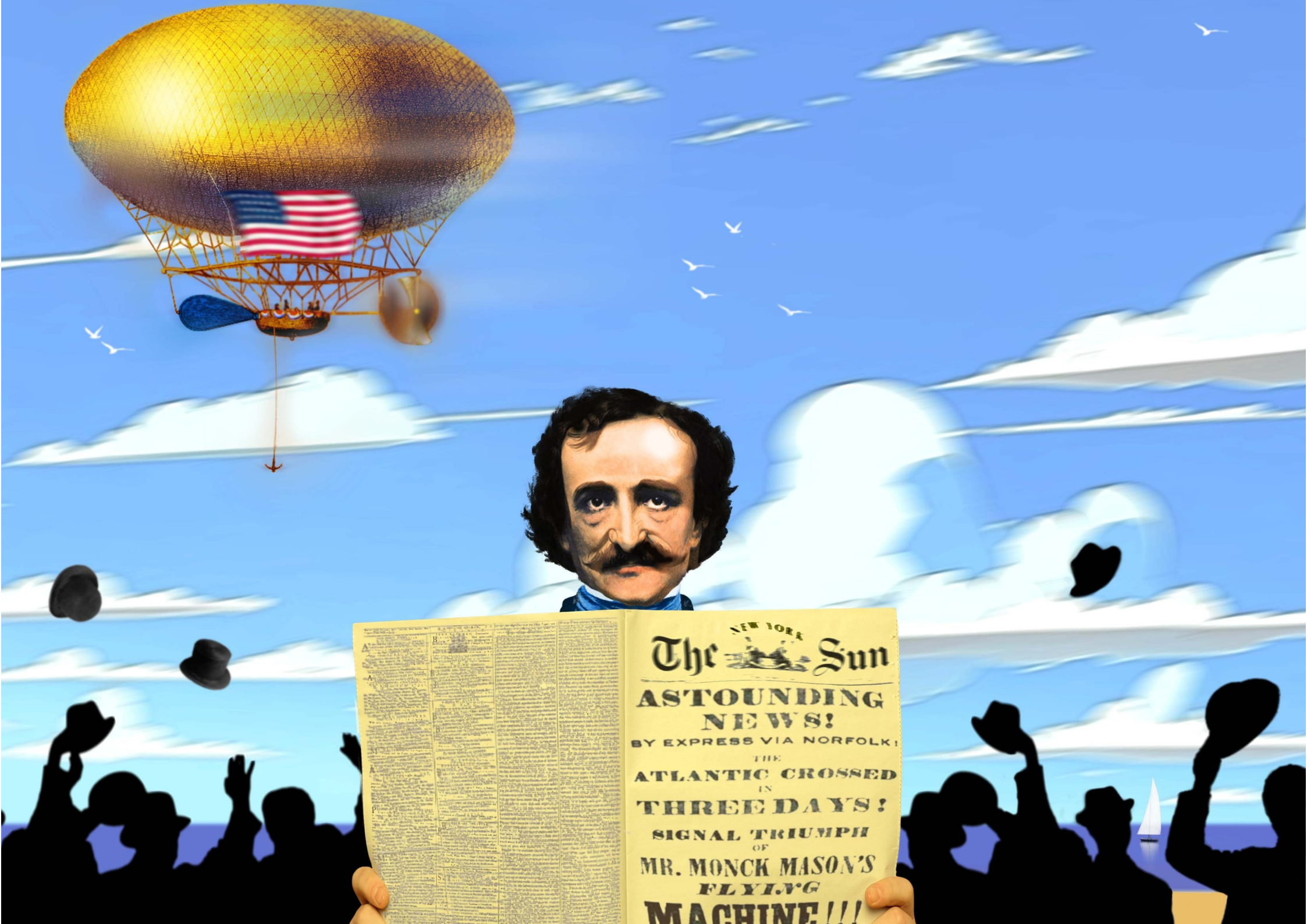
EDGAR ALLAN POE (1809 - 1849) American writer

The Balloon-Hoax
Published in 1844

ASTOUNDING NEWS! THE ATLANTIC CROSSED in THREE DAYS!

The *New York Sun*, a popular daily newspaper, carried this headline on Saturday, April 13, 1844. The accompanying article carried a detailed and comprehensive account of a lighter-than-air balloon trip by European balloonist Monck Mason across the Atlantic Ocean taking a mere 75 hours. Waving and cheering crowds greeted the arrival of *The Victoria*, a steerable balloon carrying eight passengers as it passed over Sullivan's Island, South Carolina.

The author of the article, Edgar Allan Poe, at first presented the story as factual but later retracted it after admitting it was a hoax. Now considered an early example of science fiction, it caught the mood of the technological changes happening at that time, especially relating to powered flight. In fact the first human-carrying lighter-than-air craft to cross the Atlantic was the British dirigible R34 in 1919. It took 108 hours 12 minutes.

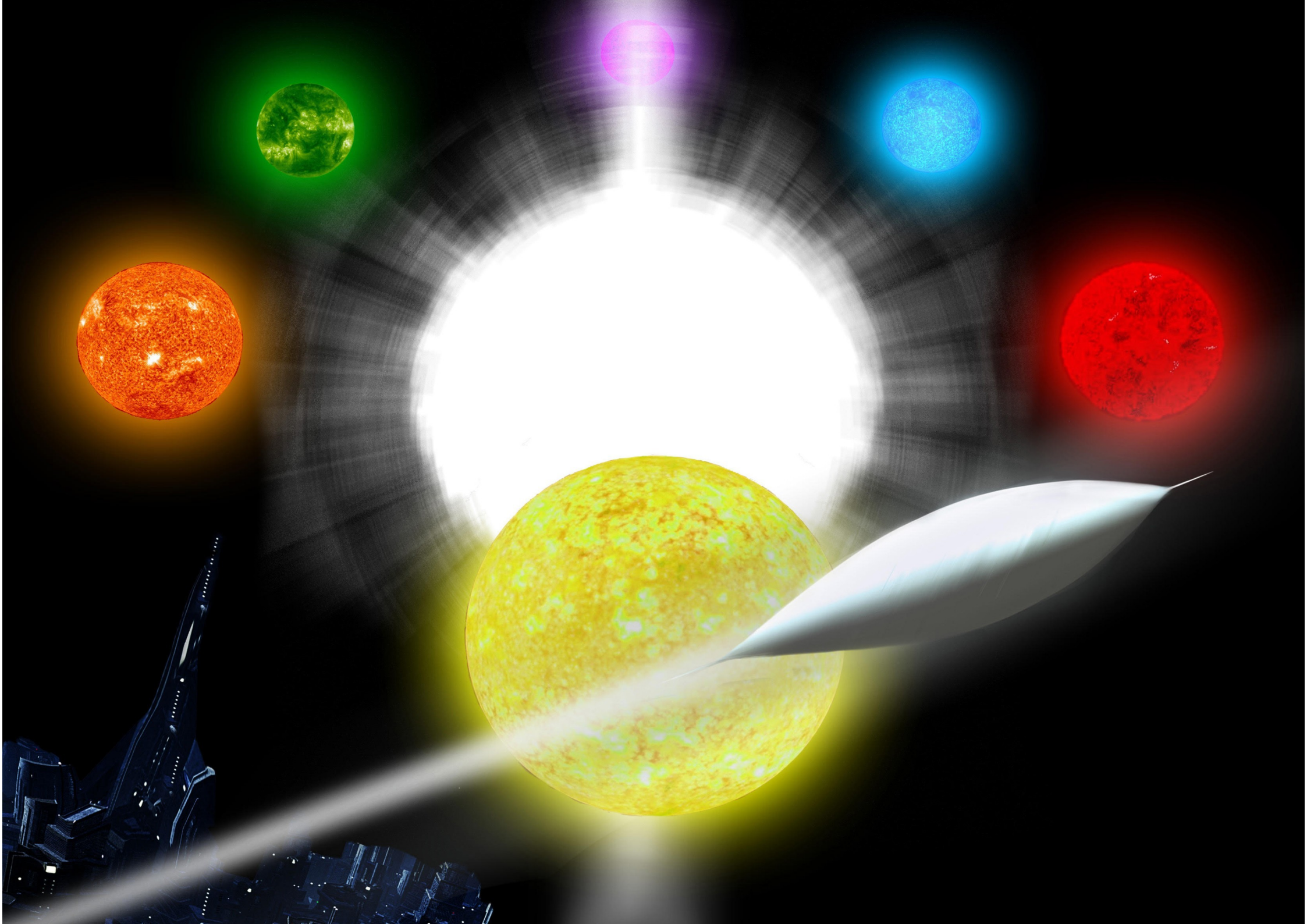

NEW YORK
The Sun
ASTOUNDING NEWS!
BY EXPRESS VIA NORFOLK!
THE ATLANTIC CROSSED IN THREE DAYS!
SIGNAL TRIUMPH OF MR. MONCK MASON'S FLYING MACHINE!!!

ARTHUR C. CLARKE (1917 - 2008) English writer

The City and the Stars
Published in 1956

They were within the system of the Seven Suns.

An artificial construction and perhaps a work of art on a literally astronomical scale, the Seven Suns was the destination of the Master's ship and its two occupants: Alvin, a Unique from billion years old Diaspar, the last city on Earth and Halvar from the oasis community of Lys. Among the orbiting planets of the system, they would uncover the answers to the timeless riddles of the Invaders, Shalmirane, the Mad Mind, Vanamonde and ultimately, the fate of the Galaxy.



RAY BRADBURY (1920 - 2012) American writer

The Martian Chronicles
Published in 1950
November 2005, The Off Season

"Sam. A friend of yours to see you."

Sam and Elma Parkhill were preparing the first hot dog stand on Mars. Sam expected the arrival of one hundred thousand emigrants from Earth anytime. The Martian who had visited Sam earlier that day, reappeared in the evening and was about to present him with a bronze tube containing the land grants to half of Mars. Sam, mistaking the tube for a weapon, shot the Martian dead. Later, Elma saw explosions on Earth and realized that war had broken out there. She told Sam there would be no visitors for a million years.


DINER
SAM'S
Hot Dogs
DINE

RICHARD MATHESON (1926 - 2013) American writer

The Shrinking Man
Published in 1956

The huge cat edged forward...

Following exposure to a cloud of radiation, Scott Carey began to shrink. Soon even the pretence of a normal life became impossible as he was forced to abandon all human contact. His attempts to find shelter among the giant discarded items of household debris in his own cellar proved futile. Spiders and even the household cat were his mortal enemies. The inexorable miniaturisation might however, be the escape route Carey sought. A new world beyond the atom beckoned.



KURT VONNEGUT (1922 - 2007) American writer

The Sirens of Titan
Published in 1959

Malachi Constant knew of the significance of the three sirens in his life. The three great beauties didn't mean so much to him now, really, except to remind him that sex had once bothered him.

Salo, a small and compassionate Tralfamadorian robot, had been stranded on Titan for over 200 millenniums due to a broken component in his spaceship. On a planet one-hundred-and-fifty thousand light years away, his fellow Tralfamadorians had manipulated human history causing primitive humans to evolve and eventually become a civilization capable of manufacturing the damaged part. Malachi Constant, a man who mistakenly attributed his good luck to God, delivered the replacement part to Salo and together they journeyed in Salo's spaceship to Earth. Salo, at Constant's insistence, left him waiting at a bus stop in Indianapolis where he died of exposure in the cold. As he died he experienced Salo's previously implanted hypnotic hallucination that he would rejoin Beatrice in Paradise.



RAY BRADBURY (1920 - 2012) American writer

The Martian Chronicles
Published in 1950
April 2000, The Third Expedition

"Grandma! Grandpa!"

The third Mars landing. Captain John Black, archaeologist Samuel Hinkston and navigator Lustig, three of the remaining crew of sixteen, stepped down from their spaceship. They found themselves in startlingly familiar surroundings. The ship had landed on a green lawn bordered with Victorian villas with quaint verandas. The air was thin but breathable. And there were Lustig's grandparents – who had died thirty years ago.


Preview Hints Ponders the Future
STARTS TOMORROW! SAVE AT...

H.G. Wells (1866 - 1946) English writer

The Time Machine
Published in 1895

"... and then I realised that an eclipse was beginning. Either the moon or the planet Mercury was passing across the sun's disk."

In his desperation to escape from the Morlocks, the Time Traveller had abandoned his friend Weena, the childlike Eloi, back in the year A.D. 802,701. More than thirty million years hence, he had stopped the time machine's vertiginous careening through the fourth dimension and found himself on a livid red beach where a bloated and motionless sun covered a tenth of the sky. The sun was dying and thus also the earth.



STEPHEN BAXTER (1957 -) English writer

The Time Ships
Published in 1995

"Tell me about this climatic instability *of yours," I said.*

On a seemingly abortive trip into the future to rescue his Eloi friend Weena from the Morlocks, the Time Traveller met Nebogipfel, a Morlock of prodigious intellect. Nebogipfel explained that it was the Time Traveller's initial foray into Earth's far future that had altered his time-line and resulted in this scientific and highly advanced branch of Morlock society.

Fifty million years had passed and the Time Traveler and Nebogipfel found themselves on a featureless white plain. One of the pyramidal *Universal Constructors*, a nanotechnological life form, approached. The Morlock was able to communicate with this bizarre being. He learned that the goal of the Constructors was to build a fleet of time ships and thereby travel to the beginning of the universe.



H.G. WELLS (1866 - 1946) English writer

The War Of The Worlds
Published in 1898

It was the torpedo-ram, Thunder Child, *steaming headlong, coming to the rescue of the threatened shipping.*

Six million panicked refugees stampeded away from London attempting to escape the advancing Martian fighting-machines armed with their heat rays and poisonous black smoke. The narrator's younger brother and two companions joined the exodus and headed for the Essex coast where they managed to board a paddle steamer bound for France.

The torpedo ram, *HMS Thunder Child,* brought down two tripods before being blown out of the water by a Martian heat ray. This heroic intercession gave the fleeing ships time to escape. Soon after that all resistance ceased and the Martians went about their killings unhindered.



J.G. BALLARD (1930 - 2009) English writer

The Watchtowers
Written in 1962. Published in The Voices of Time, 1984

Silently, without moving, the watchers stared down at him.

Renthall, unlike his friends, didn't accept the omnipresent watchtowers suspended inexplicably overhead.
He fumed against the sense of anxiety, lethargy and even paranoia they engendered in the populace and he suspected the Council of complicity in their operations. Renthall decided to provoke the Council and perhaps even the watchers in their towers into revealing their cards. Organising a fete on an area of waste ground, in the open and under the gaze of the towers seemed, on the surface, innocuous enough. But his plans aroused consternation among friends and Council members alike. Some kind of mass hypnosis seemed to have persuaded them that the towers didn't exist – but to Renthall they were real enough.

MAIN ROOMS
ARMY
AND
NAVY
WE DO SELL FOR LESS
ROOMS
CORNER STORE

PHILIP LATHAM (1902 - 1981) American writer

The Xi Effect
Published in 1950

With a sickening sensation he perceived that the distortion in space-time was beginning to affect the objects right around him.

Astrophysicists Stoddard and Arnold discovered that an increasing number of wavelengths were vanishing from the electromagnetic spectrum. They realized that eccentric cosmologist, Dr Karl Gustav Friedmann, had been right after all. The so-called Xi Effect was real and was the cause of this phenomenon. An order of space-time, almost beyond comprehension and known as Xi-space had changed. The local universe was being increasingly affected. Whole galaxies were collapsing and shrinking instead of receding, as they should.

Then the shrinkage became measurable. As electromagnetic radiations were progressively extinguished, even colours began to disappear. The doomed Earth darkened beneath a moon rising out of a nightmare. It appeared swollen and elongated and its colour – a transparent blue. Total panic ensued.


LOS ANGELES
MEMORIAL
COLISEUM

RAY BRADBURY (1920 - 2012) American writer

The Martian Chronicles
Published in 1950
August 2026, There Will Come Soft Rains

Tick-tock, ten o'clock.
Tick-tock, ten-fifteen.

Even after an atomic war, old habits die hard. The house was the only one still standing in a ruined landscape that at night glowed with radiation. Safe within, the house robots carried out their programmed tasks; cleaning, cooking, washing and a thousand other household chores. Outside the lawn sprinklers had come on. On the blackened west wall of the house five silhouettes could be seen – there was a man mowing, a woman picking flowers and two children and a ball thrown high in the air. The atomic flash, which had turned the wall to charcoal, had in the briefest instant suspended the shapes of the people and the ball onto the wall.



J.G. BALLARD (1930 - 2009) English writer

Vermilion Sands
Published as a collection of short stories in 1971

"How long are you staying at Vermilion Sands?"

Vermilion Sands is an exotic and decaying vacation resort. It is a playground for the super-rich and the otiose. There you will find composers, critics, writers, poets, sculptors and painters. The avant- guard of the artistic elite hobnobbing with forgotten movie stars, kite flyers, drifters, bums, loners and leeches. Where is it? Probably southern California but also perhaps along the shores of the northern Mediterranean. Wherever it is, you're always welcome.


HOTEL

J.G. Ballard (1930 - 2009) English writer

The Garden of Time
Written in 1962 for *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*

Like a sword, the darkness swooped down across them.

Count Axel and his wife watched from the terrace of the Palladian villa as the horde drew closer. Each evening, as he plucked another time flower, the throng retreated, at first back over the horizon but as the blooms dwindled in number, they came nearer. And now there were so few blooms remaining.



THEA VON HARBOU (1888 - 1954) German writer

Metropolis
Published 1925

“Who is it?” he replied. “Futura … Parody…whatever you like to call it. Also: delusion… In short: it is a woman … Every man-creator makes himself a woman.”

The inventor, Rotwang, had loved a woman called Hel. She had left him to marry Jon Fredersen, the city’s master. Hel died giving birth to Freder. Years later Rotwang showed Fredersen a robot he had built to “resurrect” Hel. First he would make the robot take on the form of Maria, the young woman from the lower levels and leader of a non-violent resistance movement. In this guise the false Maria would turn the workers against the elite of Metropolis and bring about the death of Jon Fredersen. Maria and Freder prevented the catastrophe and showed that “The mediator between brain and muscle must be the Heart.”

