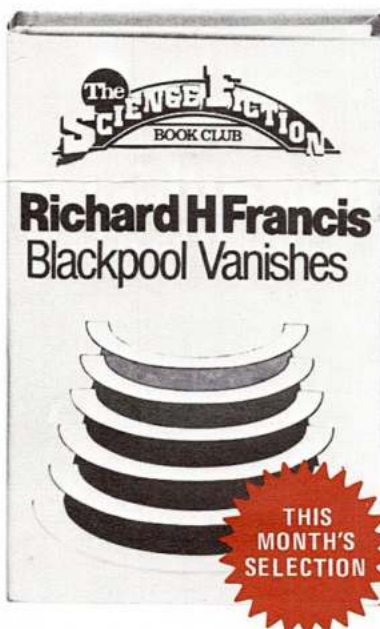


The SCIENCE FICTION Book Club News



One day, without the slightest warning, Blackpool mysteriously and inexplicably vanished!

'It's always exciting to find an intelligent, new science fiction writer and Richard Francis is certainly that.' — Paperback Buyer.

'...here is a full and comic cast.' — Harpers Queen.

'Richard Francis certainly has a beautiful sense of the absurd. His style of writing is dry and laconic with dialogue that's very funny indeed. *Blackpool Vanishes* is an excellent first book.'

— Newsagent and Bookshop.

On the day Blackpool vanished off the face of the Earth only one man had any idea of what might have happened — James Aldridge, assistant in charge of the Alien Beings Section at the Foreign Office (Rural Branch). It was his job to formulate appropriate policy for the United Kingdom if it should ever be invaded by monsters from outer space; not a job likely to provide Aldridge with his moment of glory, but he took an unexpected interest in his tasks and thereby came across a series of reports filed under N for Nutters.

For years Blackpool had been visited by fleets of tiny flying saucers, but nobody noticed them except for a local resident named Stone, who recorded his observations in a series of reports sent to the Foreign Office. In these reports Aldridge finds the clue to the sudden

and inexplicable disappearance of Blackpool — it's been stolen. But before Aldridge can do anything he is unexpectedly arrested for murder and finds himself with more than enough trouble of his own. Only his daughter, the buxom Bunty, and a friend, Tom Standish, have any idea of what is going on — but can they bring Blackpool back?

This science fiction mystery has a complicated plot, but not a difficult one to follow, and covers a wide field from poetry to the civil service, from childhood trauma to senile decay, from the philosophical significance of Rugby League to the possibility of colonisation by minute beings in flying saucers. It is very funny — don't read it in public unless you want to be embarrassed by fairly frequent belly laughs.

SFBC £1.85

Faber £4.50

REF 5154

CATFACE

Archaeologist Asa Steel lives in bucolic Willow Bend, Wisconsin, enjoying a tranquil life which is suddenly shattered when his dog, Bowser, bounds up with fresh dinosaur bones. Asa is soon taking a trip through time, guided through prehistoric eras by a strange cat-faced alien with whom he is unable to communicate except through a simpleton called Hiram.

Meanwhile, Asa's great love finds the perfect place to build a dream home and live happily ever after — the age of the mastodons! To

Clifford D SIMAK

finance the project, Asa opens a time travel agency, Mastodonia, and in company with a failing safari operator, offers expeditions back in time. It is not long, however, before bucolic Willow Bend becomes the focus for global attention, government scrutiny and the target for an unprecedented solution to over-population. 256pp

SFBC £3.40

Sidgwick & Jackson £4.50

REF 8890

All My Sins Remembered

Joe Haldeman

Joe Haldeman won both the Hugo and Nebula for his first book, *The Forever War*, and his second, *Mindbridge*, was bought by an American paperback publisher for a then-record six figures. Of his third book, *All My Sins Remembered*, Hugo and Nebula winning author Spider Robinson (who is also a highly regarded critic) wrote: '... it is a crackling, bristling,

fast-paced read, a hell of a good adventure story. In fact, it's better at that than the other two books combined. It's vivid and inventive and exciting as hell, with surprises planted like landmines among a parade of believable and sympathetic characters...' 184pp

SFBC £1.40

Macdonald & Jane's £3.95

REF 5141

