

# The SCIENCE FICTION Book Club News

This collection of short fiction amply illustrates the talent of Christopher Priest, one of the most inventive and distinctive novelists to have emerged in recent years.

The title story *An Infinite Summer*, moves between a delightful summer in Edwardian England and the London of August 1940. It is about the passion and horror felt by one young man; about the 'freezers' who, for some perverse reason known only to themselves, can halt the flow of time, capturing their selected victims in perpetual suspension between past, present and future; and about a young couple in love, trapped in their moment of greatest happiness.

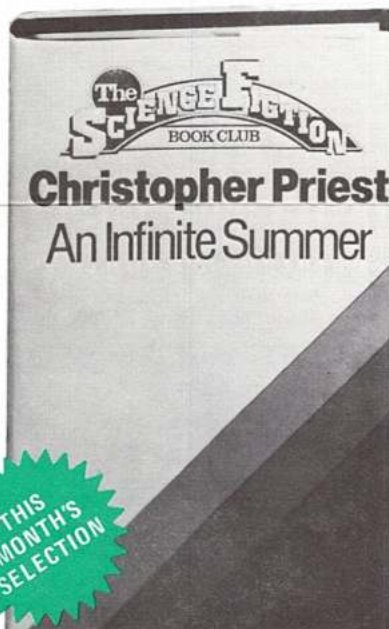
*The Watched*, which is nominated for a Hugo this year, concerns a primitive people being observed by anthropologists who, in their turn, are being watched; an examination of the uncanny and mutually dependent relationship between voyeur and victim.

It is a difficult task to select any one story from this very fine collection as being the best, but my choice is *Palely Loitering*, a certain Hugo nominee next year if there is any justice in the world. It is about an unrequited adolescent infatuation which develops over several annual visits to Flux Channel Park, where bridges can take you into the future or the past. 208pp

**SFBC £2.25**

Faber £4.95

REF 5158



THIS MONTH'S SELECTION

'Christopher Priest's skilful, strange and surrealist stories...are intriguing and disturbing and unfold with a sleight-of-hand logic.' — Martyn Goff, *The Daily Telegraph*

'...original, haunting, polished'

— Graham Lord, *Sunday Express*

## About the Author

Christopher Priest was born in Cheadle, a suburb of Manchester, in 1943. On leaving school in 1959 he was articled to a firm of Chartered Accountants, where he stayed for six years before reaching the conclusion that he and accountancy were enduring an unhappy relationship. To sighs of relief all round, he departed accountancy and entered industry. In 1968, by mutual consent of educators, accountants and industrialists, he became a full-time writer. He has enjoyed considerable success with his novels, *Fugue for a Darkening Island* (which came 3rd in the John W Campbell Memorial Awards), *Inverted World* (winner of the BSFA Award and nominated for a Hugo), *The Space Machine* (winner of the Ditmar Award and recently serialised on BBC Radio 4), and *A Dream of Wessex* (which could be filmed this year).

## ALSO AVAILABLE

### A DREAM OF WESSEX

A projection of an ideal future world is created through a machine that melds the dreams of social and scientific experts. But into the projected future comes a new, evil influence — and the experiment goes out of control.

**SFBC £1.50**

Faber £4.50

REF 5140

## The Moon Children Jack Williamson

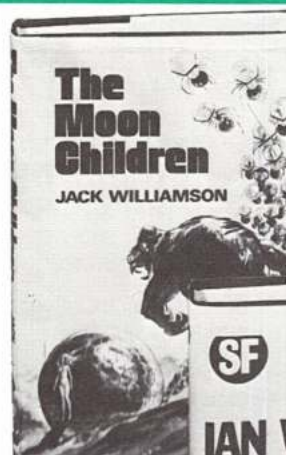
A riveting space adventure from one of the most popular sf authors ever: odd forms of life have been found on Mars, Venus, and Jupiter; there may be life on Mercury; and finally, something utterly mystifying is discovered on the moon. Three astronauts land and undertake an investigation, returning to Earth some time later with some crystals which have a disturbing effect on their children. 190pp

Born in Arizona in 1908, Jack Williamson travelled with his family by covered wagon to homestead in New Mexico. His first story 'The Metal Man' appeared in *Amazing* in 1928. Since then his many books and stories have made him a widely respected figure in the science fiction field.

**SFBC £2.50**

Seymour House £4.50

REF 6471



## God's World

The year is 1997 and 'angels' have appeared at holy places around the world, taking on the likeness of Jesus, Mohammed and Buddha, and summoning humanity to God's World — which they identify as a planet of the star 82 Eridani, 20 light years from Earth. A handpicked team of scientists and humanists head for the planet in their spaceship, *Pilgrim Crusader*, but the journey becomes a series of distortions and hallucinations. And when they reach their

## IAN WATSON

destination they are captured by insect-like creatures... 254pp

**SFBC £4.50**

Victor Gollancz £5.95

REF NO 6494

### ALSO AVAILABLE BY IAN WATSON

*Alien Embassy*

**SFBC 95p**

Gollancz £4.20

REF 5139

*Miracle Visitors*

**SFBC £1.60**

Gollancz £4.95

REF 5147

