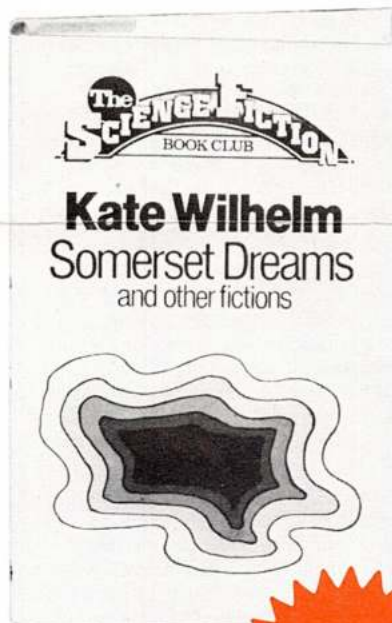


The SCIENCE FICTION Book Club News



"Kate Wilhelm has now been keeping us entertained for about twenty years. Since I have read most of her books and in all these years have found only one that I could honestly say I thought was not up to par, I feel confident in advising you to buy Wilhelm's 'Somerset Dreams'. Treat yourself. You deserve the pleasure."

— Richard Delap,
The Magazine of
Fantasy and
Science Fiction

THIS
MONTH'S
SELECTION

Kate Wilhelm is a superlative short story writer and every reader and student of science fiction should have at least one — and preferably all — her collections on the bookshelf to dip into and savour like a fine wine. Unlike a wine, however, the bottle is never empty and you can return to the book time and again, always finding something new to excite, entertain and sometimes even frighten you.

Her forte is an ability to create worlds which at first glance seem totally alien, but with a second glance prove to be strangely familiar. The story *Mrs Bagley Goes to Mars* more than amply demonstrates her ability to write on two levels. On the one hand it is an almost-black comedy about a woman who hallucinates a trip to Mars to escape a dreary job and even drearier husband and son. But it is also a fine satire which touches on a range of subjects like American complacency, rape, murder and the work ethic. It maintains a foundation of seriousness, as should all effective satire, and allows us to laugh and enjoy the humour of the situation, but at the same time it takes a close look at something which isn't really funny after all.

The title story, *Somerset Dreams*, is pure SF, dealing with an experiment in dream analysis which goes out of control, the world taking on a nightmarish dimension. It is psychological and presented with terrifying logic. Certainly one of her finest achievements.

The Encounter, according to Richard Delap's review of the book in *Fantasy and Science Fiction*, 'falls into no category and resists any short analysis. For that reason alone, it may represent one of the most interesting and perhaps vital stories of Wilhelm's career'.

The eight stories in this collection are of a consistently high standard and witness Kate Wilhelm's extraordinary range and inventiveness.

174pp

About the Author

Kate Wilhelm was born in Ohio in 1928 and is among America's most distinguished storytellers, noted for a number of acclaimed short stories. She won the Nebula in 1968 for *The Planners* and was awarded the Hugo for her novel *Where Late the Sweet Birds Sang*. She is married to science fiction author, anthologist and acclaimed critic Damon Knight.

SFBC £2.25

Hutchinson £5.50

REF 5156

SCIENCE FICTION: CONTEMPORARY MYTHOLOGY

Edited by Patricia Warrick, Martin Harry Greenberg, Joseph Olander

How would you set about compiling an anthology of the best science fiction? How would you define the *best* in the first place?

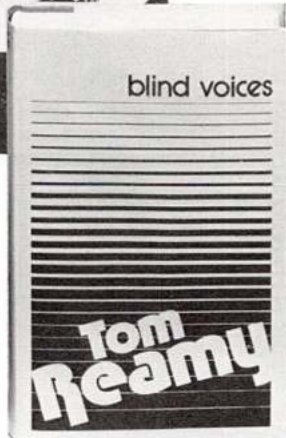
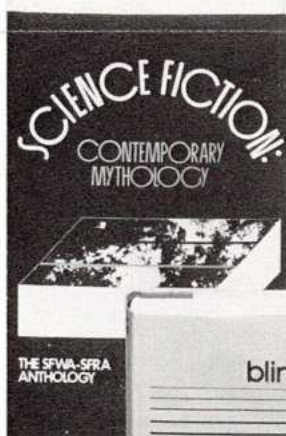
The editors of this anthology have taken upon themselves the awesome responsibility of doing just that and have succeeded in producing what is both a very unusual anthology and a very good one.

It is unusual because the ten chapters reflect major patterns in SF and open with an essay written by a writer and critic which discusses some history of the pattern and its development, and provides a list of the major works in that

category. There follows a selection of stories which illustrate the pattern they were defining. If this sounds complicated, don't worry. It's the stories that matter and if you want the best, here they are.

Stories by: Poul Anderson, Arthur C Clarke, James Blish, Robert Sheckley, Terry Carr, Philip K Dick, Theodore Sturgeon, Larry Niven, John W Campbell Jr, Brian Aldiss, Gordon R Dickson, Ursula K LeGuin, Damon Knight, Frederik Pohl, J G Ballard, Robert Silverberg, Fritz Leiber, Roger Zelazny. 476pp / index / paperback

SFBC £3.40 Harper & Row £4.50 REF 6352



the long awaited...

by Tom Reamy

Awarded the John W Campbell Award for Best New Writer and winner of the Nebula for his second short story, San Diego Lightfoot Sue, Tom Reamy was travelling fast towards the top of the SF tree when his career was tragically cut short by his death on November 5, 1977, aged 42. *Blind Voices*, his first novel and published in the United States after his death, was greeted with considerable acclaim. It was nominated for

BLIND VOICES

a Nebula this year and is almost certainly going to be nominated for a Hugo.

When Haverstock's *Traveling Curiosus* and *Wonder Show* came to Hawley, Kansas, it was just the thing to liven up the sun-parched spirits of that hot and dusty summer. Of course, nobody actually believed that the 'freaks' were real, and by the time they discovered the truth it was too late...

SFBC £4.50 Sidgwick & Jackson £5.95 REF 6351