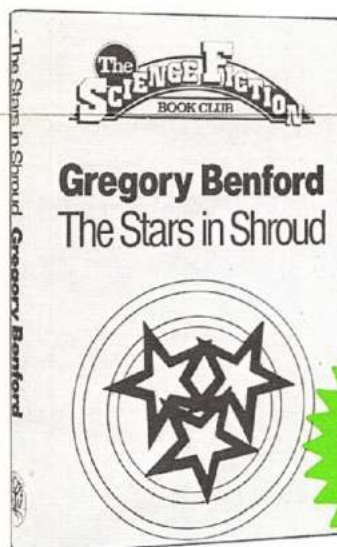


The SCIENCE FICTION Book Club News

Award winning co-author of 'If the Stars are Gods'

The Stars in Shroud



GREGORY BENFORD

THIS
MONTH'S
SELECTION

Far in the future, the Chinese-dominated galactic Empire of mankind is in trouble. A mysterious alien force, the Quarn, attacks randomly throughout the Empire. No one knows who they are, how they take a planet, why they are hostile — or how to stop them as they destroy themselves rather than be taken captive. An Earth ship visiting a remote colony finds the inhabitants terribly afflicted with a strange, contagious mass psychosis — of Quarn origin. The captain wants to quarantine his crew, but he is overruled, and the ambitious machinations of his second-in-command see him dismissed from his post and despatched as 'ambassador' to an apparently insignificant planet,

Veden. He was right, for the plague spreads, accelerating the already apparent atrophy of the entire Empire. Yet here on Veden, a new spiritual cult is dawning, led by an enigmatic Master, which proves to be the key to understanding the true identity of the Quarn and the state of the galaxy.

The joy of this stylish space adventure is its unique blend of authoritative scientific speculation and compassionate, intelligent writing. It is an honest yet immensely readable story of a cosmos which is one's home, but at the same time a disturbing and alien place. 291pp / Author's note

Club Edition £2.75

Publisher's Edition £5.50

REF NO 5162

Stranger in a Strange Land

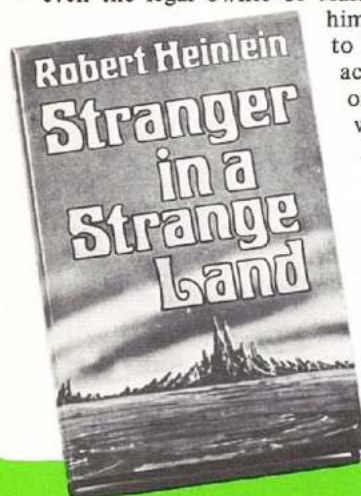
ROBERT HEINLEIN

One of the classic science fiction novels of all time, it won Heinlein his third Hugo

Michael Valentine Smith is half Martian.

A terran expedition brings him to earth, where he is hospitalized and attempts are made to 'humanize' him. But while he is eager to adjust and make friends, he is grossly misunderstood, treated as a potential tool of fanatics and politicians — even the legal owner of Mars. Foiling a plan to exploit him, a nurse escapes with him to a household where he is accepted, and where everyone who comes into contact with him is greatly changed. A biting satire of American society which caused an uproar when it was published in the early '60s.

400pp



Member's price £3.95

New English Library £5.25

REF NO 6495

DRAGON DRUMS

ANNE McCAFFREY
Author of *The White Dragon*

Another volume in Anne McCaffrey's bestselling tales about the magnificent Dragonriders of Pern!

'Never had her wings responded so fully to her demands. Never had she flown so high, soaring, veering, gliding. The sun flowed across her body, its rays burning into her eyes as she flew ever on and upwards.'

It's uncertain whether the boy Piemur will be kept on at Harperhall until Masterharper Robinton, Menolly and Sebell step in and find a job for him keeping a check on the Old-timers' strange traffic in fire lizards. This leads to his realizing his wildest dream and really having adventures. 252pp



Member's price £4.50

Sidgwick & Jackson £5.95

REF NO 6585