

The SCIENCE FICTION Book Club News

This month's Selection

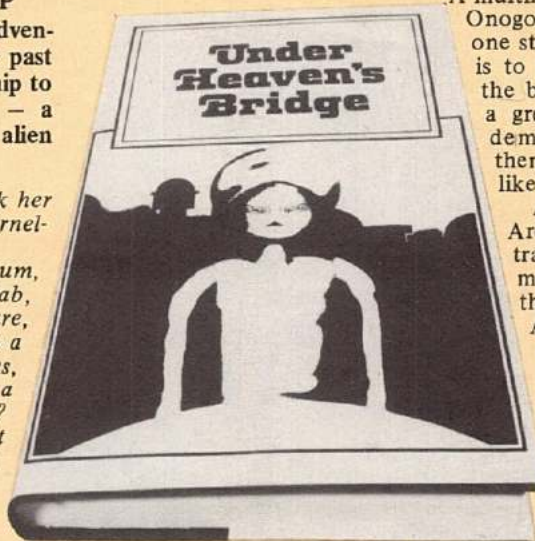
Under Heaven's Bridge

Ian Watson & Michael Bishop

Two of the most exciting writers of adventures and ideas to emerge during the past decade have formed a unique partnership to create this intensely powerful novel – a gripping and haunting narrative of alien contact on a doomed world.

'What Keiko saw in the chamber struck her as forcibly as if she had entered a charnel-house.'

'Six Kybers occupied the trapezoidal atrium, two lying together on a bierlike stone slab, one frozen in a ridiculous squatting posture, two elevated on their extensible legs to a stationary height of nearly three metres, and a final one sitting in a corner on a nonexistent chair. Mortuary statues? Skeletons? Metallic mummies? The sight was chilling. Nothing moved but a few tatters of mist. The aura of death so permeated the open chamber that Keiko's first inclination was to flee ...'



A multinational expedition lands on the planet Onogoro – a cold and dour world orbiting one star in a binary system. Their objective is to investigate an enigmatic alien race – the beings they call Kybers, who dwell in a great network of ruined palaces, and demonstrate the eerie ability to switch themselves off at will, entering a trance-like state that seems close to death.

Are they living creatures or machines? Are they indigenous to the planet or transient invaders? Malevolent – or merely unapproachably alien? Keiko, the expedition's Japanese linguist, and Andrik Norn, aspiring specialist in alien behaviour, struggle to understand their mysterious origin and motives ... uncovering theories which, if true, could shatter humanity's concept of the universe. 159pp

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INTO THE SLAVE NEBULA

John Brunner

'In those last few months Lars Talibrand travelled far and fast – from system to system, from star to star, backtracking, making false trails whenever he could spare a precious day or two. But he could not elude the patient death that dogged his footsteps ...'

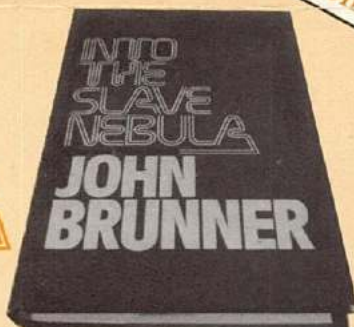
For Earth, it was a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity. Science had finally triumphed over the environment. There was nothing left for the men of Earth but to seek pleasure – without inhibitions and without restraint.

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Michael Bishop co-author of *Under Heaven's Bridge*



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