
March/April 1954

I, ROBOT
by ISAAC ASIMOV

Here is something different—a book in which science fiction and detection meet. In this exciting sequence of stories Isaac Asimov traces the developments of robots over the next hundred years. In each episode the reader is faced with the question: “What made the robot break down?” As all robots are made according to the Laws of Robotics, given by the author at the beginning of the book, there is an opportunity to answer this question for yourself. Says Dr. Susan Calvin, the heroine of *I, Robot*, “To you, a robot is a robot. Gears and metal; electricity and positrons. —Mind and iron! Human-made! If necessary, human-destroyed. But you haven’t worked with them, so you don’t know them. They’re a cleaner, better breed than we are.” This is an original and engrossing addition to science fiction.

(Grayson & Grayson. 8/6. SFBC 6/—)

May/June 1954

**THE VOYAGE OF
THE SPACE BEAGLE**

by A. E. VAN GOGT

High above the distant horizon Coeurl, the great cat-like creature who prowled a desolate planet in search of a fantastic prey, saw a tiny glowing spot. It came nearer. It grew rapidly, enormously, into a metal ball. It became a vast, round ship. The great globe, shining like polished silver, hissed by above Coeurl, slowing visibly. It receded over a black line of hills to the right, hovered almost motionless for a second, then sank down out of sight. Far out among the stars the crew of the expeditionary ship *Space Beagle* find themselves faced with alien life forms surpassing nightmare, and battle for their lives against creatures with unearthly powers. By one of science fiction’s most popular writers, *The Voyage of the Space Beagle* is a powerful combination of action, suspense and imagination.

(Grayson & Grayson. 8/6. SFBC 6/—)

July/August 1954

PLAYER PIANO
by KUTT VONNEGUT

This is a novel of life in a machine-dominated America in an unspecified number of years hence, after a Third World War. There is complete material security for everyone but efficiency and organization have done away with liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Dr. Paul Proteus, one of the elite of technocrats, themselves fast becoming redundant, who design and operate the machines, grows disillusioned about the system he serves. At first he thinks only of making his own escape from it but his ambitious wife resists this, and he is eventually faced with the choice of being either a secret agent of the governing group or an open rebel. This mordant novel provides a wealth of entertainment and, rare in science fiction, the characters are credible human beings, many of them with their wit and wilfulness still unsubdued by mechanocracy.

(Macmillan. 12/6. SFBC 6/—)
