

BEGGAR MY NEIGHBOUR

By Dan Jacobson

The November CF Choice

THE tales in this collection are true, finished examples of the story-teller's art, of a kind which is exceedingly rare today. The stories deal with moral and emotional issues which everyone will recognize and yet be surprised by; they present to us a remarkably wide range of fully imagined characters at the moments of crisis and self-revelation which their own actions have brought about.

The settings vary from a hunting party on a lonely South African farm to a coffee-bar in London; from a film company on location in the veld to a cottage in Devon. One story tells of a boy's 'apprenticeship' to physical passion; another of a girl betrayed for the sake of a career; a third of a servant's fidelity to her employers, and the discomfort it causes them. There is a description of the consequences of the descent of two European noblemen on a sleazy hotel in Johannesburg; of a child's haunting by two beggars who ultimately come to dominate him; of a small-town youngster's conviction that he has been picked out to win fame and fortune as a film star, and of how he eventually achieves fame of quite another kind. The author's vision combines irony with compassion, humour with gravity; his skill in presenting the external scene is matched by a penetrating psychological insight.

Dan Jacobson's short stories are not in any way marginal or peripheral to an achievement which has won for him a striking degree of respect and attention among critics and the reading public.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson 21s; SFBC 8s, post free

THE SEPTEMBER ADDITIONAL (OPTIONAL) IS

THE SEA by Rachel Carson

(MacGibbon & Kee 45s; SFBC 15s, post free)

THE SEPTEMBER EXTRA (OPTIONAL) IS

THE LIFE OF PLANTS by E. J. H. Corner

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson 55s; SFBC 32s, post free)

THE SEPTEMBER SPECIAL (OPTIONALS) ARE

Ancient Peoples and Places :

THE MYCENAEANS by Lord William Taylour

THE GREEKS IN THE WEST by A. G. Woodhead

THE BYZANTINES by David Talbot Rice

CELTIC BRITAIN by Nora K. Chadwick

EARLY CHRISTIAN IRELAND

by Máire and Liam de Paor

WRITING by David Diringer

(Thames & Hudson 35s each; SFBC 27s each, post free)

THE SEPTEMBER SUPPLEMENTARY (OPTIONALS) ARE

A Visual History of Modern Britain: INDUSTRY

AND TECHNOLOGY by W. H. Chaloner and

A. E. Musson; THE HOUSE AND HOME by

M. W. Barley

(Studio Vista Books 35s each; SFBC 25s each, post free)

THE OCTOBER EXTRA (OPTIONAL) IS

WHERE FOUR WORLDS MEET by Fosco Maraini

(Hamish Hamilton 42s; SFBC 35s, post free)

THE OCTOBER SPECIAL (OPTIONALS) ARE

The Reynard Library :

ARNOLD, BROWNING, CARLYLE, DRYDEN,

FITZGERALD, JOHNSON,

MACAULAY, NEWMAN, STERNE,

WORDSWORTH

(Only a small stock remains)

(Rupert Hart-Davis, 30s-35s each; SFBC 19s each, post free)

THE OCTOBER SUPPLEMENTARY (OPTIONALS) ARE

A Visual History of Modern Britain :

GOVERNMENT by R. H. Evans and

THE LAND by John Higgs

Studio Vista Books 37s 6d and 42s respectively; SFBC 25s each, post free)

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Selectors: John Carnell, Dr J. G. Porter

NEXT MONTH'S CHOICE

GUNNER CADE

by Cyril Judd

THE story is set on Earth and Mars several thousand years in the future. War, as we know it in the twentieth century, no longer exists. Each country has its own regiment of highly trained, dedicated soldiers and fighting is governed by a rigid set of rules that are always obeyed, even though disobedience might quickly win the combat.

Gunner Cade is a soldier in the Star of France; and a very competent, if somewhat unworldly, gunner he is. For him life is a continual, pleasing routine, broken only by short periods of actual combat. It is during an affray that Gunner Cade is captured and, although he is not killed, from that moment forward his life will never be the same again. He has little difficulty in escaping, but discovers that he has been reported killed in action. It should be an easy matter to re-establish his identity, but Cade is in for a rude awakening.

From day to day, as he tries to find his bearings in the world he does not know—he has never been in contact with the civil population before—Cade is in even greater danger than he had faced in combat. For some unknown reason his fellow gunners are ordered to kill him. He finds that the Gunner Supreme is not the devout, semi-mystical being he had imagined, and that the government is riddled with vice and corruption. Cade has an encounter with the Emperor's daughter and finds her closeness most disturbing. Soon he is deep in a plot to obtain help from the Marsmen to overthrow the government; and a desperate flight to Mars culminates in a fight to extinction against the pursuing forces from Earth.

Gunner Cade still retains the freshness of viewpoint and brilliance of imagination that are so characteristic of any novel in which C. M. Kornbluth collaborated.

Gollancz 15s; SFBC 6s 6d

IMPORTANT: A CORRECTION

IN THE July issue of *SF News* members were sent a leaflet called 'Six Book Clubs for Special Reading Interests': in the information this gives about forthcoming SFBC books there is one very large error: the original price of *Greybeard* by Brian Aldiss is given as 30s, and the SFBC price as 17s 6d. These details should read: Original price 18s and SFBC price 6s 6d; *Greybeard* is the December Choice. *An Arthur Clarke Omnibus* is the Optional title for January 1966, not, as the leaflet says, December 1965. We do apologize to members for this very misleading information.

THIS MONTH'S CHOICE IS

TIME AND STARS

by Poul Anderson

(Gollancz 15s; SFBC 6s 6d)

NEXT MONTH'S CHOICE IS

GUNNER CADE by Cyril Judd

(Gollancz 15s; SFBC 6s 6d)