

Staghorn—'Men would rather destroy their bodies than alter the pattern of their thoughts' is typical. *Children of the Atom* is a logically thought out story, and in Simak we have an author who is a master of the long-short story form, of which *Strangers in the Universe* contains seven. All three of these books will, we are certain, be welcome additions to your reading and worthy of their place in your sf library.

SFBC PROGRAMME

MARCH—AUGUST 1959

March 1959

CHILDREN OF THE ATOM

by Wilmar H. Shiras

Some years after an explosion in an atomic plant in Helium City, a psychiatrist, Dr Welles, discovers some remarkable children: a boy who has become a literary genius; a girl who has been kept in a mental hospital but who is equally gifted, and other 'wonder children' as he has named them.

Everything he finds out about them forces Welles to make the inevitable decision that it is his responsibility to assist and protect these super-intelligent children from the ignorant fear of 'adults' who would menace them out of petty resentment and feelings of inferiority. With the aid of other understanding and interested adults—guardians of the children and trained instructors—the psychiatrist organizes an experimental school where the 'wonder children' may give full expression to their multi-faceted intelligences and mature into the leaders and instructors of mankind.

Elsewhere 9s 6d; SFBC edition only 5s 6d

May 1959

STRANGERS IN THE UNIVERSE

by Clifford Simak

Mr Simak is one of the most respected of science fiction story writers, and in this fascinating collection the emphasis is on character rather than futuristic gadgetry. Mr Simak is never so dazzled by the lights on the instrument panel of the space-ship as to overlook the man behind the stick. He is interested principally in the human mind, in the possible expansion of its powers and the appalling changes that expansion could bring. He is interested in what might happen if man's most daring aspirations, most Utopian day-dreams, most chilling nightmares, assumed physical reality.

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July 1959

OCCAM'S RAZOR

by David Duncan

On a remote island, where a great power has a rocket poised for launching to the moon, a scientist experimenting with minimal surfaces produces a moment which, in his own words, 'short-circuits the universe.' In this brief moment when time, space, and energy cease to co-exist much happens: other worldlings appear on this island; rocket instruments throughout the world go haywire, mysteriously sabotaged; governments panic on the edge of catastrophic war. Mr Duncan tells a tremendous story, rivalling in imaginative scope the most daring flights of H. G. Wells or Ray Bradbury, for the journey on which he takes us is not into the infinity of space, but the infinity of here and now. 'Nicely done,' wrote Robert Conquest in the *Manchester Guardian*.

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