

has lost its place of honour and become an object of fear and distrust, a new kind of magic. Part of Simak's skill lies in showing how easily ignorance can turn into terror and terror into cruelty. Shepherd Blaine is not a dangerous man; it does not occur to him to use the extraordinary powers he has for his own gain, but because he has them he is hounded almost to death.

The world of *Time is the Simplest Thing* is amazingly rich in material comfort; men have been set free from want and disease, but not from stupidity and fear. It may be that Simak is saying: 'Things change, but Man remains the same.' His novel is exciting, tense, full of vivid invention, fast-moving; and because of these qualities it is splendidly entertaining, but it is not comfortable; not an escape from the present, but a continuation of it.

'Mr Simak is a master craftsman and story-teller of perennial excellence.' *New Worlds Science Fiction*.

'Mr Simak . . . maintains tension by manipulating nicely calculated uncertainties. Is the helpful journalist in fact a Fishhook spy? Will the lunatic preacher succeed in organizing a world-wide massacre of parrys? How can Blaine escape lynching? . . . The pace is professional and enhanced with some nice details, like the picturegrams exchanged by telepaths.'

*The Times Literary Supplement.*

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## COMPETITION

### O for a Muse!

As you know, we are still publishing readers' stories and articles, and we are very glad to do so; but we want to experiment with a new competition. The idea for it has been suggested to us by a reader, Mr C. D. Winstone of Birmingham. He remarked on the lack of sf poetry, and thought that it would be interesting and worth while for SFBC to hold a competition for members' poems. We feel that this is an excellent idea and we invite members to send original poems to us. The first prize will be two guineas, the second prize one guinea and the third prize half a guinea. The winning poems will be published in an early *SF News*, and the editor's decision will be final.

The result of our request for short stories and critical articles has been really encouraging; it is a good plan for members to contribute to their own magazine, and we look forward to a great deal of enjoyment and interest from this poetry competition, as well as to more stories and articles.

## WANTED, ETC.

MR P. HUGHES of 86 Green Lane, Addlestone, Surrey, is anxious to obtain *Lord of the Rings*.

Mr Graham Riley of 2 Bedford Street North, Liverpool 7, wants to obtain the first six SFBC titles and a copy of *The Lincoln Hunters*.

Mr A. D. Howe of 84 Ladas Drive, Cregagh, Belfast 6, wants a copy of *Rogue Male* by Geoffrey Household.

Mr I. H. Wilson of 16 Oxford Gardens, Winchmore Hill, London N. 21, wants to buy the first eight SFBC titles.

If any readers can help will they please contact members direct.

BIRMINGHAM SF fans are invited to join a newly formed SF association. Details from Peter R. Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Northfield, Birmingham 31.

THIS MONTH'S CHOICE IS  
**THE GREAT EXPLOSION**  
by Eric Frank Russell  
(Dobson 13s 6d; SFBC 5s 9d)

NEXT MONTH'S CHOICE IS  
**TIME IS THE SIMPLEST THING**  
by Clifford D. Simak  
(Gollancz 16s; SFBC 5s 9d)

### EIGHT KEYS TO EDEN

One more reminder! There is still stock of this book, and we are anxious for it to succeed so that we can plan for other Extra Optional books. We hope you will order a copy of this one without delay.

## Look out for Next Month's Programme Number

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