

science fiction news

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PLEASE NOTE

An important message for all SFBC members

New Opportunities

FROM January 1965 we are extending to members of SFBC the privilege of being able to participate *completely* in the Readers Union Optional book service. Twice a year members will receive a full prospectus and an order form, and will have ample time to order books which, in many cases, are in limited editions.

Of course we do not expect that members whose chief interest is in science fiction will be enthusiastic purchasers of books which lie in other fields, but neither do we believe that people who belong to these specialized clubs are fanatics, quite oblivious to the pleasures of art and thought, the intricacies of psychology, the lessons of history. RU's Optional programme ranges wide—wider indeed than any other mail-order book service; it includes some of the greatest and most beautiful books of our time. To have access to them is an opportunity which we hope you will use and enjoy and value. We are sure you will: many members of SFBC have in the past asked for precisely this privilege, and now, as a result of alterations in our accounting and dispatch systems, it is possible to open the RU Optional list to members of certain of RU's associated clubs. See the optional programme herewith.

The December Choice

NINE TOMORROWS

by Isaac Asimov

SHORT stories by one of the most famous sf writers—nine glimpses into the not too distant future of Earth and its people. 'I'm in Marsport without Hilda' is a hilarious lesson in outer-space 'hipster' slang given by three gangsters suspected of smuggling a vital tranquillizer drug from Earth, while their interrogator longs for his rendezvous with Marsport's most female lady:

'It was 8.30 and there was my job, by reputation, my head growing rickety upon my neck, to be considered. I saved it all for later and thought of Flora. She wasn't going to wait for me for ever. For that matter, chances were she wouldn't wait for half an hour.

'I wondered. Could the faker keep up free association if nudged gently on to dangerous territory?

'I said, "The floor's covered with a nice solid rug", and ran the last two words together to make it "soli drug".

'Lipsky said, "Drug from underneath the dough re mi fa sol to be saved."

'Ferrucci said, "Saved and a haircut above the common herd something about younicorny as a harmonican the cheek by razor and shine."

'Harponaster said, "Shiner wind nor snow use trying to by four ever and effervescence and sensibilityter totter."

'All the Troubles of the World' is a chill, ironic story of a machine that could solve every problem fed into it, except the problem of its own humanity; 'The Ugly Little Boy', the final and longest story, is a brilliantly worked out study in terror—a young child is suddenly thrust out of the dim reaches of the past to become the subject of a peculiarly brutal experiment. All the stories are the work of a thoroughly vigorous and original mind, able to use humour, imagination and realism with equal confidence.

'Rewarding . . . here we find that coruscating originality that marks the *genre* at its best.' *The Times Literary Supplement*.

236 pages

Dobson 15s; SFBC 6s