

Damon Knight

1922- 2002



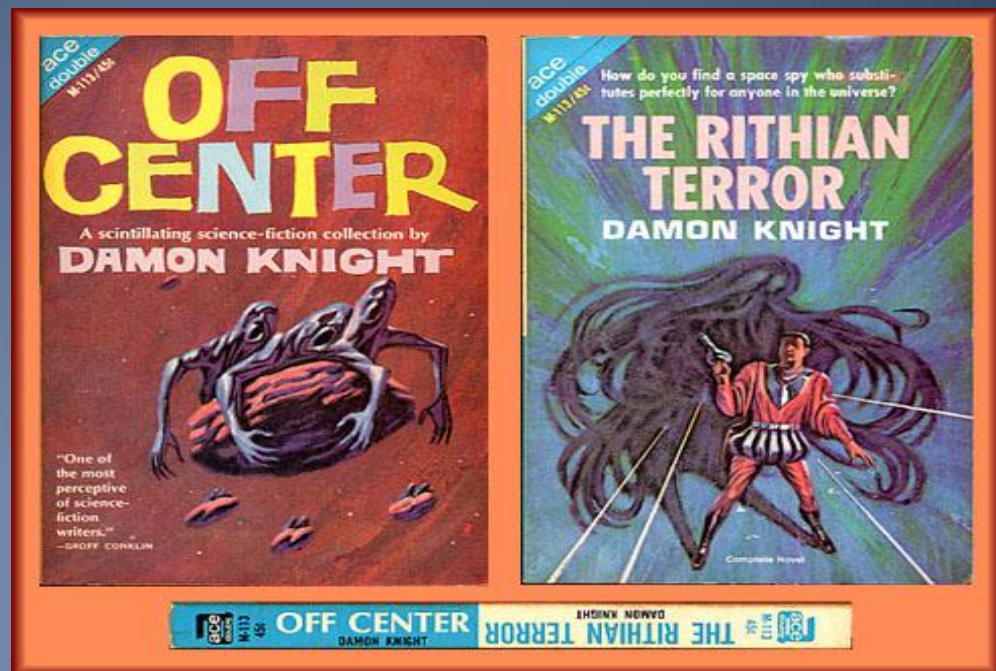
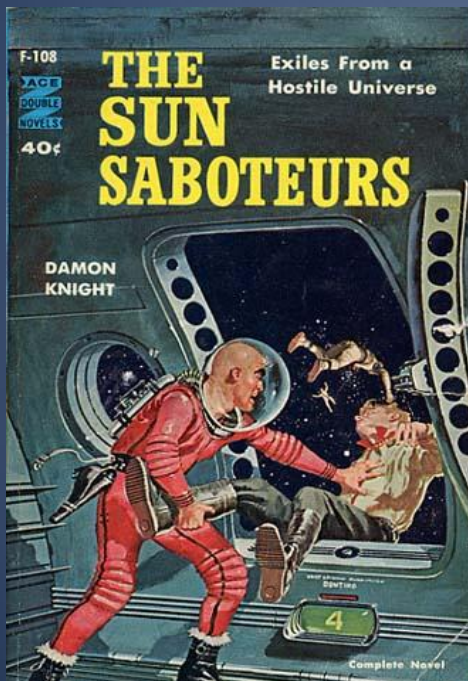
"I think what we have to do is round up everybody who has ever referred to SF as "sci-fi" in an ignorant way, confine them in old army barracks, and re-educate them."(1)

Amanda Henry
Holly Mott
Jennifer Jewer



To Infinity and BEYOND.....

What we get from science fiction-what keeps us reading it, in spite of our doubts and occasional disgust-is not different from the thing that makes mainstream stories rewarding but only expressed differently. We live on a minute island of known things. Our undiminished wonder at the mystery which surrounds us is what makes us human. In science fiction we can approach that mystery, not in small, everyday symbols, but in bigger ones of space and time (3).



Foundations of a Following

-Founder of the Science Fiction Writers of America and Co-Founder of the Milford Science Fiction Writer's Conference(10)

-His first story "Resilience" was published in 1941

-Recipient of the Grand Master Award in 1994, which was later renamed in his honour "The Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master"

-He wrote numerous short stories, novels and a few series, as well as some guides to writing about science fiction (for a complete list of his works please go to: <http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/k/damon-knight/>)



Damon Knight: “The Handler”



-Why is this SF?

-With regards to Pete “he’s a specific entity, an entirely different person, who is controlled by the little man inside him and cannot live without the little man inside him.”

-“neither [Pete or Harry] truly exists without the other [and therefore] the artificial mechanism is vital for both of them”

-Do you think that either have a life or a purpose without the other?

“The Handler”

-Is there a difference between perception and reality?

-Symbiotic Relationship?

-In regards to the stories purpose, Knight raises the issue that "if this isn't a story about a robot or a puppet or a costume, and it isn't, then what's going on here?".



Notable Comparison★

- Commonalities between "The Handler" and "The Chrysalids"
- Rejection from society

Similarities

"Offences were ... things which did not quite look *right*" 19

"Usually there was only some small thing wrong, but however much or little was wrong it was an Offence." 19

"A little man climbed out. He had a perspiring brown face under a shock of black hair. He was a very small man, almost a dwarf, stoop-shouldered and round-backed in a sweaty brown singlet and shorts" 46-47

Commonalities

In *The Handler* Pete is the Deviation, but rather than be shunned, he is praised. Harry, who is similar to the party guest, is the one who is sent away to the fringes within the Mechanized body.

In *The Chrysalids*, David realizes there is nothing wrong with the Fringe people, but once it is revealed that is an Offence himself, he becomes a target as well. In *The Handler* when Harry steps out from Pete, Pete does not become a target, instead they wish for him to return.



Famous works by Damon Knight: “To Serve Man”



-“To Serve Man” written in 1951 and was named Best Short Story of 1951 ⁽¹¹⁾

-Later made into an episode on the 1960’s show “The Twilight Zone” ⁽¹¹⁾

-Also adapted into The Simpson’s in the season 2 episode “The Treehouse of Horror” ⁽¹²⁾

-Appears throughout other famous television shows and movies such as:

- Futurama
- The Naked Gun 2 1/2
- Buffy the Vampire Slayer
- Madagascar
- World of Warcraft III (Game)





The Twilight Zone: "To Serve Man"



A Clip from the Simpsons

- Season 2 Episode 3
- “Treehouse of Horror”
 - “Hungry are the Damned”

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