

a blind psychotherapist? What will his singularly ambitious and amoral young mistress do, especially since she is one of the few who hold a terrible secret over the President's head, a secret which if revealed might have cost him the election or could even now make it look as if he had obtained it under false pretenses? The Russian-American connivances are not all that believable, nor are the characterizations, but the inside Washington scene will definitely disturb readers. *50,000 first printing, Literary Guild, national campaign, author tour.*

[June 17]

STRANGENESS: A Collection of Curious Tales. Edited by Thomas M. Disch and Charles Naylor. Scribners, \$9.95 ISBN 0-685-14899-4

Curious these tales are, but also absorbing in their Gothic fashion. There are psychological horror stories by Joyce Carol Oates and (of all people) Virginia Woolf, and brief tales of the uncanny by Shirley Jackson, Italo Calvino and Thomas Mann. There's a passing strange novella by Graham Greene, "Under the Garden," and a brilliant science fiction novella by Brian Aldiss called "Where the Lines Converge." Disch himself contributes a chilling tale about roaches and an introduction that's mainly about Poe—not inappropriately, however. Other contributors to this intelligent and unusual selection are Sarah Orne Jewett, Philip José Farmer, Joan Aiken, M. John Harrison, Russell Fitzgerald, William Sansom, Pamela Zoline and John Sladek.

[June]

MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE

DEATH FLIGHT.

Domini Wiles. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, \$8.95 ISBN 0-698-10802-7 Posing as a priest, Lee Morgan boards a plane, little dreaming that his flight from prison and the FBI will place him in the hands of hijackers who are attempting to get to Cuba. But more than that, the experience will cause him to live the role he thought he was only playing as his fellow passengers look to him for help and the hijackers use him as a go-between with the authorities. Almost against his will, he finds himself becoming a hero as he calms and ministers to the passengers and even falls in love. One hardened FBI man recognizes that Morgan is not the clergyman whom the others accept, but his heroism causes even Matt Kelly to look the other way when the frantic hours on board the plane finally end with death and destruction everywhere. Hijacking novels are something of a cliché by now and this doesn't contribute much to the genre, though it's not hard to see it as a good adventure movie.

[May 31]

UNKNOWN MAN NO. 89.

Elmore Leonard. Delacorte, \$8.95 ISBN 0-440-09216-7

Leonard was praised for his other novels featuring the cool process server, Frank Ryan. The third adventure is equally well told and gripping but decidedly not for the queasy. Ryan is offered a huge fee by a swindler, Perez, just to locate a black killer and thief, Leary. Leary has inherited a fortune which Perez is plotting to collect. Ryan finds the missing man, an identified body at the morgue. He has been shot by Virgil, a robber he, in turn, has cheated. Perez then assigns Ryan to find Leary's widow, Denise, a young white girl and a wino. The tracer befriends her at an AA meeting and they fall in love. Now Ryan changes sides. He begins to plan ways of getting the money, legally hers, to Denise. With wily Virgil and Perez's hired gun after them, the lovers are in dire straits. After many violent and gory scenes, the crashing end is almost anticlimactic.

[June 1]

ECHOES FROM THE MACABRE:

Selected Stories. *Daphne du Maurier.* Doubleday, \$8.95 ISBN 0-385-12655-7 The nine classics republished here reinforce the general opinion that du Maurier conjures up, rather than writes, stories. All previously published, they include her paralyzing "The Birds" and "Kiss Me Again, Stranger." She begins each on a matter-of-fact note and lures us into the worlds of ordinary people to whom extraordinary things happen. As the atmosphere thickens, we feel the doom hanging over the characters and pray for their deliverance. That aura accents "The Apple Tree," in which a man tries to escape the vengeful spirit of his dead wife, and "The Blue Lenses," where a wife receives supernatural proof that she's marked for murder yet can't help herself. In contrast to most of the plots, "The Pool" describes the yearnings of an adolescent girl in a vain search for magic. *Literary Guild and International Collector's Library alternates.*

[June 10]

SCIENCE FICTION

THE INCANDESCENT ONES.

Fred Hoyle and Geoffrey Hoyle. Harper & Row, \$7.95 ISBN 0-06-011956-X A young American applies to study in Russia and unexpectedly finds himself enlisted by an intelligence agency for a mysterious mission, of whose nature he has no idea. As events begin to unfold, he encounters his father, who had disappeared several years before and now possesses a strange iridescent object, a form of battery with unheard-of capacity. It is vital that the object be gotten out of Russia and that becomes Peter's task. But there are other complications in this involving 21st century science fiction saga, not the least of them that

Peter and his father are not like other earthlings, but instead Outlanders, descendants of a people who once came to Earth and enforced an unprecedented peace. In time, Peter becomes the lone custodian of the facts about the battery as what began as a conventional-seeming novel turns into a first-rate journey into the future.

[May]

NONFICTION

CODE NAME "ZORRO":

The Murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. *Mark Lane and Dick Gregory.* Prentice-Hall, \$9.95 ISBN 0-13-139600-5

The author of "Rush to Judgment" and comedian-activist Gregory here raise a host of questions in this study of the circumstances surrounding the killing of Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis in 1968. Gregory, King's friend, contributes eight chapters of the book's 29, all of them rich with intimate glimpses of King and his associates, who feared precisely what did happen. It is Lane's contributions, however, that score. Lane, founder of the Citizens Commission of Inquiry in 1975, has pursued the hidden facts in the King murder in depth. Quoting from his taped interviews with former FBI men, eyewitnesses (one of them, a woman, held in a Tennessee asylum virtually since the murder), police and others, he draws a picture of the Memphis scene before, during and after the crime that points to possible collusion between Hoover's FBI and Memphis authorities in "Zorro's" death ("Zorro" was the FBI code name for King). Lane's documentation of the Ray case hints at cover-up. New material (including parts of the reports of House and Senate investigations) reinforces the book's impact. Photos; appendices, etc. *National adprom. Author tour of major cities.*

[May 3]

LOOK MA, I AM KOOL!

And Other Casuals. *Burton Bernstein.* Prentice-Hall, \$8.95 ISBN 0-13-540575-0

It's a safe bet that even Scrooge would chuckle over most of the pieces in Bernstein's collection of American literate humor. Bernstein uses the *New Yorker* term "casuals" to define these short, seemingly artless and offhand works which are actually little gems polished to their finest form. All of them have been previously published in magazines. Woody Allen, Donald Barthelme, John Updike and Michael Arlen provide some of the wit, which will tickle the sophisticate's funny-bone. Bernstein himself does a Walter Mitty up-date and a palindromic one-scene play. Calvin Trillin's "Jacob Schiff and My Uncle Ben Daynovsky" may be the funniest of the lot. Although not every piece hits its mark, Bernstein's collec-