

Trouble With Lichen By John Wyndham Yangmiore

In this thrilling collection of stories, John Wyndham, author of the acclaimed classics *The Day of the Triffids* and *The Midwich Cuckoos*, conducts ten experiments along the theme of 'I wonder what might happen if . . .' There's the story of the meteor, which holds much more than meets the eye. In *Chronoclasm* a man is pursued by his own future. We meet a robot with an overactive compassion circuit. And what happens when the citizens of the future turn the past into a giant theme park? 'One of the few authors whose compulsive readability is a compliment to the intelligence' *Spectator* John Wyndham Parkes Lucas Benyon Harris was born in 1903, the son of a barrister. He tried a number of careers including farming, law, commercial art and advertising, and started writing short stories, intended for sale, in 1925. From 1930 to 1939 he wrote short stories of various kinds under different names, almost exclusively for American publications, while also writing detective novels. During the war he was in the Civil Service and then the Army. In 1946 he went back to writing stories for publication in the USA and decided to try a modified form of science fiction, a form he called 'logical fantasy'. As John Wyndham he wrote *The Day of the Triffids*, *The Kraken Wakes*, *The Chrysalids*, *The Midwich Cuckoos* (filmed as *Village of the Damned*), *The Seeds of Time*, *Trouble with Lichen*, *The Outward Urge*, *Consider Her Ways* and *Others*, *Web and Chocky*. John Wyndham died in March 1969.

Contemporary / British English The island of Tanakuatua seems like heaven to the forty people who go there to create a new society. But soon they start to die in a horrible way. Something strange is in the forest. Two of the group decide to fight!

The classic postapocalyptic thriller with "all the reality of a vividly realized nightmare" (*The Times*, London). Triffids are odd, interesting little plants that grow in everyone's garden. Triffids are no more than mere curiosities—until an event occurs that alters human life forever. What seems to be a spectacular meteor shower turns into a bizarre, green inferno that blinds everyone and renders humankind helpless. What follows is even stranger: spores from the inferno cause the triffids to suddenly take on a life of their own. They become large, crawling vegetation, with the ability to uproot and roam about the country, attacking humans and inflicting pain and agony. William Masen somehow managed to escape being blinded in the inferno, and now after leaving the hospital, he is one of the few survivors who can see. And he may be the only one who can save his species from chaos and eventual extinction . . . With more than a million copies sold, *The Day of the Triffids* is a landmark of speculative fiction, and "an outstanding and entertaining novel" (*Library Journal*). "A thoroughly English apocalypse, it rivals H. G. Wells in conveying how the everyday invaded by the alien would feel. No wonder Stephen King admires Wyndham so much." —Ramsey Campbell "One of my all-time favorite novels. It's absolutely convincing, full of little telling details, and that sweet, warm sensation of horror and mystery." —Joe R. Lansdale

Thomas Mutter was an audacious medical innovator who pioneered the use of ether as anaesthesia, the sterilisation of surgical tools and a compassion-based vision for helping the severely deformed, which clashed with the sentiments of the mid-nineteenth century. Brilliant, outspoken and handsome, Mutter was flamboyant in every aspect of his life. He wore pink silk suits to perform surgery, added an umlaut to his surname just because he could and amassed an immense collection of medical oddities that would later form Philadelphia's Mutter Museum.

An "ingenious, horrifying" (*The Guardian*) first contact story by one of the twentieth century's most brilliant—and neglected—science fiction and horror writers, whom Stephen King called "the best writer of science fiction that England has ever produced." What if aliens colonized Earth's oceans, rather than its land? Britain, 1953: It begins with red dots appearing across the sky and crashing into the oceans' deeps. Ships begin sinking mysteriously. Then an envoy sent by submarine to establish peaceful communications is killed. Mike and Phyllis Watson are a husband-and-wife journalist team who initially believe that the aliens' interest in the ocean's floor, a high-pressure environment that is uninhabitable by humankind, means that the two species may peacefully co-exist. But as "sea tanks" emerge from the sea and begin raiding coastal towns—and as the polar ice caps are intentionally melted, raising sea levels everywhere—it becomes clear that these aliens are not interested in sharing, and that humankind might just be on the brink of extinction.

Lee Emerson, eight-grader, is really in trouble. Now it is more than those C's on his report card. Now he must decide: Will he go along with the plan to wreck the high-school canteen?

Rebelling against the monotonous life of the moon colony, two boys go beyond its boundaries and discover a series of caves ruled by a super-intelligent plant-like being.

Published to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the author's death, *Plan for Chaos* presents a new work from this canonical author, whose previous novels – particularly *The Day of the Triffids* (in print continuously since 1951) and *The Midwich Cuckoos* – continue to sell widely through mass-market publishing houses. Secondly, and perhaps more significantly, this never-before-published novel was written simultaneously with *The Day of the Triffids*, making it a fascinating companion to the author's most famous work. Wyndham continues to have a significant influence on the direction of SF writing: Ray Bradbury and Margaret Atwood are his most famous acolytes but others such as Kim Stanley Robinson and even Aldous Huxley have drawn heavily on Wyndham's work. Wyndham himself is considered the direct successor to another canonical writer, H.G. Wells. The publication of David Ketterer's authorised biography and the 40th anniversary of the novelist's death are likely to stimulate considerable interest in the work of John Wyndham and *Plan for Chaos* offers reviewers and feature writers a new angle on this influential writer.

The 'outward urge' was a factor in the Troon inheritance. Successive generations of Troons, looking up at the stars, heard the siren voices that called them out into Space. And, as the frontiers of Space receded, there was usually one Troon, if not more, out there, helping to push them back. In an age in which what goes up need not necessarily come down, the likely adventures of the Conquistadors of Space are every bit as exciting as any world menaced by triffids.

The classic science fiction horror novel of possessed children that inspired the terrifying *Village of the Damned* films. In John Wyndham's classically elegant, calm style, this novel explores the arrival of a collective intelligence on earth that threatens to eliminate mankind. The quiet, eerie changes that befall Midwich manifest in strange ways: On the surface, everything seems normal, but scratch a little deeper and there is a clear sense of dread. After the night of September 26, every woman of childbearing age is pregnant, all to give birth at the same time, to children who are all alike—their eyes mesmerizing, void of emotion. These children are innately possessed with unimaginable mental powers and a formidable intelligence. It is these children who develop into an unstoppable force, capable of anything and far out-reaching other humans in cunning. Whatever dwells in Midwich is sowing the seeds for a master race of ruthless and inhumane creatures who are bent on nothing less than absolute and total domination. The *London Evening Standard* called *The Midwich Cuckoos* "humane and urbane with a lightly sophisticated wit putting the ideas into shape." Wyndham skillfully heightens the terror by making his narrative so rational and matter-of-fact. In such a nuclear and technological age, this story is rich in irony in that it is set in the picturesque, bucolic English Village and the "enemy," or, the threat is seeming cherubim. "Exciting, unsettling and technically brilliant." —*The Spectator*
FINDLEY/NOT WANTED ON VOYAGE (MC)

Science fiction thriller originally published by Michael Joseph in 1974. A woman stowaway on an exploratory spaceship to Mars causes problems particularly when the Martians, a dying race see dreams of survival in a way too abhorrent for the Earthmen to

comprehend.

'Ingenious' - Evening Standard Francis Saxover and Diana Brackley, two scientists investigating a rare lichen, discover it has a remarkable property: it retards the aging process. Francis, realising the implications for the world of an ever-youthful, wealthy elite, wants to keep it secret, but Diana sees an opportunity to overturn the male status quo by using the lichen to inspire a feminist revolution. As each scientist wrestles with the implications and practicalities of exploiting the discovery, the world comes ever closer to learning the truth . . . Trouble With Lichen is a scintillating story of the power wielded by science in our lives and asks how much trust should we place in those we appoint to be its guardians?

Trouble with Lichen Penguin UK

Matthew's parents are worried. At eleven, he's much too old to have an imaginary friend, yet they find him talking to and arguing with a presence that even he admits is not physically there. This presence - Chocky - causes Matthew to ask difficult questions and say startling things: he speaks of complex mathematics and mocks human progress. Then, when Matthew does something incredible, it seems there is more than the imaginary about Chocky. Which is when others become interested and ask questions of their own: who is Chocky? And what could it want with an eleven-year-old boy? A classic novel from the author of *The Day of the Triffids* and *The Midwich Cuckoos*.

Francis Saxover and Diana Brackley, two scientists investigating a rare lichen, discover it has a remarkable property: it retards the aging process. Francis, realising the implications for the world of an ever-youthful, wealthy elite, wants to keep it secret, but Diana sees an opportunity to overturn the male status quo by using the lichen to inspire a feminist revolution. As each scientist wrestles with the implications and practicalities of exploiting the discovery, the world comes ever closer to learning the truth . . . Trouble With Lichen is a scintillating story of the power wielded by science in our lives and asks how much trust should we place in those we appoint to be its guardians?

This planet of ours is teeming with vast numbers of plants, from small flowers to giant trees. And there are fungi and lichens too. With this encyclopedia, you will get to know a few hundred of the best known and most interesting plants from all over the world. What's more, this book will show you groups in which plants, fungi, and lichens can be classified. It will introduce you to mysterious lichens, edible and inedible mushrooms (as well as poisonous ones), and flowering and non-flowering plants. You will also learn about trees, bushes, and herbs from all corners of the globe. With its magnificent full-color illustrations and simple explanations, this book is not only useful; it is an essential learning companion for young readers.

Bob Slocum was living the American dream. He had a beautiful wife, three lovely children, a nice house...and all the mistresses he desired. He had it all -- all, that is, but happiness. Slocum was discontent. Inevitably, inexorably, his discontent deteriorated into desolation until...something happened. *Something Happened* is Joseph Heller's wonderfully inventive and controversial second novel satirizing business life and American culture. The story is told as if the reader was overhearing the patter of Bob Slocum's brain -- recording what is going on at the office, as well as his fantasies and memories that complete the story of his life. The result is a novel as original and memorable as his *Catch-22*.

Classic science fiction. Midwich is a quiet English village. After a strange night, all the women find themselves pregnant. 10 yrs+ The first completely new reference book on vegetable, fruit and herbal plant juices. Treats curative diet problems. Helps you create your own personalized formulas. Vitamin and mineral charts, and how to select a juicer.

Set in the future after a devastating global nuclear war, *The Chrysalids* is a philosophical tale with as much resonance today as it had when it was first written. David Storm lives in a tight-knit community of religious and genetic fundamentalists; a group of people who exist in a state of constant alert for any deviation of what they believe to be the norm of God's creation. "Offenses" consist of plants and animals that are in any way unusual, and they are publicly burned to the accompaniment of the singing of hymns. "Blasphemies" are human beings who show any sign of abnormality, and they're banned from society. So when David realizes that he is in possession of a power that would label him a mutant, he is forced to keep it a secret and reckon with the idea of fleeing to the Badlands—a new world that could offer him either a death sentence or freedom.

An epic yet personal look at several decades of life, love, and death in the imaginary city of Ambergris—previously chronicled in Jeff VanderMeer's acclaimed *City of Saints & Madmen-Shriek: An Afterword* relates the scandalous, heartbreaking, and horrifying secret history of two squabbling siblings and their confidantes, protectors, and enemies. Narrated with flamboyant intensity and under increasingly urgent conditions by ex-society figure Janice Shriek, this afterword presents a vivid gallery of characters and events, emphasizing the adventures of Janice's brother Duncan, a historian obsessed with a doomed love affair and a secret that may kill or transform him; a war between rival publishing houses that will change Ambergris forever; and the gray caps, a marginalized people armed with advanced fungal technologies who have been waiting underground for their chance to mold the future of the city. Part academic treatise, part tell-all biography, after this introduction to the *Family Shriek*, you'll never look at history in quite the same way again. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

In *Chocky*, pioneering science-fiction master John Wyndham confronts an enigma as strange as anything found in his classic works *The Day of the Triffids* or *The Chrysalids*—the mind of a child. It's not terribly unusual for a boy to have an imaginary friend, but Matthew's parents have to agree that his—nicknamed Chocky—is anything but ordinary. Why, Chocky demands to know, are there twenty-four hours in a day? Why are there two sexes? Why can't Matthew solve his math homework using a logical system like binary code? When the questions Chocky asks become too advanced and, frankly, too odd for teachers to answer, Matthew's parents start to wonder if Chocky might be something far stranger than a figment of their son's imagination. *Chocky*, the last novel Wyndham published during his life, is a playful investigation of what being human is all about, delving into such matters as child-rearing, marriage, learning, artistic inspiration—and ending with a surprising and impassioned plea for better human stewardship of the earth.

Our fear of the world ending, like our fear of the dark, is ancient, deep-seated and perennial. It crosses boundaries of space and time, recurs in all human communities and finds expression in every aspect of cultural production - from pre-historic cave paintings to high-tech computer games. This volume examines historical and imaginary scenarios of

apocalypse, the depiction of its likely triggers, and imagined landscapes in the aftermath of global destruction. Its discussion moves effortlessly from classic novels including Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*, to blockbuster films such as *Blade Runner*, *Armageddon* and *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. Lisboa also takes into account religious doctrine, scientific research and the visual arts to create a penetrating, multi-disciplinary study that provides profound insight into one of Western culture's most fascinating and enduring preoccupations.

In John Updike's second collection of assorted prose he comes into his own as a book reviewer; most of the pieces picked up here were first published in *The New Yorker* in the 1960s and early '70s. If one word could sum up the young critic's approach to books and their authors it would be "generosity": "Better to praise and share," he says in his Foreword, "than to blame and ban." And so he follows his enthusiasms, which prove both deserving and infectious: Kierkegaard, Proust, Joyce, Dostoevsky, and Hamsun among the classics; Borges, Nabokov, Grass, Bellow, Cheever, and Jong among the contemporaries. Here too are meditations on Satan and cemeteries, travel essays on London and Anguilla, three very early "golf dreams," and one big interview. *Picked-Up Pieces* is a glittering treasury for every reader who likes life, books, wit—and John Updike.

In a city that could well be New York, a series of identical women are found dead in suspicious circumstances. Magazine photographer Johnny Farthing, who is reporting on the suspected murders, is chilled to discover that his fiancée looks identical to the victims too - and then she disappears. As his investigations spiral beyond his control, he finds himself at the heart of a sinister plot that uses cloning to revive the Nazi vision of a world-powerful master race... Part detective noir, part dystopic thriller, *Plan for Chaos* reveals the legendary science fiction novelist grappling with some of his most urgent and personal themes.

A thought experiment in future-shock survivalism' Robert MacFarlane 'Gripping ... of all science fiction's apocalypses, this is one of the most haunting' *Financial Times* WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY ROBERT MACFARLANE A post-apocalyptic vision of the world pushed to the brink by famine, John Christopher's science fiction masterpiece *The Death of Grass* includes an introduction by Robert MacFarlane in Penguin Modern Classics. At first the virus wiping out grass and crops is of little concern to John Custance. It has decimated Asia, causing mass starvation and riots, but Europe is safe and a counter-virus is expected any day. Except, it turns out, the governments have been lying to their people. When the deadly disease hits Britain, society starts to descend into barbarism. As John and his family try to make it across country to the safety of his brother's farm in a hidden valley, their humanity is tested to its very limits. A chilling psychological thriller and one of the greatest post-apocalyptic novels ever written, *The Death of Grass* shows people struggling to hold on to their identities as the familiar world disintegrates - and the terrible price they must pay for surviving. John Christopher (1922-2012) was the pen name of Samuel Youd, a prolific writer of science fiction. His novels were popular during the 1950s and 1960s, most notably *The Death Of Grass* (1956), *The World in Winter* (1962), and *Wrinkle in the Skin* (1965), all works depicting ordinary people struggling in the midst of apocalyptic catastrophes. In 1966 he started writing science-fiction for adolescents; *The Tripods* trilogy, the *Prince in Waiting* trilogy (also known as the *Sword of the Spirits* trilogy) and *The Lotus Caves* are still widely read today. If you enjoyed *The Death of Grass*, you might like John Wyndham's *The Day of the Triffids*, also available in Penguin Modern Classics.

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