

The background features a complex network of white nodes and connecting lines, resembling a constellation or a data network. The nodes are of varying sizes and are connected by thin white lines, creating a web-like structure. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The word "Fury" is centered in the upper half of the image.

Fury

Written by Henry Kuttner

Published by sanmarco-sf

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Fury

Fury

By Henry Kuttner

Fury Schwarz

Beneath the rolling seas and deadly atmosphere of Venus are the Keeps--fully enclosed cities that house descendants of the survivors who first harbored atomic energy to escape a dying earth. In massive superstructures built beneath the Venusian seas, a complex feudal society devoted simply to decadence has evolved. Presiding over that society are Immortals--genetic throwbacks to the mutant atomic survivors. While the society is stable, the stability will only lead to its destruction, and the harsh environment outside the Keeps is malevolent and encroaching. Born into it all is Sam Harker, son of an Immortal and the object of his father's disdain after his mother perished during childbirth. Sam is subjected to treatments which stunt his growth and leave him hairless, and he is exiled from the society of the Immortals and set on the tumultuous path of a rebel's life--one inspired by hatred and a desire for vengeance on the society. Sam's search for revenge and his great abilities make him more powerful than the more decadent residents of the Keeps ... and perhaps even more powerful than the Immortals themselves. He seeks mass appeal as a politician in a campaign that assaults society. It is not until everything is destroyed--that is, in the aftermath of destruction--that the reclamation of human destiny is even a remote possibility.

Classic SF from '47. It isn't bad and it has a solid plot thread and a very streamlined theme, from breaking off the yoke of immortals only to realize you are one, to founding a rebellion allowing all the people to earn their own immortality and a place in the sun. (On Venus, nonetheless.)

I don't have any outright complaints about this tale. No embarrassing idiocies and I can tolerate a climate-controlled venus just fine when it's in service to a decent tale.

However, all in all, it's just too s Classic SF from '47. It isn't bad and it has a solid plot thread and a very streamlined theme, from breaking off the yoke of immortals only to realize you are one, to founding a rebellion allowing all the people to earn their own immortality and a place in the sun. (On Venus, nonetheless.)

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However, all in all, it's just too simple for my taste. It's pretty much golden age pulp fiction designed for people hankering for adventure. Throw in a smattering of telepathy, the prejudice that might come from immortals, and a somewhat exotic location, and it's a pretty classic SF theme. Simple.

Get the rebellion on. Forward the Fury!

Fury

Like I said, no complaints, but no great accolades, either. ...more

Fury Vs Wilder

5.5 stars. One of my favorite "classic" science fiction novels. A truly under-rated work that deserves a lot more recognition than it gets. Clearly, Henry Kuttner's best work (with some uncredited help from his wife, C.L. Moore. Classic Science Fiction at its best and a ton of fun!!!

1946 had been a very good year indeed for Henry Kuttner and C.L. Moore, with a full dozen stories published plus three fine novels ("The Fairy Chessmen," "Valley of the Flame" and "The Dark World"), and in 1947, sci-fi's preeminent husband-and-wife writing team continued its prolific ways. Before the year was out, the two had succeeded in placing another 15 stories into the pulp magazines of the day, in addition to the novel for which Kuttner is best remembered: "Fury." A classic of Golden Age sci-fi, "Fury" originally appeared in the May, June and July issues of "Astounding Science-Fiction" under one of the pair's many pseudonyms, Lawrence O'Donnell. The story goes that legendary editor John W. Campbell needed a quick novel from the team, and that Part 1 of the serialized novel was in print before the story was even close to being finished. "Fury" was finally released in book form in 1950. Though hurriedly composed, the tale betrays no signs of its rushed origins, and is indeed an elegantly written (I love that line about libration inducing libration), fast-moving novel that is nevertheless multigenerational and epic in scope.

It tells the story of the Landside colonization of Venus in the 27th century, long after Earth has been destroyed by atomic wars. Mankind now lives in Venusian undersea cities known as Keeps, as the surface of the planet is virtually uninhabitable, with deadly forms of plant and animal life in riotous abundance. The book's hero (or should I say "antihero"?), Sam Harker, is born into one of the families of Immortals that rule the Keeps. When his mother dies during childbirth, Sam's enraged father has the infant genetically altered so that he looks nothing like the tall, graceful folk of the Immortal clans. Sam grows up in foster care, with no knowledge of his background, his heritage, or even the fact that he will probably live to be 1,000 years old. The story of how Sam climbs up the criminal ladder, inadvertently becomes one of the most despised and influential men on Venus, and ultimately causes mankind to migrate out of the undersea Keeps, is the story of "Fury," a book whose title refers not only to the vengeful force inherent in its lead character, but to the Landside Venusian environment as well.

But a capsule description of "Fury"'s plot really doesn't do the book justice; it's like saying that "Gone With the Wind" is a story about a Civil War gal trying to get her house back. Kuttner & Moore generously supply the reader with an abundance of interesting characters, colorful backdrops and unforeseeable plot developments. Among those interesting characters are Sam's Immortal foes, Zachariah Harker and Kedre Walton; Robin Hale, a mercenary Immortal determined to colonize Landside; the Slider, a Fagin-like underworld figure who helps Sam in his illicit projects; and the Logician,

Fury

an immensely old man given to dispensing homespun, commonsense oracles. Among those colorful backdrops, of course, are the Keeps themselves, nestled on the Venusian sea bottoms under their impervium domes, and the surface of Venus. Readers who are interested in seeing the various terrible life-forms alluded to in the novel's early sections will not be disappointed in the book's latter half, as the Landside settlers encounter giant lizards, foot-long beetles, the monstrosities known as the mud-wolf and the siren web, etc. (Indeed, the life-forms of Venus seem to be so very aggressive in "Fury" that they might cause the reader to wonder whether or not Harry Harrison was influenced here when he wrote his first novel, "Deathworld," in 1960. Likewise, this reader was compelled to entertain the possibility that the vengeful Gully Foyle, of my favorite sci-fi novel of all time, Alfred Bester's 1956 classic "The Stars My Destination," might have been patterned after the driven Sam Harker character here, in addition to Bester's admitted debt to "The Count of Monte Cristo.") As for those unforeseeable plot developments I mentioned...well, the less said, the better. I would be the last to deprive potential first-time readers of any of the many surprises that this cleverly plotted book dishes out.

I should also add at this point that I recommend all potential readers of "Fury" to search out the Magnum Library edition, as this volume contains an introduction by C.L. Moore herself. In it, Moore tells us how she and her husband were accustomed to work; a fascinating look at how this famous team operated. While most of the Kuttner-Moore pieces of fiction were indeed collaborative, Moore confirms in this intro that her actual contribution to "Fury" was minimal, adding up to perhaps 1/8 of the novel's total word count. If I read her correctly, her contributions here deal mainly with colorful descriptions and sections pertaining to male-female relationships. Still, as usual, the melding of talents is quite seamless, resulting in one of the best pieces of science fiction that I've read in a good long while. The novel concludes with a two-word epilogue that is just wonderful, certainly opening up the possibility of a "Fury" sequel. Sadly, that sequel was never to be. Kuttner, who writes somewhere in "Fury" that "the life-span of an ordinary man was too short," died of a heart attack in 1958, at the age of 44. Though the man himself was far from immortal, I'd like to think that his works may indeed be....

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Fury Definition

Originally published in Astounding magazine in 1947 under the pseudonym Lawrence O'Donnell who is Henry Kuttner co-authoring with his wife Catherine L. Moore.

The book is set on Venus several centuries after an atomic armageddon has destroyed Earth. Mankind lives in a series of domed undersea keeps, because the land-life is so awful that earlier attempts to settle Venus have all failed. The race is slowly stagnating inside those domes, despite the more or less benevolent wardship of the Immorta

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Sam Reed/Harker is resourceful, relentless, and unscrupulous, and the sheer force of his will bleeds into the narration, so it takes on his straight-line impetus that bulldozes everything in the way. He is a wild cannon who can be counted on to do the most destructive thing, even if that thing was not intentional. His automatic reaction is to towards destruction--crime, swindle, violence, strong-arm persuasion, blackmail, all driven by an inexplicable fury.

The rest of the story curlicues around Sam Reed/Harker is resourceful, relentless, and unscrupulous, and the sheer force of his will bleeds into the narration, so it takes on his straight-line impetus that bulldozes everything in the way. He is a wild cannon who can be counted on to do the most destructive thing, even if that thing was not intentional. His automatic reaction is to towards destruction--crime, swindle, violence, strong-arm persuasion, blackmail, all driven by an inexplicable fury.

The rest of the story curlicues around him, revealing strange intricacies. The long-lived puppeteers of society, the Immortals, are put in positions where they want to discourage colonization but because of previously stated goals must support it publicly, and play an impossibly long game against their rivals. ...more

Fury Survivor Pixel Z

Pretty sure I read it, back in the day. No real recollection, though....

Henry Kuttner and his wife C L Moore began writing in the pulps during the 30s. Both contributed to Weird Tales and were part of the "Lovecraft Circle". He was a very influential Sci Fi, Horror, Fantasy writer who mentored the likes of Ray Bradbury. You can also see his influences on others such as Roger Zelazny who stated the Kuttner's book "Dark World" was an inspiration for his "Amber series.

After they married just about everything they produced was a collaboration and this book is no exception Henry Kuttner and his wife C L Moore began writing in the pulps during the 30s. Both contributed to Weird Tales and were part of the "Lovecraft Circle". He was a very influential Sci Fi, Horror, Fantasy writer who mentored the likes of Ray Bradbury. You can also see his influences on others such as Roger Zelazny who stated the Kuttner's book "Dark World" was an inspiration for his "Amber series.

After they married just about everything they produced was a collaboration and this book is no exception although Ms Moore said that about 70% of the book was his including the idea. Many of Kuttner's themes are anti authority and this one is no different.

This book was published in 1947 so it is a bit dated in parts. It takes place on Venus several hundred years after the destruction of Earth. Venus is populated by carnivorous and deadly flora and fauna and as a result the remainder of Earth's population escaping Earth's destruction eventually settles under Venus' oceans. They live in "Keeps" named after US states (Delaware Keep, Montana Keep) and this world is ruled over by families of Mutants called "Immortals" who are taller, more graceful, and live up to 1000 years.

The protagonist in the story is an immortal born to the most powerful of the Immortal families, The Harkers. His father who is grieved over the death of his wife in childbirth has his son Sam surgically altered at birth to appear as a "short-lived" human and is given to a normal family to be raised. No one is aware of his true origins. He eventually rises up to challenge the status quo of the Immortals and strives to bring what's left of the human race to the surface world.

...more

Fury Road

Earth has been rendered uninhabitable by nuclear war. Humans have fled to live in "Keep"s far below the surface of the oceans of Venus since the planet's land masses are covered in jungles inhabited by deadly flora and fauna. The ruling government of this remainder of Humanity is an Oligarchy of immortals, the rest of the race destined to live out normal lifespans.

Against this background is told the story of Sam, the son of Blaze Harker, youngest in a dynasty of a powerful family of immortals. B Earth has been rendered uninhabitable by nuclear war. Humans have fled to live in "Keep"s far below the surface of the oceans of Venus since the planet's land masses are covered in jungles inhabited by deadly flora and fauna. The ruling government of this remainder of Humanity is an Oligarchy of immortals, the rest of the race destined to live out normal lifespans.

Against this background is told the story of Sam, the son of Blaze Harker, youngest in a dynasty of a powerful family of immortals. Blaze, however, is borderline insane and, for reasons we need not go into here, has his baby son surgically altered and abandons him to be brought up among the short-lived humans.

The child grows up with the name of Sam Reed, working initially under the tutelage of the Fagin-like Slider.

Meanwhile, the immortal Robin Hale believes that Humanity should be moving out onto the surface of Venus, a policy that the ruling immortals currently oppose.

Sam decides to help Hale; a decision which brings him into conflict with Zachariah Harker, while neither of them are aware of the fact that they are closely related.

Sam manipulates the media to raise volunteers and money to establish a colony on the surface, but is betrayed by his mistress.

The narrative jumps fifty years ahead to where Sam awakens in a street, having been helped there by a mysterious stranger. He discovers that he was discredited as a drug addict after his disappearance, but the surface colony is just surviving. He also discovers, to his surprise, that he has not aged and realises the fact of his immortality.

Once more, he rejoins Hale and launches a new campaign to establish Humanity on the planet's surface.

The immortals, however, set up a long term plan to deal with Sam permanently.

It has elements of both a Shakespearean tragedy and a Dickens novel. Sam seems driven by his fury on a predestinate path. Indeed, Kuttner also includes the character of The Logician, a mysterious immortal, born on Earth, who has been masquerading as public logic machine, to which anyone can submit questions.

It was The Logician who advised Hale to start his surface colonisation programme. The Logician (who describes himself as a sort of oracle in the text, and who seems to extrapolate the future in much the same way as EE Doc Smith's Arisians) explains that his talent depends on guiding people, rather than telling them what to do and it seems clear later that he has manipulated both Hale and Sam in order that Humanity can return to the surface.

Sam is eventually betrayed by another woman, programmed from birth for the role and placed in a

Fury

position of trust, but Sam is not killed, merely put to sleep again by The Logician to be reawakened at a time when his drive and fury may be needed again.

Stylistically it has that odd juxtaposition of the feudal and the futuristic. For its time the use of drugs and narcotics in a narrative was not standard practice. Addiction features several times, the female surgeon who originally altered Sam's physical appearance for instance was addicted to the lethal embrace of a native life-form which stimulated pure pleasure in her body as it slowly fed on her.

As is common for novels of this period, the concept of genocide (not just a species, but an entire biosphere) is not considered an issue. ...more

Published in 1950, this book is a classic if not well know work of science fiction from Henry Kuttner, an author who deserves to be remembered and read more often than is the case these days. Fury is the story of a man named Sam Reed, a resident of Venus in a future when all that's left of Humanity exists in domed keeps under the seas of that world. Earth was destroyed seven hundred years before the tale begins, and the survivors colonized Venus. Sam is an angry man, one who uses his anger a

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Fury is very much character driven, and these characters have something in common. None of them are heroes in any sense of the word. There are no simple good guys or bad guys in this story, though Sam Reed certainly qualifies as an anti-hero. Each has motives and morals that, when they intersect, move the story forward.

While it is clear from its style that this book was written before the current obsession with "show, don't tell," the book reads well all these decades later. It doesn't even matter that the Venus of Kuttner's imagination is impossible. When Kuttner wrote this book (likely in the late 1940s) the possibility of a swampy, jungle Venus had not yet been ruled out. The book is beautifully written, the characters thoroughly realized, and the exotic setting works even in the face of current knowledge. Well worth the time it would take to read this short (less than 200 pages) novel.

Note: Fury was later (1958) republished under the title Destination: Infinity. The original title definitely suits the book better!

...more

Fury

Fury Wilder

This book was suggested to me by a friend from Sweden when she visited the States. Classic SF is always a mixed bag - some of it very good, some of it bearable, some of it is just silly, some of it not worth reading even once. I'm happy to report that Fury is one of the very good ones, and surely a much overlooked gem.

Thanks, my friend, for the wonderful suggestion (and for demanding that I purchase it when we took time to browse through Kankakee's Paperback Reader used book store)!

It's a fast moving, enjoyable book. It's pacing, language, and tone remind me a lot of The Stars My Destination. I'd be very surprised if Harry Harrison hadn't read this before he wrote Deathworld as Venus is described exactly like Deathworld.

Fury Meaning

I have a Hamlyn 1981 edition

I got this book for my eighteenth birthday and remember really enjoying it. But when I saw it on my shelf a week or two ago I realised I couldn't remember anything about it. Rereading it now it's not hard to see why it didn't stick. The book displays the best technicolour imagination of the pulps, is breathlessly written, with some rare patches of vibrant descriptive writing, but in most ways it is all over the shop.

The story is a straightforward 'Ubermensch takes on stagnant aristocracy by playing to the whims of the mob' job. The author('s/s')* ambiguous attitude to the repellent/charismatic protagonist doesn't really offset the essentially fascist message that mankind needs conflict to avoid effete limpness, and that a 'strong man' prepared to do nasty things is the most efficient way of 'getting things done' - but this isn't really unusual for the pulps, so hey ho.**

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What I think makes the book so forgettable is that events unfurl with little rhyme or reason, and the grand schemes of the characters are so tenuous they could only succeed due to authorial fiat. It's frequently unclear what is happening, let alone why, and the frequent timeskips suggest the author(s) often couldn't be bothered to write their way out of the cul-de-sac they'd written themselves into. In most terms I have to chalk this one up as an interesting failure.

*Even the copy of the book I have is unclear whether the book was written by Henry Kuttner alone or in collaboration with his wife CL Moore.

** I had an idle thought the other day about how 'protagonists with superior intellect and drive, taking on a stagnant elite by pretending to be on the side of the mob they secretly disdain' are quite common in SF. Again it has been a few years since I read it, but I think this kind of Donald Trumpesque SF bastard was perfected in 'The Stars my Destination.' ...more

Fury Cast

This is the second Fury I've read recently; I wouldn't be surprised if both titles were partially inspired by Lewis Carroll's mouse poem, though there isn't anything else Carrollian in here as far as I could tell.

Fury takes place on Venus after mankind destroyed the Earth in nuclear fire; if I'm reading the first chapter correctly, the Earth still burns in the night sky. The only survivors live on Venus, in underwater domes, because Venus on land is too dangerous. The book was published in 1947. This is the second Fury I've read recently; I wouldn't be surprised if both titles were partially inspired by Lewis Carroll's mouse poem, though there isn't anything else Carrollian in here as far as I could tell.

Fury takes place on Venus after mankind destroyed the Earth in nuclear fire; if I'm reading the first chapter correctly, the Earth still burns in the night sky. The only survivors live on Venus, in underwater domes, because Venus on land is too dangerous. The book was published in 1947 when science fiction writers could still hope that Venus would be some kind of super-jungle.

Kuttner (and possibly to a smaller extent C.L. Moore) really put the super into this stereotypically super jungle: it's a jungle that can overrun any attempt to clear it as fast as the clearing takes place. The bugs and fungi and strange bacteria are impossible to get rid of once they get into you. And boy do they want to get into you! There's a wonderful idea for a cursed cloak that is really a sort of manta ray that makes its wearer soporifically happy while slowly eating them; and a relative that lives on land, a "siren web" that pulses strange colors to draw victims into its strands, where it sings while it eats them.

The book also has some neat ideas about oracles, and why they need to speak obliquely when they foretell the future. If they didn't, their clients would act too passively, more passively than they otherwise would have if they'd made the decision themselves; and so the future foretold won't come to pass as it would otherwise have. ...more

Libro molto particolare, che tra alti e bassi, racconta l'inizio della colonizzazione di Venere da parte degli ultimi abitanti della Terra, che in seguito alla devastazione di quest'ultima si sono rifugiati in enormi cupole sotto i mari di Venere. Questa nuova societ  venusiana,   comandata da alcune famiglie che posseggono il dono dell'immortalit , aspetto per  non molto approfondito dall'autore, e che guidano il destino di queste riserve. A scombinare il placito vivere   Sam Reed, figlio rinne

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Fury

creare un grosso scompiglio nella societ  venusiana, prima come delinquente e poi come capo dei colonizzatori della terra ferma venusiana. Questa   in breve, la storia di Furia, titolo che in realt  ha ben poco a che spartire con il suo personaggio principale, che invece risulta estremamente razionale e calcolatore nelle sue scelte. Il libro inizia in maniera abbastanza confusa, con l'autore che non riesce a descrivere con chiarezza la societ  venusiana, ma man mano che esce fuori il personaggio di Sam, il libro acquista vigore e ritmo, nonch  anche alcuni interessanti colpi di scena. A dispetto di un finale poco convincente, tuttavia Furia   libro interessante per gli amanti della fantascienza d'annata.

...more

Fury 325

Come Asimov con le avventure di Lucky Starr anche in Furia l'autore parte dalla considerazione "peregrina", ma comune all'epoca, che su Venere il clima fosse sÃ caldo ma ricco in CO2 e di acqua (oceani immensi) con flora e fauna rigogliose. Un pianeta quindi ideale in cui l'umanitÃ fuggita dal disastro nucleare terrestre avrebbe potuto rifugiarsi per ricostruire un mondo "ideale". Il tutto all'interno di colonie sottomarine guidate dalla benevola protezione di una casta minoritaria ultra-longeva. Come Asimov con le avventure di Lucky Starr anche in Furia l'autore parte dalla considerazione "peregrina", ma comune all'epoca, che su Venere il clima fosse sÃ caldo ma ricco in CO2 e di acqua (oceani immensi) con flora e fauna rigogliose. Un pianeta quindi ideale in cui l'umanitÃ fuggita dal disastro nucleare terrestre avrebbe potuto rifugiarsi per ricostruire un mondo "ideale". Il tutto all'interno di colonie sottomarine guidate dalla benevola protezione di una casta minoritaria ultra-longeva. Il racconto quindi sconta una visione scientifica che definirei datata Ã poco. Tuttavia il racconto Ã ben congegnato, incentrato sulla figura del protagonista che spinto dalla sua "furia" di emancipazione dalla condizione di escluso riuscirÃ coinvolgere i coloni, assuefatti dal benessere, nella sua lotta. Il punto debole del libro Ã la scarsa scientificitÃ, tipica invece di altri autori (anche Asimov in quei racconti aveva lasciato parecchio a desiderare) o della visione di mondi alieni e di strutture sociali visionarie ma ottimamente costruite di un Jack Vance. L'ultima parte vorrebbe essere l'antefatto della vicenda ma puÃ essere saltato in toto; credo quindi sia un assemblaggio dettato da scelte editoriali piÃ che dell'autore e come tale inutile.

Nonostante tutto la sufficienza Ã piena. Si legge con piacere. ...more

I first read this maybe fifty years ago. I was just getting into science fiction and a friend at school had told me that Henry Kuttner wrote great short stories so when I saw this novel in the reduced section at Woolworths I bought it. I recall the blurb boasted "This is no novel for the lily livered, Fury is a novel of violence". I read it several times over the years but it must be thirty years since I last read it. I saw this edition (which also contains "Mutant" and "The best of Henry Kuttner") in the two books for Â£5.00 section recently so I thought I would give it a go. It took me a few weeks to get round to reading it as I had been disappointed by much of the science fiction I had loved as a teenager when I re-read them over forty years later.

However I still enjoyed this one as the author is a great writer who tells a compelling story and gets in a lot of classical allusions too! OK, the characterisation is not great but the characters are believable if somewhat one dimensional. Set on Venus in the future after Earth has become uninhabitable a misfit galvanises a decaying civilisation to one again reach for the stars. ...more