

Philip K. Dick: Five Novels of the 1960s & 70s

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Jonathan Lethem, editor

"The most outré science fiction writer of the 20th century has finally entered the canon," exclaimed *Wired Magazine* upon The Library of America's May 2007 publication of *Philip K. Dick: Four Novels of the 1960s*, edited by Jonathan Lethem. Now comes a companion volume collecting five novels that offer a breathtaking overview of the range of this science-fiction master.

Philip K. Dick (1928-82) was a writer of incandescent imagination who made and unmade world-systems with ferocious rapidity and unbridled speculative daring. "The floor joists of the universe," he once wrote, "are visible in my novels." *Martian Time-Slip* (1964) unfolds on a parched and thinly colonized Red Planet where schizophrenia is a contagion and the unscrupulous seek to profit from a troubled child's time-fracturing visions. *Dr. Bloodmoney, or How We Got Along After the Bomb* (1965) chronicles the deeply-interwoven stories of a multi-racial community of survivors, including the scientist who may have been responsible for World War III. Famous, among other reasons, for a therapy session involving a talking taxicab, *Now Wait for Last Year* (1966) explores the effects of JJ-180, a hallucinogen that alters not only perception, but reality. In *Flow My Tears, the Policeman Said* (1974), a television star seeks to unravel a mystery that has left him stripped of his identity. *A Scanner Darkly* (1977), the basis for the 2006 film, envisions a drug-addled world in which a narcotics officer's tenuous hold on sanity is strained by his new surveillance assignment: himself. Mixing metaphysics and madness, phantasmagoric visions of a post-nuclear world and invading extraterrestrial authoritarians, and all-too-real evocations of the drugged-out America of the 70s, Dick's work remains exhilarating and unsettling in equal measure.

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