
Subject: Re: 'Way Station' - Clifford D. Simak (& Clarke) (& SFBC)
Posted by [psc](#) on Tue, 24 Sep 2013 18:33:30 GMT
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Yes, WAY STATION is a good novel, and greatly underdiscussed. I haven't read it in a long time, but I still remember enjoying it when I was twelve, and several times since then. If any of you have read "The Big Back Yard" (see THE SCIENCE FICTION HALL OF FAME, volume 2B), let me tell you that WAY STATION has the same kind of quietly escalating dramatic power, except better.

From THE LION OF COMMARRE/AGAINST THE FALL OF NIGHT ((c) 1968?):
Clarke write AGAINST THE FALL OF NIGHT between 1937 and 1946. He wrote and sold several other stories, then (after John W. Campbell turned it down), got it published in the November 1948 STARTLING STORIES. It appeared in hardcover (Gnome Press) in 1953, and has been reissued since then, more than once, by Pyramid. THE CITY AND THE STARS was published by Harcourt, Brace, and World in 1956,
and has remained in print since then.

All the time, I assumed that the new version would completely replace the older novel, but AGAINST THE FALL OF NIGHT showed no tendency to fade away; indeed, to my slight shagrin, some readers preferred it its successor, and it has now been reissued several times in paperback (Pyramid Books). One day I would like to conduct a poll to discover which is the more popular version; I have long ago given up trying to decide which is the better one. [Clarke]
I like 'em both.

A note on hardcover prices in general, and the Science Fiction Book Club in particular: The slim volume (209 pages) with these two short novels listed (according to the SFBC) for \$4.75. This was back around 1973, when paperbacks were going for \$.95. As a SFBC member, I got the book for \$1.49. (And Ben Bova was editing

Analog. Boy, those were the good old days.)

--

-Paul S. R. Chisholm

...!{pegasus,cbosgd}!lzmi!psc The above opinions are my own,

...!{hocsj,ihnp4}!lznv!psc not necessarily anyone else's.