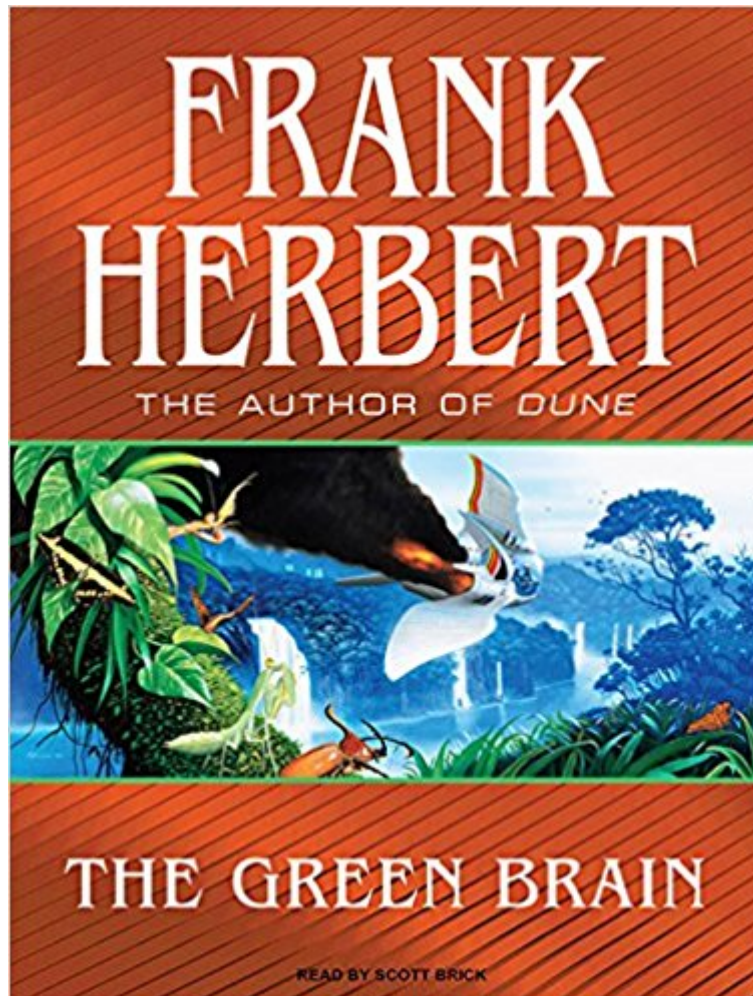




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The Green Brain



Synopsis

In an overpopulated world seeking living room in the jungles, the International Ecological Organization was systematically exterminating the voracious insects that made these areas uninhabitable. Using deadly foamal bombs and newly developed vibration weapons, men like Joao Martinho and his coworkers fought to clear the green hell of the Mato Grosso. But somehow those areas that had been completely cleared were becoming reinfested, despite the impenetrable vibration barriers. And tales were coming out of the jungles-tales of insects mutated to incredible sizes, of creatures who seemed to be men but whose eyes gleamed with the chitinous sheen of insects...

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Tantor Audio; Library - Unabridged CD edition (August 31, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1400144884

ISBN-13: 978-1400144884

Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 0.9 x 6.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #19,449,322 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \(H \) > Herbert, Frank](#) #7710 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction](#) #9222 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy](#)

Customer Reviews

“Herbert does more than carry events forward: he deals with the consequences of events, the implications of decisions.”
—St. Louis Post-Dispatch --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Frank Herbert's most popular works are the well-known Dune books: Dune, Dune Messiah, Children of Dune, and the extraordinary bestseller God Emperor of Dune. Scott Brick has recorded over five hundred audiobooks, won over forty AudioFile Earphones Awards, and twice received Audie Awards for his work. Scott was chosen as Publishers Weekly's 2007 Narrator of the Year, and he has been named a Golden Voice by AudioFile magazine.

I had read this first years ago along with "Hellstrome's Hive". I had lost the paperback of the years so I was happy to regain it. The book was in excellent condition. One of the two books by Frank Herbert I was more interested in than "Dune". Previously I had gotten "Green Slaves" his early version of the story germ so I can compare to "The Green Brain" and see how he had expanded on it. This was done back before the huge page counts they require today. It is a quick read and flows nicely. Plus you can see how informed he was in relation to Brazil.

A future where the War is between humans and insects. Insects that, because of decades of resisting being suppressed by increasingly poisonous chemicals, have responded with rapid mutation and eventual global hive mind capability. This book presages similar tropes in films such as Phase IV, Mimic, and the Buggers in Enders Game. I liked the concept and the descriptions of the evolving insect intelligence, but I took two stars off. One, because the insects were more interesting than the human protagonists; and two, because of the ethnic/sexual stereotyping of the somewhat one-dimensional human characters.

The Green Brain is another amazing story concept by Mr. Herbert, and it contains some of the most amazing descriptive prose I've ever read. Unfortunately, the ending is very abrupt and leaves a great deal of unanswered questions about nearly everything. It feels as though Mr. Herbert was pulled away from the project suddenly and therefore needed to cobble together a quick and somewhat feasible finish. Everything about this story screams for another two hundred pages of plot development, but alas, it isn't to be. Despite the ending, this is such an excellent read, and well worth the time. Like most Herbert books (even the other poorly finished ones), it contains unique and thought provoking concepts and overflows with graceful and poetic language.

A story of pending ecological apocalypse that takes place in the rain forests of Brazil sometime later in this century. In the best B-movie tradition, the first part of Herbert's sophisticated nature/monster revenge tale sustains plot and character development along a trail of action scenes that are admirably realized. Unfortunately this pace stalls at the halfway point (and this is actually a novella rather than a novel, so the disappointment hits home quite soon!), and the remainder of the story quite literally floats, and floats... and floats away to a memorable but ultimately unsatisfying and abrupt ending. The Green Brain suffers from its sketchy conception and rushed, slap-dash execution. This is a shame because the basic idea, setting, characters and themes had so much

potential. Frank could also have availed us a small glossary for all those Spanish/South American titles and terms he constantly used here. Obviously his pot had boiled over in the middle 60's, with so many projects cooking - not to mention the incomparable Dune and its still nascent sequel. Nonetheless, in the hands of a decent film script writer (or is that an oxymoron?) an updated and more fully developed version of this story's plot and characters would make a very interesting, intelligent and exciting science fiction movie... Something rarely ever accomplished. So I suppose we should just let that idea just... drift away too.

One thing in Frank Herbert's favor is that I am never quite sure where he is going with his novels. That's why I keep coming back to his novels.

I hate bugs, so the green brain was particularly icky. Panic stricken is what I would be if something like this could happen!

yuck

The Green Brain - Frank Herbert [535 - 2014-05-27 - SF novel] Frank Herbert (1920-86) who will forever be known for "Dune" wrote this gem of a story in 1966 - just as "Dune" was being published in Analog magazine. Credit Herbert with taking one of the most trite, shop worn SF themes and imparting an astonishing level of narrative life into what could of been a forgettable piece of fluff. An overpopulated world seeks additional lands by transforming jungles to farm and residential acres. An elite corps is formed to eliminate "green" areas of all insects not directly beneficial to man and to go into "red" locations to exterminate the voracious insects that make those areas uninhabitable. I found this idea, even today, a logical extrapolation of current trends. The conflict arises when an "intelligent" mutated insect endeavors to re-infect the "green" in order to notify mankind that victory over insects would result in barren, sterile soil and signal man's demise. The strength of this novel comes from the interaction of three complex, believable characters: Chen-Lhu- the Chinese representative, Rhie his companion and Joao the focus of the novel. The climax is a voyage through "red" territory interspaced with philosophical discourses on the complex relationships between and among the three humans and the efforts of the insect intelligence to detain them. Aside from Dune Frank Herbert wrote several well received novels - this is one of them. Portions of this novel first appeared in Amazing Stories in 1965 under the title Greenslaves.

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