

STRUNG OUT ON SCIENCE FICTION. Hancock Isn't The First Superhero Screw-Up

[MORE TOP
STORIES »](#)

LUNCHTIME READING



If Philip K. Dick's "Axis won the war" novel *Man in the High Castle* made you squirm, then the 1980s novels about Lord Horror and his Nazi England will make your brain explode. The Lord Horror novels — *Lord Horror*, followed by *Motherfuckers: The Auschwitz of Oz* — are vicious, psychedelic satire about a Nazi DJ (Lord Horror) in England after Germany wins World War II. Written by underground publishers David Britton and Michael Butterworth, owners of the notorious Savoy Books, the first novel was declared obscene in court and got Britton sent to jail for four months. Now, cult author and critic Keith Seward (who wrote [Extraterrestrial Sex Fetish](#) under the name Supervert) has helped revive the long-suppressed scifi classics in a collection called *Horror Panegyric*. It brings together Seward's essay about the Lord Horror books with excerpts from the novels. And you can read it online for free.

Writes Seward in his introduction to the book:

Unlike Dick or Spinrad, sci-fi writers who confined Nazis to a book or two, Britton and Butterworth have pursued their theme with a probably disturbing intensity that can be quantitatively measured in the sheer volume of Lord Horror productions. What's more, they do not tack a moral to the end of their tales. This is not to say that there are no morals but rather that there are no easy answers, seals of approval, rubber stamps, calmatives ("don't worry, it's just fiction, the jackboots won't hurt you"). Their work is not ideological, like a hate tract, but is rather a deliberate collision of seemingly incompatible ideologies: death camp + dream factory = ? Satire, hyperbole, and *reductio ad absurdum* work to energize, anger, inspire, offend, but the one thing they do not do to readers is pacify. And why should anyone be pacified by Nazis, even fictional ones?

Seward's essay alone makes great, thoughtful lunchtime reading, especially if you like your scifi on the transgressive side. And once you've read what he has to say about Lord Horror, you'll definitely want to check out the excerpts themselves.

[Horror Panegyric \(http://supervert.com/essays/horror_panegyric/\)](http://supervert.com/essays/horror_panegyric/) [Supervert]

COMMENTS

[braak](#) at [11:16 AM on 04/08/08](#)

Sometimes I feel kind of sad that I live in America, and it's not really possible for me to write a satire that'll get me sent to jail.

[Plague](#) at [11:19 AM on 04/08/08](#)

[@braak](#):

That shouldn't stop you from trying, my friend.

How could I have NOT know about these books?

I'm slacking. And it depresses me.

[Annalee Newitz](#) at [11:25 AM on 04/08/08](#)

[@Plague](#): You've got to read Extraterrestrial Sex Fetish too. Seriously awesome.

[CMG](#) at [11:26 AM on 04/08/08](#)

[@Plague](#): i hear that. i'm usually pretty aware of twisted satire. damn me for being on the wrong side of the pond!

[laughingacademy](#) at [12:20 PM on 04/08/08](#)

"Supervert" is easily the best pseudonym I've encountered this year.

[Metropolis](#) at [12:43 PM on 04/08/08](#)

Booo, the link is blocked at work.

[Plague](#) at [01:06 PM on 04/08/08](#)

[@Annalee Newitz](#):

I think I found your favorite website!

www.pervscan.com

[Lizfu](#) at [01:19 PM on 04/08/08](#)

Dammit, io9, you're giving me more books to add to the large pile of books that I should have read, like, five minutes ago. Looks like I have more summer reading :D

[Poormojo](#) at [01:41 PM on 04/08/08](#)

I picked up Motherfuckers about six years ago on a friend's recommendation and found it utterly dull and impossible to read.

Really, just go read The Invisibles again.

[codydog](#) at [01:51 PM on 04/08/08](#)

There is an old book, "The Sound Of His Horn" By somebody called Sarban, possibly French, that was about the alt/hist after the Nazis won.. It was really creepy, and not at all campy.. I see it is available in a collection "The Sarban Omnibus"

Recommended for the strong of mind.

[codydog](#) at [01:53 PM on 04/08/08](#)

I was wrong, not French, a Brit

John William Wall (6 November 1910 – 1989), pen name Sarban, was a British writer and diplomat

there is wiki

[Counter glow at 04:17 PM on 04/08/08](#)

@braak Maybe not, but that's only because the US government doesn't need to go to all that trouble. A significant number of Americans are already so programmed they censor themselves with amazing proficiency.

Whenever I want to manipulate a roomful of Americans, I just say, "Well, the United States has the best (fill in whatever you like) in the world." All the Americans, left or right, Democrat or Republican, will nod wisely, no matter how outlandish my allegation.

Having now established that whatever I'm trying to defend is basically sound and therefore in need only of a bit of tweaking, I can propose whatever useless make-work project my employer has already agreed to.

Works every time.

[Grey Area at 04:52 PM on 04/08/08](#)

woah. Quite the link.

Got to find these. I thought Mick Farren was subversive but I'm kinda vanilla.

@braak: Am awaiting your 1st drafts in dread/anticipation.

[sandovar at 05:40 PM on 04/08/08](#)

So the question is – where is it possible to score a copy of Lord Horror? I checked amazon and the few used copies available were going for like 145+!?? Is it still in print anywhere?

[Grey Area at 06:23 PM on 04/08/08](#)

@sandovar: abebooks.com

[dead red eyes at 10:57 AM on 04/09/08](#)

"The Man in the High Castle" is such a good book. Great to see it being mentioned on here!

Start a discussion:

Login with your username and password below. [Or comment on this post via email.](#)

username: password:

[Forgot your username or password?](#) [New User?](#)

