
Philip K. Dick

Now Wait for Last Year



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Author: Philip K. Dick

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Description

Dr. Eric Sweetscent has problems. His planet is enmeshed in an unwinnable war. His wife is lethally addicted to a drug that whips its users helplessly back and forth across time -- and is hell-bent on making Eric suffer along with her. And Sweetscent's newest patient is not only the most important man on the embattled planet Earth but quite possibly the sickest. For Secretary Gino Molinari has turned his mortal illness into an instrument of political policy -- and Eric cannot tell if his job is to make the Male better or to keep him poised just this side of death.

Now *Wait for Last* fear bursts through the envelope between the impossible and the inevitable. Even as ushers us into a future that looks uncannily like the present, it makes the normal seem terrifyingly provisional -- and compels anyone who reads it to wonder if he really knows what time it is.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Insightful reviews

Tammy Witzens: As a Philip K. Dick fan, I found this book in a book exchange store and had to buy it. I really enjoyed this one. Dick takes you into a world where things aren't perfect, and introduces you to a character whose life is certainly less than perfect. Dick captures the essence of humanity when it is at its worst, and how the decisions of a single man in a difficult situation can effect everything, even if it's just relative to a single man's perception. I thoroughly enjoyed how Dick played around with time. I definitely think this book is worth reading more than once.

Jayaprakash Satyamurthy: Dick's misogyny is at full-bore here (PKD's works are so bound up in his own life and experiences that it helps, if you plan to read a considerable amount of his work, to get hold of a good biography like Lawrence Sutin's *Divine Invasions* and try and correlate the themes and issues in his books with what was going on in his rather messy and chaotic life at the time). So are his explorations of the nature of reality and time, the effects of weird drugs and his deep engagement with ethics, something that gets commented on less often than the first two themes. This is a gripping novel with a whole lot of really cool ideas, none of which are gadget-spec or extrapolation for its own sake. As always, some of the twists the story takes are unexpected and in retrospect truly brilliant. PKD learned well from that old SF master, Van Vogt the arts of building a story from ideas without letting the ideas overwhelm the plot, a tightrope walk that he manages better than most SF writers. I felt the conclusion of the novel was a bit weak and the story had already reached its crisis and climax a while back, and I am not sure that the lead character's final decisions mitigates or merely continues the misogynistic treatment of the major female character in the book, these two elements are the main reasons I'm giving this book 4 stars instead of 5.

Janelle Dazzlepants: I have mixed feelings about this story. I enjoyed reading it, and god knows I love me some Philip K Dick, but I feel like it was really lacking. It had some great potential, but the ambiguities totally ruined it for me. It's quite a schizophrenic read, setting up exciting

storylines but hastily jumping to others, without any resolution going on.

I loved the alien and time travel aspects of this book, because those are some of my favourite story lines to read. But in the context of this story I feel they didn't reach their full potential, and kind of got lost. They seemed to take a back seat to the main character's emotional rollercoaster bullshit.

Philip K Dick could've done SO MUCH with the 'Starmen, particularly the way that Frenesky could practically kill Molinari with his presence alone. And what about the Reegs? They barely got a mention, considering they were the enemy that Terra and Lilistar were at war with. I was intrigued by them, because they seemed similar to the 'Prawns' in District 9.

And what about Molinari's illnesses? They were never fully addressed, or maybe they were and I missed it. I was really looking forward to Eric Sweetscent investigating how staff members in the White House mysteriously fall ill from the same illness at the same time as Molinari, but that storyline never eventuated. I don't know if they were pure coincidence and/or a result of Molinari's use of JJ-180.

I also would have liked to have found out more about JJ-180 - I found it fascinating that most people travel into the past, Sweetscent into the future, and Molinari moved sideways into alternate realities. There was real potential there for exploring how the drug facilitates time travel, and exactly why it's so damaging on the brain.

And can I just say that Dr Eric Sweetscent was REALLY fucking annoying? It pains me to say this, but I haven't read a story with such an annoying protagonist since Twilight. :(Initially I felt awful for him because he was married to an absolute BITCH, but as the story progressed he just got more self-loathing and obnoxious.

He got mildly better in the middle of the story, but then towards the end he became twice as pathetic to compensate. I wanted to punch him at the end - he was going to kill himself, decided against it, then when the 'Starmen invaded he just decided to DO NOTHING. I sat there most of the time headdesking, wishing that he would man the fuck up. >=|

While reading this it felt like Dick was consciously trying not to turn the story into a Space Opera, but I think it would have really benefited from going in that direction. Instead it became stagnant and more focused on the protagonist's inner turmoil, which wasn't even that interesting to begin with. I'm sure there were some metaphors in there about the war with the Reegs and Sweetscent's war with himself, but I have so little love for that character that I just don't give a fuck.

So I guess I really contradicted myself there, huh? I say I enjoyed reading it, and I honestly did. It was interesting to watch it unfold and kept me entertained for a few days. But now that I'm reviewing it, I can only focus on the negative things, even putting a negative spin on the aspects I did like. It's just really not one of Dick's best works, feeling kind of schizophrenic in the way it jumps from one important storyline to another without resolving any of them.

Chloe: it is a unusual feeling if you imagine you've an writer pegged after which they pass forward and post anything immediately out of left field. it truly is like Michael Jordan enjoying baseball, Lou Reed creating a list with Metallica, or Michael Bay directing a Victorian drama. It simply turns out odd, like you could have woke up in an international that isn't completely yours any more. This was once fullyyt my feeling for the 1st hundred pages or so of Dick's Now stay up for final Year, the 3rd access in his Library of the US assortment 5 Novels of the Sixties & 70s. Now look ahead to final 12 months is determined in a destiny within which humankind has one way or the other embroiled itself in a galactic warfare the likes of which might make the Kree-Skrull battle appear like a minor dust-up. the folk of Lilistar are genetic forebears of humanity, having seeded Earth with lifestyles millennia in the past (think of the outlet of Prometheus), so humanity has evidently sided with them of their ongoing clash back the Reeg, a race of extraterrestrial beings who're in simple terms capable of converse to people through small boxes. you are going to imagine that people could be aware of from our personal historical past to not belief ourselves, yet then common sense has not often been our powerful suit. The warfare has now not been going good for humanity, the Reegs are robust and the Lilistarmen have always driven us to extend our creation for the struggle attempt and make imprecise tricks that they are greater than prepared to step in and "manage" their descendant's assets for them. All that's keeping a whole takeover at bay is the Mole, UN Secretary basic Gino Molinari, a hypochondriac with a 17 year-old mistress who makes use of his diseases as excuses to carry again the Lilistarmen from finishing the "negotiations" that may cede keep an eye on to those aliens. Based on that premise alone, i wouldn't imagine it is a Philip K. Dick book. It sounds extra like whatever that Heinlein may have cranked out in a single of his not-really-trying moments. In fact, the 1st 1/2 the publication embraces extra of the weather of a political mystery than i have ever obvious in a Dick paintings before. Fortunately, that is not all there's in those pages. input Dr. Eric Sweetscent, an organ substitute expert referred to as on by way of the Mole to aid him in conserving him just-this-side of death, and Kathy Sweetscent, his estranged spouse who has simply been addicted to JJ-180, a perilous addictive drug that shorts out its clients neurological pathways but additionally permits the person to trip from side to side via time. this can be the place issues start to go back to the Dick we know and love. inside of no time Eric is slipped a few JJ-180 and is in a race opposed to time to discover a therapy to the dependancy earlier than he succumbs to the necrotizing results of the drug. whilst he's flung ahead via time to a number of varied exchange timelines, all of which provide quite a few bleak eventualities for humanity's destiny enslavement and the way forward for his marriage. Can Sweetscent (such an excellent name) locate the cure, retailer his marriage, and prevent the Lilistar-men from taking on his planet? This used to be a truly fascinating read. as soon as Sweetscent starts off yo-yoing in the course of the 4th size and we're handled to a number of trade realities (including a superb assembly with a destiny model of himself that's simply packed with poisonous self-loathing) and the sheer scope of the conspiracy starts off to be illuminated, i actually couldn't positioned the booklet down. Dick is actually a grasp of the time go back and forth scenario, portray his scenes clearly, even if the reader is unaware simply what might be going on. such a lot interestingly, though, are the latter pages of the publication whilst the clash with the extraterrestrial beings recedes into the historical past and Sweetscent makes a speciality of saving his spouse from the results of her drug abuse and his marriage from the consequences of his wife. This ebook used to be written in the course of an amphetamine-fueled streak of writing that observed Dick end writing 3 different books at a time whilst his marriage to his moment wife, Anne, used to be teetering close to failure. understanding this, it used to be

specifically heart-rending to learn Sweetscent's musings to whether it was once even worthy attempting to keep his wife, or even if either events will be at an advantage apart. it is a human contact that extra much to my delight in the tale and additional solidified my view of Dick as a sad hero in his personal works, a guy suffering to appreciate his personal international via growing really good escapist scenarios.

Suhrob: one of these great factor to come to a pricey outdated friend! Now look forward to final 12 months is taken into account moment tier of vintage Dick, yet quite this ebook is this type of excitement to read. It bundles up all his ordinary themes: Mars, drug addiction, paranoia, parallel universes, extraterrestrial beings along with his standard quaint, cartoon-y futurism, that you just could not write nowadays. And the bleeding middle of the e-book is a complex, dramatic marriage with a touchingly Confucian resolution. Also the prose felt clearer and crisper in comparison to the hallucinogenic murkiness of his significant works (not that it's a undesirable thing!). Then again, possibly it is only because of my age, I learn lots of the classics whilst i used to be a lot younger. Wonderful!

Sandy: A digital compendium of lots of Philip K. Dick's puppy themes, tropes and obsessions, "Now watch for final Year," the author's seventeenth released sci-fi novel, initially seemed as a Doubleday hardcover in 1966. (As published in Lawrence Sutin's biography on Dick, the radical used to be truly written as early as 1963 and rewritten years later.) Phil used to be on a few form of a roll at this aspect in his career, having lately pop out with the masterpieces "The 3 Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch" and "Dr. Bloodmoney," and "Now look forward to final Year" continues to be one other nice one for this significant writer. In it, the Earth of the yr 2055 is in monstrous trouble, combating a protracted, wasting conflict with the 6-foot-tall, antlike reegs of Proxima Centauri whereas being stressed and bullied by way of its allies from Lillistar. by contrast generally bleak Dickian backdrop, we meet Dr. Eric Sweetscent, an "artiforg" (artificial organ) transplant health care provider who leaves his soft put up at Tijuana Fur and Dye. Co. to minister to no much less a personage than Gino Molinari, the hypochondriacal, psychosomatically sick U.N. Secretary normal who's head of the Earth forces in Cheyenne, WY. Sweetscent's existence is significantly recomplicated while his estranged wife, Kathy, will get herself addicted to a brand new army weapon, a drug referred to as JJ-180, which has the ability to reason speedy habit and to urge time-travel results within the user. And as though Eric's lifestyles were not bothered enough, Kathy has simply made up our minds to get her husband addicted to the drug as well....I pointed out up best that "NWFLY" is a digital compendium of Dick's subject matters and ideas, and as such, it is going to make an ideal advent for any readers new to PKD. the topic of artiforgs had already been broached in Phil's "The Penultimate Truth," which novel additionally featured Cheyenne because the U.N. capital. (For that matter, the topics of Nineteen Twenties cowboy famous person Tom combine AND St. George, Utah, either surprisingly determine within the novels.) As in such a lot of of Dick's different books, the subject of divorce is spotlighted prominently right here (the writer used to be himself married 5 times, earlier than his dying at age 52), as is the problem of an international chief who's now not what he turns out (dealt with extensive in "The Simulacrum" and "The Penultimate Truth"), even though here, that chief isn't really a mechanical construct, yet whatever even more ingenious. As in "The Crack in Space," the subject of trade Earths with exchange futures is given an airing, as are Phil's ambivalent attitudes towards medicines (JJ-180 is visible as an abomination during this book, and Eric in a single part ponders that

anybody who addicts one other "ought to be hanged or shot"); those attitudes could flip decidedly antidrug a decade later, within the author's "A Scanner Darkly." the problem of suicide is back touched on (I've misplaced count number of the way many Dickian characters have had suicidal thoughts; Phil made a number of makes an attempt himself in the course of his afflicted life), yet here, the writer treats us to a perfectly life-affirming answer that caps his booklet off very sweetly. The novel, I may still add, simply brims with invention and ideas on nearly each page, be it the women's models (ebony teeth, toenails painted to depict the Norman Conquest, public toplessness with nipples gilded with a Martian lifestyles form!), Tijuana Fur and Dye proprietor Virgil Ackerman's Wash-35 outpost on Mars (an distinctive reproduction of some sq. blocks of Washington, D.C., in 1935), the creative political intrigue or the actually disorienting, drug-induced time traveling. this can be a novel that grows wilder and wilder because it proceeds; carry on tight and get ready to be stunned! the following now we have Phil Dick working on the close to height of his powers, and sleek sci-fi quite does not get an excessive amount of better, loopier or heartfelt than that."NWFLY," still, isn't an ideal book, and nitpicker that I am, i used to be capable of determine a few small problems. within the Martian Wash-35, for example, is a duplicate of the Uptown Theatre...which did not open till 1936. And that McComb road in "D.C."? that are meant to be "Macomb." And whilst Kathy spots a 1932 version A Ford in the course of her JJ-180 trip...well, the version A was once discontinued in 1931; the version B all started in '32. And whereas i am picking out nits, simply how DOES one lower a drug tablet in thirds? OK, adequate of that. fact is, i actually did love this wild selection of Philip K. Dick's puppy preoccupations. "A daft and pleasant yarn," British critic David Pringle calls it in his "Ultimate advisor to technology Fiction," and ain't it ever the truth! How I want that a few significant studio may spend \$200 million to lovingly convey THIS ONE to the large screen!

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