



# Manhattan Transfer

*John E. Stith*

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## **Manhattan Transfer** John E. Stith

Aliens remove Manhattan, encased in an artificial bubble, to another world, along with cities from other, extraterrestrial civilizations.

## **Manhattan Transfer Details**

Date : Published by Tor Books (first published January 1st 1993)

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Author : John E. Stith

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Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction

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# From Reader Review Manhattan Transfer for online ebook

## Simeonberesford says

Now available as an ebook it was originally conventionally published. ebooks are its natural home I dont think its good enough to be in print. There are tons of books that nearly made it, here is another.[return]Mannhatten is cut lose from earth by alien spacecraft. [return]Wooden characters and a menace that seemed to change in size and power as the plot requires much as King Kong did in the original film.

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## Patrick Scheele says

Wow! This is hard SF the way it should be written. I'm going to be extra careful not to add any spoilers, because this book is actually worth reading unspoiled. A lot of the surprises had me genuinely surprised.

What I liked in this book that so much other SF does badly:

- \* We meet a team of people that actually works as a team to solve problems. There's no drama or tension or other extreme emotions on display. They know people are counting on them to do their job and they do it. What a concept!
- \* A lot of SF is about the social consequences of certain inventions or perceived problems of the present are magnified in a future setting. Once in a while that can make for an interesting story, although it usually reads as a social manifesto (i.e.: "We have to stop Global Warming or we'll all have to live on rafts in the future!") But in this novel, science (and the scientific method of trying stuff out) plays an integral part in everything that happens. These people use believable science and common sense (i.e. logic) to figure things out and solve their problems.
- \* I've read a lot of SF from the bad old days when speed and wordcount were very important to a lot of writers. Stories written like that often read like the writer began with an interesting premise and just started to write. Inevitably, he then ended up writing himself in a corner where only an unbelievable coincidence or a supernaturally capable scientist could get the story back on track. Such stories often end rather suddenly and have a bit of a deus-ex-machina feel to the ending. I found none of that in this novel. The ending was very satisfying and believable.

No book is perfect, of course, but if the story sucks me in, I barely notice the problems. The only problem I remember noticing was that the guy who lost one of his hands at the start of the book died resting his head in his hands. I'm not sure whether the writer missed that one or I just overlooked the guy getting a prosthetic or something, but that was pretty weird.

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## John says

2017 grade A-

A very good hard SciFi novel with good world building, character building, and story telling. Manhattan is extracted like a tooth by a large alien ship and taken aboard. Can the residents figure out what is going on

and save themselves and everyone else? I could have used a little more wind down at the end and a little less of the fanatic preacher but I'm only being nit picky. The opening chapter(s) of the extraction can seem long and a bit gory but most of the characters are being introduced and it gets a lot better after that.

The novel was pretty fast reading and hard to put down. I learned about this one through a suggestion by Goodreads.

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### **Hannah says**

I won a copy of this book in a goodreads giveaway.

3.5 stars. I found Manhattan Transfer to be an overall enjoyable read. There were several sections in the middle that dragged a little for me because there was more detail than I would have liked about certain things, and less detail than I would have liked about others. That being said, I never felt like I didn't want to continue reading and I was always excited to get back to it and see how everything would work out. I really enjoyed it. I was completely in the mood for some sci-fi, and I'm glad I picked this one up.

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### **Robert says**

A recent visit to a new sci-fi film (my first in a long time) reminded me of this book. The island of Manhattan is abducted by alien spacecraft. That's right, the whole island! It takes a lot to phase New Yorkers. So the title and the concept interested me right away. Unfortunately, there are way too many metaphoric sci-fi cliches to make this story special. As I read the story, I knew I had seen something like this before in other books and films. I still found it entertaining enough to finish, however.

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### **Sheena says**

1st) I received this as a Goodreads Giveaway.

Now, I wouldn't call this horrible or bad, not even boring. It simply did not grab me enough to demand my attention over the other books that are collecting on my to read stack. Perhaps I will come back to it later.

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### **Nikosal says**

[ A huge alien ship cuts and lifts Manhattan, putting the whole island city in a glass dome, along with a dozen other alien cities. Then a bunch of people is able to penetrate the wall, travel without been discovered to the heart of the huge ship and bomb it, just

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### **Kingcuke says**

As a lifelong fan of SciFi this book delivers everything a good science fiction story should. Combining alien invasion with apocalyptic survival dependent on engineering skills, with enough characterization to support the story line. A thoroughly enjoyable read.

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### **David says**

Although there are some weaknesses in the internal logic of the story, it's a concept that can prompt some thought on threaten worlds, "endangered species" preservation and the possible varieties of intelligent species.

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### **J.H. Glaze says**

The story in this book started out with a really cool premise. Manhattan is cut from the earth and taken into space where it is covered with a dome and placed among a collection of cities from various planets inside of a large ship.

Cool.

Problem is, if people are freaking out about it, nobody is acting that way. In fact sometimes the dialog seemed to be there just because dialog was expected and when things happened that should have elicited shrieks and screams. People just talked about it.

I finished the book just to see if the cover notes were true. "Plenty of Aliens and Space Battles" There were some aliens. There was one space battle (which turned out to be anticlimactic) but (YAWN) the second half of the book (except for some things being very inventive and clever) kind of fell on it's face.

Man I hate to sound negative, but maybe next time I'll just not review a book if it isn't a rock n roll, slam bang, well rounded story. I gave it 3 stars for creativity.

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### **Don says**

This is a typical swash buckling, humanity above all, hegelian eventuality, despite our flaws (religiousness) we have that thing that will make us succeed hard core science fiction. Too much hard core for me, though I found it interesting and somewhat enjoyable, despite it's cliched story line.

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### **Jamie says**

I won this book in a giveaway and here is my honest review. I decided to leave my reading comfort zone of YA/Thriller/Suspense etc. and enter the Sci-fi genre(after being away for a few years). Oh how I wish someone had stopped me!

From the very first page it was as if I stepped into Stephen Kings 'Under the Dome' book. Makes one wonder which author wrote about the "dome" first?! hmmm

The story drags on and on at a slow pace. The characters are whiny and I couldn't connect with them at all. I am happy to report that I am leaving Sci-fi and returning to my comfort zone :)

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## **Baldurian says**

L'idea alla base de *La città sull'orlo del nulla* è semplice e accattivante: perché degli alieni dovrebbero rapire uno stupido bovino quando hanno le capacità tecnologiche per prelevare l'intera isola di Manhattan?

Stith imbastisce un romanzo coerente e stimolante dal punto di vista (fanta)scientifico, peccato solo per il mancato approfondimento dei personaggi e per la brusca accelerazione della trama da circa metà libro.

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## **Joan Cornish says**

This is an old book (1993) but since it is science fiction it didn't appear that dated. Interesting premise- a gigantic space ship comes along and using lasers cuts loose Manhattan island. The residents find themselves under a huge dome on a vast gray plain. In the distance they can see other domed cities whose residents do not seem to be human. Where are they and what are they there for will soon become evident. An easy read, I read it in an evening.

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## **Nicolas says**

Manhattan transfert est un roman de John Edward Stith qui part de prémisses épatantes. En effet, dans ce récit largement inspiré par l'antique quatrième dimension, Manhattan se retrouve emporté de la surface de la Terre par d'étranges extraterrestres. Une fois le transfert effectué, plus de communication entre l'île et le reste de la terre, un sol désespérément plat, une bulle entourant ce quartier, sont tout ce que les new-yorkais voient de leur environnement. Bref, ça part très bien. Pour être franc, le tout début est sans doute la partie la plus authentiquement jouissive du récit, rappelant par certains côtés le mépris affiché par les extra-terrestres de Mars Attacks.

Cependant, rapidement, on change de style pour aborder les rivages d'une survie d'un groupe humain dans un environnement pas forcément convivial, mais en fait plutôt. Et là, les défauts commencent à arriver, d'abord sous la forme de personnages plus beaux que nature (un colonel de l'armée capable d'improviser à peu près n'importe quel plan en deux battements de cils, son ancien lieutenant, devenu chef des services techniques de New-York (lesquels services sont prodigieusement équipés)), et d'autres encore, dignes d'un superman à la manque, et sans doute représentatifs d'une Amérique urbaine (et encore, j'espère que non, parce que dans ce cas, le miroir tendu donne de la mariée un portrait assez laid). Ces défauts se concrétisent ensuite dans un environnement plus hostile dans Manhattan qu'en dehors, quoique cette espèce de matière mélassoïde ait sans doute un sens caché. Et ils se concrétisent enfin dans les rebondissements, souvent tirés du chapeau d'une espèce de David Copperfield à la manque, qui ne sait à mon sens pas trop où il va.

Ce côté approximatif de l'intrigue devient, fort logiquement, de plus en plus visible, pour être une gêne à partir de la rencontre entre les humains et les extra-terrestres. Car bien évidemment, les extra-terrestres sont là, et ils sont rudement laids, même s'ils ne sont pas aussi méchants qu'on pourrait le craindre. Et une fois mis en contact avec nos gentils héros, ils se laisseront manipuler comme les enfants qu'ils ne peuvent qu'être

face à la subtilité d'habiles négociateurs, prompts à balancer le vaisseau spatial dans lequel ils sont droit dans le soleil (en détruisant au passage toutes les espèces extra-terrestres hébergées). Quand enfin il est question de faire des manoeuvres dignes d'une guerre des étoiles à la manque, alors là, plus de doute, ce roman peut être qualifié de médiocre, malgré certaines excellentes idées du début. Et je remercie malgré tout Bernard pour m'avoir conseillé cet achat (je le dis avec d'autant moins de gêne que c'est un échange fait chez une bouquiniste : ce bouquin contre les hérauts de Valdemar. Malgré tout le mal que je peux en dire, il vaut mieux que ces histoires zoophilo-SM).

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### **Joseph Carano says**

Won this novel in a Goodreads give away. I am a sucker for science fiction stories that are not overly complicated. This offering fit the bill. Great story and plot kept me reading non-stop. My only problem was that the characters were a little bit too ordinary and cookie cutter. Other than that, a very good read.

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### **Stephen says**

John Stith's "Manhattan Transfer" was first published in 1993 and has been reissued this year by ReAnimus Press. My copy was a free copy for review on Goodreads. The basic plot is fairly straightforward: Manhattan is abducted by aliens and those living in Manhattan decide to do something about it. Or, as the jacket says, "Aliens just kidnapped Manhattan. They messed with the wrong city".

Stith's take on this is pretty straight up if not downright overly technical. Consequently, the book seems to plod along until about the two thirds way point when it picks up speed and begins to move along with some excitement. The twists and turns are coming fast and furious providing some pace, but often with such speed that development of plot or character that would explain the events is lost.

Probably not on my top 10 list of what I would like to see brought back into print, but ReAnimus Press should be applauded for bringing back into print older sci fi.

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### **Marc says**

What a cool sci-fi book - a quick read that I could hardly put down. Plenty of twists. Stith gives humans a lot of credit for ingenuity...perhaps too much at times, but it really helps the story along. I subtracted a star for the ill-considered insertion of a religious-wacko stereotype. It was quite obvious that the author had absolutely no sympathy for this character, which made him seem lifeless and robotic - a hopeless token in an otherwise exciting book.

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### **Timothy Stelly Sr says**

I purchased a copy of this book after another reviewer at amazon.com wrote that my own novel was reminiscent of it. The story is a survivalist tale of Manhattanites who are whisked away from earth underneath a plastic dome and to a vast alien space ship, where they find the same has happened to many

other cultures from various planets.

The story centers on former military man Matt Sheehey, who leads a group of engineers and scientists working to figure out the problem. They make contact with several of the other “bubble cities” and their unusual inhabitants, many of whom they cannot communicate with. The fear is that they might be part of an intergalactic zoo exhibit or worse, the sole survivors of planets due for destruction.

The action unfolds a little too leisurely at times, especially when Stith shifts back and forth between what is happening with Sheehan and his investigative team and what is going on back in Manhattan. It is the former scenes that left me on the edge of my seat.

Another intriguing aspect is the encounters between earthlings and others and how they must learn to communicate. At times Stith’s technical descriptions are convoluted, which tempts the reader to skim over some of the narrative. For once, we find an alien race that breaks the stereotypical mode of earth invaders who are lecturing do-gooders and who are given an atypical appearance compared to what is found in most sci-fi fare.

However, the conclusion serves up a smooth twist that I never saw coming and is not some logic-defying ending pulled out of thin air. It is a well thought out piece of cloth that may not provide full closure, but leaves the reader satisfied. While I haven’t read any of Stith’s other works, and this won’t make me rush out and buy them, Manhattan Transfer is a likeable enough story and earns three-and-a-half out of five stars.

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## **Mimi says**

The premise of this book - Manhattan being hijacked by spider-like aliens - and the ensuing action just didn't really work for me. I think if someone has never read science fiction or space opera, this might be a good introduction however.

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