



Time Thieves / Against Arcturus

Dean Koontz, Susan K. Putney

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TIME THIEVES

"Mr. Mullion," one of the triplets said, looming up twenty feet away as Pete followed the smooth railing. He stopped, his heart racing, but he felt a break in the rail as he did so. He edged forward a foot or two and felt around with his boot until he discovered a step. In a moment, blood pounding in his temples, he was halfway down toward the lower level, taking two risers at a time, no matter what the danger of a fall. He heard the mechanical man start after him as he set foot on the cement floor.

AGAINST ARCTURUS

It's the story of an Earth activist who's tagged for a subversion mission on a small planet off in the galaxy a ways. Seems that when Earth got overpopulated, humans set out for other planets to colonize, and now those planets are rival factions. The Arcturans are humans, too, but an offshoot who's presently at war with Earth. The small planet in question is resource-rich and quite desirable to both sides. Arcturus is presently in control, and Earth wants to be.

Time Thieves / Against Arcturus Details

Date : Published 1972 by Ace Books

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Author : Dean Koontz , Susan K. Putney

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From Reader Review Time Thieves / Against Arcturus for online ebook

Jennie says

Time Thieves... Meh, maybe I just didn't get it.

Ajeje Brazov says

Avventura fantascientifica con un Koontz alle prime armi, ma per me bravissimo a creare una storia carica di adrenalina, suspense. Scrittura molto scorrevole da leggere tutto d'un fiato e man a mano che si sfogliano le pagine e la storia si delineava mi è sembrato di essere stato catapultato in prima persona in questa avventura pazzesca!

Un uomo ritorna a casa come tutti i giorni, ma presto viene a sapere che è mancato da casa 12 giorni e la cosa ancora più inquietante è che lui non si ricorda assolutamente nulla di ciò...

Allegato a questo romanzo di Koontz c'è un racconto: "Musica dallo spazio" Tall, avventura nell'immenso universo alla ricerca di nuovi pianeti da esplorare.

Jeffrey Hunter says

Terrible

John says

Ace Double Novel 441-00990-095

Time Thieves, Dean R Koontz, grade B-
Against Arcturus, Susan Putney. grade A-

Al says

Telepath verses alien." Mr. Mullion," one of the triplets said, looming 20 feet away as Pete followed the smooth railing. He stopped, his heart racing, but he felt a break in the rail as he did so. He edged forward a foot or two and felt around with his boot until he discovered a step. In a moment, blood pounding in his temples, he was halfway down toward the lower level, taking 2 risers at a time, no matter what the danger of a fall. He heard the mechanical man start after him as he set foot on the cement floor. Putney=144 pages. A battleground for 2 empires." I opened the glove compartment and took out my papers. They identified me--with a description, pictures, letters of reference. fingerprints, and voice-prints--as an Arcturian lady of means, a newcomer to Berbidron and something of a hermit back home on Arcturus Ceta IV. "Is this the identity I'd have if I went to live in the city?" "I think so. Don't worry about the authenticity. There really was a Lady

Evors Dalant." "Was?" "Well, yes, we killed her as soon as she landed on Berbidron.."

Robert Beveridge says

Dean R. Koontz, Time Thieves (Ace, 1972)

[originally posted 20Dec2001]

Everyone who's delved into Dean Koontz' early work is fully aware the man wrote some absolute howlers, things that will probably never again see the light of day. But interspersed with them were some flashes of greatness, a few choice novellae and short stories that hinted at the greatness to come. Of the pre-horror work, the finest book by far is *A Darkness in My Soul*; *Time Thieves* gives it a pretty good run for second.

The cover has nothing at all to do with the plot; ignore it completely. We open with a guy who pulls into his garage, gets out of the car, goes into the kitchen to get something to eat, and finds out (courtesy his shocked wife) he's been gone for twelve days. Problem is he can't remember any of that time. Sound like a familiar plot? Should, if you watch the *X-Files* (and, since it's mentioned on the cover, saying it's an alien-abduction lost-time story isn't exactly giving away spoilers), but remember this book is coming up on thirty years old, back when only about twenty people in the country had ever heard the term "Project Bluebook." So looking back from a 2001 perspective, it's a pretty old tale, but keep in mind the temporal context.

Koontz also keeps the sci-fi claptrap to a minimum, which is always nice. No annoying seventies-space-opera-sounding names for common household appliances or anything like that. In fact, *Time Thieves* points to the place Koontz ended up, after taking a quick detour into Dick Francis-land in 1974; *Time Thieves* could pass for a horror novel with a heavy sci-fi bent to it (*Strangers*, anyone?). A must for Koontz completists, and recommended for casual fans as well. ***

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Susan K. Putney, Against Arcturus (Ace, 1972)

[originally posted 7Jan2002]

Not being much of a hard sci-fi fan, I'd probably never have picked this up were it not the flip-side of the Ace double containing Dean Koontz' long out-of-print *Time Thieves*. It's the story of an Earth activist who's tagged for a subversion mission on a small planet off in the galaxy a ways. Seems that when Earth got overpopulated, humans set out for other planets to colonize, and now those planets are rival factions. The Arcturans are humans, too, but an offshoot who's presently at war with Earth. The small planet in question is resource-rich and quite desirable to both sides. Arcturus is presently in control, and Earth wants to be. Pretty standard sci-fi stuff.

The "pretty standard" designation continues with the terminology used—why is it that sci-fi novelists from Wells all the way up to William Gibson feel the need to create a "sci-fi atmosphere" by using unintelligible terminology for everyday things, and creating artifacts like videophones?—but thankfully there's at least halfway decent character development happening here, and the reader will (eventually) get involved enough with the characters to care what's going on. Far more interesting than the main plot is a subplot involving the planet's native race, who seem to have strong beliefs that simply aren't true (strong enough to keep repeating the same info under hypnosis and truth drugs); while the end of the book is somewhat predictable (especially given the timeframe in which it was written), the climax of that particular subplot is what leads the book into

predictability, and that climax is at least worth the price of admission-- or was when paperbacks cost less than a buck (as this one did).

Not something worth hunting down for the years it'll take you to find a copy at the proper price point, and not worth buying as much more than an investment (after all, the Dean Koontz side of the double is worth a small mint in your find it in the right condition), but if you happen to stumble upon a copy, flip it over after you're done with Dean. **

Ralph Carlson says

A short novel from Koontz's early years. While not great, it is a fun read.

Jilles says

Interesting novella by Koontz from the seventies that shows his growing talent which peaks at the late eighties.

J Walls says

Clearly written in Dean's early years...

Peter Brockert says

Time Thieves isn't a book about time travel, it does have aliens and androids and spaceships, but in the end, it's a love story.

As the story opens the main character finds himself at a loss to explain how he got where he is and what happened with the lost time. He begins to notice odd things around him and odd things about himself. In his investigations, he uncovers quite a convoluted set of circumstances that all build from one chance meeting, a mistake and the ensuing efforts to correct that mistake.

It doesn't have a strong narrative or plot, but as an early work of Dean Koontz I figured it was worth seeing how he developed as a writer. It isn't as good as his later works so only 4 stars. It is certainly interesting and nothing is left hanging at the end. All questions are answered and everything is brought to a tidy conclusion.

Eddie Novak says

So far the best proof that Koontz was influenced by the science fiction pulps. A.E. van Vogt would be proud. Some of the action scenes were a bit long. The ideas were fun even if a bit typical of the time.

