



Blade Runner: A Movie

William S. Burroughs , Alan E. Nourse

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(the movie got its title from this earlier book)

"In this futuristic screenplay vision of a strife-and-disease-plagued America in 1999, Burroughs finds the cure for a decaying civilization in the medicine practiced by underground physicians and surgeons. These heroic healers, in turn, are aided by 'blade runners,' teenagers who smuggle banned surgical instruments past the watchful eyes of fascistic police. The novel-cum-screenplay follows one of these runners during the course of a race riot and the transfer of instruments between embattled doctors. Above the drama in the streets of New York is a world 'taken over by hang-glider and autogyro gangs, mountaineers and steeplejacks. A sky boy steps off his penthouse into a parachute on guide wires that drop him to a street-level landing...Meanwhile, released animals and reptiles from the zoo and freed fish from the aquarium have control of the rovers and subways. The prose flashes with Burrough's own brand of outrageousness and fantasy.'" -- L.A. Herald Examiner July 29. 1979

Blade Runner: A Movie Details

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Author : William S. Burroughs , Alan E. Nourse

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From Reader Review Blade Runner: A Movie for online ebook

Tom says

The concept of this work, apparently based on a novel by Alan Nourse, was interesting. It seemed to portray a strange medical apocalypse of a socialized medicine system which drives certain groups underground for medical care. The result is a sort of steam-punk medical world in a burnt shell of New York City. Some of the imagery was interesting, but the characters were so utterly flat. It was short, and worth the hour or so it takes to read, but is by no means essential reading.

Robin says

Not only exciting for being the title-source for the movie (that was based on the Philip K. Dick novel "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep," only the term Blade Runner came from this book), but this was probably one of the best, least complicated (though for Burroughs that means still quite complicated) stories that made for a fun, provocative read.

My only complaint (the first of its kind for Burroughs) is that it was too short. Even with two competing story lines for the second half of the book, I still finished the whole thing in about half an hour.

Fernando Jimenez says

Uno de sus grandes delirios, esta novela corta de William S. Burroughs, que es la historia de una revolución provocada por el seguro médico estadounidense. La clase media, encargada de pagar el gasto, toma las armas para acabar con “minorías étnicas, los beatniks, yonkis, maricones y melenudos”.

*[El libro fue comprado por los productores de la película de Ridley Scott aunque creo que sólo aprovecharon el título].

Mat says

This is not about the movie starring Harrison Ford. That movie, as you probably know, was based on the classic Philip K. Dick novel, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*.

This book does contain many of the typical Burroughsian themes - underground drugs, dystopian cityscapes and of course a small dose of homoerotic sex. However, this book has a great story - it imagines a future time, or should I actually say THE PRESENT, in which antibiotics are no longer effective and in which medicine has advanced so much that overpopulation has become a very serious problem. During such dark times, medicine goes underground. You want to get an operation or some special pharmaceuticals that are not available on the market? You can find both in the underground medicine and surgery market. And the fate of many seem to lie in the hands of the bladerunners, the 'messenger boys' essentially, who are commissioned to run very dangerous missions in which they must deliver badly-needed medicines or surgical implements (such as blades/scalpels) into the hands of underground practitioners.

Even though this is a short book, written in the format of a serious of movies shots, it features some of Burroughs' best humor and well-written sentences. The only reason I docked it one star is that Burroughs recycles and rehashes many of the same themes that you can see in his other books. But overall, this is a really entertaining and quick read from El Hombre Invisible. Highly recommended for Burroughs fans or fans of dark sci-fi.

Ivan Castellucci says

Tutti sanno che Scott si è ispirato ad un romanzo di Dick per la storia del suo film, pochi sanno che il titolo l'ha preso da un altro autore: William Burroughs.

Nel 1979, Burroughs pubblicò un racconto dal titolo: "Blade Runner, un film", racconto che a Scott piacque e, quindi, chiese allo scrittore "beat" il permesso per utilizzare il titolo della sua opera, per il suo film.

L'opera di Burroughs è una critica al sistema sanitario statunitense, quel sistema sanitario che ti fa morire in mezzo alla strada se non hai una copertura assicurativa.

La mia recensione completa sul mio blog <http://capitolonero.blogspot.it/2015/...>

George K. says

Το βιβλίο αυτό δεν έχει καμία σχέση με την ομιτιλή ταινία, πέρα του τίτλου της ταινίας, που ο Ράιτλεϊ Σκοτ δανέστηκε. Βασίζεται στο βιβλίο The Bladerunner, του Alan E. Nourse, και μπορεί να πει κανείς ότι είναι κάτι σαν την περιγραφή της ταινίας που θα μπορούσε να γίνε πνώ στο βιβλίο του Nourse, η περιγραφή του κόσμου του βιβλίου. Κάτι τέτοιο τέλος πάντων.

Βρισκόμαστε στο 2014, στην Νέα Υόρκη, που είναι το παγκόσμιο κέντρο της παράνομης ιατρικής, και είναι ολότελα διαφορετικό με την σημερινή Νέα Υόρκη. Η ατμόσφαιρα που επικρατεί είναι παρόμοια της ομιτιλής ταινίας του Σκοτ, δηλαδή σκοτεινή, καθώς παρακμιακή, σγουρά χι παραδεισένια ή στω επιθυμητή. Αυτό που συμβαίνουν είναι αρκετά συγκλονιστικά και έχουν να κάνουν με την παράνομη και μη ιατρική, με το κρέτος να μην ελγχει σχεδόν καθλού τον κόσμο.

Γενικά το βιβλίο περιγράφει μια δυστοπική κοινωνία. Και μου λήθηκε μια απορία: Blade Runners λγονται οι ανάλικοι που μεταφρουν ιατρική εργαλέα και φρμακά, παράνομα φυσικά, που προορζονται για τους γιατρος που ασκον απαγορευμένες μεθδους ιατρικής περθαλψης. Η γραφή είναι πέρα πολ καλή, στο ίδιο στιλ με την γραφή που συνντησα στο προηγούμενο βιβλίο του Μπρούουζ που διβάσα φτος, το Junky.

Το βιβλίο αυτό μου κνησε το ενδιαφέρον για να αγοράσω το The Bladerunner του Alan E. Nourse.

John says

This is some of the world building that you'd see in Blade Runner (the film) but without any of the plot. There's no connection largely other than the name.

It's about a world in decay--ironically a slow medical apocalypse. I don't know if Burroughs is taking the piss or not, but caused largely by a hodgepodge of corporations and "socialized" medicine. It's an interesting

framing device--and the story, which largely takes place in the present, would devolve into the nightmarish hellscape of the more popular "Blade Runner".

A short and interesting read, even if totally unnecessary.

T4ncr3d1 says

Vedere accostato un titolo come *Blade runner*, che immediatamente folgora la mente con le immagini del film cult, a un autore come William Burroughs fa un certo effetto. Una miscela esplosiva dagli effetti devastanti, che non può non avere una curiosa storia alle sue spalle. Così è: forse non tutti sanno che il titolo è al centro di un singolare insieme di legami, poiché Fancher, il primo sceneggiatore dell'adattamento cinematografico del romanzo di Dick lo prese in prestito da questo libro di Burroughs, che a sua volta è il progetto di un (mancato) adattamento del romanzo fantascientifico e distopico *Bladerunner* di Alan E. Nourse.

Se il legame con il cult si esaurisce nel prestito del titolo, più significativa è la dipendenza di questo libro da quello di Nourse, prosaiolo fantascientifico che ebbe la fortuna di capitare tra le mani di Burroughs: di qui l'idea di trarne un adattamento, che però non venne mai realizzato. Questo libro di Burroughs è in effetti un non-libro, un progetto incompleto, più che una sceneggiatura è il progetto di una sceneggiatura, che a sequenze propriamente sceneggiate mescola considerazioni in prima persona di Burroughs, disquisizioni puramente tecniche e sequenze riassuntive. Il romanzo originale è una distopia: un America futura in cui è stato messo in piedi un sistema sanitario nazionale che richiede un pagamento non convenzionale - che il paziente si sottoponga alla sterilizzazione. Il sovrappopolamento, il controllo delle masse e l'eugenetica si intrecciano in questa scelta, che porta lo Stato a prendere il controllo della selezione altrimenti naturale della specie umana in suolo statunitense. Contro questo sistema agiscono i *bladerunner*, giovani corrieri che riforniscono i medici clandestini. Un tema molto ghiotto per uno scrittore come Burroughs, che pur apportando lievi alterazioni alla storia riesce a portarla in direzioni a lui più consone. Sono i tipici motivi burroughsiani: il controllo mentale della specie umana (ad opera dello Stato, di un'autorità superiore più o meno occulta, persino, a volte, di un'intelligenza aliena), lo sterminio delle minoranze (afroamericani, ispanici, omosessuali e tossicodipendenti), la denuncia delle lobby farmaceutiche (che Burroughs attacca a più riprese, soprattutto sul tema della tossicodipendenza) e la contrapposizione di un sistema medico alternativo (la cura con l'apomorfina, gli orgoni di Wilhelm Reich).

Questo testo spezzato, frammentato, racchiude a ben vedere molto più delle parole scritte, lasciando intravedere negli spazi vuoti infinite possibilità da indagare. Risulta essere, soprattutto, centro focale dell'intera produzione di Burroughs, un punto fisso per il quale passano tutte le fasi letterarie e tutti i grandi temi dello scrittore: dalle suggestioni fantascientifiche d'avanguardia della *Trilogia Nova* alla cultura underground giovanile, di contestazione, dei romanzi degli anni Sessanta e Settanta (*Ragazzi selvaggi* su tutti), con forme narrative che si avvicinano alla sua ultima trilogia (la *Città rossa*).

Eric Stodolnik says

This "film treatment" is kind of a clusterfuck of dreamlike images and vignettes of scenes. Spatterings of narrative devices surrounding art-house style indie film weirdness.

As an actual film, this could never have been made how it stands in this form...

But as a short book by Burroughs, it was a fun strange read that is easy to plough through in one sitting.

Strange, but surprising amount of humor as well. In my head, at times (particularly in the first half that describes the social situation, before the whole "blade runners" narrative) it had me thinking "this kind of reminds me of Vonnegut in a way... If Vonnegut was a depraved, cynical, nihilistic dope fiend..." Lol!

A fun quick read.

Mike says

Firstly Burroughs is one of my favorite authors, but this is not one of his works i enjoyed. Along with The Wild Boys this adaption of Nourse's novel titled The Blade Runner is something i would have never read if it was not written by Burroughs. Certain subjects in the book were just to much for me, as a straight male i don't really want to read about men(and boys) having sex with each other.

This is not one of his best works, but its still better than a lot of the things out there. I enjoyed the parts in between the sex. I wish i had known what i was getting into with this because though it had nothing to do with the story i read it while working at a summer camp for boys.

Anything by Burroughs is worth a read, just know there will be graphic gay sex at points. It's post cut-up period so though still jumbled at points it's linearish

jenni says

dear god it's me jenni, why did i waste my time reading burroughs again

Thomas says

Pretty much totally incoherent in narrative terms, like some notes toward an apocalypse written on the back of a cocktail napkin. But has lots of utterly cool images. This began as a treatment of a screenplay based on a novel of similar name by Alan E. Nourse, but the only resemblance born to that earlier work is the sense of a medical apocalypse with its commensurate medico-criminal underground. Ample stuff to be ripped off by later writers. Some of Burroughs' humor shows throughout, making it entertaining even though it doesn't develop a narrative thread, really.

As essentially a series of images and summaries, it is far from a novel or even a novella, but is way cool nonetheless.

tENTATIVELY, cONVENIENCE says

Why the film based on the P. K. Dick story bore this title has always mystified me. This is one of Burroughs' simpler bks but I'll always love it for one scene: a group of freaks are walking down the street minding their own business when some intolerant bullies start bearing down on them in their car, harrassing them. The freaks see that if the car keeps speeding toward them it'll intersect w/ an oncoming truck that the car-driver can't see. It does & the car's annihilated. How many hundreds (or thousands) of times have I been harrassed on the street where having some poetic justice like this wd've come in handy?

Dave Lefevre says

This is an interesting read right after reading the Nourse book. I think it adds a different level of coherence in the work. I would suggest any reader to be familiar with Nourse's "The BladeRunner" before reading Burrough's take. I'm not sure if that was Burroughs' intention, but while this Burroughs book can stand on its own I think it makes a great companion piece to the original as well.

Basically Burroughs took a few characters and scenes, twisted them up (or threw them down the stairs like he famously did during the Naked Lunch writing), added some of the usual Burroughs obsessions (opiates, homosexuality, strange occurrences) and made a new work. Most of what he dwells on is background material in Nourse's book. Burroughs takes that material and embellishes it and makes his own images out of it. Elements of Nourse's own plot do not even occur until around page 69, 72% or so into the book. Then he immediately branches and shows two possible storylines, one based on Nourse and one based on his inspired idea.

Let's just say this was obviously written by Burroughs. No one is ever going to counter it was written by a ghostwriter. When I first read Naked Lunch I learned quickly not to try to read it while I was eating, and while this book isn't close to that amount of YUCK that vibe is there. It's a very interesting and worthy read in Burroughs' body of work.

Intortetor says

sulla carta un'idea mica male: un film scritto da un burroughs post-apocalittico newyorkese e contemporaneamente l'opera che fa da ponte tra il burroughs sperimentale de "i ragazzi selvaggi" e "porto dei santi" e quello della trilogia della "notte rossa". peccato che il risultato finale sia tanto sfizioso (ci sono tutte le sue ossessioni, dal virus 23 all'apomorfina, da scientology a reich, dai complotti ai ragazzi selvaggi -qui i blade runners del titolo- fino ovviamente ad armi e humor nero) quanto incompleto: questa non è una sceneggiatura, ma un abbozzo di sceneggiatura, stracolma di idee (che però in parte dovrebbero provenire da un altro romanzo...) ma davvero troppo breve. bella l'introduzione, comunque, ma mi permetto un appunto: nei festeggiamenti finali dubito che tra nuvole di neve e banderuole piovano confetti, semmai pioveranno coriandoli (che in inglese si chiamano "confetti")...mi sbaglio?
