

"The Mad Planet", "The Red Dust" & "Nightmare Planet"

Murray Leinster



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"The Mad Planet" Run time.: 02:45:47 Chapters.: 4

It is 30,000 years following dramatically changed climate conditions on earth which had let massive amounts of carbon dioxide belch from the interior of the planet into the atmosphere. Over the millenia this would have quite devastating effects on life as it had once been known. Much of the human and animal population would not survive the climate change, and indeed those few humans who did survive knew nothing of all which their predecessors had learned and built. Indeed, they knew not even of their existence. On the other hand insects and fungi would flourish over time.

And so those few remaining humans were unknowingly at the very beginning of the building of a tribal society, which at the time of the story of Burl simply meant food and survival. And so it was Burl who chose to travel beyond his small tribal community in an effort to hunt for something new and different to hopefully impress Saya, the young female of his tribe to whom he felt a peculiar attraction. The Mad Planet is Burl's adventure. (Introduction by Roger Melin)

Read by Roger Melin

Dedicated Proof-Listener: Betty M.
Meta-Coordinator/Cataloging: Barry Eads

1 - Section 1 - 00:42:44 2 - Section 2 - 00:32:56 3 - Section 3 - 00:50:01 4 - Section 4 - 00:40:06

"The Red Dust" Run time.: 02:45:41 Chapters.: 5

This story is the sequel to "The Mad Planet" by Murray Leinster.

The world, in a far distant future, is peopled with huge insects and titanic fungus growths. Life has been greatly altered, and poor puny Man is still in the process of becoming acclimated to the change even after 30,000 years. We again meet our hero Burl, but this time a far greater danger menaces the human race. The huge insects are still in evidence, but the terror they inspire is as nothing compared to the deadly Red Dust. You will follow this remarkable story with breathless interest.

"Burl raised his spear, and plunged down on the back of the moving thing, thrusting his spear with all the force he could command. He had fallen upon the shining back of one of the huge, meat-eating beetles, and his spear had slid across the horny armor and then stuck fast, having pierced only the leathery tissue between the insect's head and thorax." (Summary from the magazine blurb and Phil Chenevert)

Read by: Phil Chenevert

Dedicated Proof-Listener: DaveC
Meta-Coordinator/Cataloging: Phil Chenevert

1 - Prey - 00:34:10 2 - The Journey - 00:35:10 3 - The Sexton-Beetles - 00:32:16
4 - The Forest of Death - 00:35:19 5 - Out of Bondage - 00:28:46

"Nightmare Planet" Run time.: 01:47:58 Chapters.: 3

In science-fiction, as in all categories of fiction, there are stories that are so outstanding from the standpoint of characterization, concept, and background development that they remain popular for decades. Two such stories were Murray Leinster's The Mad Planet and Red Dust. Originally published in 1923, they have been reprinted frequently both here and abroad. They are now scheduled for book publication. Especially for this magazine, Murray Leinster has written the final story in the series. It is not necessary to have read the previous stories to enjoy this one.

Once again, Burl experiences magnificent adventures against a colorful background, but to the whole the author has added philosophical and psychological observations that give this story a flavor seldom achieved in science-fiction. (Summary by Original magazine blurb from Science Fiction Plus, June 1953)

Read by & Book Coordinator: Zachary Brewster-Geisz

Proof-Listener(s): DaveC
Meta-Coordinator/Cataloging: J. M. Smallheer

01 - Part 1 - 00:43:54 02 - Part 2 - 00:30:01 03 - Part 3 - 00:34:03