Philip K. Dick



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Jonathan Lethem, editor "The most outre science fiction writer of the 20th century has finally entered the canon," exclaimed "Wired Magazine" upon The Library of America's May 2007 publication of "Philip K. Dick: Four Novels of the 1960s," edited by Jonathan Lethem. Now comes a companion volume collecting five novels that offer a breathtaking overview of the range of this science-fiction master. Philip K. Dick (1928-82) was a writer of incandescent imagination who made and unmade world-systems with ferocious rapidity and unbridled speculative daring. "The floor joists of the universe," he once wrote, "are visible in my novels." "Martian Time-Slip" (1964) unfolds on a parched and thinly colonized Red Planet where schizophrenia is a contagion and the unscrupulous seek to profit from a troubled child's time-fracturing visions. "Dr. Bloodmoney, or How We Got Along After the Bomb" (1965) chronicles the deeply-interwoven stories of a multi-racial community of survivors, including the scientist who may have been responsible for World War III. Famous, among other reasons, for a therapy session involving a talking taxicab, "Now Wait for Last Year" (1966) explores the effects of JJ-180, a hallucinogen that alters not only perception, but reality. In "Flow My Tears, the Policeman Said "(1974), a television star seeks to unravel a mystery that has left him stripped of his identity. "A Scanner Darkly" (1977), the basis for the 2006 film, envisions a drug-addled world in which a narcotics officer's tenuous

hold on sanity is strained by his new surveillance assignment: himself. Mixing metaphysics and madness, phantasmagoric visions of a post-nuclear world and invading extraterrestrial authoritarians, and all-too-real evocations of the drugged-outherica of the 70s, Dick's work remains exhilarating and unsettling in equal measure.
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