

## ARTS



Illustration by Adrien Venning

## INTRIGUE: in the Middle East

by Trevor Campbell

*Noble Sanctuary*  
written by Scot Morison  
published by Doubleday

Scot Morison's first novel, *Noble Sanctuary*, is a tale of intrigue, romance and human suffering set

amidst the tumultuous Middle East of the early 1980s.

The book's plot is a typically impossible love scenario where the suitor forces his point and makes everyone believe that the union can work. However, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict offers an interesting sub-plot that adds

tension and drama to this well written story.

Morison obviously immersed himself in the harsh realities that existed in east and west Beirut.

In particular, his detail concerning the land's pervading stench of death, and his description of the carnage cast a realistic image. Morison is able to evoke empathy and disgust without ramming over-blown details down the reader's throat.

The author presents his story by juxtaposing the present with the past. The present concerns Geoff's Middle Eastern adventure and his consequent understanding of himself, while the past concerns Geoff as the shallow, self-centred Vancouver realtor who has just met Nadya, his Palestinian love-to-be.

Morison incorporates a cyclical narrative that constantly refers back to previous scenes while adding layers of meaning to them.

As the hero learns more about himself and eventually about his girlfriend, his re-collections become revelations that endear the reader to him.

The story's political slant is offered from the Palestinian point of view in a manner that neither offends nor preaches. His tone is matter-of-fact verging on naive incredulity and reads like a historical yet fictional treatise.

Occasionally Morison's writing suffers from colloquialisms and vague images used as an escape from insightful elaboration. However these digressions do not happen often and rarely detract from the over-all competency of the writing.

*Noble Sanctuary* successfully piques the reader's interest before grabbing them firmly by their imaginations and racing them towards a climactic ending. Making it a good read for those who like a love story with a bloody twist.

## Little Green Men



is to come up with the score for a new alien flick. This is all fine and dandy except for one unexpected little catch; the score that Mark Deveron (Randy) writes, ironically ends up being signalled into the airwaves, via a telephone transmitter, and eventually reaches some interested martians.

What a delicious concept!

Once the martians get a listen to Mark's cosmic tune they feel the gruelling desire to beam themselves down to earth to annoy the crap out of everyone.

Comedians Barry Sobel and Vic Dunlop (regulars on *Evening at the Improv*) are cast as the two main martians responsible for the foreshadowed chaos.

Cameo appearances are made throughout the film by a list of comedians who definitely add humour to it. In one scene, Barry Sobel interrupts the set of a game show and fills the set with verbal "slashes 'o plenty" ranging from, "this (contestant) is so fat that she licks everyone else's fingers at Kentucky Fried Chicken" to the more simpler mock, "Nice tits on the hostess."

Now that's comedy even if it's slightly offensive and obviously cheap.

Believe me, after reviewing the calibre of movies that I've had the luxury to see, anything half decent is a worthwhile watch.

So what happens? Well, not much, but Randy Quaid gives an admirable performance as a strung out musician.

If you're looking for a quality film for a Saturday night, this is not it. But if your looking for some cheap laughs then I must recommend, *Martians Go Home*.

by Andrew Kyprianou

*Martians Go Home*  
Directed by: David Odell

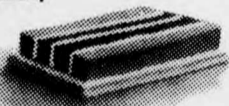
Finally a movie I can recommend; almost recommend anyway.

*Martians Go Home* stars Randy Quaid (*Quick Change*, *Parents*) as a musician whose latest "gig"

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