



Terrifying views of the future

1984. The year of Big Brother and thought police. The year of George Orwell.

Everyone is familiar with Orwell's predictions, but what about other prophets of doom? *Excilibur's* Kevin Connolly and Paul Pivato examine the predictions of some lesser known authors—writers that equal Orwell in brilliance and foresight. These mystics and seers looked into the future. Horrified by what they saw, they locked away their awful secrets in cryptic prose. But now, after years of obscurity, these writers are about to explode into the open and shock the world with their cataclysmic prophecies!

The Furies By Keith Roberts

In this often overlooked masterpiece, Roberts describes a world devastated by nuclear war. Many other writers have imagined the horrors of post-nuclear holocaust, but only a visionary like Roberts could predict... The Rule of the Wasps! Contaminated by radiation, Roberts predicts that wasps will grow to monstrous proportions and take over the world. Inflamed with vengeance after years of insecticide spraying, the wasps enslave people by turning them into drone-like insects. Surely one of the darkest ironies in all literature!

Any survivors of atomic armageddon will have to face... The Rule of the Wasps! The terror of 1984 pales in comparison to the chilling prophecy of *The Furies*. A must read.

Tarnsman of Gor By John Norman

Written by the world famous John Norman, *The Tarnsman of Gor* ranks along with *Nomads of Gor* and *Raiders of Gor* in his endless series of novels that have captivated millions with their tales of "counterearth." Dismissed as mindless fantasy at first, *Tarnsman of Gor* is in fact a brilliant allegory. Among other things, the novel predicts:

- urban guerrilla terrorism
- civil war in Australia
- the marketing of test-tube babies
- the return of falconry as a popular sport

Despite the fact that *Tarnsman of Gor* was written 20 years after his death, many critics now claim that Orwell plagiarized entire passages from Norman's novel. And although cynics may scoff, *Tarnsman of Gor* will go down as one of the great prophetic books of our time.

The Wind in the Willows By Kenneth Grahame

While no one suspected it at the time, this popular children's story written in 1908 astonishingly foretold:

- the fall of the Russian Czar
- the bombing of Hiroshima
- and much, much more

What dire events await us in the future? It is hard to tell. However these prophecies are clear:

- earthquakes
- famines
- war
- the return of falconry as a popular sport
- revolution
- and much, much more

For those too horrified to read into the book's apocalyptic revelations, *The Wind in the Willows* remains a delightful children's story.

Land of Terror By Edgar Rice Burroughs

The renowned author of the Tarzan series, Edgar Rice Burroughs also wrote a prophetic novel about the discovery of a primitive paradise underneath the polar ice cap. And while this has yet to be proven, there is mounting evidence that such a place does exist, and that Roald Amundsen, John F. Kennedy, and Jim Morrison are actually living there.

Burroughs also predicts the resurgence of dinosaurs, a new ice age, and the spread of Calvinism. *Land of Terror* is a book that rivals the nightmarish vision of Orwell's 1984. A prophetic work for all ages.

Nova By Samuel R. Delany

Chapter after chapter, Delaney's ominous predictions mark him as the Nostradamus of our century. Ostensibly a sci-fi novel, *Nova* is in fact a Bible of modern prophecy. Here are some of the things foretold by Delany:

- the assassination of Rev. Moon
- the discovery of extra-terrestrial life
- the invasion of Northern Ireland by the U.S.S.R.
- the return of falconry as a popular sport

A mixture of Old Testament prophecy and Alvin Toffler, Delany spins a fascinating yarn that predicts major events of our time. Avoid reading at your own risk.

The Moon of Skulls By Robert E. Howard

In Howard's tale of future terror, Big Brother goes to the moon and the Earth colonies are taken over by a Stalin-like leader. The tyrant then proclaims himself God and tortures people for sport. A tragi-comedy that warns about the perils of bad government, *The Moon of Skulls* is a timeless book.

Some of Howard's more startling prediction are:

- the AIDS epidemic
- caffeine-free soft drinks
- the mood ring

Howard did not, however, foresee the existence of monkeys with wings, as the cover might lead one to believe. Much of Howard's subtle prophecy lies buried in some of the greatest prose in the English language. Makes 1984 look like a comic strip.

