

Beyond the Fall of Night (Arthur C. Clarke Collection: Vanamonde)

By Arthur C. Clarke, Gregory Benford



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Hundreds of years after the events in Against the Fall of Night, Alvin and Seranis are working to repopulate the Earth with original species resurrected from a library of ancient genetic information. Among these resurrected beings is Cley, a Cro-Magnon and sole survivor of her tribe. Cley joins forces with Alvin and a large, intelligent rodent named Seeker to eliminate the threat from the Mad Mind once and for all-and clear the way for life in the Solar System to thrive.

Beyond the Fall of Night is an authorized sequel to Arthur C. Clarke's classic science fiction novel Against the Fall of Night, written by acclaimed science fiction author and astrophysicist Gregory Benford.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

One of Clarke's early novels, Against the Fall of Night, has long been recognized as among his very best; the tale of a young man's need to escape from the limits of the last cities on Earth, it combines the author's scientific know-how with his yen for mysticism and metaphysics. This new book unites the first volume with a sequel penned by noted scientist Benford (Timescape), whose work has often been compared to Clarke's. Benford's story takes place many years later: Earth is now under siege by the "Mad Mind," a being of pure mentality created by a much earlier galactic Empire. Cley, last of the seemingly primitive "Ur-humans," initially refuses to help Alvin, Clarke's hero, in battle. But she begins to view her role differently with the aid of Seeker, a furry "raccoon-creature" whose species avows "a respect for evolution and one's place in it." Although Benford's unflagging inventiveness will both delight and outrage fans of the original work, ultimately the sequel proves a let-down. Benford seems hindered by having to emulate Clarke's simpler and less contemporary style, and ends up using a number of tangential events to explore his own scientific concerns. Science Fiction Book Club main selection, Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club alternates. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Alvin of Loronei, the lone child amid the immortal adults of the last city on Earth, seeks an answer to why humanity abandoned space and consolidated its holdings in one great city of beauty and stagnation. His curiosity leads him on a journey to the ends of the Earth and into the forbidden realm of the stars, where a long-imprisoned enemy awaits a final confrontation. Coauthored by two talented sf veterans, this sequel to Clarke's Against the Fall of Night (1946) is highly recommended.

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Users Review

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