

THREE STAR BOOKS



Publisher: Three Star Books, a division of Camerarts Publishing Co., Inc.,
2715 N. Pulaski Rd., Chicago 39, IL # 101
[same], 2715 N. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL 60639 #s 102-103
Distributor: none given
Format: tall pb
Price: 60¢

Camerarts was a prolific publisher of soft-core porn paperbacks under the imprints **Merit Books** and **Novel Books**, starting in 1959. The owner was Joe Sorren[tino]. The porn imprints were distributed by Allied, owned by the publisher's brother; the lack of a distributor's mark would seem to indicate that **Three Star Books** may have had a different distributor.

Some later volumes in the **Novel Books** series carried other random imprints, like **Discovery House** or **Specialty Books**, perhaps indicating an urge to break out of the restrictive porn market. This trend seems to have culminated in the creation of **Three Star Books**, the publisher's one effort to issue a genuine mass-market imprint. It was probably one of the least successful such efforts by a porn publisher; these four books are the only titles presently known, although others may exist. It is also possible that this attempt to break into wider distribution was a last gasp at keeping Camerarts afloat; its quick death seems to coincide with the cessation of the porn imprints as well.

Only a year is given in the books and none of them contain ads, so there is no way to tell if they were issued singly or as a group.

The only novel was a reprint from a long running German espionage series; as far as I know, it's the only English translation of a Jerry Cotton book. The one science fiction book was an anthology credited to Tony Licata, who was also Camerarts' general editor. A two-story collection by Lee Dawson is soft-core porn; the copyright notices seem to indicate a prior publication for one of the stories. The one non-fiction book is a reprinted anthology, attempting to cash in on the popularity of the James Bond series with in-depth articles about its author and the character.

I have seen all but the Ian Fleming book and I have the earlier edition of that; it too is dated 1965 and has the same cover, but is priced at 75¢.

Given the small number of books, a combined Author Index has been produced, with the book titles in italics and the story titles in quotes.

All four covers are displayed in the Bookscans database. Two of the covers are signed, while # 103 has little more than doodles on it.

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NUMERICAL INDEX

101	Cotton, Jerry	In the Lion's Den	M. Seltzer	1965																								
102	Licata, Tony	Great Science-Fiction	M. Seltzer	1965																								
<p>(First and only edition. Anthology of reprinted science fiction stories.)</p> <p>Contents:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;">7</td> <td style="width: 40%;">The Wind</td> <td style="width: 45%;">by Ray Bradbury</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>Mouse</td> <td>by Fredric Brown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>33</td> <td>The Golem</td> <td>by Avram Davidson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40</td> <td>Judgment Day</td> <td>by L. Sprague DeCamp</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65</td> <td>History Lesson</td> <td>by Arthur C. Clarke</td> </tr> <tr> <td>76</td> <td>The Ruum</td> <td>by Arthur Porges</td> </tr> <tr> <td>93</td> <td>Dark Mission</td> <td>by Lester del Rey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>114</td> <td>A Better Rat Trap</td> <td>by Brad Steiger</td> </tr> </table>					7	The Wind	by Ray Bradbury	20	Mouse	by Fredric Brown	33	The Golem	by Avram Davidson	40	Judgment Day	by L. Sprague DeCamp	65	History Lesson	by Arthur C. Clarke	76	The Ruum	by Arthur Porges	93	Dark Mission	by Lester del Rey	114	A Better Rat Trap	by Brad Steiger
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76	The Ruum	by Arthur Porges																										
93	Dark Mission	by Lester del Rey																										
114	A Better Rat Trap	by Brad Steiger																										
103	Dawson, Lee	Reaching for Desire / Woman and the Mirror		1965																								
<p>(First and only edition. Two-story collection; the first story might be a reprint.)</p> <p>Contents:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;">7</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Reaching for Desire</td> <td style="width: 45%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>85</td> <td>Woman and the Mirror</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>					7	Reaching for Desire		85	Woman and the Mirror																			
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85	Woman and the Mirror																											
104	Anonymous	Ian Fleming's Incredible Creation		1965																								
<p>(Reprint, Specialty Book, 1965. Two articles, one about Ian Fleming, the other about James Bond.)</p> <p>Contents:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 40%;">Part I: My Friend, Ian Fleming</td> <td style="width: 45%;">by Paul Antony</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Part II: The World of James Bond</td> <td>by Jacquelyn Friedman</td> </tr> </table>						Part I: My Friend, Ian Fleming	by Paul Antony		Part II: The World of James Bond	by Jacquelyn Friedman																		
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TITLE INDEX

"A Better Rat Trap"	Brad Steiger
"Dark Mission"	Lester del Rey
"The Golem"	Avram Davison
Great Science-Fiction	Tony Licata
"History Lesson"	Arthur C. Clarke
Ian Fleming's Incredible Creation	anonymous
In the Lion's Den	Jerry Cotton
"Judgment Day"	L. Sprague DeCamp
"Mouse"	Fredric Brown
"My Friend, Ian Fleming"	Paul Antony
"Reaching for Desire"	Lee Dawson
Reaching for Desire / Woman and the Mirror	Lee Dawson
"The Ruum"	Arthur Porges
"The Wind"	Ray Bradbury
"Woman and the Mirror"	Lee Dawson
"The World of James Bond"	Jacquelyn Friedman

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AUTHOR INDEX

anonymous anthology					
<i>Ian Fleming's Incredible Creation</i>	(anth, Specialty Book, 1965)	Three Star	104	1965	
Antony, Paul					
Part I: My Friend, Ian Fleming	NF				
	Ian Fleming's Incredible Creation	Three Star	104	1965	
Bradbury, Ray [mond] [Douglas] (1920-2012) US					
The Wind	Great Science-Fiction	Three Star	102	1965	
Brown, Fredric [William] (1906-1972) US					
Mouse	Great Science-Fiction	Three Star	102	1965	
Clarke, Arthur C [harles] (1917-2008) UK					
History Lesson	Great Science-Fiction	Three Star	102	1965	
Cotton, Jerry German house pseudonym, authorship unknown					
translator unknown					
series: Jerry <u>Cotton</u>					
<i>In the Lion's Den</i>	[Cotton] (original)	Three Star	101	1965	
Davidson, Avram [James] (1923-1993) US					
The Golem	Great Science-Fiction	Three Star	102	1965	
Dawson, Lee					
<i>Reaching for Desire / Woman and the Mirror</i>	(coll, original)	Three Star	103	1965	
Contents: Reaching for Desire Woman and the Mirror					
De Camp, L[yon] Sprague (1907-2000) US					
Judgment Day	Great Science-Fiction	Three Star	102	1965	
del Rey, Lester ps of Ramon F. Alvarez-del Rey (1915-1993) US					
Dark Mission	Great Science-Fiction	Three Star	102	1965	
Friedman, Jacquelyn					
Part II: The World of James Bond	NF				
	Ian Fleming's Incredible Creation	Three Star	104	1965	
Licata, Tony					
editor					
<i>Great Science-Fiction</i>	(anth, original)	Three Star	102	1965	
Porges, Arthur (1915-2006) US					
The Ruom	Great Science-Fiction	Three Star	102	1965	
Steiger, Brad ps of Eugene E. Olson (1936-) US					
A Better Rat Trap	new Great Science-Fiction	Three Star	102	1965	

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ARTIST INDEX

Seltzer, M.					
Three Star	101	<i>In the Lion's Den</i>	by Jerry Cotton		
Three Star	102	<i>Great Science-Fiction</i>	by Tony Licata		
Unidentified					
Three Star	104	<i>Ian Fleming's Incredible Creation</i>			