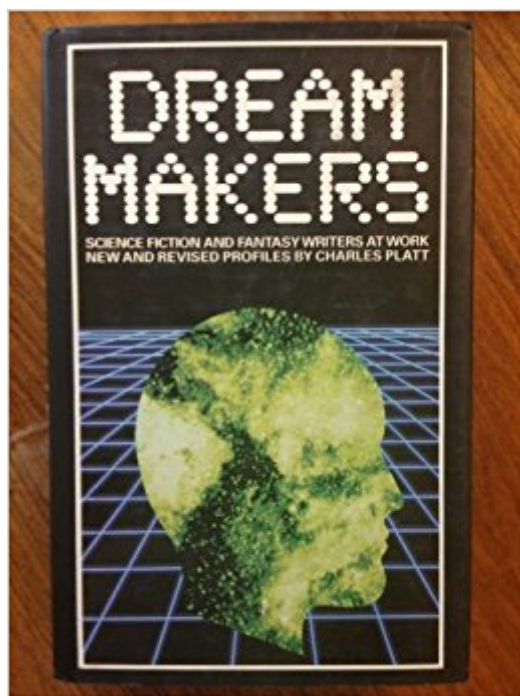


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# Dream Makers: Science Fiction And Fantasy Writers At Work



## Synopsis

Interesting interviews with some of the great science-fiction and fantasy writers, including Asimov, Tiptree, Budrys, Aldiss, Ballard, Moorcock, Pohl, Sturgeon, Ellison, Van Vogt, Dick, Bradbury, Farmer, Disch, Clarke, Herbert, Leiber, Bester, Vonnegut and Stephen King. Would make a fine addition to any sci-fi library.

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Interesting interviews with some of the great science-fiction and fantasy writers, including Asimov, Tiptree, Budrys, Aldiss, Ballard, Moorcock, Pohl, Sturgeon, Ellison, Van Vogt, Dick, Bradbury, Farmer, Disch, Clarke, Herbert, Leiber, Bester, Vonnegut and Stephen King. Would make a fine addition to any sci-fi library.

Dream Makers - The Uncommon People Who Write Science Fiction - Volume 2 - Charles Platt [0747 - 2017-05-07] "Dream Makers - Volume 2" is a collection of interviews with 28 science fiction authors conducted by author and editor Charles Platt. The one and only publication of this title was a Berkley trade paperback in June 1983. This book follows the same format (but with different authors!) as Volume 1 which was published in November 1980. The authors represented reads like are an All-Star line-up - A.C. Clarke - Ted Sturgeon - Stephen King - Jack Vance - Poul Anderson - Andre Norton to name a few. For the very curious, researchers and archivist this is a serious book of interest. Still available on the used book market even today. Interviewer Platt adds a very useful

introduction to the book and a short synopsis at the conclusion of each interview of that particular authors most notable works at the time of publication (1983). Also included is an interview with editor Charles Platt who is an author also. A short but helpful bibliography of other books about science fiction adds to the usefulness of this book. Before purchasing these books I questioned just how pertinent would 30 plus year old interviews be to assuage my droll inquisitiveness about the topic and the it's major practitioners. For myself an avid reader of SF since the last 1950's it satisfied and entertained me greatly to find out what common boobs and down to earth folks cranked out the stories that polluted my impressionable mind. Buying, reading and collecting "books about science-fiction and the men and women who write it" is a private pleasure I have indulged in for many years. This publication is a welcomed addition to that particular book shelf and would be to yours too if you are so interested.

This is the 1983 Berkley paperback, printed in the USA (ISBN 0425058808). It contains twenty eight interviews conducted in 1981 and 1982 with well known science fiction authors, and also a brief interview with the author. I think this book is fantastic, wonderful, full of interesting insights into these authors. For me personally the first volume (*Dream Makers*, aka *Who Writes Science Fiction*) has the edge, but that is only because I thought it was so excellent: this volume is still essential reading if you have any interest at all in the science fiction writers of the 1950s through the 1970s, and in the process of creativity itself. These days I'm sure that much of this information may be available on the internet if you're prepared to search, but I'm lazy about the internet and, for me, it's a real joy to read the thoughts of these authors all in one book. The diversity of science fiction writers never fails to amaze me, not just in the raw material of their lives (James Tiptree, Jr. for example!), but in their political orientation, and the differing ways that they approach the creative process. There are also some pleasant surprises for me here in the unexpected presence of Donald Wollheim, William Burroughs and Robert Anton Wilson, figures that have always interested me, and there is even a rare interview with L. Ron Hubbard, which despite being by letter does appear to have been answered by Hubbard himself. In addition, six of these twenty eight interviews are with women authors, whereas the first volume only contained the one. I'm not well educated in the ins and outs of science fiction politics, and it is possible that others better informed than myself, may find Charles Platt opinionated, but I did not mind this at all. I put this book on a par with it's predecessor *Dream Makers* (1980) (also published in 1980 in the UK as *Who Writes Science Fiction*. This UK edition contains an interview with Ben Bova whereas the USA *Dream Makers* does not), Paul

Walker's *Speaking of Science Fiction* (1978) and Brian W. Aldiss and Harry Harrison's *Cartographers* (1975). Please note that eleven of the interviews from this book (together with fourteen from the original *Dream Makers* / *Who Writes Science Fiction*) are included in the 2014 Stairway Press Collected Edition *Dream Makers*. In that 2014 collected edition these interviews are reprinted together with a new introduction and new afterwords for each interview titled *Historical Context*. These afterwords vary in length from half a page to several pages, and, for me, provide interesting insights into the original interviews and subsequent life stories of those interviewed. I think that these make this new book well worth buying even if you already own the original two volumes. I would have liked to add a brief quote from the subject of each profile, but at present rejects any attempt to post these, presumably because of length. So instead I will simply post a list of those authors interviewed. Jerry Pournelle, Larry Niven, Christopher Priest, William S. Burroughs, Arthur C. Clarke, Alvin Toffler, John Sladek, D.M. Thomas, Keith Roberts, Andre Norton, Piers Anthony, Keith Laumer, Joe Haldeman, Fritz Leiber, Robert Anton Wilson, Poul Anderson, Jack Vance, Theodore Sturgeon, L. Ron Hubbard, Joanna Russ, Janet Morris, Joan D. Vinge, Harry Harrison, Donald A. Wollheim, Edward L. Ferman, Kit Reed, James Tiptree, Jr, Stephen King, Charles Platt (author)

This is a collection of interviews with science fiction legends, from Keith Laumer to Andre Norton to Larry Niven. Now if only I could find volume one.

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