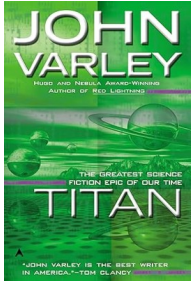




Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians



Titan
 By John Varley
 Discussed September 2006

Characters

Ringmaster Crew	Gaea
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Captain Cirocco "Rocky" Jones - became a hero, could talk to Titanides Gaby Plauget - came out as a lesbian, worshiped Rocky Bill - lost most of his memory, knocked out of action by injuries Gene - went insane, attacked Gaby, raped Cirocco Calvin Greene - went native and bonded with Whistlestop April 15/02 Polo - turned into an angel August 3/02 Polo - lost without April 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twelve intelligences: Hyperion, Rhea, Crious, Mnemosyne, Oceanus, etc Whistlestop C Sharp Hornpipe (first contact and guide) Panpipe (lost in fight with angels) B Lullaby (healer) Angels

Story Pacing Notes

- Pages 1-34 (34 pages): Introduction and arrival at Gaea
- Pages 35-75 (41 pages): Cocoon, re-birth, reuniting, and discovery
- Pages 76-102 (25 pages): Meeting sentient life and exploring
- Pages 103-142 (40 pages): First journey to hub and Bill's injury
- Pages 143-162 (20 pages): Meeting the Titanides
- Pages 163-194 (32 pages): Angels attack and time in Titantown
- Pages 195-264 (70 pages): Ascent to hub and gene's attack on Gaby and Rocky
- Pages 265-309 (45 pages): Arrival, meeting Gaea and rescue

Themes

The Book

- Adventure story
- Character development (or lack thereof)
- Has Varley improved over time (*Steel Beach* - 1992; *Red Thunder* - 2003). This was his third book (second novel), and it was published in 1979
- Homage to Heinlein, Clark and Herbert
- Product of its time - the prevailing conventions and attitudes of the times (late 70s)?
- Science behind the fiction (Published in 1979, set in 2025)
- Success of combining moderately hard-SF and exploring themes of relationships?

Relationships

- Alternate breeding relationships for species
- Companionship
- Creatures to their God
- Effect of a powerful alien intelligence upon our own and vice versa
- First contact of human to alien?
- Heterosexuality
- Incest
- Homosexuality
- Man and God

Women

- Abortion
- Feminism
- Leadership roles

Other Books

- Gaea Trilogy - traces the arc of a hero's ascent, fall from grace and redemption
- Similar to *Rendezvous with Rama*?