
THE WANDERER

Published by Penguin

Fritz Leiber

It begins with a rather innocuous meeting of a group of UFO observers that is broken up with the sighting of a UFO, followed by the appearance of a planet emitting a constantly changing display of colours.

The UFO captures a kitten, much to the dismay of its owner. The UFO then captures a luckless bystander who just happens to be the hero, if it can be said that the book has a hero. He finds the pilot to be a feline being, having a distinct cats head and pink-purple furry body. Two breasts on the being would lead us to tag it a female.

She treats the human like a child and has bound and gagged him. She finally speaks to him and reveals that her name is Tigeska, and the planet has come to destroy the earth's inhabitants by flooding the oceans, i.e. melting the ice caps.

The hero after talking to her and finally making love to her plans no part at all in the decision of the planet to vanish as quickly as it appeared.

The story line, I found to be rather dull and boring. The style used by Leiber of sumping around the world to different people in different situations almost every paragraph is a little over used. After a while you have to flick back through the book to find out who some character is who has just appeared after a long absence. This tended to make heavy weather of reading it.

Maybe Readers Digest could censor, condense and put it back together, then it would make an ideal childrens bedtime book. It didn't strike me as particularly brilliant book. Better luck next time Mr. Leiber

Gollum