

Sacramento Book Review



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Philip K. Dick: Five Novels of the 1960s and 70s

Edited by Jonathan Lethem

Library of America, \$40.00, 1000 pages

Continuing their collection of Philip K. Dick books, the Library of America has released a new volume with five of his novels from the 1960s and 70s. The stories reprinted are: *Martian Time-Slip* (1964), *Dr. Bloodmoney, or How We Got Along After the Bomb* (1965), *Now Wait for Last Year* (1966), *Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said* (1974) and *A Scanner Darkly* (1977) (the basis for the 2006 movie starring Keanu Reeves). Of the selections, *Flow My Tears* is probably the strongest, telling the story of a television star who loses his identity; no one recognizes him, no one remembers his music or his TV shows. The ending feels forced, but many of Dick's books had uneven endings while the substance of the story was well ahead of its time. While none of these books are his best or best known, they all provide a reasonable look into the mind of one of the best science fiction writers of that time period. The collection is well put together and very reasonably priced (\$8 per book).

