



# Operation: Outer Space

*Murray Leinster*

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## Operation: Outer Space Murray Leinster

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## Operation: Outer Space Details

Date : Published October 11th 2007 by BiblioLife (first published January 1st 1954)

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Author : Murray Leinster

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# From Reader Review Operation: Outer Space for online ebook

## **Bhakta Jim says**

I first bought this book as a paperback when I was in high school. Recently I listened to it as a LibriVox recording by Mark Nelson. The story is OK. There are satirical elements about the advertising industry that still work. Leinster correctly predicts the rise of Reality TV and much that would go with it. As an interstellar adventure it isn't that great.

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## **Patrick DiJusto says**

More of a satire on the television industry than a space opera. A TV ad exec meets an engineer who developed spacewarp technology, and creates a reality show about traveling through the galaxy. Very funny.

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## **Shari Scott says**

Horribly out-dated, but fun none the less.

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## **Nick says**

Looks promising. Murray Leinster seldom disappoints. I found it here - <http://www.gutenberg.org/1/8/3/6/18361> - It lived up to its promise, he doesn't telegraph his moves and it jumps in several unexpected directions. Its a pity he doesn't do the relationship side of the story justice. His books could be much richer if we had access to just a little more of the protagonists emotional life and thought processes.

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## **Kimbolimbo says**

Not my favorite space book. There was something I liked...let me think...what was it...oh, the one time that the male chauvinist had a moment of clarity and he said he finally had a woman's viewpoint and he liked it because women look farther into the future than men. The scientific reasoning in this book about how to know if a planet was safe and what foods were edible was rather simplistic, I found it refreshing. But the whole book was rather boring and to fantastical. Funny that the reason space travel took off was because of reality TV programing...maybe this book is on to something. We should ask ABC or FOX to start sponsoring trips to the moon and beyond.

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## **Larry Peninger says**

## **Bright Futures**

The is so bright when you are able to look back on the past.

"Oh, surely!" said Cochrane cynically. "And you'll have tax-payers objecting because you make money.

You'll be regulated out of existence. Were you thinking that Spaceways would run this transportation system you're planning, without cutting anybody else in on even the glory of it?"

Cochran knew that space was open to corruption. Even as he makes his television episodes he is careful with what he shows. Maybe to manipulate or to dissuade the viewing public. To prevent all powerful political corruption to set in he installs himself and the crew as official governments. Brilliant!

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## **Jan says**

This is a very fun read if you love the old pulp sci-fi from the 50's. It's fairly light on technology, but the way it uses it is believable. Characters are very pulp-fiction and stereotypical, which is fine in the context of the story. It's a great book and is also available as an e-book.

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## **Julie Davis says**

Prompted by my enjoyment of the Murray Leinster Collection, I went searching for another likely Leinster book to try. I vaguely recalled Mark Douglas Nelson running Operation: Outer Space at SciPodCast before it went to live at LibriVox. I'd give this 3-1/2 stars if it were possible. It just doesn't have the oomph to take it to 4 stars.

Jed Cochrane is about to take off on man's first interstellar voyage. His mission: Make sure it's good television!

"A fast-paced, sardonic job that is primarily a satire on the future of mass communications... a jolly tale indeed." - Groff Conklin

I agree with P. Schuyler Miller who said, "It's no classic, but it's good reading."

As someone who works in advertising I found much to enjoy in Murray Leinster's tale of an unlikely space expedition financed by television show sponsors. I also appreciated the fact that Jed Cochrane has a loftier ambition fueled by his own unhappiness at the overcrowding on Earth and lack of hope among the population. He is just pursuing a solution the only way that he has been trained to do, through business opportunity. In this way the book is also a left-handed compliment to capitalism, albeit tongue-in-cheek.

Mark Douglas Nelson's narration, as always, is spot on. I always enjoy his reading and he lets the story shine through.

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## **Rich Brown says**

This book was part of my birth year challenge. While reading, I kept in mind that it was written in 1954. It was such a fun read! Part Twilight Zone and part Dick Van Dyke! The "science" is crazy and the mis-

matched group that make up the ship's crew are great. I'll be laughing for days.

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### **Craig says**

I remember having read this one a long time ago, but found I didn't remember much about it at all while listening to this version from the fine folks at Librivox. It's a whimsical adventure, but not among Leinster's best. One of the main characters is named William Holden, which I found a little distracting since it's a story set with a futuristic Hollywood backdrop. It reminded me of some of Ron Goulart's work from the '70s, or, more recently, of Scalzi's *Agent to the Stars*. It's a fun story, and I found to be much better than driving to work listening to the radio.

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### **JodiP says**

This was a mildly amusing tale about an advertising exec who gets involved in faster-than-light space travel. He ends up selling colonization on other planets. Somewhat Heinlein-esque, but not good enough to read him further.

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### **Frank says**

In an over-populated world where every day is a challenge to get work and to possibly advance in the job, TV producer, Jed Cochrane, gets an undesired assignment on the moon. Jed and his team are to provide psychological support to an inventor and to publicize his technology that is capable of sending radio transmissions at near light speed. Perhaps the technology can provide an even better capability. The story advances nicely even though some of the science is a bit shaky (OK for 1954). The characters are a little better than pulp level; but given the story's handling of psychological issues, the lack of character depth is not a issue. The story is worth the read.

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### **John Adkins says**

I read this as part of the "Startling Stories" Spring 2009 magazine. The magazine combines new and classic material and in this issue features *Operation: Outer Space*.

In this short novel Leinster follows the somewhat coincidental development of interstellar space travel as an unplanned side effect of the psychiatric treatment of a wealthy scientist with self-concept issues.

The overcrowded Earth portrayed in the novel is one where individuals have little hope of advancement and Leinster does an excellent job of showing the psychological impact of this. The main character, Jed Cochrane, is a television producer who cleverly finances the development of interstellar travel through the production of a reality series and in so doing restores hope to humanity. There is also a strong theme throughout the book of man's separation from nature due to the urbanization of Earth and the healing aspects of a return to a more naturalistic setting.

Characterization is fairly strong for a novel first published in 1954. Recommended.

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## **David says**

A scathing satire on the media, advertising and psychiatric community of the early 1950's. One dimensional archetypical characters represent the shallowness of mass media and the idle rich. On the Earth of the future, cities are overcrowded and the elite have nothing to do but buy fame from people who really do the work. A faster than light drive is invented and Jed Cochrane, a television producer, seizes the chance to change the course of history and free the people who are willing to work for themselves and not be faceless proles. Classic pulp fiction with a message. My copy's cover and back text have little to do with the contents.

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## **Jim says**

FASTER THAN LIGHT!

"But what can be done with it?" asked Cochrane practically.

"Nothing," said Jones succinctly. "It changes the properties of space, but that's all. Can you think of any use for a faster-than-light radiation-pipe? I can't."

Cochrane cocked an eye at Jamison, who could extrapolate at the drop of an equation. But Jamison shook his head.

"Communication between planets," he said morosely, "when we get to them. Chats between sweethearts on Earth and Pluto. Broadcasts to the stars when we find that another one's set up a similar plate and is ready to chat with us. There's nothing else."

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