

FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION

No. 33

35¢

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Author, Author!

THEODORE L. THOMAS is an occasional writer, whose stories are usually remembered for many months after their appearance. His most recent appearances have been "The Disappearing Man", in the July *Science Fiction Stories*, and "The Attractive Nuisance" in the August *Science Fiction Quarterly*.

- ★ THOMAS N. SCORTIA is a chemist by profession, who finds himself torn between sanity and the desire to make writing his sole career. His profession forms the basis for a notable short novel, "Genius Loci",
- ★ in the September *Science Fiction Stories*.

ROBERT SILVERBERG seems to be living up to his accolade as the "most promising new writer of 1956", as, in addition to numerous short stories and novelets, all of notable quality, he's now to be found in pocket book novels, as well as in topflight detective and western story magazines.

- ★ A. BERTRAM CHANDLER is a British
- ★ author, well known for unusual and wryly
- ★ humorous tales. His list of credits would fill quite a few pages.

ISAAC ASIMOV needs no introduction; he's just one of the brightest of those science fiction stars that every science fiction editor is constantly seeking.

TALE OF THE PIONEER

by Issac Asimov

With a low bow in the direction of Sir William
Gilbert's noble shade

I have a tale to tell, O!
(Tell me your tale, O!)
It will tell of a face
That is turned up to Space
That finds our old Earth a jail, O!
It's the tale of a pioneer, born too soon,
Who asked of life but a single boon:
To board a ship that would reach the Moon,
Or, perhaps, better still, reach a planet.
Can it, can it
Reach out a bit for a planet?
Is there a ship that would reach the Moon
Or, perhaps, better still, reach a planet?

I have a tale to tell, O!
(Tell me your tale, O!)
It will tell of a kind
Of unusual mind
With brilliance that will not fail, O!
It's the tale of a scientist, deep in thought,
Who found a way into space and brought
A new hope to the pioneer born too soon,
Who asked of life but a single boon:
To board a ship that would reach the Moon,
Or perhaps, better still, reach a planet.



Can it, can it
Reach out a bit for a planet?
Is there a ship that would reach the Moon,
Or perhaps, better still, reach a planet?

I have a tale to tell, O!
(Tell me your tale, O!)
It will tell of the bang
And the steely clang
And of building a starward trail, O!
It's the tale of an engineer's shrewd design
In metal and force that will divine
The mind of a scientist, deep in thought,
Who found a way into space and brought
A new hope to the pioneer born too soon
Who asked of life but a single boon:
To board a ship that would reach the Moon,
Or perhaps, better still, reach a planet.

Can it, can it
Reach out a bit for a planet?
Is there a ship that would reach the Moon,
Or perhaps, better still, reach a planet?

I have a tale to tell, O!
(Tell me your tale, O!)
It will tell of a man
Who's the peak of the plan,
Steel-willed though his body's frail. O!
It's the tale of an astronaut and the dark,
Who carries man's life and hope and spark
In the shell of an engineer's shrewd design
In metal and force that did divine
The mind of a scientist, deep in thought,
Who found a way into space and brought
A new joy to the pioneer one bright noon,
Who received of life his one great boon
And boarded a ship that did reach the Moon
And what's more, later on, reached a planet.
Can it, can it
Reach out a bit for a planet?
It was a ship that had reached the Moon
And what's more, later on, reached a planet.