

Benchmarks: Galaxy Bookshelf

Algis Budrys



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Over the years since 1965, Algis Budrys has emerged as the leading critic of modern speculative fiction: insightful, eclectic, and notoriously uninhibited. *Benchmarks* collects the material that started it—all 54 Galaxy Bookshelf book-review columns Budrys created for the now-vanished *Galaxy Magazine*. Written for what was then the world's leading SF periodical, these legendary summations and summary judgments coincided with the period when newsstand-borne science fiction and fantasy were evolving from pulp toward literature. Budrys' *Galaxy* reviews trace an incisive, sometimes wickedly acerb path through that sparsely charted literary territory.

Budrys defines his standards and his function in his own words: "A book should he good. A bird should fly.

"Writers of imperfect, tousled books should be made aware that standards of breeding and grooming exist. I strive to fulfill that function."



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