

STARTLING VISIONS MAGAZINE

would not fall under the heading of Startling Vision Fiction. Rather, Startling Vision Fiction stories deal prominently with ideas that are generally considered to be scientifically implausible, and/or scientifically impossible. Since such concepts as ghosts, werewolves, sorcery, psychic powers, a hollow Earth, nature spirits, etc., are not seen as feasible in the eyes of Scientific Consensus, they are thereby numbered among the kinds of subjects fit for Startling Vision Fiction. In addition to this, there are three other necessary factors without which a tale will not belong to the category of Startling Vision Fiction, even it contains the Scientifically Impossible.

The first of these three other factors is that the Scientifically Impossible concept of the story—what we might call the "Startling Vision element"—must be sufficiently prominent and undeniable that it is unreasonable to question its existence in the tale or to attempt to impose another, Scientifically Possible, interpretation of that element. Enough of the nature and cause of the Startling Vision element must be explained—through explicit exposition, recognizable implication, or some combination thereof—to be properly defined as a Startling Vision Fiction story.

The second of the three remaining factors is that a true Startling Vision Fiction story is not one that features Scientifically Impossible concepts as a mere didactic contrivance by which an author can convey ideas that actually have nothing to do with exploring those Scientifically Impossible concepts. Also, Startling Vision Fiction tales are not mere allegories.

The third of these last three most important considerations comes into play only *after* the presence of the Scientifically Impossible has been positively identified in a story, and determined to not be employed didactically or allegorically. This is the factor of consistency in the nature and treatment of the Startling Vision element being examined. For an instance of the Scientifically Impossible to be a true Startling Vision element, it must have a discernible non-scientific rationale, but still behave in a consistent and predictable manner. This means that when a certain Scientifically Impossible concept is established as being a truism within the story's own fictional reality, it must be adhered to as