

# Andre Norton

S.F.I.A W.O.L. (Bio-Brief)

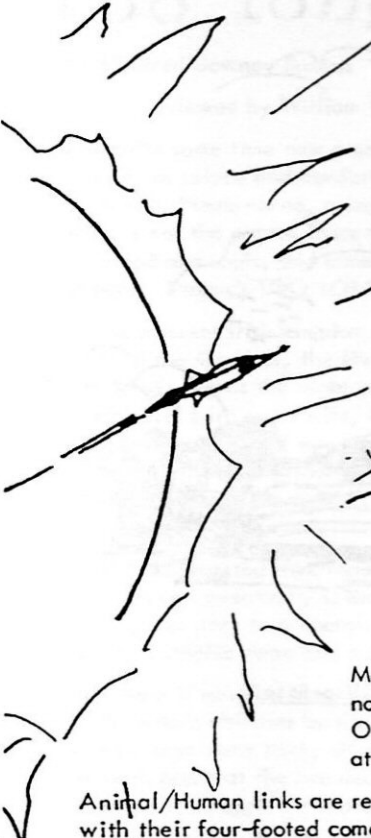
---a brief overview by Rob Miller

Alice Mary Norton, (now, Andre Alice Norton), was born in 1912, in Cleveland, Ohio. Fortunately she has no second date to include herein. Fortunate for those of us who keep wanting more -- that is I. As for the rest of you out there,...

Her first work was published in 1934, (non SF), utilizing a pen-name, one of the many pseudonyms she has used in the past four plus decades since. Among those under which she has had works published most have recently been released under her most famous pseudonym, Andre Norton. Others she has used are; Andrew North and Allen Weston.

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From a librarian, for many years prior to taking up pen in hand, she has progressed to the point where she now has a myriad of loyal fans and almost a hundred works in print. Unfortunately not all are currently available. I know, I've tried to get most of them! Most of the works currently available are in the SF/Fantasy class. Who knows, maybe Isaac Asimov will have to make room up there at the second century mark for another author.... We fans can only hope to be so lucky.



Asimov is one of the few who have managed to meet Andre Norton in person.....and says....."1 September, 1955, That night I met Andre Norton, who, writing excellent science-fiction juveniles under that name, was actually a woman. The masculine character of science-fiction at that time made that sort of thing seem sensible then."

Well, juveniles or not, they are easily digestible to the adult palate as well.

Her excellent and knowledgeable handling of both characters and settings lead exciting dimensions to her works.

Characterization seems to be handled on a more personalized basis for the reader's involvement, making the stories much easier to relate to. Her characters remain people, they get involved, have an adventure, or misadventure, but are basically unchanged afterwards, not rich or influential as too often happens in storybook settings, and often carried over into supposedly more modern literary works.

Her advent into the science-fiction and fantasy genre was in an old pulp magazine, FANTASY BOOK (1947), with a story titled "People of the Crater", under the pseudonym Andrew North.

Many of her works have interlinking background ties, loosely related works, not actual serial continuations, although she has her series works as well. One of the continual ties throughout many works is the background representation of the "forerunner" remains -- whoever or whatever they might be.

Animal/Human links are represented throughout her works in telepathic, empathic, and shape-changing with their four-footed comrades. Alien races are abundant in earlier works -- reptilian, avian and feline types abound throughout the galaxies.

Many a work seems to be awaiting a continuance in future volumes, or so many fans hope, but are not yet fulfilled.

It has been rumored that a future release, this spring, will be titled THE FORERUNNER. ## note: this novel was published in May by Tor books.## Perhaps at last we will get a full serving of these mysterious former rulers and star travellers.

Those who can't seem to get enough of the works of Andre Norton, might try wetting their appetite on other authors while awaiting future portions of the main course. Some with similar styles or works are listed herein:

Edmond Hamilton: THE VALLEY OF CREATION  
OUTLAWS OF THE MOON  
THE SUN SMASHERS  
The STAR WOLF Trilogy

H. Beam Piper:  
SPACE VIKING  
FIVE DAY PLANET  
THE COSMIC COMPUTER

Anne McCaffrey: The Pern (Dragon) series

M. Z. Bradley: The Darkover series

Alan E. Nourse:  
STAR SURGEON  
THE MERCY MEN  
SCAVENGERS IN SPACE  
RAIDERS FROM THE RINGS

Jack Vance:  
THE DRAGON MASTERS  
THE FIVE GOLD BANDS



This is not to say that any of these authors is surviving upon the similarity to Andre Norton, but rather that they are of equal and excellent caliber as authors in their own rights. This is also not a complete listing of the works of any of these authors, but only a sampling of the works that they have available.

#### STAR MAN'S SON (DAYBREAK 2250 AD)

One of my favorite works by Andre Norton: two hundred years after atomic ruin swept the world leaving much uninhabitable and lethal to man and beast. Or was it?

Fors, the Star Man's son travels out among the ruins following his father's footsteps into the ruins of a world long dead, inhabited by the deformed descendants from the age of nuclear destruction. He is accompanied by his empathetic and partially telepathic mutant descendant of today's cats.

Together they fight their way across a strange world hunted by mutant creatures of doubtful origin with rodent minds and which threaten mankind's remnants in their bid for the world that remains.

#### STAR RANGERS (THE LAST PLANET)

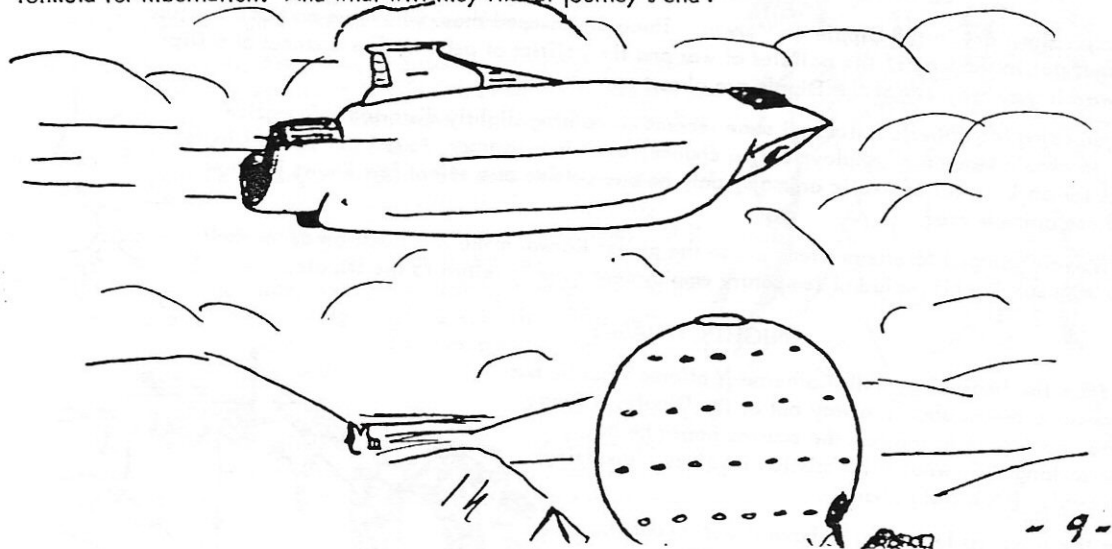
With the Galactic government crumbling and corrupt officials contending for what remains of power in a future they strive to control, a remnant of the legal force, the Stellar Patrol, is sent to map the galaxy. They make a final planetfall, barely surviving, upon an uncharted planet in an out of the way star system near the edge of the galaxy. What they find surprises even these veterans of a hundred interstellar campaigns.

#### THE STARS ARE OURS

After the holocaust the world struggles to survive under Pax. But the ruined remnants of humanity have nurtured a hatred of science and scientists as the brains responsible for the weaponry which has devastated the planet and the people.

Into this world of 2500 AD Dard Nordis was born, son of and brother to scientists. He lives under a tyrannical dictatorship which hunts down scientists -- or those with too much learning -- as if they were criminals. Dard's brother becomes a victim of this persecution, but Dard finds a scientific remnant holed up in caves preparing to escape, escape to the stars!

But they must fight even for the right to leave and many don't survive to partake of this great adventure and technological achievement and escape the world of their birth only to entrust their lives to an untried formula for hibernation. And what will they find at journey's end?



## THE BEAST MASTER



Hosteen Storm, beast master, with his telepathic combat team, consisting of two dune cats and an eagle, set down on the planet Arzor since his home planet Earth, has been destroyed by the Xiks. Hosteen's reasons for being on Arzor are personal concerned with revenge. The adventure flows over a planet far from the world they have known at home yet not too unlike it in climate.

Native inhabitants, greatly Amerindian like (Hosteen's own ethnic group) in culture and way of life bring into close relation Hosteen's desire to return to the way of life he had known. Also an enemy contingent, remains of the enemy which has supposedly been defeated in the war which destroyed

Earth, are on Arzor, and the Amerindian and his beast team become deeply involved in the struggle against them. They must route and destroy these remnants of the hated enemy.

It is a superb story and adventure followed by LORD OF THUNDER and a big catch of forerunner ruins.

## THE SIOUX SPACEMAN

In a galaxy controlled by a cruel dominant race, man is given limited freedom to expand, under watchful control, into the far reaches of space. Kade Whitehawk, Amerindian, finds the subservient position of his earthly status intolerable. Already under threat of being disbarred from space, he is sent to Klor, where the native inhabitants are enslaved and mistreated by the humanoid ruling class. With Amerindian beliefs and traditions on individual rights and freedoms, he relates to the Ikkinni and understands their hostile feelings and dreams of revolt against their masters. Kade attempts to introduce the horse to the Ikkinni to aid them in gaining their freedom but incurs the wrath of the masters upon himself and his earthly comrades to the point where their trading post is destroyed to account for their own destruction and end the threat they pose to the masters and their slave world set up.

Kade flees into the mountains upon horseback to convince the Ikkinni of Earth's friendly intentions toward them and their cause.

## CATSEYE

The galaxy's slums are in the Dipple on Korwar. There are dumped those who have no home because their planet got in the way of the policies of war and the politics of peace. The chances of a Dippleman working his way out of the Dipple are almost non-existent.

Troy Horan using his father's status and some records containing slightly distorted information, manages to obtain temporary employment, a chance, even if temporary, to get out of the Dipple. He works for an importer of exotic animals, only no one outside of a select few knows just how exotic these animals are.

Telepaths, intrigue and forerunner remains on the planet Korwar make it a question as to whether Troy will survive his period of temporary employment even to return to the Dipple.

## NIGHT OF MASKS

A loser from the beginning, Nik Kolherne is offered what he has never dared to dream about: a way out of the Dipple, a future and a face -- a face to replace the scarred horror he has worn for so long. So what if his mission involved kidnapping and betrayal. It's his big chance.

Only in the long run he begins to have doubts about the deal he has made and the motives that lie behind it.

