

# “CERTAINLY ‘THOU ART GOD’—BUT WHO ISN’T?”

BOOKS THAT SHAPED AMERICA

P. T. JACKSON • AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

1 APRIL 2014

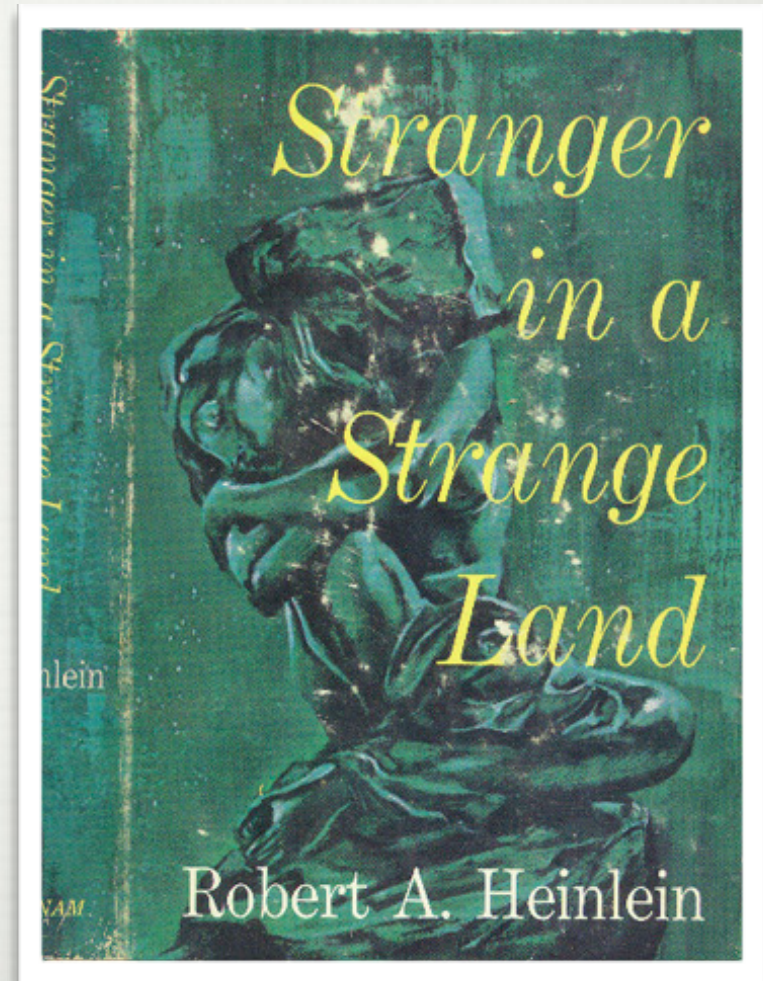
"AND SHE BARE HIM A SON, AND HE CALLED HIS  
NAME GERSHOM: FOR HE SAID, I HAVE BEEN A  
STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND."

EXODUS 2:22, KING JAMES VERSION

# PUBLICATION FACTS

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- ☐ "GULF," 1949
- ☐ HEINLEIN HAD WON TWO HUGO AWARDS (DOUBLE STAR, 1956 AND STARSHIP TROOPERS, 1960)
- ☐ GETTING AWAY FROM JUVENILE NOVELS
- ☐ CUT 70,000 WORDS
- ☐ HAS SOLD OVER 5 MILLION COPIES



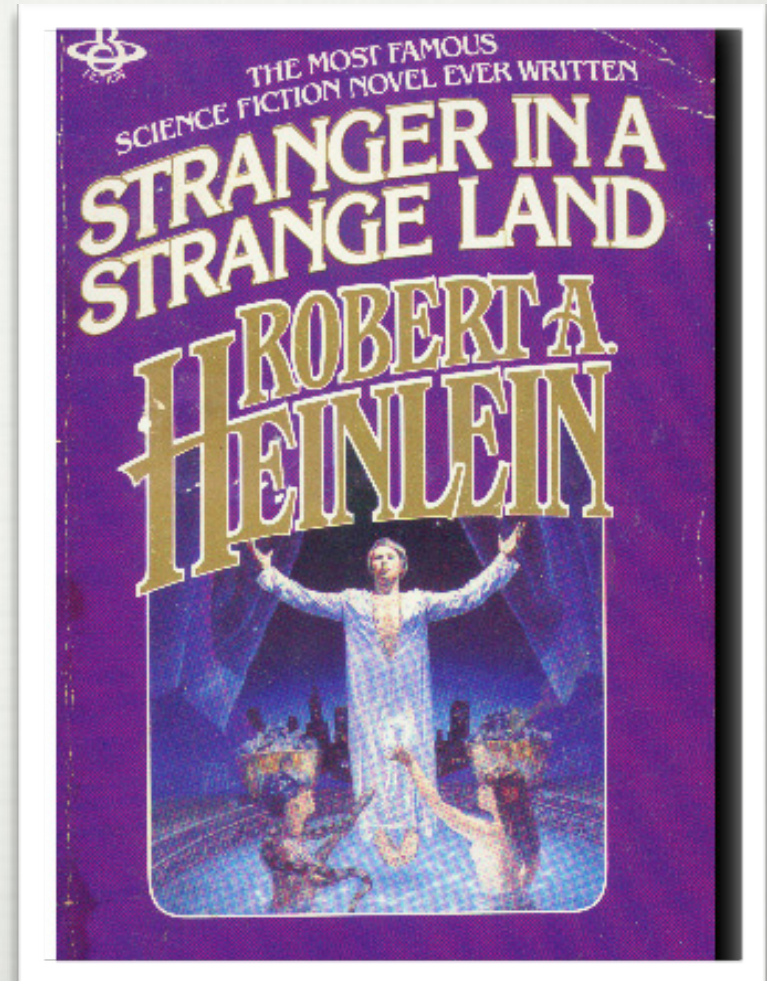
1961 BOOK CLUB EDITION



# ON SOCIAL ORDER

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- ☐ SCI-FI AS NATURALIST  
THOUGHT-EXPERIMENT
- ☐ CONSTRUCTIVIST
- ☐ BASIC FEATURES:
  1. THE USE OF LANGUAGE
  2. CAPACITY FOR  
CONNECTION DESPITE  
INDIVIDUALITY
  3. SEXUAL DIMORPHISM



1984 PAPERBACK

# "GROK"

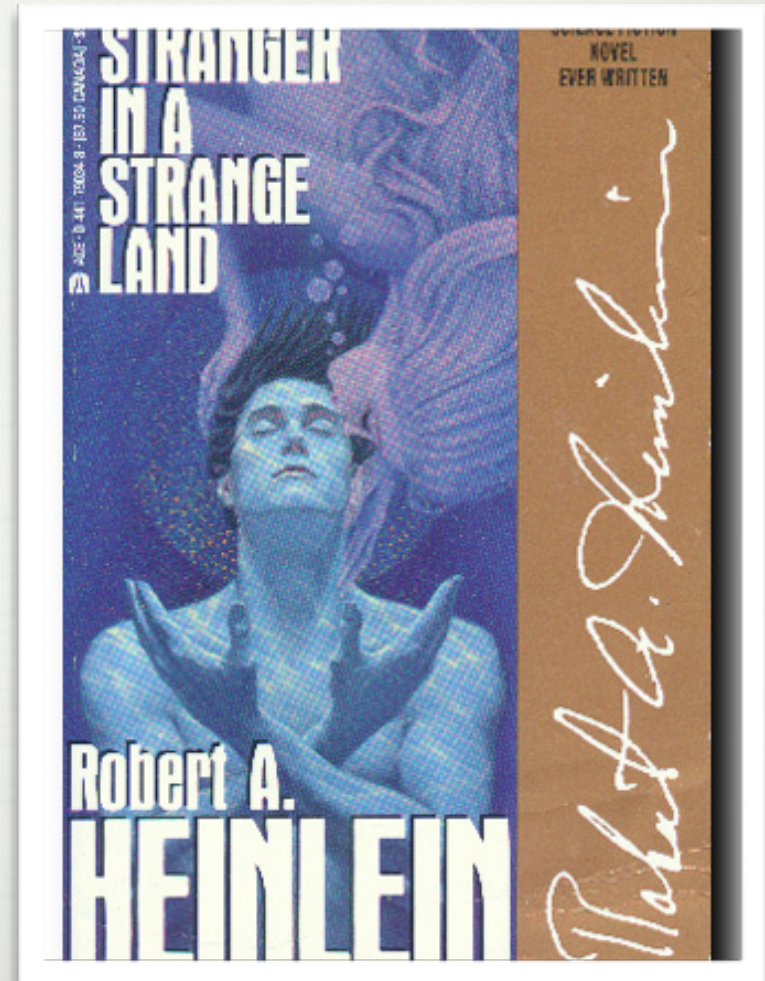
"TO UNDERSTAND INTUITIVELY OR BY EMPATHY;  
TO ESTABLISH RAPPORT WITH...TO EMPATHIZE  
OR COMMUNICATE SYMPATHETICALLY (WITH);  
ALSO, TO EXPERIENCE ENJOYMENT." (O.E.D.)

"'GROK' IS DRINK." (V.M.S.)



# THE MARTIAN LANGUAGE

- ☐ A DIFFERENT "MAP" OF THE UNIVERSE (P. 264)
- ☐ "I JUST WHISTLED TO IT IN MARTIAN" (P. 440)
- ☐ "I DO GROK...IN MARTIAN. BUT YOU KNOW, DEAREST, THAT IT DOESN'T SAY THE SAME THING IN ENGLISH... OR ANY OTHER HUMAN SPEECH." (P. 381)

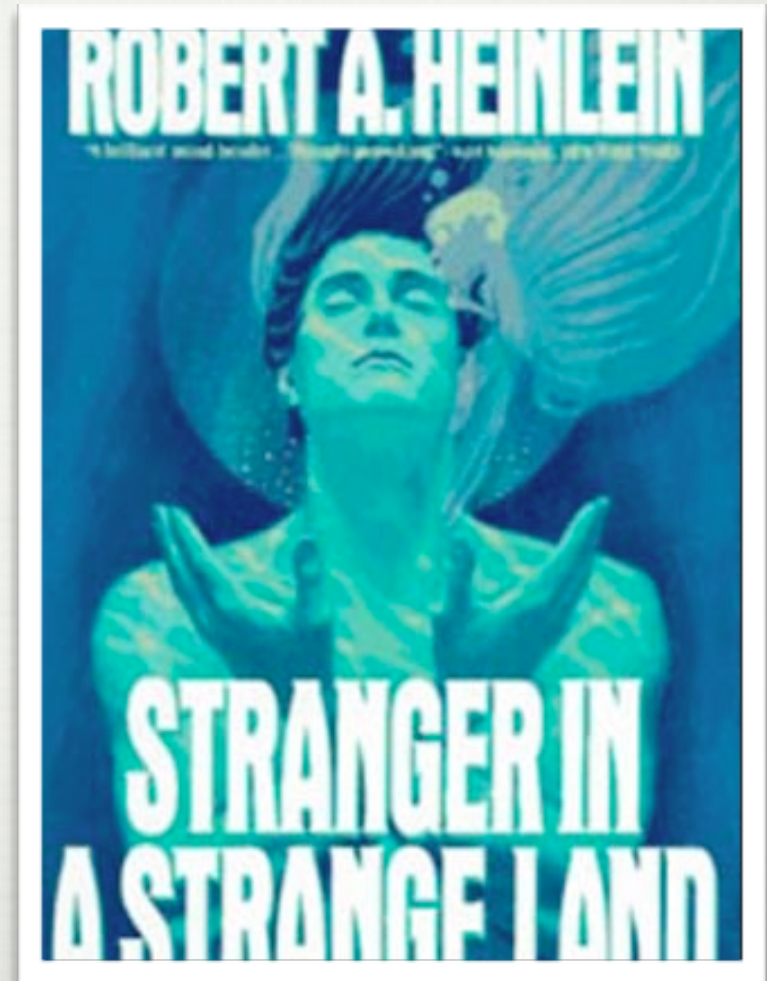


1987 PAPERBACK

# CONNECTION

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- ☐ A PRAGMATIC VIEW OF RELIGION -- EFFECTS, NOT REVELATION (P. 490)
- ☐ TELEPATHY, BUT ONLY IN MARTIAN (P. 343)
- ☐ WATER-SHARING
- ☐ GROUP MARRIAGE OF THE NEST



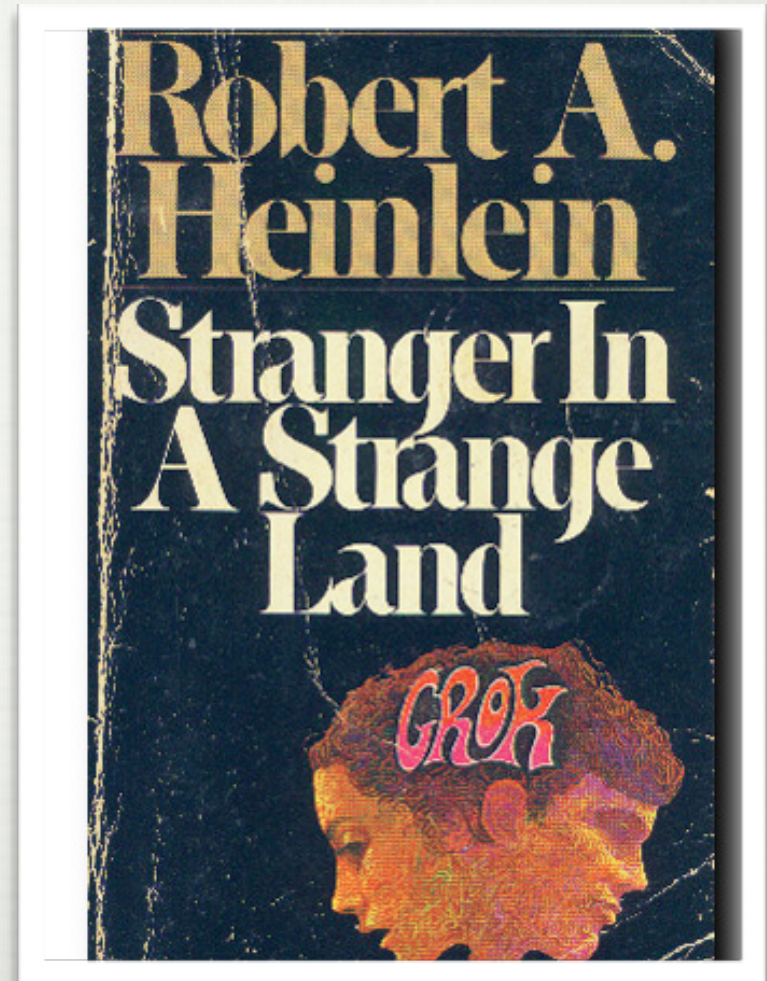
1991 PAPERBACK



# MALE/FEMALE

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- ☐ EVERYTHING DIVIDED
- ☐ HOMOSEXUALITY WOULD BE A "WRONGNESS" (P. 375)
- ☐ MEN LIKE HOW WOMEN LOOK; WOMEN LIKE HOW MEN ARE (P. 494)
- ☐ EVERYONE HAS SEX ALL THE TIME



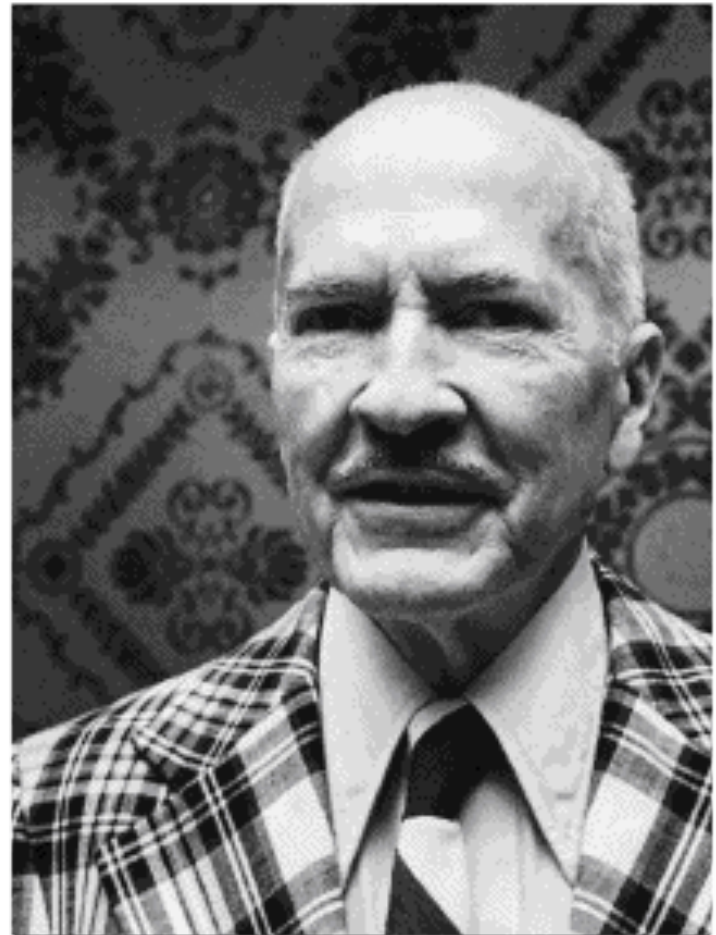
1968 PAPERBACK



# QUESTIONS

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- ☐ THE AUTHOR IS NOT A CHARACTER IN THE NOVEL
- ☐ JUBAL HARSHAW COMES CLOSEST TO R.A.H.'S OWN VOICE
- ☐ MIKE DOES NOT SUCCEED...OR DOES HE?



R.A.H.

"I WOULD NEVER UNDERTAKE TO BE A 'PROPHET,'  
HANDING OUT NEATLY PACKAGED ANSWERS TO  
LAZY MINDS...I HOPE I HAVE CONVINCED YOU THAT  
STRANGER IS DEAD SERIOUS...AS QUESTIONS.  
SERIOUS, NONTRIVIAL QUESTIONS, ON WHICH A  
MAN MIGHT SPEND A LIFETIME. (AND I ALMOST  
HAVE.) BUT ANYONE WHO TAKES THAT BOOK AS  
ANSWERS IS CHEATING HIMSELF."

(R.A.H., LETTER TO A READER, 1972)