



A Short Sharp Shock

Kim Stanley Robinson

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A man tumbles through wild surf, half drowned, to collapse on a moonlit beach. When he regains consciousness, he has no memory of who he is or where he came from. He knows only that the woman who washed ashore with him has disappeared sometime in the night and that he has awakened in a surreal landscape of savage beauty—a mysterious watery world encircled by a thin spine of land. Aided by strange tribesmen, he journeys to the cove of the spine kings, a brutal race that has enslaved the woman and several of the tribesmen. That is only the beginning of his quest, as he struggles to find her identity in this wondrous and cruel land—and seeks out the woman whose hold on his imagination is both unfathomable and unshakable.

Haunting and lyrical, filled with uncommon beauty and terrible peril, *A Short, Sharp Shock* is an ambitious and enthralling story by one of science fiction's most respected talents.

"A fabulation of life, love and beauty transplanted into the alien; a dreamy picaresque...A strange and hallucinatory short fantasy with occasional sharp insights into human natures and loves... A story that will haunt you, long after you finish reading." - Infinity Plus

"Mysterious and poetic, with vivid descriptions of the lands through which they walk...compelling." - SFF Chronicle

"Robinson shows off his vivid imagination and descriptive skills." - Science Fiction Times

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