



Ship of Fools

By Richard Paul Russo

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Home to generations of humans, the starship Argonos has wandered aimlessly throughout the galaxy for hundreds of years, desperately searching for other signs of life. Now an unidentified transmission lures them toward a nearby planet-and into the dark heart of an alien mystery.

"Powerful...Anyone who was enthralled by the aliens from the movie Alien will love Richard Paul Russo's latest masterpiece." (*Midwest Book Review*)

"[Russo] is not afraid to take on the question of evil in a divinely ordered universe."(*The New York Times*)

"A tale of high adventure and personal drama in the far future." (*Library Journal*)

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Ship of Fools By Richard Paul Russo Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

After raising some tantalizing religious issues, Philip K. Dick Award-winner Russo fails to deliver a real climax and leaves the plot unresolved in this initially suspenseful but ultimately disappointing novel. Bartolomeo Aguilera, the story's narrator, gives a haunting picture of life on the Argonos, a starship that is home to generations of humans born aboard her; no one remembers the ship's origins--its birthplace may have been Earth--but it drifts year after year "almost at random through the galaxy," without apparent purpose or goal. Finally the ship lands on an unknown planet. There the crew finds a Dante-esque scene in a chamber located deep within a jungle: "There were hundreds of bones scattered about the floor, strips of decayed flesh, pools and smears of viscous fluid. Just as it was impossible to avoid brushing against the hanging skeletons, so was it impossible to avoid stepping on bone or in thick, sticky liquid as I moved through the room." A mutiny follows. Bartolomeo is imprisoned, but when a mysterious ship, seemingly imbued with evil, shows up, he is released and named leader of an exploration team. Here the book becomes largely static and uninvolved. The hoped-for resolution never occurs, the religious questions remain unexplored, while the ending proves an all-too-familiar shaggy-God story. Perhaps a sequel will supply some answers.

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From Library Journal

The starship Argonos has wandered without purpose through space for hundreds of years when it receives a transmission from a strange planet. For the first time in memory, the crew must make decisions that could change their lives forever. The author of Carlucci's *Edge* explores the timelessness of space travel and its effects on the human consciousness while simultaneously telling a tale of high adventure and personal drama in the far future. A good choice for most sf collections.

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Review

...an ambitious novel of ideas that generates considerable suspense while respecting its sources, its characters and, most important, the reader. -- *New York Times Book Review, January 21, 2001*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marcus Casale:

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