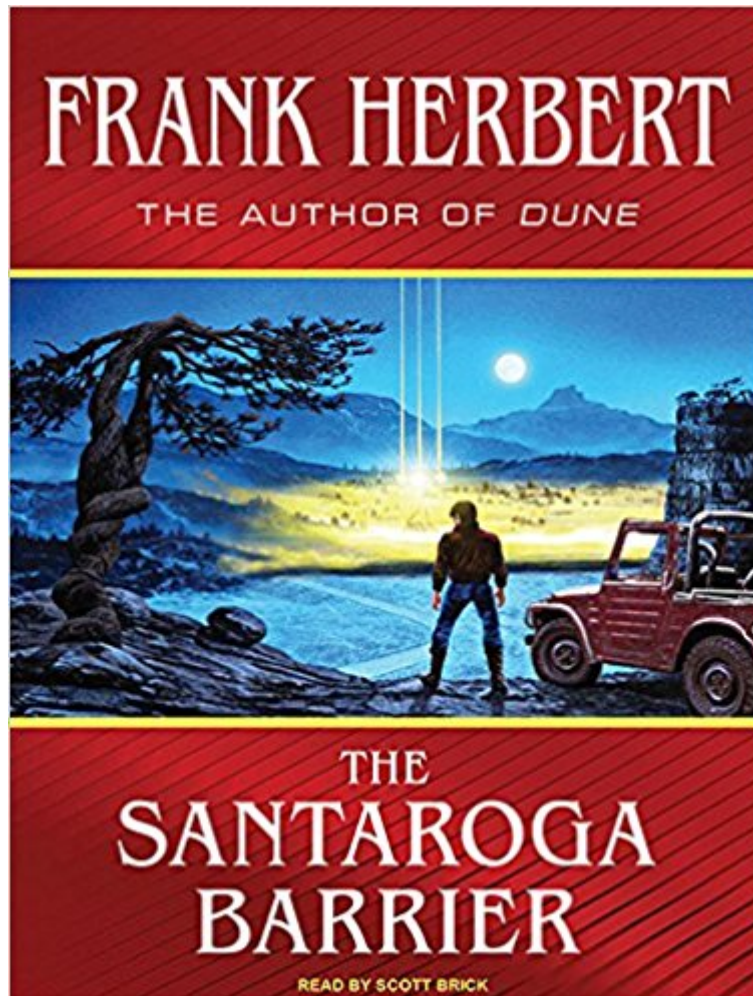




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The Santaroga Barrier



Synopsis

Santaroga seemed to be nothing more than a prosperous farm community. But there was something...different...about Santaroga. Santaroga had no juvenile delinquency, or any crime at all. Outsiders found no house for sale or rent in this valley, and no one ever moved out. No one bought cigarettes in Santaroga. No cheese, wine, beer, or produce from outside the valley could be sold there. The list went on and on and grew stranger and stranger. Maybe Santaroga was the last outpost of American individualism. Maybe they were just a bunch of religious kooks.... Or maybe there was something extraordinary at work in Santaroga. Something far more disturbing than anyone could imagine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Herbert does more than carry events forward: he deals with the consequences of events, the implications of decisions." ---St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Frank Herbert's most popular works are the well-known Dune books: Dune, Dune Messiah, Children of Dune, and the extraordinary bestseller God Emperor of Dune. Scott Brick has recorded over five hundred audiobooks, won over forty AudioFile Earphones Awards, and twice received Audie Awards for his work. Scott was chosen as Publishers Weekly's 2007 Narrator of the Year, and he has been named a Golden Voice by AudioFile magazine.

I have read this book on every vacation since discovering it in the 80's. Sadly, my original copy was destroyed when I lost everything in a fire. I can still see the mustard smear from the sandwich I ate while vacationing at Joe Wheeler State Park, the coke stain from a spilled drink onboard a plane headed for D.C. to visit my daughter and the slight crinkle of the pages when I was caught in a sudden shower on the beach at Gulf Shores. When it came time to replace it, I opted for the electronic copy so I would never lose it again. What an amazing book!!! I discovered this after reading the Dune series and rate it #1 in Herbert's novels for re-readability! A true gem.

Let's face it, "Dune" is fascinating, but there's not a whole lot of fun to be found in its pages. And the follow-ups to "Dune" weren't anywhere near as good as the first book. But "The Santaroga Barrier" - yes, it's pretty cheesy, as at least one reviewer has noted - but it's a terrific, fun read. Much closer to something Stephen King might have written than the pompous interplanetary muck of "Dune" et al. The small town, the paranoia, the engagingly thick-headed, stubborn, but fundamentally decent hero; the blindsight on the part of the townspeople about themselves; the savage accuracy of Herbert's description of "normal" consumer culture; it's all a great mix. The only Herbert book I've read that approaches it as a quick, clever read is "Whipping Star." (I didn't like "The Dosadi Experiment" nearly as well, though it was OK.) For years my only copy of this book has been a paperback with the glue completely gone and all the pages separated. I'm so glad I looked to find out if it had been reissued. This book is a treasure, and one of those few - like "Emma" by Jane Austen, "Daniel Martin" by John Fowles, or "The Honorary Consul" by Graham Greene - that I'll delight in rereading periodically for the rest of my life.

It's not his greatest work, but it's excellent nonetheless. There was clearly a transition from sounding "literary" to a more accessible prose that happened over the course of Herbert's writing. This seems to fall more towards the "literary" type prose. In all, the concept and the flow of the story were excellent. I'm glad I read it, but I probably won't be reading it again soon, as I have for The Dosadi Experiment and the "Kelp" books.

An amazing book, filled with the elaboration and detail of a bygone era. The audio version took me back to a time where my grandparents would've gathered around the radio as their story came on. The detail and style of writing is better than almost any I've ever seen, and the story itself nuanced and filled with cliffhangers.

While not on the same level as Dune, it is still a good read. The characters are well formed, if predictable, and the storyline would make for a good sci fi channel movie.

Science Fiction by Frank Herbert. I don't need to write anymore than that. I wouldn't want to ruin any part of the book for you.

I read this ages ago and wanted to re-read it and share it with a friend. The book was as described and delivered in a timely manner.

I have been a huge Frank Herbert fan for over three decades. I devoured most of his books in the 70's and only re-read the Dune series (numerous times). The Santaroga Barrier was a joy to rediscover. A wonderful book with memorable characters, this Steven King type thriller is sure to please.

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