



## Escape Attempt

*Arkady Strugatsky , Boris Strugatsky*

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**Escape Attempt** Arkady Strugatsky , Boris Strugatsky  
Contents (three short novels):

Escape Attempt  
The Kid From Hell  
Space Mowgli

## Escape Attempt Details

Date : Published May 1st 1982 by Macmillan Publishing Co. (first published 1962)  
ISBN : 9780026152501  
Author : Arkady Strugatsky , Boris Strugatsky  
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## From Reader Review Escape Attempt for online ebook

### HeartlessFaeKing says

\*crying tears of sadness and beauty\*

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### Alex says

4 stars overall for the three novellas but Space Mowgli is 5 stars.

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### Paul McAlduff says

Excellent book by the Strugatsky brothers.

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### Steve R says

An interesting, though at times difficult to read, series of three science fiction novellas, each dealing with a different extraterrestrial world. It would appear that the main weakness of all three is the authors' erstwhile efforts to maintain as detailed an imaginative construct as possible: an effort which results in a plethora of description at the expense of actual narrative action.

In 'Escape Attempt', Saul Pepnin, an historian, gets Vadim and Anton to allow him to accompany them on their vacation trip into space. Rather than going takhorg hunting on a known planet, he persuades them to visit an uninhabited planet. The hellish conditions they discover there among the wretched inhabitants whom they had not expected to encounter are truly frightful. 'This was a dark misery, an anguish and a complete hopelessness ... you felt an indifferent despair when no one hopes for anything, when ahead there is nothing but death, alone in an apathetic world.' Their attempts to help the poor people are rebuffed, and they seem to be totally powerless to do anything about the wretched conditions they've encountered. The time travel requirements necessitated by Saul's eventual revelation of his true identity make this strange world even stranger and harder to comprehend.

In 'The Kid from Hell', the main character is a professional soldier named Gack, a member of the Fighting Cat troop who are at war with 'the ratcatchers'. Grievously wounded, he is removed by the supposedly benevolent Kornei to Earth, where he is overwhelmed by the architectural, zoological and edible creations of this new world. However, he soon develops a strong suspicion of Kornei's ultimate motives. It appears possible that the more-developed Earth is simply trying to mediate and bring to a conclusion the seemingly fratricidal conflict on Gack's home world, but the motivation for such an action remains an elusive one. The protagonist's eventual return home is somewhat abrupt and inconclusive.

In 'Space Mowgli' an expedition from Earth tries to terraform another seemingly uninhabited planet by altering its flora and fauna. This effort is made on behalf of the people of Panta, whose sun is about to change, making their home planet uninhabitable. The expedition encounters the destroyed remains of a spaceship from Earth, with the bodies of the husband and wife team who manned this expedition several years earlier. 'The Kid' - who believes himself to be the sole inhabitant of this world - is their offspring, and

it appears that the subterranean-dwelling natives of the planet worked to help him survive by altering both his psyche and his physiognomy . Dissension among the four members of the expedition from Earth highlight what is a largely unresolved development of the attempt to use 'The Kid' as a conduit to contact with this extraterrestrial race of beings. To this point in future time, contact has been made with twelve such extraterrestrial races, three of which are non-humanoid. Of the remaining nine, only three have chosen to have any contact with Earth; thus the importance of this expedition's findings. Once again, however, no definitive resolution to the issues raised in such contact is postulated; the effort seeming to be more to raise questions than to provide possible solutions.

Definitely the weakest of the three Soviet science fiction works I've read (the others being the superb *Andromeda* and the interesting *Aelita*), this book is nonetheless a credible effort at an imaginative understanding of what issues will confront the human race once inter-planetary contact becomes a regular reality. Although not all that engaging, still an interesting read.

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