

= Space Science Fiction Magazine =

Space Science Fiction Magazine was a US science fiction magazine published by Republic Features Syndicate , Inc. as part of a package of radio shows and related genre magazines . Two issues appeared , both in 1957 . It published short stories by well @-@ known writers , including Arthur C. Clarke and Jack Vance , but it was not successful , and the magazine ceased publication late in 1957 .

= = Publication history and bibliographic data = =

Science fiction was one of the staple genres of American pulp magazine publishing , beginning in 1926 with Amazing Stories . A brief boom in the late 1930s was cut short by World War II , but the field expanded again in the late 1940s . By 1957 the boom had reached its height ; 24 science fiction magazines published at least one issue that year . One of the most prominent of these magazines , Galaxy Science Fiction , had a successful association with two radio shows , Dimension X and X Minus One . This sparked imitators , and during 1956 Lyle Kenyon Engel of Republic Features Syndicate put together a package of two radio shows and four magazines . The shows were American Agent , a spy drama , and The Frightened , to be narrated by Boris Karloff . The magazine package included a spy magazine and a horror magazine to tie in with the radio shows , and two additional titles : Private Investigator Detective Magazine and Space Science Fiction Magazine . Private Investigator 's first issue was published in 1956 , but problems with the radio schedules delayed the launch of the other magazines until 1957 .

Space SF 's first issue was dated Spring 1957 , although its masthead indicated that it would be a bimonthly . It was published by Republic Features Syndicate , Inc . , of New York , and edited by Michael Avallone , who was not credited on the masthead . The second issue was dated August 1957 ; this proved to be the final issue , as shortly thereafter Republic Features Syndicate went out of business . The liquidation of American News Company earlier that year , a major distributor , had led to the extinction of many magazines , as they had to scramble to find new distributors , but it is not known if Space SF was one of the victims .

Both issues were digest @-@ sized , with 132 pages , and were priced at 35 cents . The issues were numbered as a single volume with two issues .

= = Contents = =

Engel obtained stories from moderately well @-@ known science fiction names for both issues , including John Jakes , Mack Reynolds , Jack Vance , and Raymond F. Jones , but many of the stories were " barrel @-@ scrapings " from the Scott Meredith Literary Agency , in the words of one historian ; most had already been rejected at the other active science fiction markets . Space SF also published Arthur C. Clarke 's " Critical Mass " , one of the popular " White Hart " stories . It had already appeared in a 1949 edition of a British magazine , Lilliput , but Clarke revised it for this publication . Overall , in the words of Mike Ashley , " ... [it] carried stories by noted sf writers , [but] they read like rejects from better magazines , and there was nothing of lasting value " . Ashley comments that the best story was Jakes 's " The Devil Spins a Sun @-@ Dream " , which was atmospheric if poorly plotted ; the protagonist , a human prospector on Mars , finds a fabulous city , but an ancient booby @-@ trap destroys it before his eyes .

Almost every story was illustrated , with Bruce Minney as artist . Both issues ' covers were by Tom Ryan . There were no editorials , review columns , or any other contents other than fiction , and advertisements , all of which were for radio shows , including American Agent and The Frightened .