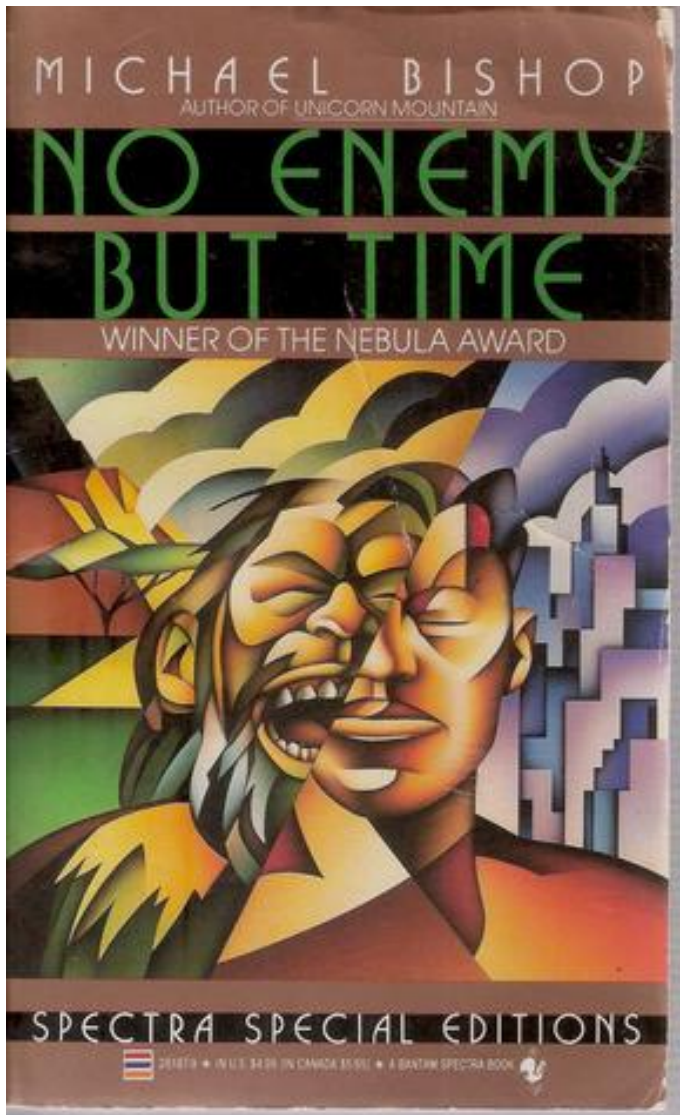

Michael Bishop

No Enemy but Time



Title: No Enemy but Time

Author: Michael Bishop

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Description

Joshua Kampa, the illegitimate son of a mute Spanish whore and a black serviceman, has always dreamed of Africa. But his dreams are of an Africa far in the past and are so vivid and in such hallucinatory detail that he is able to question the understanding of eminent palaeontologists. As a result, Joshua is invited to join a most unusual time travel project and is transported millions of years into the past of his dreams. In early Pleistocene Africa, living among the prehuman species *Homo habilis*, experiencing the same hardships and the same intense pleasures, Joshua finds, for the first time in his troubled life, not only contentment but real love - a love that transcends almost everything. Intelligent, thoughtful and deeply moving, *No Enemy But Time* brilliantly evokes the remote past and, at the same time, presents a powerful and convincing portrayal of a relationship surmounting even the most daunting barriers. It is a challenging and highly original novel exploring the nature and origins of humankind.

Insightful reviews

Don: Lots of flaws in this story. For one, it was hard to see why such a heavy investment would be made in sending a person back to what was effectively a simulacrum of a period of past time, not matter how elaborately constructed. The concept of 'objectified dreams' was intriguing, but as a US military project....?

Nevertheless the life of a habiline (*homo habilis*) band 2 million years ago is portrayed with sympathy and humanity, and the sense of what it must have been like to live with a consciousness on the verge of developed abstract thought is well evoked. The parallel tale of the 'time-travelling' Okampo's real life in the 20th century drags in part and doesn't always add a whole lot to the central theme, and the end chapter, with its hint of the possibilities of future travelling, is a bit of an anti-climax. But the story is well told and it is such a bold theme it was able to keep me going right the way through to the end.

Stig E.: The main character and narrator drops out of school at 15, yet the narrative voice is that of an old anthropologist. The remaining characters are flat stereotypes. The science is the sci-fi of the new age variety. I am not sure what the author tried to convey about bestiality, racism or colonialism but sections of the book where the author touches on these topics made me feel acutely uncomfortable.

Tyler: *No Enemy but Time* is about a time traveller who ends up living with the locals in Pleistocene Africa.

I thought it was OK, but was a bit underwhelmed. It started well, especially with the protagonist's early exploration and gradual building of trust with the early humans, but after a while I lost interest. I also found the concurrent story set in the current age also to be a bit uninteresting, and there was little exploration of the detail behind the mechanics of the time travel (even the method based on dreaming himself back in time seemed unrealistic).

Overall a bit disappointed, especially after reading the excellent Transfigurations.

Txisko: Una auténtica estafa: <http://txisko.com/2014/05/20/michael-...>

Wayne Palmer: whereas in precept an outstanding idea, the tale is misplaced slightly within the writers personal ramblings.

Stephen van Eyk: i love Michael Bishop's work, yet this simply does not minimize it.

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