



A Planet for Rent

By Yoss

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A Planet for Rent By Yoss

“*A Planet for Rent* is the English-language debut of Yoss, one of Cuba's most lauded writers of science fiction. Translated by David Frye, these linked stories craft a picture of a dystopian future: Aliens called xenoids have invaded planet Earth, and people are looking to flee the economically and socially bankrupt remains of human civilization. Yoss' smart and entertaining novel tackles themes like prostitution, immigration and political corruption. Ultimately, it serves as an empathetic yet impassioned metaphor for modern-day Cuba, where the struggle for power has complicated every facet of society” —**NPR, Best Books of 2015**

Out of the modern-day dystopia of Cuba comes an instant classic from the island's most celebrated science fiction author: a raucous tale of a future in which a failing Earth is at the mercy of powerful capitalist alien colonizers.

In *A Planet for Rent*, Yoss critiques life under Castro in the '90s by drawing parallels with a possible Earth of the not-so-distant future. Wracked by economic and environmental problems, the desperate planet is rescued, for better or worse, by alien colonizers, who remake the planet as a tourist destination. Ruled over by a brutal interstellar bureaucracy, dispossessed humans seek better lives via the few routes available—working for the colonial police; eking out a living as black marketeers, drug dealers, or artists; prostituting themselves to exploitative extraterrestrial visitors—or they face the cold void of space in rickety illegal ships.

This inventive book marks the English-language debut of an astonishingly brave and imaginative Latin American voice.

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Editorial Review

Review

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—NPR, Best Books of 2015

“Some of the best sci-fi written anywhere since the 1970s . . . *A Planet for Rent*, like its author, a bandana-wearing, muscly roquero, is completely *sui generis*: riotously funny, scathing, perceptive, and yet also heart-wrenchingly compassionate . . . Instantly appealing.”

—The Nation

“In prose that is direct, sarcastic, sexual and often violent, *A Planet for Rent* criticizes Cuban reality in thinly veiled terms . . . The book is particularly critical of the government-run tourism industry of the '90s, which welcomed and protected tourists—often at the expense of Cubans—and whose legacy can still be felt today.”

—The New York Times

“This hilarious and imaginative novel by Cuba's premiere science-fiction writer gets my vote for most overlooked novel of the year. Yoss's book imagines a world where Earth is run as a tourist destination by capitalist aliens who have little regard for the planet or its inhabitants. *A Planet for Rent* is a perfect SF satire for our era of massive inequality and seemingly unchecked environmental destruction.”

—VICE

“A compelling meditation on modern imperialism . . . A fascinating kaleidoscope of vignettes . . . A brilliant exploration of our planet's current social and economic inequities . . . Yoss doesn't disappoint, sling-shotting us around the world and the galaxy . . . Striking, detailed . . . Yoss has written a work of science fiction that speaks to fundamental problems humans deal with every day. This is not just a story about alien oppression; it's the story of our own planet's history and a call for change.”

—SF Signal, 4.5-star review

“What *1984* did for surveillance, and *Fahrenheit 451* did for censorship, *A Planet for Rent* does for tourism . . . It's a wildly imaginative book and one that, while set in the future, has plenty of relevance to the present.”

—The Bookseller

“For readers of Stanislaw Lem and William Gibson's *Sprawl* trilogy . . . An excellently written piece of sci-fi, with its rich world-building and well-crafted characters . . . Yoss has told a fictional tale that rings all too true despite the aliens and spaceships. *A Planet for Rent* is science fiction of the highest caliber. It tells us to

imagine a strange new world, and as we explore it we come to understand our own a little better."

—LitReactor

"Yoss, a famed Cuban sci-fi writer, expertly crafts numerous parallels to the conflicted history of his country and its effect on its people. In the seedy, corrupt, and ruthless world of voyeurism, there is still the hope of escape to a better future. With an excellent translation by David Frye, Yoss has produced a devastating and imaginative work that not only explores the moral dilemmas of science fiction, but of cultures that are closer to home."

—San Francisco Book Review

About the Author

Born José Miguel Sánchez Gómez, **Yoss** assumed his pen name in 1988, when he won the Premio David Award in the science fiction category for *Timshel*. Earning a degree in Biology in 1991, he went on to graduate from the first ever course on Narrative Techniques at the Onelio Jorge Cardoso Center of Literary Training, in the year 1999. Today, Yoss writes both realistic and science fiction works. Alongside these novels, the author produces essays, reviews, and compilations, and actively promotes the Cuban science fiction literary workshops, Espiral and Espacio Abierto.

When he isn't translating, **David Frye** teaches Latin American culture and society at the University of Michigan. Translations include First New Chronicle and Good Government by Guaman Poma de Ayala (Peru, 1615); The Mangy Parrot by José Joaquín Fernandez de Lizardi (Mexico, 1816), for which he received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship; Writing across Cultures: Narrative Transculturation in Latin America by Ángel Rama (Uruguay, 1982), and several Cuban and Spanish novels and poems.

Users Review

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