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## HIGH LITERARY SCIENCE FICTION

***The Kyoto Man*** A Novel by D. Harlan Wilson

Release date: April 4, 2013, distributed by Ingram

Trade paperback: 234 pages, 6x9, \$14.95, ISBN: 978-1-935738-28-2

Hardcover: 234 pages, 6x9, \$29.95, ISBN: 978-1-935738-29-9

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Raw Dog Screaming Press announces the release of *The Kyoto Man*, the third and final installment in D. Harlan Wilson's Scikungfi trilogy. Like its antecedents, *Codename Prague* (2009) and *Dr. Identity* (2007), the novel is grounded in principles of science fiction, absurdism, cult cinema and literary theory. What distinguishes the novel is its central premise. The title is no metaphor, no mere insignia of being, rank or "meaning." *The Kyoto Man* is precisely the story of a man who transforms into a city.

Such a transformation reminisces the genre of Japanese *kaiju* ("strange beast") cinema originally popularized by the Godzilla franchise, although Wilson takes his cue from more perverse and cyber-grotesque forms, such as *Akira*, *The Fly*, and especially *Tetsuo: The Iron Man*. Offering up a decidedly unusual twist on the subject, Wilson sets his *kaiju* against the background of a postapocalyptic world plagued by "timecrashes" and "zoneshifts," chronic ruptures in the space-time continuum that have rendered most human beings schizophrenic at best. Terrified by his weird, destructive affliction, the amnesiac protagonist struggles to come to terms with the impossibility of his existence, searching for the key to his identity as he negotiates crazed media personalities, evil historical icons, and psychotherapists skilled in the martial arts. Ironically, he emerges as the most "normal" character in the book. And normal, we soon learn, is the stuff of legend.

*The Kyoto Man* gleefully embraces the aesthetics of modernism in the vein of Joyce, Pound and Stein. At the same time, it points towards a future aesthetic, one that lingers beyond the periphery of our post-everything *Kultur*. In the end, the techno-irreal universe of *The Kyoto Man* and the Scikungfi trilogy manifests an infrequent (if nonexistent) phenomenon, notwithstanding narratives that have been deemed as such by educational and publishing institutions for their own dubious ends: *high literary science fiction*.

*The Kyoto Man* will be available in several formats, including a signed limited edition with bonus material as well as standard hardcover, paperback and ebook editions.

### About the Author

D. Harlan Wilson is an award-winning, critically acclaimed novelist, short story writer, literary critic, editor, and Associate Professor of English at Wright State University. In addition to numerous works of fiction and nonfiction, hundreds of his stories and essays have appeared in magazines, journals and anthologies throughout the world in multiple languages. Wilson is the reviews editor for *Extrapolation*, an academic journal of science fiction and fantasy criticism, and the editor-in-chief of *The Dream People*, a literary journal of irreal texts. For more information, visit [www.dharlanwilson.com](http://www.dharlanwilson.com) and [www.thekyotoman.com](http://www.thekyotoman.com).



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## From the Back of the Book

In the wake of the Stick Figure War, civilization lapsed into obscurity. Fallout ravaged the fabric of space and time. History digested reality and reality exhumed the future as survivors tried and failed to create a new beginning... Amid the chaos, one man experiences a terminal affliction, a revolution of the self: *the chronic transformation into the city of Kyoto, Japan*. Each transformation further plunges the world into darkness, but he's helpless against the lethal clockwork of his body, his psyche, his mindscreens—and nothing, not even Fate itself, can stop him from becoming God... In the third and final installment of the Scikungfi trilogy after *Dr. Identity* and *Codename Prague*, acclaimed author D. Harlan Wilson composes a narrative grindhouse that combines elements of science fiction and horror with pop culture and literary theory. Erudite, ultraviolent, and riotously satirical, *The Kyoto Man* reminds us how, at every turn, reality is shaped by the forces that destroy it.

## Advance Praise for *The Kyoto Man*

“Not only philosophical and analytic reflection can be found hiding out in SF but even the work of revaluation and reinvention of artistic genres and styles. Against the yawning horizon of contemporary narrative D. Harlan Wilson turns up the vertical contrast of poetic prose. I was invited by my students to visit, as the one it takes to know another one, his laboratory of endopsychic science fiction. Following the deferral of my resistance to the proposed transference of recognition value, I finally did enter. But what took me by surprise was not as much the visualizable elements of the fictional world/word or its intellectual properties—served up on a splatter—as the exploration of poetic style carried forward, to my mind, from a recent repressed past of invention. The Scikungfi trilogy is our continuity shot with Ezra Pound's *The Cantos*.” —**Laurence A. Rickels, Sigmund Freud Professor of Media and Philosophy at the European Graduate School and author of *I Think I Am Philip K. Dick, Nazi Psychoanalysis and The Vampire Lectures***

“D. Harlan Wilson's Scikungfi trilogy explodes pulp science fiction into new galaxies of frenzied prose that paints the imploding future as a funhouse of pop culture and avant-garde literature. *The Kyoto Man* goes a dimension or so further, mixing fractured narratives of SF with Hollywood pop into a postmodern scene that out-Burroughses Burroughs and makes Kerouac's trips seem square.” —**Douglas Kellner, Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University and author of *The Postmodern Turn and Media Spectacle***

“D. Harlan Wilson writes with the crazed precision of a futuristic war machine gone rogue. He is devastatingly good.” —**Lavie Tidhar, World Fantasy Award-winning author of *Osama* and *The Bookman Histories***

“A dark, trippy tale that pays homage to the past masters.” —**Fred Olen Ray, cult writer/director of *Alien Dead, Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers, Bikini Frankenstein and Buck Rogers Begins***

“Believe the hype this time. D. Harlan Wilson has more talent than you can throw an axe at.” —**Will Elliott, ABC Fiction Award-winning author of *The Pilo Family Circus***