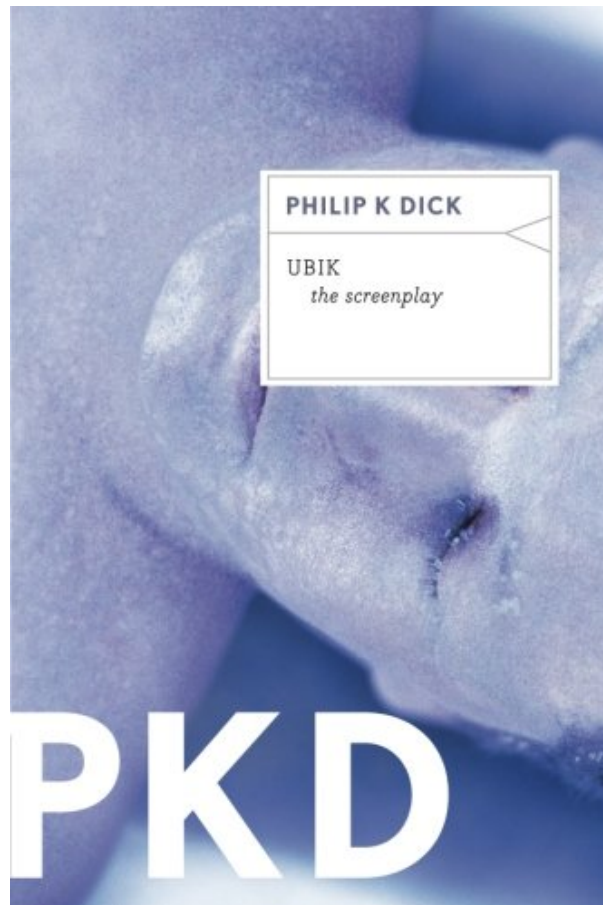
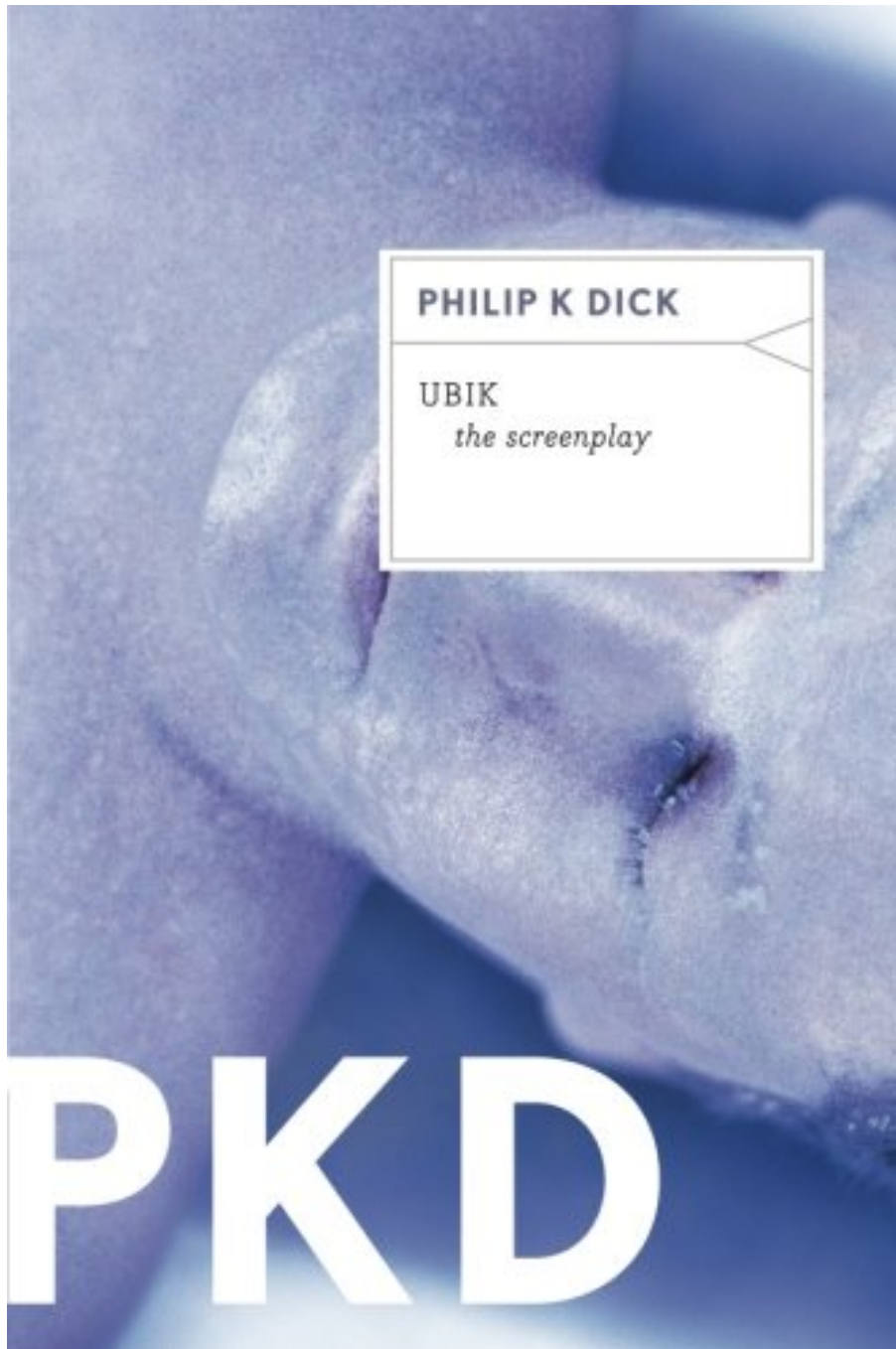


UBIK: THE SCREENPLAY BY PHILIP K. DICK



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“An accident has occurred. Joe Chip and his colleagues—all but one of them—have narrowly escaped an explosion at a moon base. Or is it the other way round? Did Joe and the others die, and did the one fatality, Glen Runciter, actually survive? . . . From the stuff of space opera, Dick spins a deeply unsettling existential horror story, a nightmare you’ll never be sure you’ve woken up from.”—Lev Grossman, *Time*

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Over a writing career that spanned three decades, PHILIP K. DICK(1928–1982) published 36 science fiction novels and 121 short stories in which he explored the essence of what makes man human and the dangers of centralized power. Toward the end of his life, his work turned toward deeply personal, metaphysical questions concerning the nature of God. Eleven novels and short stories have been adapted to film, notably *Blade Runner* (based on *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*), *Total Recall*, *Minority Report*, and *A Scanner Darkly*. The recipient of critical acclaim and numerous awards throughout his career, Dick was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2005, and in 2007 the Library of America published a selection of his novels in three volumes. His work has been translated into more than twenty-five languages.

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Most helpful customer reviews

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

UBIK -- SAFE WHEN USED AS DIRECTED -- PLEASE SEE BELOW.

By sft

Caution: UbiK may cause cranial implosion in those unfamiliar with the work of Philip K. Dick.

If you are new to the work of PKD I would strongly suggest that you buy the original novel version of this work rather than this screenplay. This is an interesting work for a self-confessed Dickophile such as myself but it's debatable whether it would be of much interest to the casual reader.

Phil has written an interesting but quite unusable script. He undoubtedly understood the differences between novel and script writing, and this piece shows this awareness initially, but Phil soon forgets that he's writing for the screen. As the piece moves on he appears to be using it as a vehicle to revisit the ideas in the original book. Many scenes are way too long and there is far too much expositional dialogue. Had this been taken up by a studio it would've spent an eternity in "development hell". In fact I think this would be more successful as a radio play.

I unreservedly recommend PKD's work, but stick to the novels and short stories. It's in these formats that he excels. This still warrants 4 out of 5, however, because I found it fascinating.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

A good read, if not a great adaptation

By Kindle Customer

I was fortunate enough to get a copy of this in the 1980s, when it was available only in a rare limited edition. It's great to see it back in print and widely available.

This screenplay was commissioned by a French film maker and is written by PKD; to my knowledge this is the only screenplay Philip K. Dick ever wrote. As such it's probably not filmable, particularly for today's limited-attention audience, but it's as readable as any of Dick's prose, and a creditable effort for someone with no background in screenwriting.

In addition to following his novel closely, Dick takes the opportunity to add some new twists to his original story, making it somewhat less ambiguous and more linear.

UBIK is still my favorite PKD novel, and I enjoyed this different version of Dick's vision. If there is a movie in the works, it won't look anything like this. A shame; while this might not be viable for a film, it would certainly be a good place to start.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

When do we get to see the movie?

By Tessa B. Dick

This screenplay, which the author based on his own novel, focuses more on action than the novel did. It does, however, remain faithful to the novel. The long speeches by the main character, Joe Chip, would be better given to a voice-over narrator. Overall, it's fun to read and would make a good movie. Unfortunately, Halcyon is not using this screenplay.

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