



## Downtiming the Night Side

*Jack L. Chalker, Vicente Segrelles (Cover Artist)*

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**Downtiming the Night Side** Jack L. Chalker , Vicente Segrelles (Cover Artist)  
Vintage paperback

## **Downtiming the Night Side Details**

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Author : Jack L. Chalker , Vicente Segrelles (Cover Artist)

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## From Reader Review Downtiming the Night Side for online ebook

### **Matt Greening says**

A very interesting take on time travel, amazing narrative and a well thought out story.

Bounces around a lot, but to be expected.

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### **Patrick Scheele says**

Writing a time travel story requires a lot of thought before you start. You have to figure out what the exact rules of time travel are in your world and how you're going to deal with the inevitable paradoxes. You also have to know what your characters are going to change in the past and what effect that has on the present. That's going to require research. For example, if you kill off Marx when he's young, is that going to prevent communism from arising or is communism just intellectual cover for the rise of dictatorships/police states and will those just pick a different cover?

In this book, the way time travel works changes whenever the writer wants it to. Go 100 years into the past and you become a new person of that era. Ok. But, go millions of years into the past and that doesn't happen. Huh? There are lots of other frustrating details like that.

The future never really changes, no matter what happens. It takes the "heroes" a lot of effort to slightly influence the war going on in the future, when logically it shouldn't be that hard. Some useful intel or technology in friendly hands or a couple of hidden bombs in the right places, set to go off at the right time. Maybe some assassinations.

Basically, this book has a cool title, but that's about where the fun ends. The writer obviously did not think the story through before he started to write. He just wanted his paycheck.

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### **angie says**

I read this a long, long time ago (early 90s) and it still sticks in my mind. It's time travel, but don't get any ideas that it's the time travel of Jack Finney's world. This is a very bleak, even disturbing book, but it's worth reading for the plots and characterization. more on this soon...

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### **Kate says**

Very poorly written, but perhaps worth reading if only because you will never read anything else like it.

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## **Craig says**

This is a time traveling story with a lot of body switches and loops and turns. A little complicated, but some nice action scenes. My biggest issue is that none of the characters is really interesting. If half stars were available here, I would have rated this at 2 1/2. The book has some good scenes and it's a fun idea, just couldn't get into the characters.

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## **John says**

Grade B-.

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## **André Pereira says**

Good entertainment book. Not exactly "Science Fiction". It is fiction. Lacks science.

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## **Rick says**

Singleton, not a series

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## **Manny says**

The TV Tropes Screw Yourself page informs me that this is yet another book which contains heinlein. The same page also lists the following:

*Timemaster*

*The Coming of the Quantum Cats*

*With a Tangled Skein*

We're now up to eight! I've started a Listopia list.

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## **Michael Brady says**

Intricately and deftly plotted, "Downtiming the Nightside" is among the very few time travel stories I've read or seen that didn't make me roll my eyes and shake my head. I haven't read any Jack Chalker before but I will be happy to try him again.

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### **Mark Palmer says**

I've read most books by Chalker. This is one of the most complex time travel stories I've ever read, but the pacing and writing style just weren't up to par with Chalker's other works.

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### **Tasula says**

time travel as the ultimate weapon

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### **Ken Selvia says**

I was initially skeptical of the convoluted and seemingly arbitrary explanations for the time travel mechanisms. It seemed like Chalker could have devised simpler devices that made more sense. So I recommend you stick with it and suspend disbelief for the first half of the book, and everything will eventually come together in a satisfying and fairly intricate way, which I always appreciate.

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### **Nick Seeley says**

Growing up, Chalker was one of my favorite authors--because of his rollicking adventure plots, and the fascinating legions strange non- and semi-humans who populated his stories, but most of all because of his unending interest in ideas of transformation and identity: how much does our body shape who we are? When it changes, what do we become?

This book is neither his best plot nor his best prose, and yet it is in many ways my favorite: an utterly original exploration of the time travel idea, which sees travelers forced to inhabit new bodies as they fight a war across the centuries. Reminiscent of Delany or Lem in its scope and breadth of imagination, with complex and elegantly drawn characters, this is a wonderful novel of ideas.

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### **Mouse says**

Jack L. Chalker writes in the classic style of science fiction writers who seek to warn us not to screw up the future or that technology can both heal and harm.

Haven't met the man, I think he may be a little too pessimistic about humanity, but will certainly admit that as a species we do seem to hang close to that flame that could snuff us out.

Downtiming is one of my favorite Chalker stories because it pulls me into a world where we can literally become someone else. And I admit being fascinated with the idea of experiencing life across racial and gender lines. In this story, time travel is realized, but the scientist discover that time doesn't like being

tampered with. If you go into the past for very long, the time stream will shift reality enough to make you fit and the danger could be that you loose yourself in the process.

If you like this sort of tale, I'd also recommend Chalker's 'The Identity Matrix'. And for those that enjoy humour mixed with fantasy 'The River of the Dancing Gods' is a fun read.

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