

hear and now

Arts and Entertainment

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The Force of

FANTASY FANTASY FANTASY

Rex and Brooke wanted to go to the movies Friday night. They were looking over the entertainment section of the paper.

"Gosh," said Rex, "*Superman, the Body Snatchers, Lord of the Rings*... nothing but fantasy and science fiction films."

"If I didn't know any better," said Brooke as she flipped back her head to remove some strands of golden blonde hair from her gorgeous blue eyes, "I'd say there was a conspiracy afoot."

"Conspiracy?" asked Rex, astonished.

"Yes, conspiracy," Brooke said defiantly, her gorgeous blue eyes shining with a fiery intensity. "I think some alien force is trying to divert the minds of Americans from the world's real problems and turn our children into mindless idiots."

"Don't be ridiculous," Rex snapped.

But a tremor passed through him as he realized that although he had been unable to name his Congressman in political science class that morning, he knew the names of all the members of the Superheroes' Justice League of America, all the main cast actors in the 1933 version of *King Kong* and all the characters (major and minor!) in both the *Ring* and *Foundation* trilogies.

"Something terrifyingly strange is happening to us all!" thought Rex.

For the thoughts of science fiction novelist Kate Wilhelm on this invasion of fantasy fiction's "force" into our collective consciousness, please turn to Page 4B.