

THE DISTANT STAR'S SHADOW

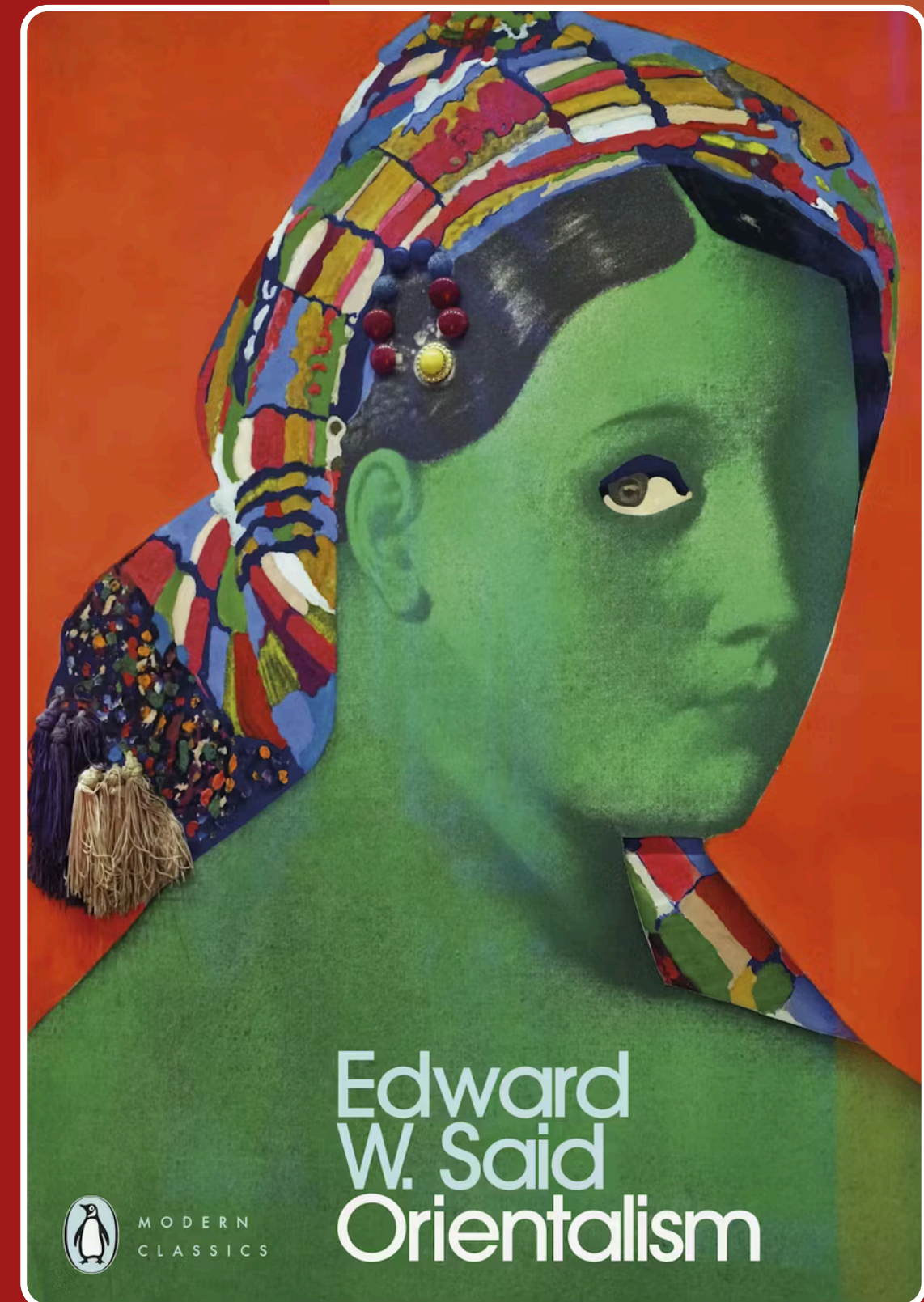
FIGHTING SCI-FI'S IMPERIAL NARRATIVE

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COLONIALISM, THE BROAD STROKES

- How is colonialism perpetuated?
 - Othering and Selfing : 'us' and 'them' dynamic.
 - Frames the other as lower than the self
 - Imperial ideology & preconceptions perpetuated by tradition.
 - Academic
 - Artistic
 - etc...



COLONIZATION, IN MY SCI-FI?!

- Recontextualization / projection of colonial narratives and history within SF
- Three main narratives according to Greg Gerwell
 - **Explorative** : Initial contact, suffering of the explorer
 - **Domesticating** : Establishing home on the frontier
 - **Combative** : colonize or be colonized/make the unfamiliar familiar.

THE NARRATOR

BEGINS REMOVED FROM IMPERIALISM / UNSUBJECTED



ENTRY 1: IS A SUBALTERN, SUBJUGATED BUT ABSENT FROM TEXT



ENTRY 2: BECOMES AN OTHER, SUBJUGATED BUT PRESENT IN TEXT



ENTRY 16: BECOMES A SELF, DIRECTLY INTERACTS WITH THE TEXT AND SELF

MAIN THEMES

THE SUBLIME AND THE UNIQUENESS BALANCING ACT

THE POWER OF IMPERIAL DETERMINATION AND TRADITION

EXPLORATION OF COGNITIVE DISSONANCE IN RELATION TO COLONIALISM

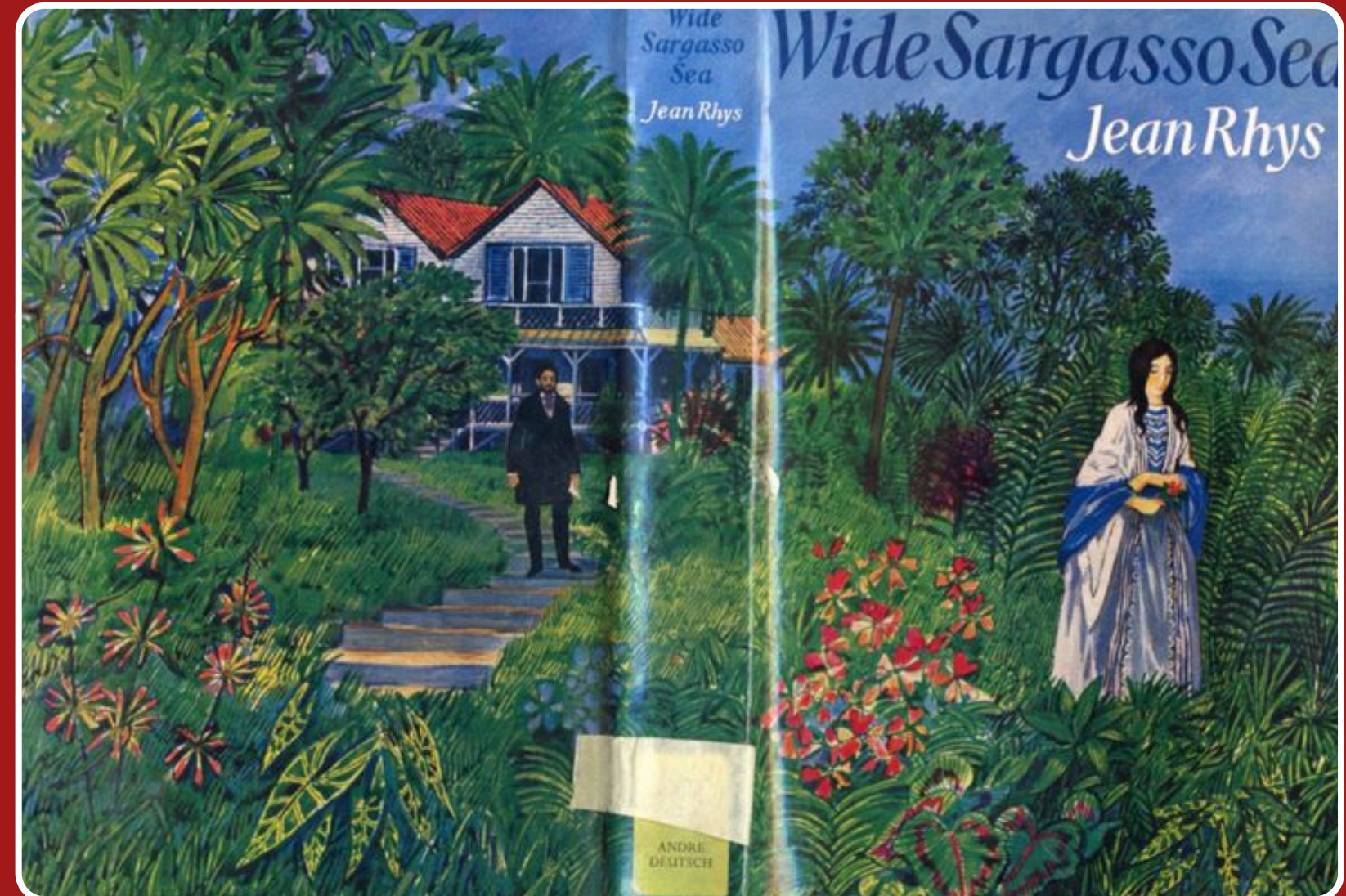
WHY AN EPISTOLARY NARRATIVE?

- Enables unreliable narration
 - Historical narratives tend to be unreliable
- creates juxtaposition between two diverging narratives and worldviews



TEXTUAL INTERACTION

- The narrator breaks free of othering through interaction with text, but must become a self
 - Inspired by Spivak's assertions
 - Some power over their ability to appear in text, but only when they are a self
 - Narrator's fracturing of text breaks traditional narrative flow



DECONSTRUCTING THE SUBLIME

- **To experience the sublime is to experience something which inspires awe and horror simultaneously**
 - The Narrators sublime quality as a unique characteristic/controlling the uncontrollable
 - Loss of the sublime quality indicative of being subsumed into the self?



IMPERIAL DETERMINATION AND KNOWLEDGE

- **In Orientalism, European knowledge of Asia and North Africa is used as justification for colonization**
 - Europe: Must dominate for the good of the world
 - The Orient: Must be dominated for their own good
- **In 'The Distant Star's Shadow', knowledge is also used a tool of oppression**
 - Humans: Will use the world for more important ends
 - The Entity: Is dangerous / will limit human progress
- **BOTH ARE FOUNDED ON A PREEXISTING TRADITION REMOVED FROM THE COLONIZED.**

COGNITIVE DISSONANCE & COLONIALISM

- Main concept : Cognitive Dissonance
 - There must be consistency between our attitudes and behaviors
 - Otherwise we experience cognitive dissonance
- Cognitive dissonance and colonialism
 - Cognitive dissonance resolved by placing the self above the other
 - Resolution results in perpetuation and reinforcement of colonial world view

THANK YOU!

