



Strange and Fantastical: The Art of Wayne Barlowe  
[Life, the Universe, & Everything 2018](#)

Welcome to “Strange and Fantastical: The Art of Wayne Barlowe” here at *Life, the Universe, & Everything 2018*.

## Introduction of Panelists

Let each panelist introduce themselves (start at the end of the table opposite the moderator): name, a brief background, and their interest in Barlowe.

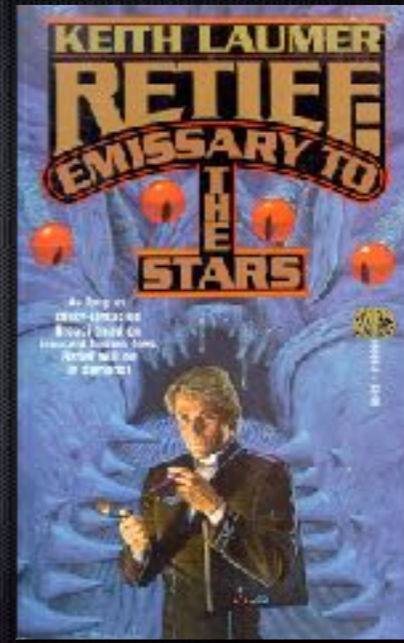
Moderator introduction.

# Barlowe Biography

- Born in 1958 in Glen Cove, New York
- Parents were Sy and Dorothea Barlowe, both natural history artists
- Attended the Art Students League and The Cooper Union in New York
- Apprenticed in the Exhibition Department of The American Museum of Natural History
- First pro work was the *Instant Nature Guide to Insects*
- Created over 300 book and magazine covers from 1977-2001
- In addition to his art, his first novel, *God's Demon*, was published in 2007

Moderator will go over this information quickly.

Retief  
Keith Laumer



Moderator: Barlowe did a series of covers for Keith Laumer's series, all featuring Jame Retief, a diplomat working for the Corps Diplomatique Terrestrienne (CDT).

Devon Dorrity will discuss these.



(The following is in case someone asks what the covers are from)

Covers (clockwise from left): *Retief and the Warlords*, *Retief and the Pangalactic Pageant of Pulchritude*, *Retief in the Ruins*

# The Gug

from *The Dream-Quest of  
Unknown Kadath* by H.P.  
Lovecraft



# Bran Mak Morn

by Robert E. Howard





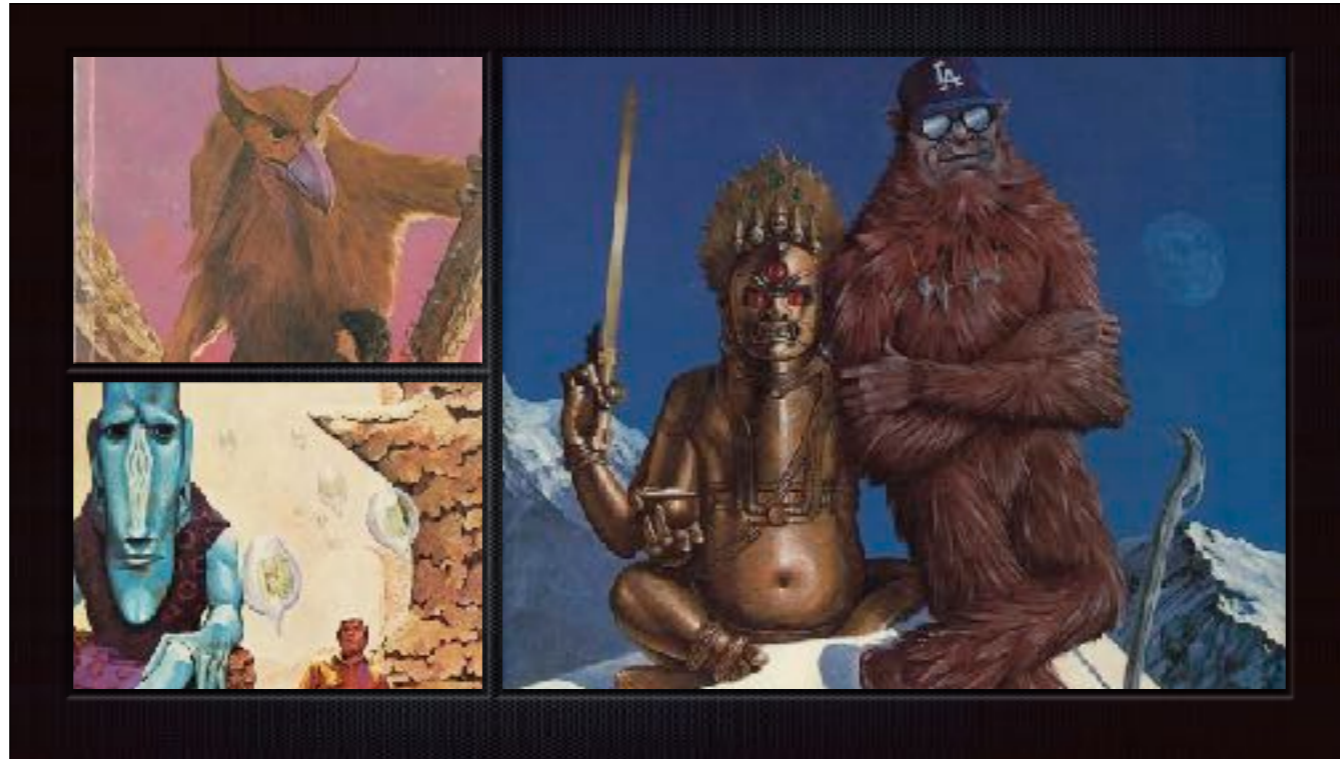


## Creature Anatomy

From the derivative to the hyperexotic

(In case someone asks which covers these are, left to right)

*Welcome to Mars* by James Blish, *Expedition* art book by Wayne Douglas Barlowe



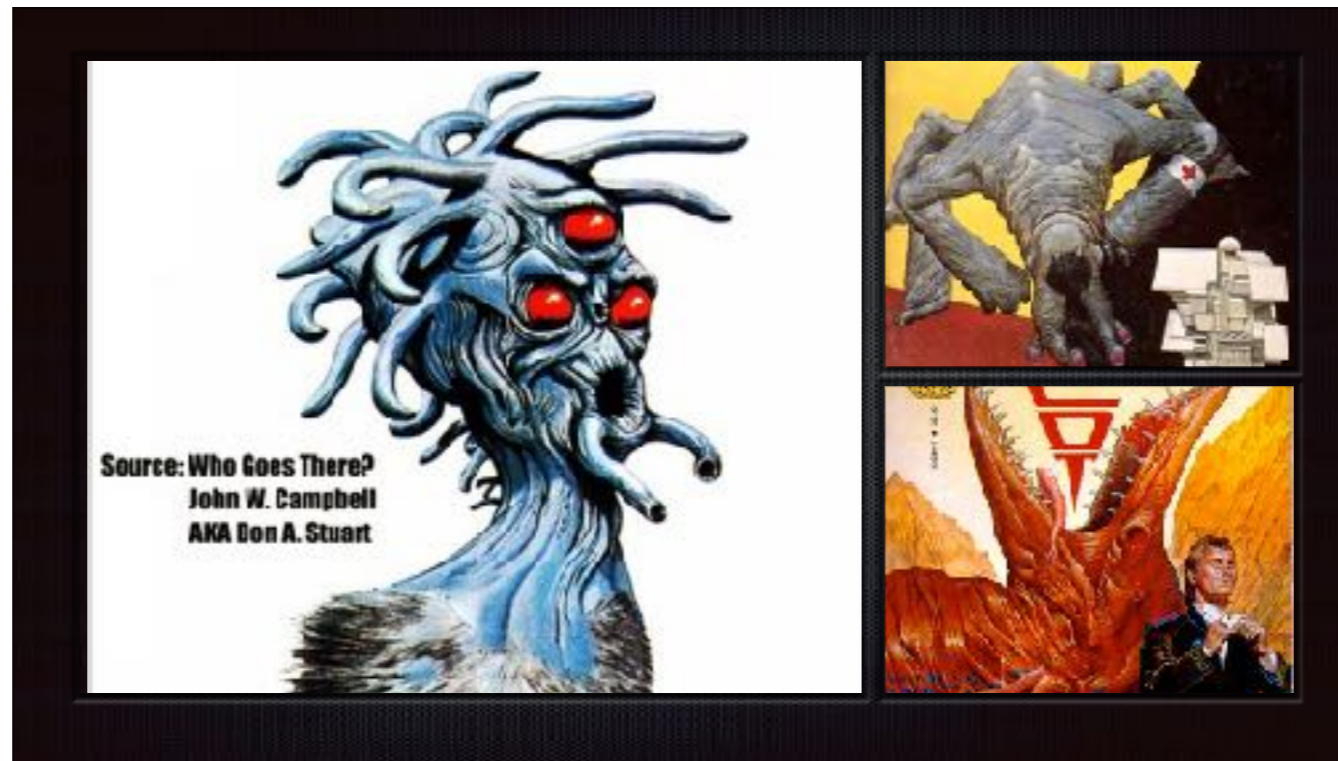
### **Derivative Creatures**

(in order of appearance)

*Escape from Kathmandu* by Kim Stanley Robinson (Bigfoot, Hindu mythology)

*Mission to the Heart Stars* by James Blish (Moai, jellyfish)

*The Lion Game* by James H. Schmitz (owl, lion, bear, toucan)



## Hyperexotic Creatures

(clockwise from left)

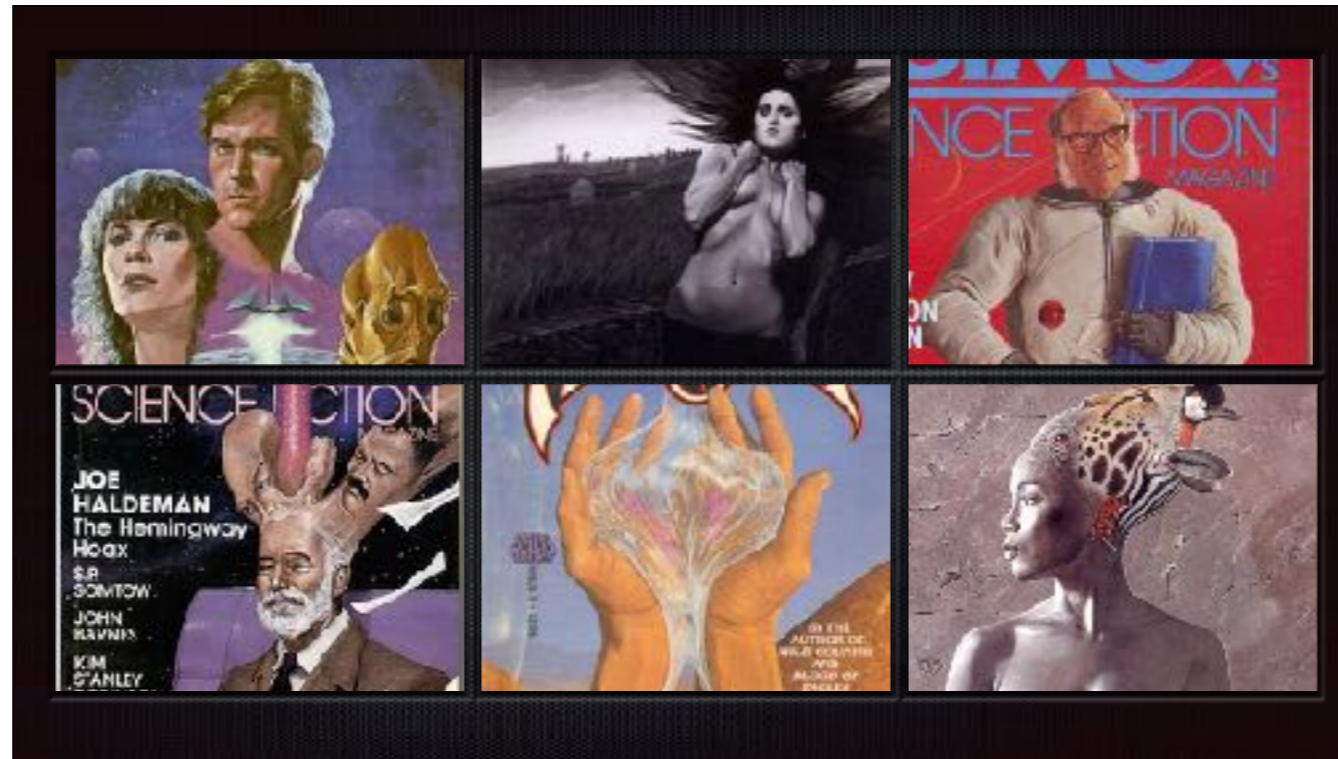
*Who Goes There?* by John W. Campbell (Don A. Stuart)

*Major Operation* by James White

*Relief of the CDT* by Keith Laumer

## Amazing Anatomy

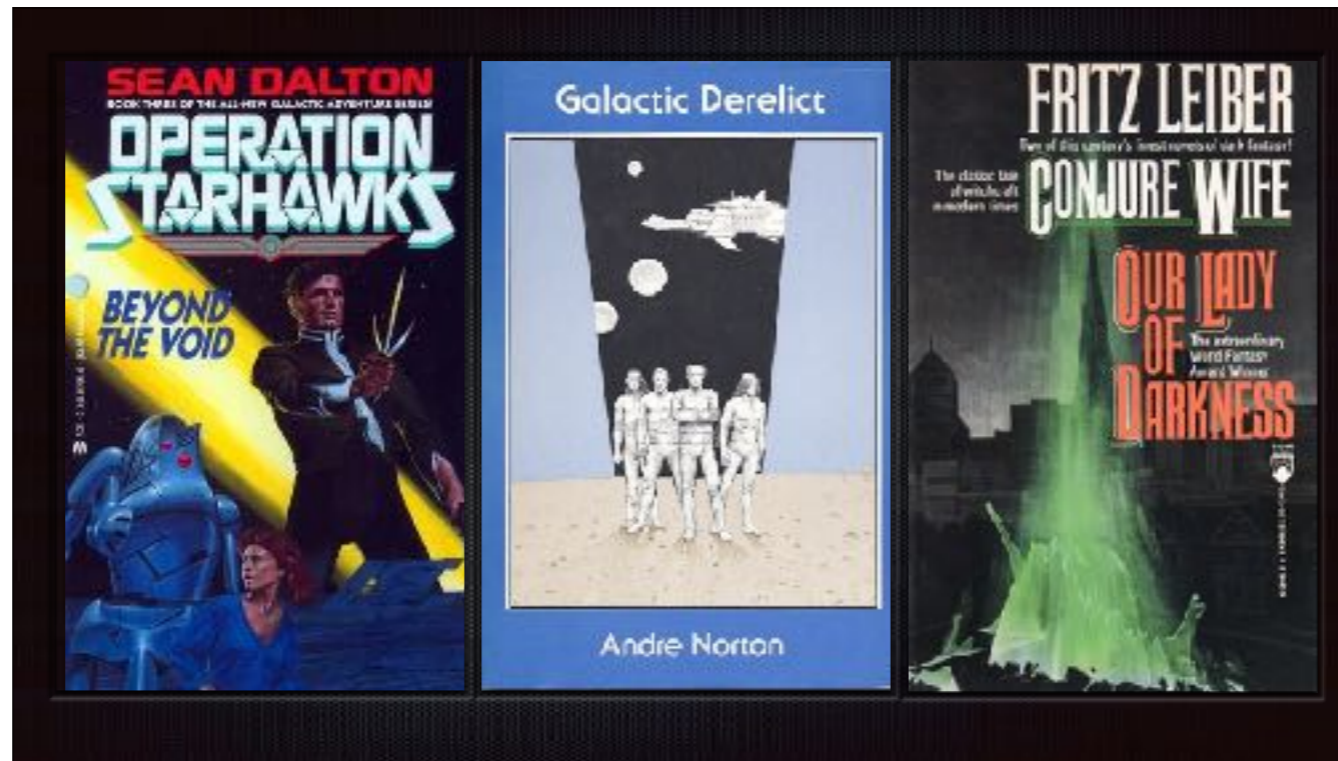
Barlowe was known for his detail and precision with hands, faces, and other parts of the anatomy. He was very good at capturing the likeness of people, as well. For example...



(left to right, top row first)

*The Alien Debt* by F.M. Busby — *The Book of the Dead* by Tanith Lee — cover of *Asimov's*, November 1991  
cover of *Asimov's*, April 1990, featuring Hemingway — *Anasazi* by Dean Ing — *Wild Seed* by Octavia E. Butler

Weaknesses

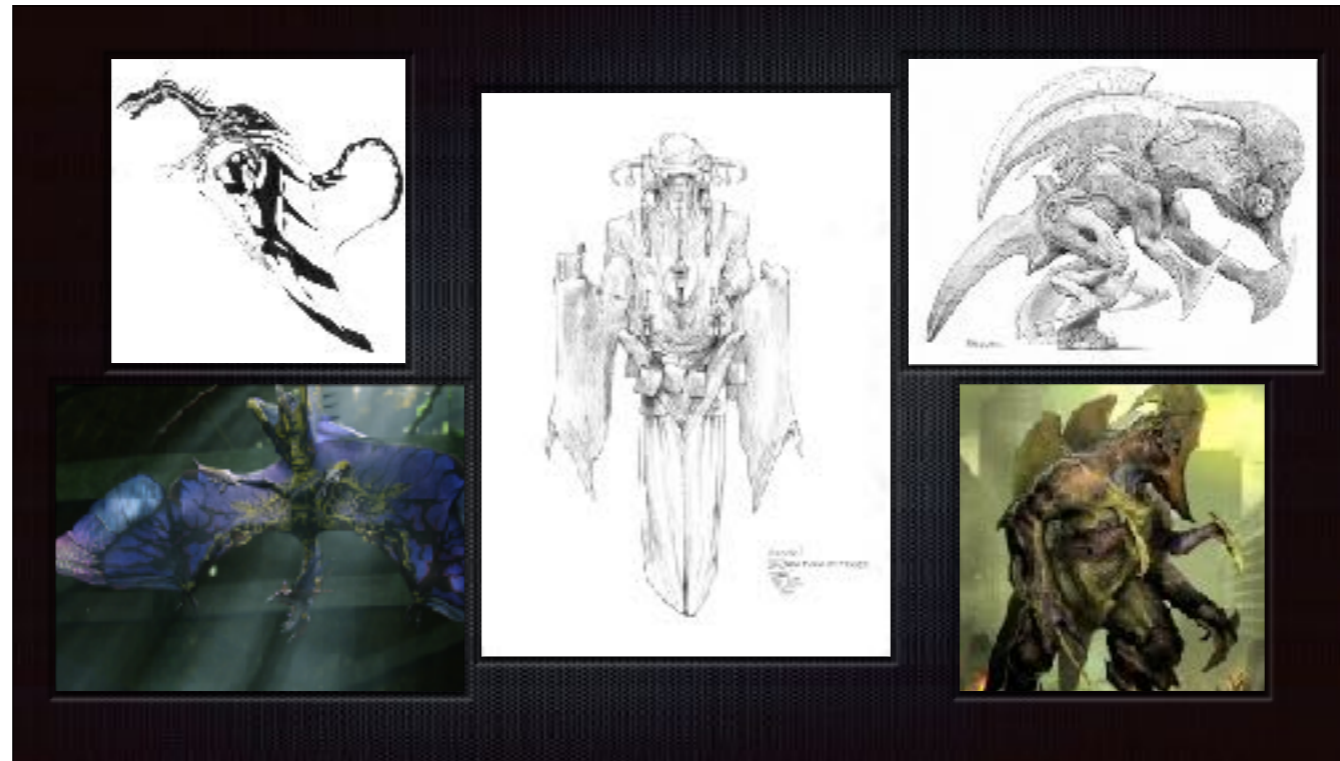


(Devon)

Areas where his work suffers include color, composition, and style. His work does not always hold up to some of the other masters because the scenes are often too static or contrived, and they don't make use of movement the way that Frazetta or Whelan do. His works don't always pull you in with color and composition, and then keep you captivated with strong stylistic elements. His work is still very strong, and it's clear he made and continues to make a huge contribution to fantasy/sci-fi art.

At the Movies





(left to right, by column)

Stingbat design from *Avatar* (top), Stingbat in the film

Sacred Fluid Dispenser vendor from *Hellboy 2*

Kaiju from *Pacific Rim* (design sketch and colored version)

## Film and Television Work

- *Avatar*
- *Babylon 5: Thirdspace*
- *The Day the Earth Stood Still*
- *Galaxy Quest*
- *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
- *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*
- *Hellboy*
- *Hellboy II: The Golden Army*
- *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*
- *John Carter*
- *Pacific Rim*
- *Titan A.E.*

Barlowe has worked in the art department doing conceptual designer, character designer, creature designer, and visual designer. He was also executive producer on *Alien Planet*, a documentary about what life might be like on a planet very alien from ours.

# The Art Collections

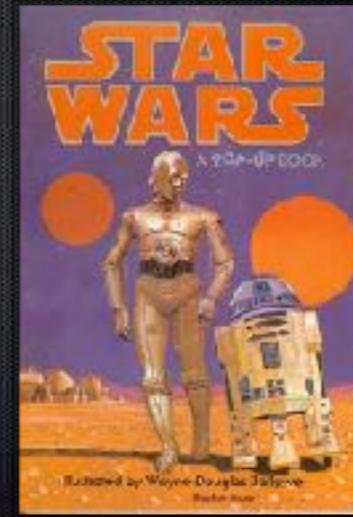
Art books containing Barlowe's works



Books, cards, and portfolio collections.

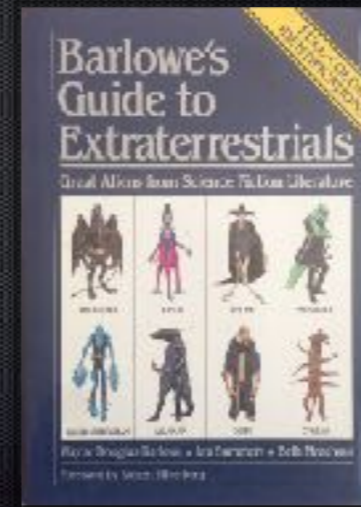
# Star Wars: A Pop-Up Book

- Released in 1978
- Aimed at middle grade (surprise!)



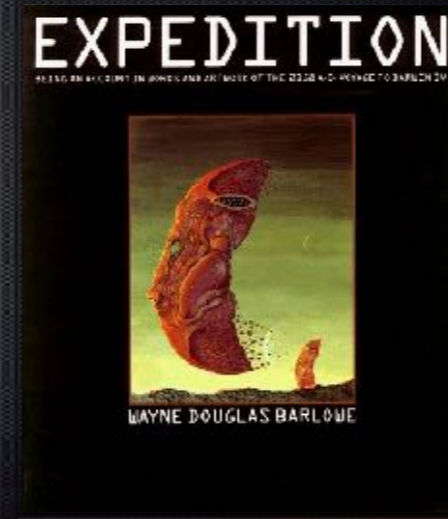
# Barlowe's Guide to Extraterrestrials

- First released in 1979
- Second edition in 1987 (right)
- Nominated for Hugo
- Won Best Illustrated Book (*Locus*, 1979)
- Arguably his most famous book



# Expedition: Being an Account in Words and Artwork of the A.D. 2358 Voyage to Darwin IV

- Released in 1990
- Fictional report of an explorer
- Nominated for a Chesley
- Expensive now
- Designs from this book were used in 2005 *Alien Planet* documentary



# The Alien World of Wayne Barlowe

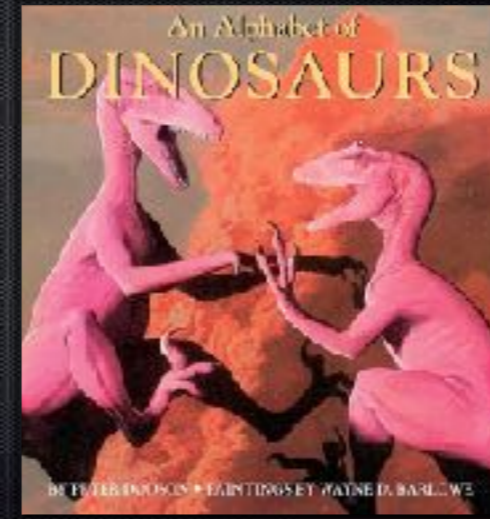
- Released in 1994
- Set of collector cards featuring art from many book covers
- 90 regular + 6 prism cards
- Full list: <http://www.nslists.com/barlowe.htm>



You can easily find unopened boxes of these cards.

# An Alphabet of Dinosaurs

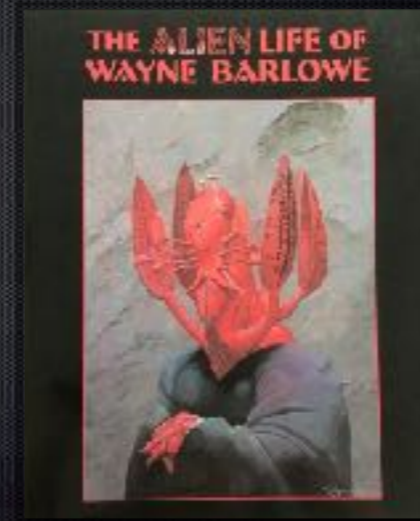
- Released in 1995
- Authored by Peter Dodson
- No spec-fic content (it's all based on the scientific knowledge of the time)





# The Alien Life of Wayne Barlowe

- Released in 1995
- Contains majority of sf/f work to this point
- Easily available



# Barlowe's Guide to Fantasy

- Released in 1996
- Similar to his *Extraterrestrial* book, but for fantasy and horror
- Easily available



# Barlowe's Inferno

- Released in 1998
- Barlowe's interpretations of Hell and its inhabitants from many mythologies and traditions
- Expensive now



Maybe not the best gift for young children.

## Brushfire: Illuminations from the Inferno

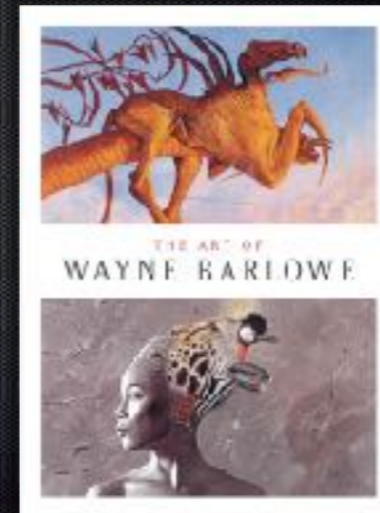
- Released in 2001
- Portfolio of 15 full color works and other drawings
- Similar themes to *Inferno*
- Easy to find



Sorry, don't have a good cover image for this one. They were all really, really small.

# The Art of Wayne Barlowe

- Released in 2016
- 160 pages of artwork
- Contains a lot of his film work
- Easy to find



## Resources on Wayne D. Barlowe

- <http://waynebarlowe.com/>
- <http://www.isfdb.org/cgi-bin/ea.cgi?1818>
- <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0055297/>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wayne\\_Barlowe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wayne_Barlowe)

These are resources where you can find a lot more information about Barlowe: his personal website, the Internet Speculative Fiction Database, the Internet Movie Database, and Wikipedia (though the article needs some love).

Thanks for coming!