



# Communipath Worlds: The Communipaths, Furthest, and At The Seventh Level

*Suzette Haden Elgin*

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## Communipath Worlds: The Communipaths, Furthest, and At The Seventh Level Details

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Author : Suzette Haden Elgin

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Seventh Level Suzette Haden Elgin**

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## **From Reader Review Communipath Worlds: The Communipaths, Furthest, and At The Seventh Level for online ebook**

### **Mark Terry says**

Definitely older work by Elgin. The feminist perspective comes through strong in three tales featuring strong women. In the first, a mothers love outweighs both duty and common sense. In the second, a sex slave fights to integrate her culture with a wider world. In the third, a female leader fights prejudice. The style is a bit stilted. The common thread, secret agent Coyote Jones, ends up detracting from the stories with stereotypical 60s James Bond style dialogue and attitudes.

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### **Mark Argent says**

a brilliant, biting satire of Heinleinian super-competency and Laumerian "diplomacy". at least, i'm fairly sure the intent was satirical. i hope it was. as i'm pretty sure most modern readers haven't read Retief and aren't as enamored with Heinlein's work as folks were in the 1960s/1970s, the joke is going to fly over their heads, and they will likely find Coyote Jones and his adventures obnoxious, culturally and sexually chauvinist, and discordant. i only got it in retrospect, myself. hard to recommend.

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### **Hannah says**

These books were definitely sci-fi fluff (although there's very little fluffy about it). The main character, Coyote Jones, is a government agent sent on various missions. Two out of the three books take place mostly in cultures that severely repress women. But they are all very creative worlds and the books are all pretty short, so it was a fun trilogy.

I found a book at used-book store that features a cross-over between Coyote Jones and Responsible Brightwater, where Jones visits the Ozark world on government business. But I was afraid to read it in case it ruined the Ozark world.

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### **Sheryl says**

I really enjoy this author but this book (3 linked novellas really) was a little disappointing. She has great female characters, but ultimately what they want is to make to love to the male protagonist.

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### **Anna says**

I'd read this author's "Gentle Art of Verbal Self Defense" decades ago, but missed learning about her fiction output til after her death.

I picked up some used copies just to see what I think.

This book is three novellas in one volume.

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I only enjoyed the first one. The others? Eh.

I'm guessing the author was aiming for a feminist viewpoint, or trying to create worlds that make us think about the stereotypical gender roles of modern life in new ways.

All these decades after their initial publication, a lot of this comes across rather differently than the author likely intended, and not in a good way, IMO. Some of the opinions expressed were likely kind of radical in their day, but now seem a bit dated, and blinkered, if not actually laughable.

There's also a gee-whiz, whimsical quality to much of the fiction I've read by this author, and after a while it gets on my nerves.

Not one to re-read, at least for me.

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### **Mary says**

This was a "have to" read in college for my SF course; I actually like her later works much better, and have enjoyed reading them.

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### **Autumn says**

I bought this book for the cover which featured a scantily clad woman in a purple lamé two piece and silver cape, arm raised above her head about to smack the hell out of a cowering male in a Roman inspired outfit, complete with a helmet upon which a purple, reptilian bird was perched. Oh and a large archaic machine sat between the two with green and red lights shining upon the soldier.

Still not exactly sure what part of the book that picture referenced but it got me to buy it. The three stories center on Coyote Jones, a ginger with a temper and a government agent who travels to missions disguised as a folk singer, an apparently still viable career option in 3028. Each story features a strong female character, but for their beauty, intellect, and power, they ultimately need Coyote Jones to save them and sleep with them.

The plots were interesting but always abruptly interrupted with Coyote sleeping with the virgin heroins. It reached pinnacle of ridiculousness when the Poet Jacinth met with him in the middle of his investigation into her *possible poisonings and murder attempts* to request that he sleep with her. Really? While I am sure the author Communipath Worlds proves that sometimes you just can't shake your cultural baggage even given the limitless possibilities of sci-fi.

Having said that, I really enjoyed Elgin's descriptions: the colorful waters of Furthest at night, the dancing flowers on Abba, Bess's skillful telepathic abilities. The worlds, characters, and story lines were enough to keep me reading.

Communipath Worlds makes a conscious effort at cultivating feminist ideas but ultimately gets tangled in

characters in very traditional gender stereotypes (angry, outspoken male and calm, virgin women).

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## **Elijah says**

I liked it a lot, even though the stories could occasionally be a bit forced in terms of writing. The recurring plot point that Coyote sleeps with most of the alien women he comes across did seem a bit archaic in terms of modern sensibilities, but then again, these stories were written in the early 1970s. You can't expect them to be totally modernised.

The overall effect of the stories was that they were very much a fun read, and I'd recommend this to anyone who can find a copy of this rare pulp sci-fi classic.

P.S.: It's damn good to see a writer who knows what they're talking about with regard to linguistics. :-)

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