

Variations in the Canonical Text of Philip K. Dick's "The Gun"

This is the fifth of a series of documents in which I intend to compile and publish a list of variations between the original published text of Philip K. Dick stories and the "canonical" texts established in COLLECTED STORIES (Underwood/Miller 1987). I will also list any variations that I find between the original text and the text in the perennial reprints in the U.S. (Citadel Twilight 1990-1992, later Citadel Press) and the ongoing reprints from Subterranean Press. Where a Project Gutenberg text is available, I will also note all variations between that text and the original. In addition, I will consult the text of stories in other Dick collections and the electronic texts that I have for the Sony Reader in order to resolve ambiguities or to determine where a variation was first introduced. Although I have access to several British reprints of COLLECTED STORIES, I will not typically consult those texts.

I report all differences in the words and punctuation, regardless of significance. But I usually ignore stray marks, variations in "house style," and the spacing of punctuation. I do not report ambiguities in the original text such as in hyphenation and capitalization unless I think there is a strong case that the reprint texts depart from what Dick wrote. However, I intend to eventually document Dick's use of hyphenation in a separate project.

"The Gun" was first published with one illustration in Volume 5, Number 8 of *Planet Stories*, dated September 1952. According to the U.S. copyright registration for that issue (B362867), it was published on May 22, 1952. I count 4,764 words in the story. The story was not reprinted in any Dick collections until COLLECTED STORIES. I am working on the assumption that no original manuscripts for this story are extant and that Dick did not have a "preferred" text.

Project Gutenberg published "The Gun" in the United States in 2009 as a public domain electronic text (with the original illustration in some versions), available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/29132> .

I have found eighteen variations from the original published text in the COLLECTED STORIES text. All but one of the variations are present in the first printing of VOLUME ONE of the Underwood/Miller, Citadel Twilight, and Subterranean Press editions that I consulted. The other variation is only present in the Underwood/Miller edition. Five of the variations are present in the HTML version of the Project Gutenberg text that I consulted, which includes one other variation but otherwise matches the original text. I include snippets of text in the table below for each variation, with the relevant portion underlined. I have listed page numbers from Planet Stories, Underwood/Miller (identical pagination in Citadel), and Subterranean. The notes represent my opinions about these variations. Except where I have noted, none of the variations are present in the Project Gutenberg text. Although I believe that the Project Gutenberg text is good, I leave creation of a "corrected" text as an exercise for the reader.

ID	Original Text	Reprint Variations	Notes
A	<p>He <u>tried</u> to smile, but his lips stayed unmoved.</p> <p>— Planet Stories 46</p> <p>— Citadel 35</p> <p>— Subterranean 49</p>	<p>He <u>tired</u> to smile, but his lips stayed unmoved.</p> <p>— Underwood/Miller 35</p>	<p>erroneous word change in the Underwood/Miller edition that was corrected in the later U.S. reprints; in the British editions that I have, the error is present in Gollancz (1988) and Millenium (1999), but not Grafton (1990)</p>
B	<p>“I think we’ll go right back; I know most of the crew <u>want to</u>.</p> <p>— Planet Stories 47-48</p>	<p>“I think we’ll go right back; I know most of the crew <u>want to go</u>.</p> <p>— Underwood/Miller 36</p> <p>— Subterranean 50</p>	<p>erroneous word added</p>
C	<p>tell them what we found, and that we—” [spacebreak] He staggered.</p> <p>— Planet Stories 48</p>	<p>tell them what we found, and that we—” ¶ He staggered.</p> <p>— Underwood/Miller 36</p> <p>— Subterranean 50</p>	<p>dropped spacebreak; the change appears unnecessary, though arguably needed to complement the next variation</p>
D	<p>we’ve got to land the ship!” ¶ It was night.</p> <p>— Planet Stories 48</p>	<p>we’ve got to land the ship!” [spacebreak] It was night.</p> <p>— Underwood/Miller 36-37</p> <p>— Subterranean 51</p>	<p>added spacebreak; the change appears appropriate because the transition is especially abrupt</p>
E	<p>He was wearing a pressure suit; there were still many <u>small, leaks</u>, and radioactive particles</p> <p>— Planet Stories 48</p>	<p>He was wearing a pressure suit; there were still many <u>small leaks</u>, and radioactive particles</p> <p>— Underwood/Miller 37</p> <p>— Subterranean 51</p>	<p>corrected punctuation; this correction is also present in Project Gutenberg</p>
F	<p>“I have a hand <u>weapon.</u>” Dorle nodded.</p> <p>— Planet Stories 49</p>	<p>“I have a hand <u>weapon,</u>” Dorle nodded.</p> <p>— Underwood/Miller 39</p> <p>— Subterranean 54</p>	<p>erroneous punctuation change; this is a bit subtle, but Dorle’s disagreement with Nasha’s statement that they had no armaments does not fit with a nod, which instead goes with Dorle’s next statement agreeing with Tance about going on to the city</p>

ID	Original Text	Reprint Variations	Notes
G	After a time Dorle <u>said</u> . ¶ “Nasha, you know, I think we’re being watched. — Planet Stories 50	After a time Dorle <u>said</u> . “Nasha, you know, I think we’re being watched. — Underwood/Miller 40 — Subterranean 55	corrected paragraph change; this correction is also present in Project Gutenberg
H	He hesitated a moment and <u>then</u> tossed the rock high in the air. — Planet Stories 50	He hesitated a moment and <u>the</u> tossed the rock high in the air. — Underwood/Miller 41 — Subterranean 56	erroneous word change
I	the vanes contracted. [spacebreak] The rock fell to the ground. — Planet Stories 50	the vanes contracted. ¶ The rock fell to the ground. — Underwood/Miller 41 — Subterranean 56	dropped spacebreak; the change appears unnecessary, though arguably needed for consistency
J	<u>And</u> by that time we’ll be dead,” Nasha said bitterly. — Planet Stories 51	“ <u>And</u> by that time we’ll be dead,” Nasha said bitterly. — Underwood/Miller 41 — Subterranean 56	corrected punctuation; this correction is also present in Project Gutenberg
K	He stared into the dark yawning <u>hole</u> . — Planet Stories 51	He stared into the dark yawning <u>hold</u> . — Underwood/Miller 42 — Subterranean 58	erroneous word change
L	The steps were thick with <u>dust</u> and rubble. — Planet Stories 51	The steps were thick with <u>dusk</u> and rubble. — Underwood/Miller 42 — Subterranean 58	erroneous word change
M	I can’t think of any other <u>way</u> .” — Planet Stories 51	I can’t think of any other <u>way</u> .” — Underwood/Miller 42 — Subterranean 58	corrected punctuation; this correction is also present in Project Gutenberg
N	“Oh, stop <u>it</u> ” Nasha said impatiently. — Planet Stories 52	“Oh, stop <u>it</u> ,” Nasha said impatiently. — Underwood/Miller 43 — Subterranean 59 “Oh, stop <u>it!</u> ” Nasha said impatiently. — Project Gutenberg	corrected punctuation; the original is ambiguous, but the Project Gutenberg correction is perhaps too heavy-handed
O	Even I could deal with <u>it</u> <u>alone</u> .” — Planet Stories 52	Even I could deal with <u>it</u> .” — Underwood/Miller 44 — Subterranean 60	erroneous dropped word

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P	But that's <u>all!</u> — Planet Stories 52	But that's <u>all.</u> — Underwood/Miller 44 — Subterranean 60	erroneous changed punctuation
Q	it took just five more days to make it <u>space worthy.</u> — Planet Stories 53	it took just five more days to make it <u>spaceworthy.</u> — Underwood/Miller 45 — Subterranean 61	erroneous word change; this change is also present in Project Gutenberg
R	After a <u>moment</u> a red warning light flashed — Planet Stories 53	After a <u>moment,</u> a red warning light flashed — Underwood/Miller 45 — Subterranean 62	erroneous punctuation change

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