



**The Götterdämmerung Show**  
Kadrey, Richard

**Published:** 2002

**Categorie(s):** Fiction, Science Fiction, Short Stories

**Source:** <http://www.infinitematrix.net/stories/shortshorts/kadrey12.html>

### **About Kadrey:**

Richard Kadrey is a novelist, freelance writer, and photographer based in San Francisco. Kadrey's first novel, *Metrophage*, was published in hardcover in 1988 by Victor Gollancz Ltd., and went on to various other American and foreign printings in paperback. Mac Tonnies' *Cyberpunk/Postmodern Book Reviews* calls *Metrophage* "one of the quintessential 1980s cyberpunk novels," going on to describe "a gritty acid-trip through an ultraviolent L.A. where nothing is what it seems... . Alongside novels such as [William Gibson's] *Neuromancer* and Lewis Shiner's debut novel *Frontera*, *Metrophage* helped establish the cyberpunk aesthetic: relentless, paranoid and playfully cynical." Kadrey's second novel, *Kamikaze L'Amour*, is described by the same source as "mesmerizing... a surreal (and distinctly Ballardian) account of synesthesia and mutant desire set in the jungle-choked ruins of L.A." Kadrey's short story *Carbon Copy: Meet the First Human Clone* was filmed as *After Amy*. The publisher website, Amazon booksellers, and other sources list a July 15, 2007 publication date for Kadrey's next book, *Butcher Bird: A Novel Of The Dominion* (Night Shade Books). Other works include collaborative graphic novels and over 50 published short stories. His non-fiction books as a writer and/or editor include *The Catalog of Tomorrow* (Que/TechTV Publishing, 2002), *From Myst to Riven* (Hyperion, 1997), *The Covert Culture Sourcebook* and its sequel (St. Martin's Press, New York, 1993 and 1994); Kadrey also hosted a live interview show on Hotwired in the 1990s called *Covert Culture*. He was an editor at print magazines *Shift* and *Future Sex*, and at online magazines *Signum* and *Stim*. He has published articles about art, culture and technology in publications including *Wired*, *Omni*, *Mondo 2000*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *SF Weekly*, *Ear*, *Artforum*, *ArtByte*, *Bookforum*, *World Art*, *Whole Earth Review*, *Reflex*, *Science Fiction Eye*, and *Interzone*. Source: Wikipedia

### **Also available on Feedbooks for Kadrey:**

- *Butcher Bird* (2005)
- *Metrophage* (1988)
- *Zombie* (2002)
- *A Cautionary Tale* (2002)
- *SETI* (2002)
- *Mudrosti* (2002)
- *Second-Floor Girls* (2002)
- *Bad Blood* (2002)
- *Ubiquitous Computing* (2002)

- *Chronalgia* (2002)

**Copyright:** Please read the legal notice included in this e-book and/or check the copyright status in your country.

**Note:** This book is brought to you by Feedbooks

<http://www.feedbooks.com>

Strictly for personal use, do not use this file for commercial purposes.

At the end of time, humans invented a machine that trapped all the gods of the universe so that they could be put on display in the Ontology Wing of the new World Culture Museum.

Finding themselves imprisoned, the gods at first tried to cajole the humans into freeing them. "After all, we created you," the gods told the humans.

"It was we who invented you through our belief," the humans replied.

"You are our children."

"You are physical manifestations of ancient and primitive neuroses," the humans told the gods.

Infuriated, the gods hurled threats at the humans. This brought more humans to see the opulent display of divinity.

The Norse gods were the first to rebel at their captivity. They let loose Fenrir, the wolf, to devour the sun and, thus, begin Ragnarok, in which both gods and humans would be annihilated. But the human's elegant machines provided all the light and warmth they needed and protected the earth from such trifles as a missing star. Odin, Thor, Loki, and the other Norsemen attacked each other in frustration. More humans came to observe the divine carnage. The other captive gods grew restless and fearful.

Shango, the Yoruban war god, called down storms on the museum. Mithra threw armored horsemen. Durga, riding a Tiger across the heavens, transformed into Kali, who took frenzied slashes at the humans with her eternally bloody scythe. Leopard-cloaked Huitzilopochtli called down lightning and thunder. The Christian, Muslim and Hebrew deities called down fires, floods, plagues, earthquakes, swarms of locusts and worms, hurricanes, madness, miscarriages, impotence, blindness. The energy fields that protected the earth from the destruction of the sun shrugged off most of the gods' collective fury, though a gray rain fell on the museum steps for a moment or two, much to the delight of the line of patrons, which now stretched from the museum's door and wrapped around the planet twice.

Then the gods did something unexpected to the humans — they prayed. Being gods already, the humans didn't understand who the gods were praying to. But pray they did, on hands and wings, floating in the air, banging sealskin drums and standing in fire, all the gods humanity had ever dreamed of prayed in unison to something the humans couldn't fathom.

The world rumbled. The sound was muffled by the earth's many protective machines, but noticeable nonetheless. Then the gods began to

change. They shrank in both stature and anger. Just when the humans thought the gods might shrink to nothing at all, they realized the gods had metamorphosed into hundreds of golden hummingbirds. As if at a signal, the glittering birds rose up in a clatter. With a whoosh, they rose into the sky, climbing higher and higher, far beyond the range of mortal birds. And when they reached the protective shield that surrounded the earth to keep the universe at bay, the birds were vaporized one by one until they were all gone. The only god who remained was Uxmal, the crippled Mayan dwarf who was very good at building, but slow to walk and, apparently, to fly away.

With the loss of most of the gods, humans quickly deserted the museum. Uxmal was raffled off to the family of a patron who took him to his estate in the ruins of a human city that had been built thousands of years earlier under the polar ice cap. Missing the sight of the stars, Uxmal returned to the surface world and built himself a mile-high tower of ice and local stone. Warm in his tower, Uxmal enjoyed the company of children and taught them magic tricks, though he kept the best tricks to himself, so that he would always be asked to perform at the children's birthday parties.

**Loved this book ?  
Similar users also downloaded**

Richard Kadrey

---

*Heat Island*

Richard Kadrey

---

*Ice House*

Richard Kadrey

---

*Iron Wit*

Richard Kadrey

---

*Herzog's Benediction*

Richard Kadrey

---

*Jump Start*

Richard Kadrey

---

*Field Trip*

Richard Kadrey

---

*The Mad Hatter*

Richard Kadrey

---

*Mementos*

Richard Kadrey

---

*The Birth of Athena*

Richard Kadrey

---

*Interspecies Communication*



**[www.feedbooks.com](http://www.feedbooks.com)**  
Food for the mind