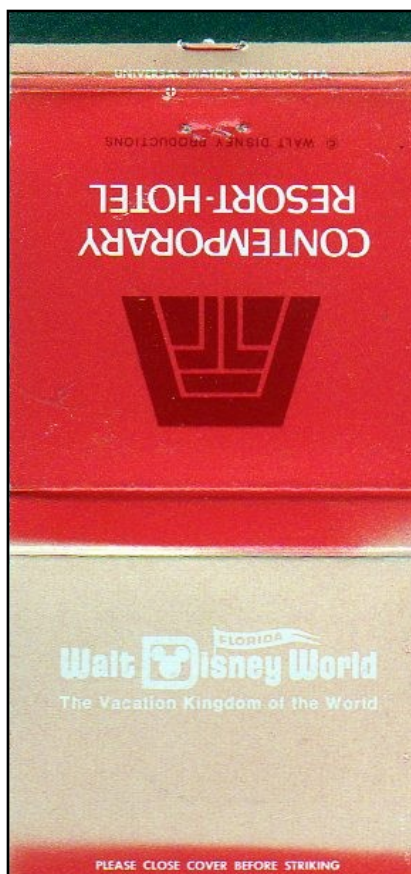


# The Sun

## *...is a killer!*

The Sun...the star at the center of the Solar System. It's a nearly perfect ball of hot plasma, heated to incandescence by nuclear fusion reactions in its core, radiating energy mainly as visible light, ultraviolet light, and infrared radiation. It is by far the most important source of energy for life on Earth. Its diameter is about 864,000 miles, or 109 times that of Earth. Its mass is about 330,000 times that of Earth, and it accounts for about 99.86% of the total mass of the Solar System. Pretty cool, right? But, when it comes to covers...it's a killer!



Leaving covers, stripped or full-books, where they are exposed to sunlight, or even strong indirect light, for any lengthy amount of time results in faded colors, such as can be seen in the cover pictured here.

It's insidious! And, the danger isn't just to covers. In one of my hobby rooms, I have one wall lined with photos of various places in Europe and Africa that I've visited. I have to keep the blinds in that room closed whenever I'm not actually using it in order to prevent the photos from bleaching out (I've already had to replace them all once, and I've learned my lesson). The same thing happens to your cloth furniture placed near the living room window.

As with most collectors, I'm not above using a used, or even slightly mangled, cover now and then until I find a better one, but I don't use faded covers. They're no longer representative of what those covers originally looked like. In that sense, sun-damaged covers are even worse than struck or damaged covers.

How many covers have been ruined by the sun? There's no way of telling. Thousands and thousands, at the very least. I'm looking at twelve right now from a recently acquired accumulation.

Something to keep in mind when you're storing your covers.