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#### **Planetary Defense.**

May 2007. 48min. Space Viz, DVD, \$49.99.

[REVIEW](#). First published [December 15, 2007 \(Booklist\)](#).

This fascinating program introduces the concept of NEO (Near Earth Objects). Various scientists, science-fiction authors (including Arthur C. Clarke), and military spokesmen discuss the probability of asteroids and comets colliding with our planet as well as the potential devastation this would bring. Apparently, asteroids and comets possibly colliding with Earth is not such a far-fetched idea as NASA scientists track a high amount of asteroids to determine their composition and path of travel. Interviewed experts show how to chart and compare data, and specialists speculate on methods of heading off approaching NEOs. Intercutting the interviews are space footage and computer graphics worthy of *Star Wars* films. Although interview segments vary in technical quality, this compelling documentary is a reminder that our planet is a small component of a vast universe, and we are not always in control of our destiny.

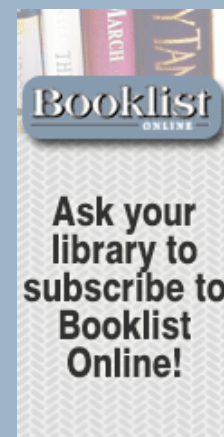
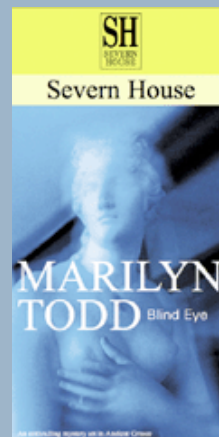
— Candace Smith

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