

# BRUM GROUP NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

## BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

SEPTEMBER 2019

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## **CLAIRE NORTH** *September 13th*

Our guest this month is the talented Claire North. Claire North is a pseudonym for Catherine Webb, a Carnegie Medal-nominated author whose debut novel was written when she was just fourteen years old. She has published a further seven Young Adult novels under her own name, including the Carnegie



nominated TIMEKEEPERS and THE EXTRAORDINARY AND UNUSUAL ADVENTURES OF HORATIO LYLE. She has fast established herself as one of the most powerful and imaginative voices

**October 11th – Space scientist, Dr Amaury Triaud.**

in modern fiction.

Her first book published under the Claire North pen name was **THE FIRST FIFTEEN LIVES OF HARRY AUGUST**, which became a word-of-mouth bestseller and was shortlisted for the Arthur C. Clarke Award. The follow-up, **TOUCH**, was described by the Independent as 'little short of a masterpiece'. Her next novel, **THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF HOPE**, won the 2017 World Fantasy Award for Best Novel, and **THE END OF THE DAY** was shortlisted for the 2017 Sunday Times/PFD Young Writer of the Year Award. Her latest novel, **84K**, received widespread critical acclaim and was described by bestselling author Emily St. John Mandel as 'an eerily plausible dystopian masterpiece'. It was shortlisted for the Brave New Words and Philip K Dick Awards

As well as her speculative fiction and YA writing, she also writes urban fantasy using the pen-name of Kate Griffin, including the *Matthew Swift* and *Magicals Anonymous* series. In between all that, according to her website, she works as a live music lighting designer and teaches self-defence.

*The meeting will take place in the conference room on the first floor of The Briar Rose Hotel, Bennetts Hill, off New Street.*

The doors open at 7.30pm and the meeting will normally commence at 8.00pm so please arrive early, get your drinks from the bar on the ground floor, and be seated in plenty of time. The entrance fee for our January AGM is free and the August and December socials are ticket only events. All other meetings the entrance fee is £3 for members and £6 for non-members.

## **MARTIN HOARE 1952 - 2019** *by Chris Morgan*

Martin was a very well-known and popular fan, who, at many cons over many years, has provided great technical support for speakers and arranged more beer tastings than you'd believe possible. His first Novacon was Novacon 3 and he attended most of those since. He's been a friend of Dave Langford since schooldays.

Pauline & I were the only ones from Birmingham at his funeral today (29th August) at Reading Crematorium. The turnout was huge, far more people attending than the chapel had room for, probably in excess of 120. It was a very fannish occasion with plenty of humour.

The coffin was an old blue police call box--yes, a Tardis. I think that Martin was taking his large collections of SF books and bottles of beer with him.

There was a tribute from Keith Oborn who tried to say a little about all of the many sides of Martin's life. I hadn't realised that Martin wrote several life-saving scientific papers on medical technology. I do remember that when there were fireworks at cons, Martin had made them and was out there in the dark, setting them off.

The committal music to the fairly brief service was the *Doctor Who* theme, and we all filed out accompanied by Monty Python's "Always Look on the Bright Side". Indeed, it was a life celebrated.

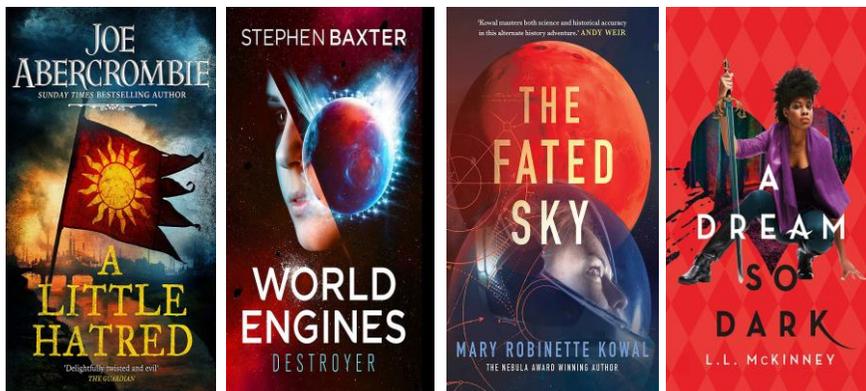
### **NEWS IN BRIEF ....**

Author and Nobel Laureate **Toni Morrison** has died at the age of 88. Her novels concentrated on women's lives and black experiences in America. They often had supernatural and magical realist elements, most notably in her Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *BELOVED* .... The winner of the **Campbell Award** for New Writers, **Jeannette Ng** ruffled some feathers when she used her acceptance speech to join other critics in labelling John Campbell as a fascist and racist and to appeal for support for the Hong Kong protestors. Subsequently, Baen Books and *Analog* magazine have announced that they will change the name to The *Astounding* Award .... The **2021 Worldcon** will be held in Washington DC .... The Convention Bar at Worldcon in Dublin was renamed as Martin's Bar in honour of the late **Martin Hoare** .... The **Hugo Losers party** was chaotic and created a lot of bad feelings, when many of the Hugo nominees were left standing outside as the venue was already at capacity, as many people who were not finalists had arrived before the Hugo ceremony was finished and been admitted. It is not clear exactly who was to blame .... The Big Heart Award for "good work and great spirit" was awarded to **Alice Lawson**. She was a co-chair at Loncon 3, and a member of many other Eastercons and Worldcons. She is also well known to many in the Brum Group as a long-standing member of the Novacon Committee .... The First Fandom Awards at Dublin gave a Posthumous Hall of Fame Award to **Bob Shaw**, James White and Walt Willis .... SF author, **Ian McDonald** was named an

European Grand Master at the European Science Fiction Society convention. **Charles Stross** was awarded a Best Author Award CG

## ***FORTHCOMING BOOKS***

*(NB Prices given are Recommended Retail Price and may be available at cheaper prices)*

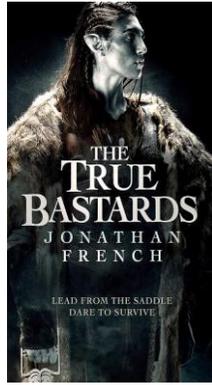
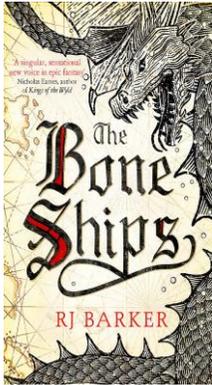


***A LITTLE HATRED (The Age of Madness 1)*** by Joe Abercrombie / Gollancz / 480 pgs / £18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0575095861 / September 17th. As machines replace magic, there is opportunity for those prepared to be ruthless.

***WORLD ENGINES: DESTROYER*** by Stephen Baxter / Gollancz / 576 pgs / £20 hardback / ISBN 978-1473223172 / September 19th. A spaceman exploring a strange object disappears. Five centuries later when it re-enters the solar system, his descendants set out to find him.

***THE FATED SKY (The Lady Astronaut 2)*** by Mary Robinette Kowal / REBCA / 384 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1781087329 / September 19th. In an alternative Earth, noted astronaut Elma York faces the new challenge of journeying to and colonising Mars.

***A DREAM SO DARK (A Blade So Black 2)*** by L L McKinney / Titan Books / 352 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1789093049 / September 24th. Alice must rescue her friends and stop the Black Knight in a dark version of Wonderland.



***THE BONE SHIPS* (*The Tide Child 3*) by R J Barker / Orbit / 496 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0356511832 / September 26th. Two warring nations use ships built from dragon bones, but the dragons have disappeared. When a new dragon appears, both sides see a chance to shift the balance of power.**

***THE TRUE BASTARDS* (*The Lot Lands 2*) by Jonathan French / Orbit / 592 pgs / £9.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0356511665 / October 10th. A female half-orc struggles to protect her group from threats of famine and the scorn of other misogynistic half-orc chieftains.**

***FULL THROTTLE* by Joe Hill / Gollancz / 496 pgs / £18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1473219892 / October 10th. Collection of thirteen tales of supernatural suspense.**

***THE GRACE YEAR* by Kim Ligett / Del Rey / 416 pgs / £14.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1529100587 / October 10th. Sixteen-year-old girls from a remote village are banished to the forest for a year to purge their dangerous magic, but some start to question the system. *CG***

## ***HUGO AWARDS 2019***

The 2019 Hugo Award winners were announced on August 18th. The ceremony was held in Dublin at Worldcon 77.

**Best Novel: THE CALCULATING STARS by Mary Robinette Kowal (Rebellion Press)**

**Best Novella:** ARTIFICIAL CONDITION by Martha Wells (Tor.com)

**Best Novelette:** "If at First You Don't Succeed, Try, Try Again" by Zen Cho (*B&N Sci-Fi & Fantasy Blog* 29/11/18)

**Best Short Story:** "A Witch's Guide to Escape: A Practical Compendium of Portal Fantasies" by Alix E Harrow (*Apex* 2/18).

**Best Related Work:** Archive of Our Own (The Organisation for Transformative Works)

**Best Graphic Story:** MONSTRESS: HAVEN written by Marjorie Liu, art by Sana Takeda (Image)

**Best Dramatic Presentation (Long Form):** SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

**Best Dramatic Presentation (Short Form):** "Janets" from *The Good Place*.

**Best Professional Editor - Short Form:** Gardner Dozois

**Best Professional Editor - Long Form:** Navah Wolfe

**Best Professional Artist:** Charles Vess

**Best Semiprozine:** *Uncanny Magazine*

**Best Fanzine:** *Lady Business*

**Best Fancast:** *Our Opinions Are Correct*

**Best Fan Writer:** Foz Meadows

**Best Fan Artist:** Likhain (Mia Sereno)

**Best Art Book:** THE BOOKS OF EARTHSEA: THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED EDITION by Ursula K Le Guin & illustrated by Charles Vess (Saga)

**Best Series:** *Wayfarers* by Becky Chambers (Hodder & Stoughton)

**John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer (not a Hugo):** Jeannette Ng

**Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book (not a Hugo):** CHILDREN OF BLOOD AND BONE by Tomi Adeyemi (Macmillan)

## ***THE 1944 RETRO HUGO AWARDS***

The winners of the 1944 Retro Hugo Awards (for works published in 1943) were also announced at Worldcon 77. These are awarded in an anniversary year of a year in which no Hugo Awards were given and which is also an exact multiple of 25. These were:

**Best Novel:** CONJURE WIFE by Fritz Leiber Jr. (*Unknown Worlds*, 4/43)

**Best Novella:** THE LITTLE PRINCE by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (Reynal & Hitchcock)

**Best Novelette:** "Mimsy Were the Borogroves" by Lewis Padgett (C L Moore & Henry Kuttner) (*Astounding Science-Fiction*, 2/43)

**Best Short Story:** "King of the Gray Spaces" (AKA "R is for Rocket") by Ray Bradbury (*Famous Fantastic Mysteries* (12/43)

**Best Dramatic Presentation (Short Form):** FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE WOLFMAN.

**Best Dramatic Presentation (Long Form):** HEAVEN CAN WAIT

**Best Graphic Story:** Wonder Woman #5: Battle for Womanhood (DC Comics)

**Best Professional Editor - Short Form:** John W Campbell

**Best Professional Artist:** Virgil Finlay

**Best Fanzine:** *Le Zombie* edited by Arthur Wilson "Bob" Tucker

**Best Fan Writer:** Forrest J Ackerman



## BOOK REVIEWS



**(REVIEWERS** please note: - all reviews should be emailed direct to me at [goodwincd@yahoo.com](mailto:goodwincd@yahoo.com) **Deadline** for each issue is 14 days prior to the date of the monthly meeting)

***THE HOUSE OF SUNDERING FLAMES* (*Dominion of the Fallen 3*)**  
by Aliette de Bodard

Gollancz / 560 pgs / £16.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1473223400

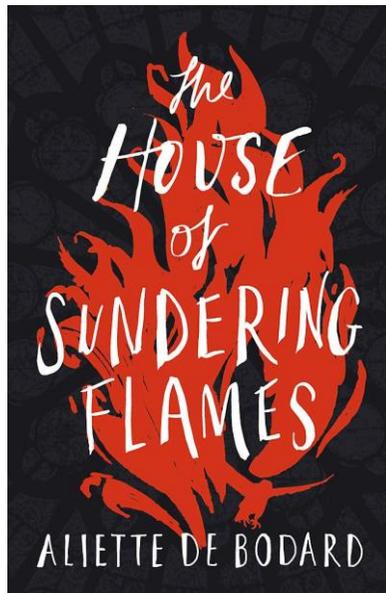
Reviewed by Carol Goodwin

I first came across Aliette de Bodard's writing in her SF short stories, which deal with intelligent "mindships" and I really liked her unique imagination. This quality, and many others of which more later, is also readily apparent in her fantasy works.

The *Dominion of the Fallen* series (of which **THE HOUSE OF SUNDERING FLAMES** is Book 3) is set in a ruined and polluted Paris, devastated by a war between warring magical groups ("houses") of fallen angels and client magicians. Each house also has a number of "dependents" or servants who fulfil a range of roles from lowly domestics to high offices. Life as a dependent can be very risky and subject to the

whims of the powerful, but to many it is far better than trying to survive on the ruined and lawless streets outside the protection of a House.

Whilst previous books have concentrated firstly on House Silverspires and then House Hawthorn, at the start of this book the focus is shifted to House Harrier. Whilst none of the Houses are particularly benevolent, House Harrier is shown as particularly ruthless in how it treats its dependents. When the House is devastated by a massive explosion, that cruelty, both in the present and in the past, will have serious consequences both for House Harrier and the other Houses. As the destruction from House Harrier threatens to spread throughout Paris, various factions seek to understand the source of the threat and to gather and preserve their resources (both magical and living). As well as individuals from different houses, this also includes the “houseless” (with their own magics) and Aurore, a brutalised exile from House Harrier. The contrasting methods and approaches they all take are reflective of their characters and circumstances and are an important part of the plot and the depth of the story. Essentially this is a story about Power; who has and does not have it, what people will do to keep or acquire it, and how they use it. An



important part of that and what is missing from so many other books is that it shows how it affects and sometimes twists those who have little or no power and what choices and compromises they make in order to survive. It is also a story about consequences. Without spoiling anything, the source of the destruction of House Harrier traces back to essentially a war crime in the Anamite colony, of which many of those descendants now live in Paris. The misdeeds of the Houses past actions have led to the threat to their existence in the present.

This is a wonderful book that while telling a thrilling, emotional story also manages to make the reader think about so many real issues. It is diverse in the widest possible sense, including many groups not often seen in other fantasies: it has old people, children (both cherished and

exploited), it has families, established and loving relationships, and different ethnic groups and People of Colour (both magical and human). It also has in two of the central characters, Asmodeus and Thuan, (a Fallen angel and a shapeshifting Vietnamese Water Dragon) an LGBTQ couple whose arranged marriage is developing into a realistic, spectacular, at times challenging and, from the reader's point of view especially, a thoroughly fascinating romantic relationship.

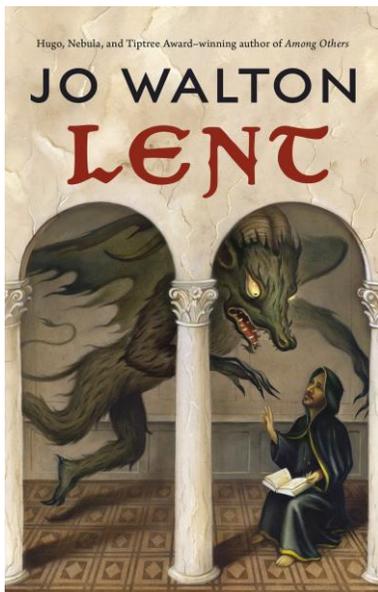
I have enormously enjoyed this entire series, but I think this final book in particular is outstanding. The worldbuilding - a creepy, Gothic ruined Paris, the contrast between the differing magics of the Fallen and the Anamite Water Dragons, the whole structure of the Houses and the Houseless - is remarkable and unique. Aliette's abilities to also write so many different subtle and nuanced characters is also superb and the reader is drawn in to their struggles. It is a large book but at no point did I feel it dragged. Indeed, and one of the many markers of a good book to me, is that I found myself not wanting it to end as I wanted to linger within the world and with the characters.

CG

***LENT*** by Jo Walton

Tor / 377 pgs / £20.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0765379061

Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.



The word 'Lent' is one of those that can have wildly different meanings. In the Christian Church, Lent is a period of abstinence and reflection leading up to Easter. An alternative definition is the temporary gifting of an object. In this novel, Jo Walton cleverly plays with both these definitions.

Many readers will be familiar with the name of Girolamo Savonarola if only for his association with the 'bonfire of the vanities' where people were invited to surrender unnecessary possessions for burning - sacrifices in the period of Lent. Savonarola was a Dominican brother and believed the way to heaven was through sacrifice and he preached for the simple, godly life.

He was burnt as a heretic in 1498. These are the facts and are easy to ascertain.

The first part of this novel follows the last six years of the life of Brother Girolamo as he struggles against sin. Where it differs from the reality recorded in our history books is the idea that Girolamo can see, and thence banish, demons. They are all around and he wants to strengthen the faith of Florence to keep them beyond the walls. As the novel opens, he and two other brothers are called to a convent to banish the demons besieging the place. In the library he finds what seems to be attracting them – a gem stone hidden inside a hollowed-out book. On his death, he finds himself in Hell and discovers that he is actually a demon. After a period of torture, he finds himself back where he started, visiting the convent to banish the demons but this time he remembers what he is. He can also remember everything that will happen to him in the next six years. For those reasons he doesn't feel that being a Dominican is appropriate. This time, Girolamo is determined to do things differently in the hope that he can change enough things to be admitted to heaven rather than return to hell as a demon.

In one aspect, this novel is reminiscent of Groundhog Day in that events are repeated. Girolamo is not reincarnated but stuck in a loop. Each time he tries to take a different path looking for alternative routes through the last six years of his life. Always, he only becomes aware of his situation when he finds the stone in the book, making this event the touchstone. It almost seems to him that he is being played with, that he is only being lent to the human dimension to see how he will react.

This is a very clever book and deserves to have a wide readership.

*Review copy kindly donated by Pan Macmillan Tor/Jamie Nardone PM*

***PALE KINGS (Lost Gods 2)* by Micah Yongo**

**Angry Robot / 432 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0857667854**

**Reviewed by Carol Goodwin**

PALE KINGS is the second book in an African/Arabian-inspired epic fantasy series. In the first book, (LOST GODS) five junior assassins were sent on their first mission but everything unravelled and they, and the Shedaim Brotherhood they regarded as their family, were left scattered (or dead). As they travelled, they discovered that many of the things they had been taught about their world and its history were untrue or incomplete. In this second book, the enemy of the Five Lands starts to move. Border cities are destroyed by strange destructive beasts and the supernatural nature and

identity of this enemy becomes clearer. The young assassins, and Neythan in particular, prove pivotal in uncovering the nature and the means to counter this threat and also in protecting the young Sharif.

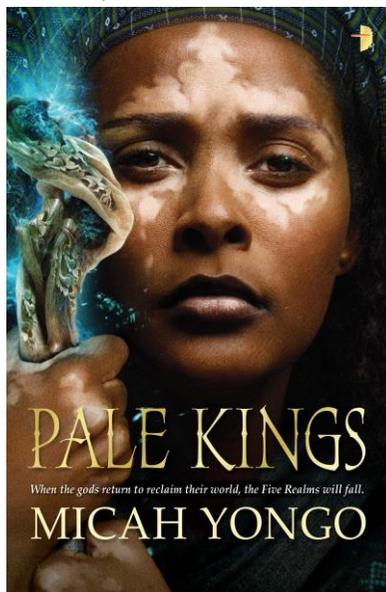
In reviewing the first book in this series, (*LOST GODS* in #574 of the *BSFG* newsletter) I said it was a promising first novel and I looked forward to seeing how the author developed the ongoing plot strands and mysteries. Thankfully *PALE KINGS* retains many of the elements I loved

in the first book. More of the history and causes of the events in the story are revealed whilst still leaving much to be explored and consolidated in the next book. On one level this series uses many of the familiar elements of epic fantasies such as special bloodlines and magical objects that will be key to defeating the supernatural invaders. However, it takes these traditional components and produces something more distinctive and unique. The story has a complex and occasionally, a non-linear narrative which raises it above many run of the mill fantasies. There are many characters and points of view for the reader to keep track of but they do for the most part feel like “real”,

believable characters and not just dropped in to drive the plot along. That this work so well feels to me because of the clear effort and details involved in the worldbuilding and the character construction. Also as before, the quality of the prose is something that really added to my enjoyment of the book - it is pin-point accurate and evocative without intruding or slowing the flow of the narrative, which is a rare skill. Having said all that, this is still a well-paced story interspersed with exciting and menacing scenes as well, and is one I thoroughly enjoyed. The author has built well on the promising start of his first novel and I would recommend it for those who enjoy intelligent fantasies. My only caveat is that it is a book which demands the reader pay attention so may not suit all readers.

CG

*Review copy kindly donated by Angry Robot Books*

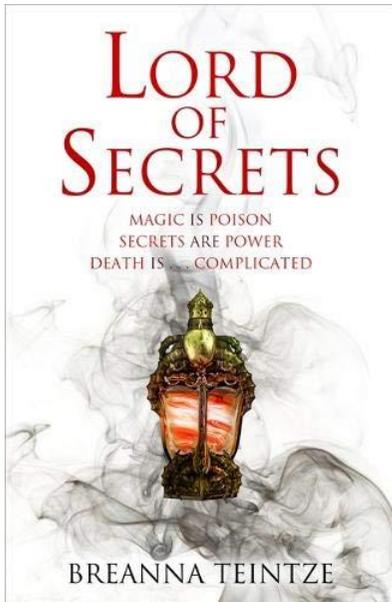


***LORD OF SECRETS (The Empty Gods 1)* by Breanna Teintze**

Jo Fletcher Books / 336 pgs / £14.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1787476240

Reviewed by Carol Goodwin

The LORD OF SECRETS is an utterly enjoyable sword-and-sorcery style novel by debut author, Breanna Teintze. The reader is dropped straight into the action when an outlawed, and currently invisible, wizard is bumped into by a woman fleeing from slavery to a sadistic priest. From that inauspicious meeting they are forced to co-operate to escape from jail. When the wizard Gray realises her knowledge can help him rescue his beloved grandfather from a corrupt and powerful necromancer, he bargains for her help in exchange for removing a magical tracker (and also initially the promise of money). What then follows is an entertaining and thrilling quest to recover a magical artefact from an underground temple, one that his grandfather wanted him to protect and hide but which he intends to use as a bargaining piece. Along the way they encounter many obstacles, including a sarcastic and untrustworthy “god”, slavers, monsters etc. Added into the mix are characters whose secrets,



hidden motives and unclear loyalties mean that Gray’s straightforward plan proves to be the exact opposite.

This is a thoroughly refreshing and light-hearted romp of a novel. The story is told from the point of view of the young wizard, Corcoran Gray and his voice is a large part of the enjoyment of this book. He is a prickly, defensive but ultimately likeable and honourable character. His interactions and verbal sparring with the rescued slave, Brix are entertaining as they move from (very) reluctant allies to more trusting and co-operative companions as their journey progresses. I also really enjoyed the character of Jaern, the mocking and cynical “god” that they rescue along the way and who has his own agenda. Once added to the mix of Brix and Gray, he really adds to the fun snark and comments that are a large part of the pleasure in reading this book. The story rattles along at a great pace and is

easy to read. Whilst the story is fairly linear it is well plotted with a couple of twists along the way to keep the reader engaged. The characters do face perils and setbacks but the tone remains relatively light-hearted and far more pleasurable to read than many of the currently popular “grimdark” novels out there. The magic system is interesting and I like that it has a cost and thus limits. Gray’s refusal to pass the toxic harm and damage of his magic onto others, unlike many of his fellow wizards, is also an integral part of his appeal, both to the reader and to his companion, Brix. In short, if you want an exuberant and upbeat fantasy, then this is definitely recommended. CG

*Review copy kindly donated by Jo Fletcher Books*

## ***CINEMA FILM RELEASES***

Listings should not be necessarily taken as recommendations. Release dates are subject to change. View at your own peril!

***AD ASTRA*** - Release date September 18th. SF. Astronaut goes on a mission to uncover what happened his father’s doomed expedition.

***READY OR NOT*** - Release date September 27th. Horror. A bride’s wedding night turns sinister when her in-laws force her into a terrifying game.

***JOKER*** - Release date October 4th. Origin story of the iconic villain, The Joker.

***ZOMBIELAND 2: DOUBLE TAP*** - Release date October 4th. Ten years on, the original four characters face new threats from evolved zombies, fellow survivors and disputes within their makeshift family.

## ***FORTHCOMING EVENTS***

*All details are correct to the best of our knowledge, we advise contacting organizers before travelling. Any information about forthcoming SF/Fantasy/Horror events is always welcome - please send to Carol at [goodwincd@yahoo.com](mailto:goodwincd@yahoo.com)*

**HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER’S STONE** screening, 11th September. HD screening with live music from Czech

National Symphony Orchestra. £32.50 - 88. Symphony Hall. 7:30pm.  
Box Office (0121 780 3333) or [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

**STUDIO GHIBLI Triple Bill, 15th September.** At Mockingbird Cinema. Includes PRINCESS MONONOKE, MY NEIGHBOUR TOTORO, and SPIRITED AWAY. From 12noon - 6:35 pm. £12.95 (plus booking fee). At Custard Factory, Digbeth. Book: 0121 224 7456 or [www.mockingbirdcinema.com/](http://www.mockingbirdcinema.com/)

**An Evening with JOE ABERCROMBIE, 16th September.** Celebrating launch of A LITTLE HATRED. Waterstones, High Street. 6:30 pm. £3. Book at [www.waterstones.com/events](http://www.waterstones.com/events)

**TIME BANDITS screening, 22nd - 25th September.** At Mockingbird Cinema. 5:20pm (22nd) or 8:30pm (25th). £3.95. Mockingbird Cinema. 0121 224 7456 or [www.mockingbirdcinema.com/](http://www.mockingbirdcinema.com/)

**SHERRILYN KENYON signing, 22nd September.** US author will be signing her latest novel AT DEATH'S DOOR. Waterstones, High Street. 1 pm. No booking

**RICHARD DAWKINS: AN ARGUMENT FOR ATHEISM, 23rd September.** Richard Dawkins in conversation. £29. Symphony Hall. 7:30pm. Box Office (0121 780 3333) or [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

**THE MATRIX Trilogy, 29th September.** At Mockingbird Cinema. From 11 am. £6.95. At Custard Factory, Digbeth.

**SPACE DAY, 5th October.** Various activities/exhibitors including talk from **David A Hardy** and SPACE QUEENS film (about the women behind Apollo 11). The Hive, Worcester. 10:30am - 4pm. Details/Book at [www.thehiveworcester.org](http://www.thehiveworcester.org)

**Meet NASA Astronaut, Dr Don Thomas, 7th - 8th October.** As part of World Space Week. At George Hotel, Lichfield (7th) or The Hive, Worcester (8th). £9 - 18. Book/Details at [www.astronautevent.co.uk/](http://www.astronautevent.co.uk/)

**MISTRESS TO THE MIDNIGHT play, 9th October.** Spoof of a classic British horror film. Old Joint Stock Theatre. £12 at [www.oldjointstock.co.uk](http://www.oldjointstock.co.uk) or 0121 200 0946.

**THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT, 9th October.** Authors Ewan Morrison, Hanna Jameson & Sophie McIntosh discuss dystopian fiction, and their latest books. Part of Birmingham Literature Festival. [www.birminghamliteraturefestival.org](http://www.birminghamliteraturefestival.org) Mac Centre. 6 pm. £8.

**IN CONVERSATION WITH MARGARET ATWOOD, 28th October.** Symphony Hall. £20.50 - £38. Box Office (0121 780 3333 or [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk) *CG*

### ***CONVENTIONS and EXHIBITIONS***

**NEW APOLLO 50th ANNIVERSARY exhibition, 23rd March - 3rd November, Stoke on Trent.** A special exhibition featuring 50 models, memorabilia etc. Free entry. The Potteries Museum, Stoke on Trent.

**FANTASYCON, 18th -20th October, Glasgow.** Guests of Honour Jen Williams & Paul Tremblay. Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel, Glasgow. £65. [www.fantasycon.org](http://www.fantasycon.org)

**BRISTOLCON, 26th October, Bristol.** Guests of Honour Diane Duane, Gareth Powell & Andy Bigwood. Doubletree Hotel. £20. Details at [www.bristolcon.org](http://www.bristolcon.org)

**NOVACON 49, 8th - 10th November, Nottingham.** Guest of Honour is Mike Carey. Nottingham Sherwood Hotel (same venue - name has changed), Nottingham. Tickets £49 till 1st September. Details at [www.novacon.org.uk](http://www.novacon.org.uk)

**CONCENTRIC (EASTERCON), 10th - 13th April 2020, Birmingham.** Guests of Honour are Tade Thompson, Rhianna Pratchett and Alison Scott. At the Hilton Metropole, NEC, Birmingham. Membership £70 at [www.concentric2020.uk](http://www.concentric2020.uk)

**STOKERCON UK, 16th - 19th April 2020, Scarborough.** International Horror Convention. Guests of Honour: Kim Newman, Grady Hendrix, Gillian Redfearn. At the Grand/Royal Hotels, Scarborough. £115 Non-HWA Member <https://stokercon-uk.com>

## ***FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE BSGF***

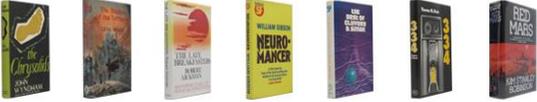
**October 11th** - Space scientist, **Dr Amaury Triaud**

**November 1st** - tbc (NB early in month due to Novacon)

**December 6th** - Christmas Social

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