

For the Love of Pancakes

by Elizabeth Guizzetti

The soft glow of the television lit the darkened living room and the familiar dialogue of *The Thing* dulled the traffic noise. Warm under the blanket, Erin chuckled at the world in front of her eyes. Suddenly, Mark growled, jumped off the couch, and yapped at the window.

Erin gently put her fingers upon her dog's head and grumbled, "It's Tuesday night, people!"

She pushed back her blinds and readied herself for the coming conflict. Instead of her neighbors, a bald whitish face with large obsidian eyes peered at her. Lips curled upward exposing pointed teeth. A three-fingered hand waved.

Erin's stomach dropped, but she smiled and waved back. An alien. A real alien! Mark wagged his tail and yapped. She quickly unlatched the lock and slid the pane open.

The alien floated through the window and landed on the floor.

Erin quickly powered off the television. She ran her hand over her bangs to press down any cowlicks. In horror, she remembered she wore pajamas. A first contact situation--and she's wearing pajamas with hearts and kitties.

Not that the organism was dressed for the occasion. Floral shorts exposed knobby knees. A pale blue T-shirt read Sol and below listed checkboxes for each planet visited. Ze had been to Saturn, Jupiter, and Earth.

In hir hand, the alien held a round plastic container.

The alien gently pushed a finger into hir ear canal. In a warbling, almost apologetic tone, ze said, "Sorry to bother you at this late hour, but may I borrow a cup of sugar?"

"What?" Erin asked.

"Sugar. Forgive the imposition, but—"

"Sugar? Aren't you here to abduct me?"

The alien sighed. "Abductions are pranks. Some people's kids." Ze held out the container. "Sorry, I don't have dollars, but can pay in Rands; if you would be so kind for a cup of sugar?"

"Don't you want to see the president?"

Ze fiddled with hir ear again. "Forgive me, my English must not be clear, I want to cook Earth treats for my children. In South Africa, they are called pannekoek, but I believe, in this country, you say pancakes. Might I trouble you for sugar?"

Ze gently shook the container.

"What's in that?" Erin asked and pulled out a pink and white box from her cupboard.

"Air?" The alien frowned. "No, that must not be right." Ze fiddled with hir ear again. "Cheap translator. American English! Dialect Pacific Northwest!" In a much slower cadence, the alien began again: "Please, I couldn't find a 24-hour market that accepts Rands. I've no American Dollars. We came into orbit at the wrong side of the planet, but the kids will wake up hungry. Can I buy a cup of sugar?"

"You've been here before?" Erin pried the top from the alien's container and with the hope for peaceful human and alien relations, she filled the entire thing.

"My brother has. Don't get me wrong, Earth's a beautiful planet, but, really, it would be an easier attraction if there was a worldwide currency."

"You're colonizing?"

"Just on holiday." Ze took back the container. "May I pay you in Rands?"

Erin shook her head. "No, just enjoy your pancakes."

"Thank you. My guidebook says Earthlings are a kind, giving people."

Not wanting the conversation to end, Erin asked, "You sure you don't want to abduct me?"

Obsidian eyes widening, Ze backed towards the window. "Uh, I'd love to have you along, but as I said, this is a family vacation. Thank you for the sugar."

A stream of light flooded through the window and the alien disappeared.

"Rats," Erin knelt to pet her dog's ears. "If I really wanted them to stay, I should've offered to make pancakes!"

Much to her chagrin, Elizabeth Guizzetti discovered she was not a cyborg and growing up to be an otter was impractical, so she began writing. She is the author and illustrator of independent comics and science fiction novels. Guizzetti currently lives in Seattle with her husband and two dogs. She loves hiking and birdwatching. This weekend, you can find her in Author's Alley.

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Temporal Anomaly

Daily Zine for Norwescon 39 • Thursday, March 24

Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to Norwescon 39! I hope you all have a fantastic time exploring our theme of Remembering The Future as you attend our wonderful programming over the weekend. In addition to our numerous panels, our Guest of Honor line-up is also tremendously exciting. Please come by Opening Ceremonies to meet them!

Finally, our convention is really fun, but it couldn't happen without the contribution of hundreds upon hundreds of volunteer hours put in by our staff and also YOU! Please come by Volunteers to find out how you can help make this convention awesome.

— Kathy Bond, NWC 39 Chair

Guests of Honor

WRITER

Tanya Huff

ARTIST

Janny Wurts

SCIENCE

William K. Hartmann

SPOTLIGHT PUBLISHER

DAW

Tanya Huff lives in rural Ontario, Canada, with her wife Fiona Patton, two dogs, and, as of last count, nine cats. Her 30 novels and 75 short stories include horror, heroic fantasy, urban fantasy, comedy, and space opera. Her latest novel was a new Torin Kerr book, *Peacekeeper #1: An Ancient Peace* (Oct 2015), and her next will be *Peacekeeper #2: A Peace Divided* (Oct 2016).

Janny Wurts has turned her dual talents toward creating a seamless interface, using pictures and words to explore imaginative realms beyond the world we know. She graduated from Hampshire College with a

For the most up-to-date schedule, as well as maps and other useful information, check out the Guidebook app available on the Android, Apple and Windows platforms. Or visit <http://guidebook.com/g/NWC39> from any web browser.

focus on art and writing, she rented a studio apartment in the carriage house of naturalist Daniel P. Mannix, whose rehabilitation of wild animals allowed her a unique opportunity to draw and sketch directly.

William K. Hartmann is known internationally as a planetary scientist, writer, and space artist. His 50-year science career includes discovery of the moon's Mare Orientale basin, the modern theory of the origin of the moon, measuring ages of Martian surface features, and studies of asteroids.

DAW Books, founded in 1971 by veteran paperback editor Donald A. Wollheim, along with his wife, Elsie B. Wollheim, was the first publishing company ever devoted exclusively to science fiction and fantasy.

Contribute to the Zine

A big welcome from the editorial staff of *Temporal Anomaly*, your daily zine for Norwescon 39! If you overhear something interesting in the halls, want to rant or rave, or if you'd like to submit a 50-600 word microfiction story to our daily anthology *Unremembrances*, contact us at zine@norwescon.org or drop us a note at one of the boxes at Information or in the Convention Office.

We accept submissions from all attendees, staff and guests. Submissions must be made by 9pm the day prior to publication.

All bylined content remains the property of the author.

Tanya Huff, Writer Guest of Honor: Schedule Highlights

Tanya Huff's thirty novels and seventy-five short stories include horror, heroic fantasy, urban fantasy, comedy, and space opera. She's written four essays for Ben Bella's pop culture collections and the occasional book review for *The Globe and Mail*. Her *Blood* series was turned into the twenty-two-episode *Blood Ties* and writing episode nine allowed her to finally use her degree in radio and television arts.

She can be found on twitter @TanyaHuff.

Thu 5 - 6:30pm Guest of Honor Banquet	Grand 2	Sat 12:30 - 1:30pm Autograph Session	Grand 2
Thu 7 - 8pm Opening Ceremonies	Grand 2	Sat 3 - 4pm Reading	Evergreen 1&2
Fri 12 - 1 pm Writing a Series	Evergreen 3&4	Sat 4 - 5pm Characeter Driven/Plot Driven	Cascade 10
Fri 2 - 3pm Q&A	Grand 3	Sat 6 - 7pm Writing with Authority	Evergreen 1&2

Janny Wurts, Artist Guest of Honor: Schedule Highlights

Through a combined career as a fantasy artist and author, Janny Wurts has turned her dual talents toward creating a seamless interface, using pictures and words to explore imaginative realms beyond the world we know. She graduated from Hampshire College with a focus on art and writing.

She can be reached at: jannywurts@paravia.com.

Thu 5 - 6:30pm Guest of Honor Banquet	Grand 2	Sat 10 - 11am The Art of Janny Wurts	Evergreen 1&2
Thu 7 - 8pm Opening Ceremonies	Grand 2	Sat 12:30 - 1:30pm Autograph Session	Grand 2
Fri 12 - 1 pm Writing a Series	Evergreen 3&4	Sat 5 - 6pm Reading	Evergreen 1&2
Fri 1 - 2pm Q&A	Grand 3		

William K. Hartmann, Science Guest of Honor: Schedule Highlights

William K. Hartmann is known internationally as a planetary scientist, writer, and space artist. His 50-year science career includes discovery of the moon's Orientale Basin, the modern theory of the origin of the moon, measuring ages of Martian surface features, and studies of asteroids. His science fiction novel *Mars Underground* was published by TOR.

Thu 5 - 6:30pm Guest of Honor Banquet	Grand 2	Fri 4 - 5pm From the Moon to Mars	Evergreen 1&2
Thu 7 - 8pm Opening Ceremonies	Grand 2	Fri 3 - 4pm Q&A	Grand 3
Fri 10 - 11am Science & Religion in Space	Cascade 10	Sat 12:30 - 1:30pm Autograph Session	Grand 2

Visit <http://guidebook.com/g/NWC39> for the full schedule!

Late-Breaking Changes

Kate Jonez and Michael 'Tinker' Pierce will not be attending the convention.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have unfortunately had to cancel the Norwescon video channel. There's more fun to be had in the programming space. :-)

Attending Pro Changes

Costume Foundations I: Where To Start? (COS24): Tammie L. Dupuis (Moderator), Anita Taylor, Victoria Shaffer, Margo Loes, and Lori M. Edwards.

Cascade 7&8 5 - 6pm

Doctor Who: Annual Review & Preview (POP08): Dan Murphy (Moderator) and Wendy Murphy.

Cascade 13 8 - 10pm

Is This a Technical Manual? (SF14): Bart Kemper (Moderator) and Cynthia Radthorne.

Cascade 10 6 - 7pm

Space & the Movies (SPA12): Jude-Marie Green (Moderator) and Greg Hallock.

Cascade 10 9 - 10pm

Your Story is a Problem & That's Good (WRI07): Dean Wells (Moderator), Peter Orullian, Frog Jones, and Nina Post.

Cascade 10 3 - 4pm

Gaming Room Times

All Ages Scheduled Gaming

Maxi's Ballroom 2pm - 2am

All Ages Game Demos

Salon 2pm - 2am

Open Gaming

Rotunda 1 Noon - 2am

Open Gaming

Rotunda 2 Noon - 2am

Gaming Adjustments

Machi Koro (added!)

Maxi's Ballroom 5 - 6pm

Magic: The Gathering Tournament (added!)

Maxi's Bar 3pm

Curse of Strahd (added!)

Maxi's Ballroom 3 - 8pm

No Honor Among Thieves (added!)

Maxi's Ballroom 6 - 11pm

Pathfinder

Rotunda 1 (location!) 2pm - 2am

Quirkle (cancelled!)

Maxi's Ballroom 6-7:30pm

The Witches: A Discworld Game (cancelled!)

Maxi's Ballroom 10pm - Midnight

Art Show Adjustments

Added or Changed

GrillGhod Panel 12

Robyn Emlen Panel 18

Jessica TC Lee Panel 19

L. Pierce Ludke Panel 20

Brandon Duncan Panel 26

Jennifer Cox Panel 30

Emerging Artist Winners Panel 35

Not Attending

Susan Stejskal Alexander Panel 12

Mark Brill Panel 19

Durlyn Panel 26

Adventure Time: Card Wars

Now you can play the actual Card Wars game from the show! Based on the original *Adventure Time* episode featuring "Card Wars," where Finn and Jake battle against each other to decide who will be the Dweeb and who will be the Cool Guy.

Maxi's Ballroom 2-8pm

Movie News & Previews Show

Get to bed early tonight, because Movie Previews start first thing Friday morning! Keith and Alan are very happy to be back and ready to bring the latest from Hollywood straight to your eye/earballs. Our one show this year is Friday at 10am in Grand 3. So much genre stuff to talk about; movies, TV, theme parks, the whole gamut. Grab your seat early for all the latest. Get a good night's sleep and BE THERE!