

# ICON – October 20-22, 2024 – Prophecies



## חדשות האגודה – ספטמבר 2024 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "ספריית חצות" מאת מאט הייג. ויתקיים ביום חמישי 19.9, בשעה 19:30, בדירה בת"א. לקבלת המיקום יש להירשם במייל של דפנה קירש. בדף האירוע בפייסבוק.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1041913523811981>

ירושלים: לפרטים על המפגשים הבאים של המועדון הירושלמי ניתן להצטרף לקבוצת הפייסבוק או ליצור קשר במייל עם מרכזת המועדון בירושלים, גלי אחיטוב [sal.maple@gmail.com](mailto:sal.maple@gmail.com) ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטסאפ של המועדון.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1758700637764422/>

כל האירועים של האגודה מופיעים בלוח האירועים (שפע אירועים מעניינים, הרצאות, סדנאות, מפגשים ועוד)

לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף לרשימת התפוצה או בדף האגודה בפייסבוק.

Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site: <http://www.sf-f.org.il>

### This month's roundup:

- Special Wartime Issue (#12): Some thoughts
- New SF book: "Tragedy of a Shapeshifter" by Nathaniel and Leon (Leybl) Botwinik
- Our usual tidbits from the Web.

– Your editor, Leybl (Leon) Botwinik

# Special Wartime Issue #12

### Dear Readers:

Some interesting developments in the last two days – specifically the 'mysterious' explosions of the Beepers and other comm devices belonging to thousands of key members of the terrorist group Hezbollah in Lebanon. Around 4000 personally coded Beepers simultaneously exploded across that country on Tuesday, and also some in nearby Syrian Damascus. On Wednesday, a new round of explosions shook the Lebanese terrorists when a different set of such devices burst into flames ... and they are not very happy about the situation, to say the least.

As Douglas Murray is wont to say:

There is no law of war that says you're allowed to start a war, and then complain when you lose it.

Note, that since October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Hezbollah has been sending tens of explosive drones and firing hundreds of missiles, at Israel. Most have been knocked down by Israeli missile defence. A smaller number have landed in open fields. A number have taken their toll in Israeli deaths and tremendous damage to civilian housing. The worst attacks,

however, are from anti-tank rockets that are shot at both military and civilian targets. These can't be stopped, nor is any warning possible to head for shelter, because they come in at incredible speeds, like a bullet shot from a rifle. All told, thousands of such armaments have been launched at Israel with the intent of killing as many Israelis as possible and damaging both civilian and military targets (estimates of damage are at over \$1 Billion).

Many civilian Israelis have been thus murdered (a war crime), including innocent children playing soccer outside in the Druze town of Majdal Shams, about 12 kilometers (7 miles) south of Lebanon and next to the Syrian border. Twelve kids were killed, and 20 others wounded. The world doesn't care...

Note, that Israel had retreated from southern Lebanon in 2006 (after a protracted battle with Hezbollah) after signing the UN Security Council Resolution 1701 – and the UN and Lebanon have not kept their side of the 'bargain'. Absolutely no accountability on their parts, but easily blaming Israel for anything they feel like.

And all this is not new. In addition to the tens of thousands of missiles shot at Israel over the years, the Hezbollah terrorist organization (that plays a critical, if not leading/controlling role in the Lebanese government) is also infamous for direct attacks on the US and France. **On October 23, 1983, Hezbollah killed 241 U.S. military personnel, including 220 Marines, 18 sailors, and three soldiers in a terrorist bombing of the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon.** Minutes later, a second suicide bomber killed 58 French paratroopers. Six innocent Lebanese civilians also lost their lives.

On October 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, US President Biden warned ALL the states in the region (Middle East) to stay out of the Palestine-Israel conflict when the ruling government of Gaza attacked Israel and Israel retaliated in self-defence and in trying to free the hundreds of hostages inhumanly taken by the Gazan terrorists. The IDF is still trying to free them.

Biden shouted out an adamant "DON'T !" – but he hasn't entirely kept his word to protect Israel, except in a semi-passive way. Since his "DON'T !" warning, Israel has had thousands of drones, missiles, and rockets fired at it from Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, and Iraq, and even hundreds of drones and ballistic missiles directly from Iran. I would have expected that the president of the most powerful armed forces in the world would back up his warning by sending in waves of fighter/bomber jets and massive artillery fire on the perpetrators that laugh in the face of his "DON'T !" ...

Ah well, I guess no one can blame Israel for protecting itself by any means possible, since no one else wants to.

Kinda reminds me of what happened during World War II – the Holocaust. The anti-Semites of the world tried to kill off all the Jews, and would have succeeded, had the war not ended. However, no one was fighting to save the Jews. The Allies fighting the Axis powers were fighting for their own selves. There was no one human/humane power in the world that sought to protect the Jewish people. Fortunately, today, there is a nation of Jews – the State of Israel, with its Israel Defence Forces (IDF) whose mission is to make sure that there is a true accounting of the enemies of the Jewish people. The Hezbollah and Hamas terrorists are not getting away with a free hand in killing Jews.

Leybl Botwinik, Editor

**p.s. look forward to next issue's connection between the Holocaust and this year's ICON theme 'Prophecies'.**

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## And now – the Good News!

For all those who expected an earlier release of this issue – I must apologise.

I was busy – but with good reason.  
Just a few days ago, I celebrated my daughter's wedding.

That (and of course, my wife) kept me pretty occupied, and away from my computer...

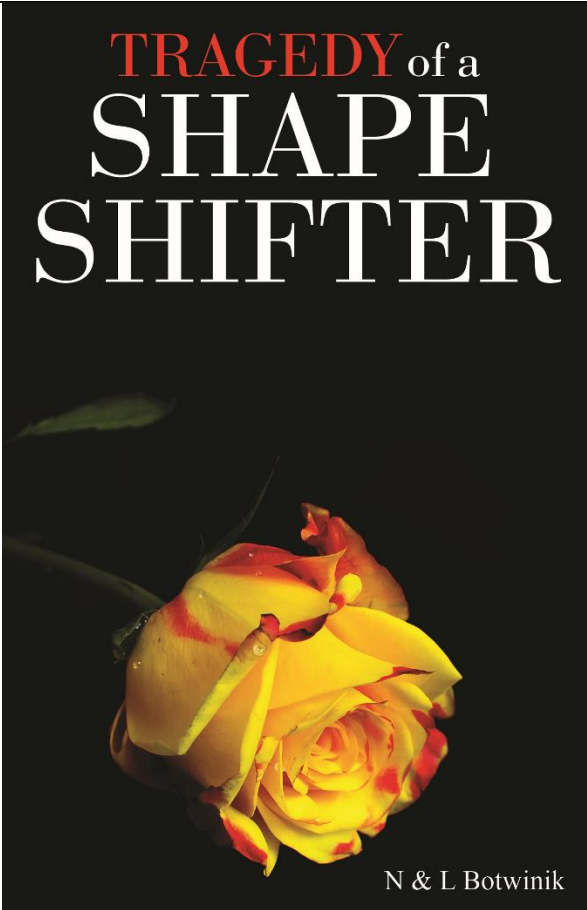
And the second reason...  
I'm thrilled to announce the release of my and my son Nathaniel's Sci-Fi novel  
"Tragedy of a Shapeshifter" (Available on Amazon).

This book has been in the works for several years and is the by-product of a script for a TV series that we worked on together.

As a bonus, Nathaniel composed original music for several of his songs in the book, and in honour of the book's release, uploaded a clip of his song "Still Me" to YouTube.

Hear him sing: <https://youtu.be/cP5NxvIk180?si=074b1U1ocFJRHX7T>.

And here is a link to the book "Tragedy of a Shapeshifter" on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/fqOLOkk>

	<p>From the back cover:</p> <p>How do you find and keep a job when you become someone new every month? How do you create stability in your life (home, friends, or love)? And how do you live with yourself, unable to remember who you were, before all the changes? Those are some of the issues that Alex must deal with.</p> <p>Once a month, at night, between the 26th and the 27th, Alex transforms into a different body. This has been going on for the past few months now, and he has no idea why this is happening to him or who he really is.</p> <p>In this Post-Cold War tale of 1996 NY City, a place pulsing with discrimination, sexual exploitation, and organized crime, Alex tries to find the answers he's looking for.</p>
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Leon (Leybl) Botwinik (Co-Author)

## Fun from the Web

- [Why is a 'once-in-a-decade' Supermoon Blue Moon happening twice in 2 years?](https://www.space.com/next-supermoon-blue-moon-2024-or-2037-why)
- [The key to detecting deepfakes may lie within deep space](https://www.space.com/deepfake-galaxy-detection-gini-index)
- [SpaceX shows off Dragon capsules for Polaris Dawn, Crew-9 astronaut missions \(photos\)](https://www.space.com/spacex-polaris-dawn-crew-9-dragon-capsules-photos)
- [How NASA's Curiosity rover changed Mars landings forever \(photos\)](https://www.space.com/curiosity-rover-sky-crane-landing-mars-exploration)

- What happens when your warp drive fails?  
<https://www.space.com/warp-drive-failure-scientific-consequences-star-trek>
- SpaceX private Polaris Dawn spacewalk mission on farthest human spaceflight since Apollo  
<https://www.space.com/spacex-polaris-dawn-to-launch-farthest-human-spaceflight-since-apollo>
- SpaceX Polaris Dawn astronaut plays 'Star Wars' song in music video beamed from space  
<https://www.space.com/polaris-dawn-music-video-harmony-of-resilience>
- How AI is helping us search the universe for alien technosignatures  
<https://www.space.com/how-ai-is-helping-search-for-alien-technosignatures>
- How a quantum sensor on the ISS could revolutionize space exploration  
<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/international-space-station/how-a-quantum-sensor-on-the-iss-could-revolutionize-space-exploration>

## TV&MOVIES

- Astronaut traveling to Titan loses his grip on reality in 1st 'Slingshot' trailer (video)  
<https://www.space.com/slingshot-trailer-laurence-fishburne-casey-affleck>
- "Alien": The Xenomorph life cycle explained  
<https://www.space.com/alien-xenomorph-lifecycle-explained?utm>
- The spaceships of the "Alien" movies  
<https://www.space.com/spaceships-of-the-alien-movies>
- Marvel's Darth Vader and Princess Leia rule the galaxy as father and daughter  
<https://www.space.com/darth-vader-princess-leia-marvel-comics>
- Yoda returns in new 'Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures' Season 2 trailer (video)  
<https://www.space.com/star-wars-young-jedi-adventures-season-2-trailer>
- 'Star Wars Outlaws' enters our galaxy end of August! Watch the launch trailer (video)  
<https://www.space.com/star-wars-outlaws-launch-trailer?>
- Watch 1st look clip from 'Star Trek: Lower Decks' Season 5 (video)  
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-lower-decks-orion-piots-season-5-clip>
- Terminator Zero is Just the Reboot the Sci-Fi Saga Needed  
<https://www.inverse.com/terminator-zero-review-netflix-anime>

## COMICS

- Marvel's main 'Star Wars' comic book line to progress into the New Republic era this fall  
<https://www.space.com/marvels-main-star-wars-comic-book-line-to-progress-into-the-new-republic-era-this-fall>
- IDW's 'Star Trek: Lore War' will bring back Data's evil brother in 2025 comics crossover event  
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-lore-war-idw-data-comics-crossover-event-2025>

## GAMES

- 'Star Wars Outlaws' finally lets fans play as the scoundrel (review)  
<https://www.space.com/star-wars-outlaws-review>

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