



Madison foursquare

83

This issue of *Madison Foursquare* is brought to you by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, who live at 2825 Union Street, Madison, WI 53704.

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All contents ©2023 by Scott Custis [SC] & Jeanne Gomoll [JG] September 2023 for *Turbo-Charged Party Animal #447*.

Welcome to a black and white edition of *Madison Foursquare*. Our printer is down, awaiting repair (if we can find someone to work on it), and we'd rather not pay for color printing.

Covers

[SC] What to make of this? Tarot on acid? I read through all the covers via the link you provided, **Steve**. Very amusing and, uh, psychedelic. The "Tome of *Turbo*" will likely be both pleased and confused. Good job.

[JG] **Jeanne B** and **Steve S** should publish a column of Zoltan prognostications and license them to news publications. Much more interesting than the standard horoscopes!

Jeanne Bowman

[SC] I love your zines. Right from the beginning "Crisp, pie, perhaps a galette" yum!

Regarding your comment to us, you congratulated us on "getting it done", the garage project or the garage warming party? As long as it's been since we've thrown a large party, I have to say it was more work than the project was. Your towering mousse of fruit would have fit right in, but you would have needed to announce the inclusion of gelatin (from whatever source) as we had at least one vegetarian in attendance. I don't think the concepts behind Jello poke cake even go together. That idea needed to be referred back to committee.

Thanks for the pithy book comments. I have been reading *Locus* lately in order to keep up with book ideas for our book discussion group, so I recognize a number of these titles and I appreciate getting your take on them. Crime fiction is a big, juicy genre that I'd like to spend more time reading so thanks for introducing me to Joe Ide, first I've heard of him.

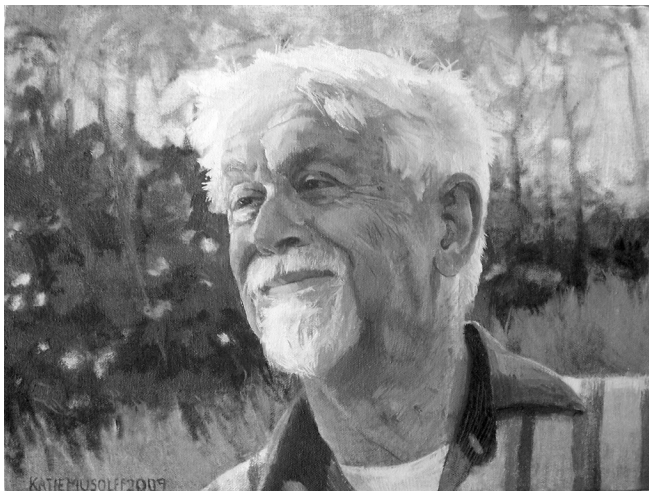
The closest thing Jeanne and I have had to a professional portrait done was several years ago when one of my nieces was dabbling in photography and came to Madison to take some shots of us. She ended up not becoming a professional photographer, but we really liked some of her photos. No paintings of us yet, though. We have an excellent professionally painted portrait hanging in our dining room of Jeanne's Dad.

[JG] Our garage-warming party was sorely lacking in gelatin desserts. I hadn't even realized how we suffered from this lack until you wrote. Alas!

I liked your break-up cross-stitch text very much.

Re your comment to **Elizabeth** about interruptions while reading aloud: Scott and I do that too when we're reading to one another (mostly books for SF Without Borders book discussions). I think snarky comments inspire most of the interruptions. But I recently experienced a very different kind of reading aloud, along the lines of what you mentioned to **Marilyn** – hearing one's own work being read aloud. A few friends (including **Diane, Jim, Pat, Georgie,** and **Greg**) came over on a recent Sunday afternoon and did a table reading of my play. It turned out to be an incredibly useful exercise in discovering problems with the text and troubleshooting ideas to fix them. I've revised the play since then and will be submitting it to Forward Theater next week.

I commissioned an artist, Katie Musolff, to paint a portrait of my dad shortly after his death. I gave her one of my favorite photos of him and she did a wonderful job. The original hangs on our dining room wall and I had giclée prints made for my mom, sister, and brothers. I'm very glad to have had it done.



Greg Rihn

[SC] I really enjoyed your piece on the Paine Center's Rodin exhibit. I wish we'd done that. Many years ago Jeanne and I took a trip to New York and stopped off in Philadelphia to see the Rodin Museum there and I still remember it vividly. Thanks as always for the background information as well.

I liked your "wonderful, awful idea" for the proposed *Turbo* gathering. The part about "...or otherwise performing" could be dangerous, have

you met **Steve Swartz**? Perhaps we shouldn't be too hasty about forbidding throwable vegetables just yet.

Regarding your comment to us, thank you.

[JG] Echoing Scott, I also thank you for your essay on Rodin and *The Burghers of Calais*. I think I admire that piece so much because it's a story in progress.

I love the idea of doing a live *Turbo* reading at the next *Turbo* gathering, with live mailing comments afterwards, of course.

Georgie Schnobrich

[SC] It was a real treat to see you guys, and you brought CAKE! I would never call "a predilection for puns" a "gift". More of a curse. But visual puns are usually less annoying, so I appreciated yours. Perhaps we will cross paths at APT in September, lord knows Jeanne and I will practically be living there this month.

[JG] Let's just hope that Burger King doesn't hear about your pun and decide they've got a winner idea for a new promotion. Is there a Burger King in Calais?

Lisa Freitag

[SC] Your article on *Into the Woods* with William and the Epic Players was not what I was expecting, it was far better. What a terrific project and performance. Wow! So many changes done so thoughtfully and effectively. Three cheers for William and the Epic Players! Thanks for telling us all about it.

[JG] I love how every performance of every play can tell an entirely unique story. Bravo to William and the other Epic Players!

We just watched season one of *Ooku: the Inner Chambers*, an alternate universe graphic novel whose story begins when a disease strikes down most Japanese men (and is posited as the reason Japan shut itself off from the outside world for three centuries during the Edo period). Volume one and two of *Ooku* won the Tiptree/Otherwise Award in 2009. I liked the books and we both liked the series. Have you seen it? What did you think?

Re your comment to **Carrie** and coincidental ads appearing on one's phone. The other day I went to Office Depot and purchased a package of highlighters. Hours later, a bunch of ads for highlighters appeared in my Facebook feed. I hadn't searched for them on-line. I just went out and bought them ... with a charge card.

Steve Swartz

[SC] We wish to send our best wishes to Allison on her difficult upcoming surgery. That's no fun, but we can hope for the best possible outcome.

On reading, I think you make a great point that reading is a subjective and creative activity. A collusion, of sorts, between the reader and the author. I like that you take a generous approach to what you read by ignoring "the incompetence" and focusing on what good you can glean from the experience. That's a particularly useful attitude for the book group, which so often can digress into a discussion of what was "wrong" with the book rather than what worked best about it. Having someone participating in the discussion who is helping us to not get too stuck on the negative is refreshing. That said, I have read enough to know what sort of things annoy or aggravate me and I'm often unable to simply ignore them. I can work to set those feelings aside for a book we are reading as a group, but for my personal reading, I don't feel I have time for books that annoy or aggravate me enough to become a distraction. I'm too old and I read too slow. There is a lot of great stuff out there, I just don't need to wade through a lot of crap in the hope of finding an occasional jewel. Anyway, Steve, I think it's always worthwhile to get your thoughtful perspective.

Thanks for the reviews, particularly of *The Starless Sea*. I liked *The Night Circus* much more than I thought I would and I was curious about her next novel. I'm not sure that a myth or fairy tale that lacks resolution will work for me, but it sounds interesting at the very least. Maybe.

I have not had a particularly productive summer for reading this year. Too much news (national and local), too much scrolling on my iPad, too many other distractions. I recently finished a non-fiction book, *How the Word is Passed* by Atlantic magazine staff writer Clint Smith which is a tour of monuments and landmarks that contributed to our national history and understanding of slavery. He visits places like Monticello, Angola Prison (in Louisiana), Galveston Island and other places and gives an insightful analysis of what role these places actually played in the history of slavery as well as what they communicate, honestly or not, to a visitor today. Winner of the National Book Critics Circle

Award for Nonfiction, I thought it was a valuable, if sometimes emotional, read.

Regarding your comments to me, the news about a legal requirement to accept cash is disappointing, but it explains a lot. I hope you eventually do the road trip article. Take your time, I'll wait.

[JG] I think I'll go find *Nettle and Bone*. Sounds interesting. Thanks, Steve.

[This comment is written for both you and **SteveVJ**] My "ideal" resolution re AI scraping would be that the sources of the scraped scraps would be required to be identifiable by underlying code, and that, when a piece of AI art or writing egregiously resembles a significant chunk of a writer's or artist's work, the writers or artists would be automatically credited and compensated. Same for AI versions of actors who will eventually populate our movies and TV shows.

As it turns out, the Wisconsin Historical Society will not be publishing my books. I received a very nice letter from a WHS editor who fondly remembered a book I designed for them many years ago. She said her staff was very interested in the *Janus-Aurora-WisCon-Tiptree* history as it related to Madison, and they liked my writing style ... but that the page count would not make economic sense for them. And I completely understand. (How many books are they likely to sell, you know?). She did *not* suggest that I submit a shortened, more focused book. But it was flattering to get the note; such a complimentary rejection letter! So, I will move forward with self-publishing, I think, unless I come across another press that might make sense. And I will start looking for markets for individual stories. I will take note of **Andy's** suggestion and submit a few to *The Wisconsin Magazine of History*. Right after I finish with my play.

How did Allison injure her foot?! I hope the surgery is successful. Please tell her we're thinking of her (affectionately).

I mostly agree with you about the irrelevance of fault on the matter of climate change. We've got to deal with the ongoing climate catastrophe no matter how or why it exists. Except. Except, I think that understanding the causes of a thing frequently reveals potential solutions for that thing. There is even a case to be made that understanding the cause might make a solution feel more *possible* for many people: If we caused the problem in the first place, then it is likely that we can (or should be able to) solve it. (Whereas if we did not cause it, and it was caused, say, by an act of god or

natural law, it might feel less likely that we will be able to solve the problem.)

You texted me (a few moments ago, as I write here). It was interesting to continue the conversation about the different ways you and I tend to discuss books.

Re your comment to **Greg** about methane – my understanding is that a lot of it comes from melting permafrost, which holds a massive amount of trapped methane. Also, there is a significant amount of methane that leaks invisibly as a result of fracking operations.

Walter Freitag

[SC] As I was reading Part 11 and 12, I kept thinking that this conference was nearly ten years ago, whatever y'all were considering the timeline for collapse then, we are well down the road today. I hope you are planning to put all this in perspective, at some point. Have the doomers revised the timeline or changed thoughts on the engine that will inevitably bring about collapse, or is it going to happen "any day now"?

I liked that you brought Barbara into the narrative. She sounds great and I'd love to meet her. What does she think of your *Turbo*-apa hobby?

[JG] I am wondering if you read apa members' questions and mailing comments to you as distractions about barely relevant details, which can only lead the conversation off on a tangent ... not resembling your "planned curriculum in any way." And yeah, Barbara sounds brilliant. Thanks for telling us about her.

I love your idea that characters in zombie apocalypse stories should prepare "go-rescue kits" because the author/director will inevitably chase them from their doomstead in order to rescue a loved one. I thought this issue of your zine was a great story/curriculum, Walter, and is my favorite episode so far.

Carrie Root

[SC] Of course we were delighted you and **Andy** were able to drop by to the "garage warming." To me the event underscored how long it's been since many of us from varying distances away have seen each other. Those of us who live close enough to drop into the collation gatherings get to see each other almost regularly but to hang out in person with **Greg**, **Georgie**, **Elizabeth**, you guys and, even, **Jim Brooks** was a special treat.

Regarding your comment to **Steve Swartz** and SouthernGothiCon, I don't think I attended that event, but the way you describe it sounds very much like the wavelength I'm on for our *Turbo* gathering.

You guys visit Madison on an annual basis, does the city seem noticeably different every time you come back? Madison is small enough that big changes stick out. Next year when you come back our new Public Market will be under construction and one, possibly two, major projects could be underway on the Capital Square.

[JG] It was great to see you and **Andy** while you were in Madison. The conversation didn't last long enough, of course, and as Andy has suggested we do need to have a longer one about the next *Turbo* gathering. Probably by zoom, I suppose. I just noticed that Scott also shies away from using the term "*TurboCon*," and is calling it a *Turbo* gathering like I just did. (He says that he also considered calling it a *Turbo Swarm*.) It's an indication of our point of view.

Nice crane photos. What cooperative cranes! They carefully positioned themselves on a spot of shade to make your photo more dramatic. I also liked the family portrait. Andy looked so delighted to be there!

Andy Hooper

[SC] Grimm Gorri and Janet Decay were an odd pair in the Horror Host business. I'm glad they found success. I kept feeling sorry for Jim Harmon in that Monkey mask working under hot lights in the TV studio.

The Bob Tucker piece was amusing. I did not catch all his references but I got enough of them (probably thanks to pieces you've done on some of these same people) that I enjoyed reading it. His disastrous "introductions of the attendees" event (would this be like an Opening Ceremonies?) was funny, but I also sympathized with him. Tucker roasts Dave Kyle's convention for good reason.

[JG] I noticed that *The New York Times* is offering a game to its electronic subscribers – "Flashback: Your Weekly History Quiz," which asks contestants to place eight notable events in chronological order. The games range is a bit wider than your fannish version – Pangaea to COVID in a game I recently played. But the game format is very cool.

Reading Tucker's conreport, I couldn't help but imagine writing a con report in the future from the point of view of my own ancient perspective.

On the subject of *Turbo* gatherings.... In the words of Petey Otterloop, from Richard Thompson's cartoon strip, *Cul de Sac*, I would rather chew off my arm than work on a convention of the sort that **Jeannie Bergmann** suggests in her zine, in which she proposes that we team up with former OddCon committee members and stage it in a hotel, etc. I am also completely opposed to scheduling something in WisCon's former calendar slot, Memorial Day weekend. I hope that WisCon's committee will be able to resuscitate itself and resurrect the convention. But if it does not, I do not want any former attendees to assume that this event, *TurboCon*, is meant to take over for WisCon.

I am hopeful that our gatherings will remain loosely organized with only the most necessary and minimal planning done – perhaps making an agreement on a hotel suggestion for out-of-town visitors, and printing up a list of events with phone numbers, addresses, and directions. I really want the gathering to remain focused on *Turbo* members and activities. (I do love **Greg's** program suggestion, a read-aloud issue of *Turbo*.) We should talk.

Catie Pfeifer

[SC] Fan Expo sounded like a good time. Congratulations on the success of your costume, the photo was great! That headgear looked complicated. I'm glad you were able to make it work. We just finished watching the first season of a rare-for-us Anime series on Netflix called *Ooku: The Inner Chambers*. The storytelling strikes me as very operatic, without the music.

[JG] Very cool costume!

Jae Leslie Adams

[SC] I liked your piece on your visits to the San Diego Zoo. I have been there once, back in the early 1980's. I flew to LA to visit a high school friend who was temporarily stationed there in the Army. We were both out of college and he was an Army engineer working with the Air Force. He had an apartment near LA International Airport. We did a day-trip to visit the San Diego Zoo. I remember enjoying the Zoo, but what really stuck with me was the planning we had to do for a weekday visit. We had to carefully work out a travel plan for getting there and getting back because if we messed up, we'd be stuck in rush hour traffic for hours and hours. It was the first time I realized what LA

residents had to go through just to live there and get around.

Thanks also for the *WABE* 2 excerpt. Did we all get different ones? I loved the art work by Brad Foster and **Georgie Schnobrich**. We got your fine article "Wish you were here". I have never done a Duck tour (they still seem to be doing them). These days we have a choice between the "Original Ducks" vs. the "Army Ducks" (which appear to be painted in camo instead of red, white, and blue). My favorite Hwy 12 attraction is the "sculpture garden" next to Delaney's. That is the site of Dr. Evermore's wonderland and home of the Forevertron that graced the back cover of the July apa.

[JG] Your successful family-shaming (in *WABE*) that finally won you a ride on the Wisconsin Dells' Ducks reminds me of several attempts to shame Scott into renting a horse-drawn carriage some night for a romantic outing – the two of us cuddling under blankets under the stars. But so far, no luck. Maybe this public shaming will have an effect.

Jim Hudson & Diane Martin

[SC] Congratulations on getting Diane's knee surgery scheduled. We will have to start a support group for near-Holiday-timed surgery. Jeanne's knee replacement was on Thanksgiving Eve, 2019 and my prostate removal procedure was on New Years Eve Day, 2021.

I would have liked to have seen the Stoppard play at the Shaw festival and I probably would have enjoyed the Coward, too, since I have only seen *Blithe Spirit* a couple times, but I absolutely would have avoided the Synge play. Ever since last year's dismal "comedy" film, *The Banshees of Inisherin*, I have been avoiding Irish drama in general. Not over it quite yet. All the Stratford shows sounded great. Thanks for the APT *Romeo and Juliet* review as we are (perhaps regretfully) skipping that one this year.

Very nice photos once again. I think my favorite this time was of the Tir Na Nog gate in Stratford, I like the composition with all the background details very sharp with Jim's smile partly in the shot.

[JG] Every time you go to the Shaw festival, I read your reviews and say, hmm, we should get back there someday. I'm so glad that Diane has a date scheduled for her knee surgery.

Both you and **Carrie** published hibiscus photos this month. We had a very successful hibiscus bush too,

planted in the ceramic pot in our driveway. But I think I want something else next year. The blooms were wonderful but limited to just a few weeks in July and August. I think maybe I'll put in several coleus plants there next year, because the leaves are so colorful and I don't have to wait for flowers to bloom.

Steve Vincent Johnson

[JG] It's a dilemma indeed, to distinguish between a writer or an artist who is influenced by another, vs an AI program whose work more resembles copying. I am concerned about the issue, and expect to be fascinated by how it is resolved, if it is resolved. But I think it is unlikely that I will enter the fray as a litigant.

It was interesting to see that Chat-GPT is capable of admitting to having made a mistake, although it never actually copped to fabricating information.

Luke McGuff

[SC] Thanks for the terrific description of your summer in the Master Naturalist Class. What a great time. I did not expect you to be going on all these cool field trips. I was under the impression you would spend the time planting herbs, scrutinizing random rocks, photographing birds and interviewing badgers. It wasn't like that at all. I think even I would have liked doing some of this stuff, and no one would mistake me for a naturalist.

[JG] What wonderful adventures you've been enjoying! Thanks for sharing them with us.

Pat Hario

[SC] Thanks for giving us a tour of your basement shower arrangement. You had to put up with that an awfully long time. Happy days now, though. Your new bathroom looks great. I have known for some time that our basement floor also does not consistently slant toward the floor drains anymore. It makes me wonder if we would have had a similar experience to yours showering in our basement when our downstairs bathroom was redone. We appreciate even more how fortunate we were to have a second full bathroom.

Regarding your comment to us for issue #445, you have thanked me plenty for helping out during your trip around the world. You brought back a mother-of-pearl inlaid chest from Fiji that is the star piece of furniture in my office to this day. You also gave me

a black leather backpack that I loved and used every day for *years*. I would do it all again, just ask.

If you are planning to spend a summer working in Alaska, I will be happy to help. No bribe needed. I wouldn't *think* of discouraging you from leaving us for an *entire* summer, of course, but I have heard that mosquitoes in summertime Alaska are as big as dragonflies and as vicious as crocodiles, just sayin'.

[JG] I didn't remember how your sailing sabbatical intersected with my layoff and new business until I was organizing and re-writing stories for my books. I found an essay about how impressed I was about your courageous adventure and questions about my own secure life. And then there were the articles I wrote about being forced to make my own leap after being laid off from the DNR. It was only in retrospect that I realized how the two things were tangled with one another. That was one of the most enlightening things about re-writing and expanding on articles I'd written in the past. I have been able to see bigger pictures from the distance of years. I'm glad you liked the article.

Jeannie Bergmann

[SC] Congratulations on the sale of Polly. Best of luck with the electrocautery (is that a type of surgery?) as an a-fib treatment.

Regarding your statement on your back cover last month, "someday they will answer our signals", Jeanne and I are deep into the 2nd season of the Apple TV+ series *Invasion* and I'd say "Oh Hell No!"

Regarding your comment to us for issue #444, cars are certainly getting more complicated and feature-packed, but I think the biggest push on prices is driven by the market. Americans are switching from cars to all sizes of SUVs, which are technically trucks, tend to be more expensive, and tend to be bigger profit magnets for car companies. More and more car manufacturers are reducing or stopping car manufacturing just to make more trucks and SUVs. Also, the auto supply lines problems have not all gone away. Buying a new car now can still involve a wait at the dealers, which pushes prices up.

[JG] Re your suggestion for a jointly produced *Turbocon* with OddCon committee members ... see my comment, above, to **Andy**. I am not a fan of the idea. I do hope we can arrange a tour at Epic as one of the events.

Artists get a bad rap for misinterpreting stories for which they do cover art. Most often the artists don't actually get a chance to read the books in the first place. They are commissioned by the publishing company long before the book is printed. A marketing person tells the artist what image they want on the cover. Invariably the image requested is what the marketing department thinks will sell the book, and doesn't always resemble the actual story or characters. No wonder book publishers are so excited about getting their covers designed by AI: it fits their existing process for buying book cover art. Rather than prompting the artist (and having to pay them), they just type in prompts to the computer. We shouldn't expect more representative artwork from AI-designed covers.

Kim & Kathi Nash

[SC] The last two summers I have been dropping off compost at the city's Food Scrap Dropoff program on Tuesdays, so I have not been using our compost bin in the yard. I will resume using our bin in the fall after the Farmers Market season closes for the winter. After reading Kathi's harrowing article, I suppose I should be on high alert if I'm ever tempted to drop something into my rarely used bin in the summer. Wow, Kathi, hope you are okay.

[JG] Oh god, getting caught in a swarm of wasps is one of my worst nightmares. When I was a kid, I got bitten and was told that wasps lived in nests, but my kid imagination envisioned bird nests full of wasps, burbling as if they were boiling out of a pan on a stove, and spilling over the sides. In my dreams these nests covered the lawns in front of and behind our house, and I was scared that I would be forced to run the gauntlet among these frightful monsters. Mom didn't agree to let me stay home from school though. I am so sorry you had to live that nightmare for real Kathi.

What's New

Door County Getaway

[SC] The only real traveling Jeanne and I did this year was four days spent in Door County in August. Door County has become something of a refuge for us. It's not too far away, but distant enough to feel like we've managed to really get away from home and Madison. It's familiar. We know where to go and what we like to do. It doesn't require a lot of energy figuring things out. We can leave some decisions until we arrive because we know how to do the things we want to do. We arrive, look at the weather and our priorities and make a plan.

This time we stuck to things that were easy to do and were most appealing considering the time we had to spend. We had ice cream at Wilson's and took in some free music in the park around the gazebo in the center of Ephraim. We gazed at the goats eating grass on the roof of Al Johnson's restaurant in Sister Bay before sitting down to Swedish pancakes. We spent a rainy (and therefore crowded) morning making another fused glass art piece at Hands on Art. We saw a play at Peninsula Players Theater. We spent one morning splitting up so Jeanne could swim laps at the YMCA in Fish Creek and I could rent a bike and tool around Peninsula State Park,



Fused glass art, made at Hands-On Art in Door County. Of course, the actual piece is more colorful – red, yellow and olive green.

we met up at Julie's Parkside Café afterwards for lunch. We spent a lot of time sitting in scenic spots reading, looking out over the water. Our hotel room was comfortable so we watched some TV too and dialed in to the *Turbo* collation one night. It was very relaxing.

The timing of our trip turned out to be fortuitous. When we left town, Madison was about to experience some of the hottest days of the summer. High temps were going to soar into the 90s and one day could top out over 100. The dome of hot air, however, stopped just outside the Door County line. We saw high temperatures only in the 70s. Our one rainy day never got above 68 degrees at all. We often wore fleeces outside in the evenings because of the chill air off the water. It was great. We knew we were missing a bullet back home.

The play we saw, *Trying* by Canadian playwright Joanna Glass, was set in 1968 and is the story of a young woman from Saskatchewan who takes on the role of secretary to Judge Francis Biddle, a one-time US Attorney General and Chief Judge of the American Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, in what he believes to be the final year of his life. Biddle is cantankerous, fussy, verbal, volatile and struggling with a host of medical issues. The young woman was raised out on the bleak prairie and is tougher than she first appears to be. They work things out over the course of the play. Jeanne and I were surprised and pleased to see that Biddle was played by veteran APT and Milwaukee Rep actor Lee Ernst, and he was especially good in a difficult and tricky role. We liked it a lot.

On the drive up and back we listened to an audiobook, *Titanium Noir* by Nick Harkaway. I would not rank it among my favorites of his, but it was exciting enough to keep us entertained on the trip.

Movies and Streaming

[JG] Other than MSNBC's Chris Hayes and Rachel Maddow, we've streamed several shows but, uncharacteristically, have seen no movies in theaters. There just hasn't been anything interesting showing.

We loved the final episodes of season 2 of *Foundation* (Apple+). I was reminded of how Harlan Ellison improved the telling of Asimov's *I Robot* in Ellison's never-filmed screenplay. The Apple version of *Foundation* similarly treats an Asimov series with depth and human emotion and improves it greatly. *Invasion* (Apple+) is beginning to feel too much like *Twin Peaks* or *Lost*, and is feeling more and more mystical and plot-resistant. There are way too many questions being asked and not answered. But we will watch the rest of season two and cross our fingers that mysteries are resolved. We are enjoying *Derry Girls* (Netflix). For my part it is the vibe of the Catholic parochial school, and especially the character, Sister Michael, who is brilliantly played by Siobhán McSweeney, that endears the show to me.

We haven't seen one movie in the theaters all month. Nothing since *Oppenheimer*. The only movie we've seen is *Ehregard* (Netflix), a pale version of *Dangerous Liaisons* with characters that all mostly mean well. This historical romance set in Austria among royalty, court artists, and heaving bosoms was only mildly funny, but gorgeous to watch.