

# Madison Foursquare

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This issue of *Madison Foursquare* is brought to you by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll (layout/design and occasional contributor), who live at 2825 Union Street, Madison, WI 53704. [Scott@unionstreetdesign.com](mailto:Scott@unionstreetdesign.com)  
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No trips or big adventures to report on this month. We have been living the quiet life lately. Jeanne is wrapping up her year as a Tiptree judge which should give her some time back again and may include a bigger writing presence here in Foursquare. I have been focusing more on preparation for retirement this summer. WisCon is on the horizon, but neither of us have a role in convention planning anymore. Neither of us miss it. Jeanne is very active on Tiptree motherboard projects—(auction logistics, award support, the fellowship, outreach and publicity, and publication plans.) We've posted information about the 2016 winner, honor list and long list at the end of this zine. I mostly carry Tiptree boxes and transport stuff around town. These days we stay only one night of the weekend in the hotel. If you are coming to WisCon this year, I hope to see you around.

## Comments on #368

### Hope Kiefer and Karl Hailman

Your cover drew many chuckles out of me. It reminded me of frustrations long ago when I was OE.

### Jason Burnett

Congratulations on the graduate assistantship. Looks like a very interesting opportunity. I read up a bit online about the Michael Rockefeller disappearance after your mention of it. Gruesome stuff, if the details published in the new book *Savage Harvest* are to be believed.

### Lisa Freitag

Congratulations on the book deal. Also, awesome news about William's role as Hamlet. Thank you for keeping us posted on his success.

## Georgie Schnobrich

I have largely given up on trying to write much about, or very specifically about, politics in *Turbo* beyond just general statements of alarm and frustration. The political scene changes almost daily with the latest outburst from Trump driving headlines. Rachel Maddow recently did a substantial news piece on a massive U.S. Navy bribery scandal in the Philippines, the biggest such scandal in history, in fact – yet we have hardly heard anything about it because Trump continually dominates the news cycle. You can only wonder at how many other important stories are getting buried because of his histrionics.

Your mention the NPR interview with the social justice activists of color made me sad. Their point is well taken, but is ultimately unhelpful and serves only to criticize and divide instead of encouraging people to come together to stand up for each other. The sooner we start seeing this Administration and the Republican party as a threat to us all, the sooner we can start responding with a united voice to all their attacks.

## Greg Rhin

This month I was most delighted by your summary of "The Illusionists" show. Except for the occasional David Copperfield show coming around, magic acts seem kind of rare these days. I wonder if the popularity of magic has dwindled or whether it's more of a geographical thing where it's more popular in some parts of the country than in others. This show is particularly interesting in that it showcases many types of acts. Thanks also for the tip about seeing some of their work on YouTube.

## Kim and Kathi Nash

The Uncle Carl report is getting to be an intriguing serial story. I am both worried about, and looking forward to, the next installment. I'm really hoping it ends tolerably, if not perfectly happily, for the old guy. I can't help but have a lot of sympathy for someone who is so determined to remain independent, but eventually we all have to face reality. It's a tough job, Kim, but you are doing the right thing for him.

## **Jim & Ruth Nichols**

Jim, what an amazing experience you have been through. Your health issues were seriously scary, followed by a sudden re-connection with a forgotten past leading to some reconciliation with your dad. Normal, routine, day-to-day life is going to seem like a gift after the drama you've been through. Thanks for sharing it all with us.

Ruth, a tough time for you as well. It's good that retired life is otherwise working out for you and you are not feeling forced into doing more paying work than you want to take on. Great pictures of both of you.

## **Jim Hudson and Diane Martin**

Thank you for the update on life at a dismal time of year and medical issues, particularly Diane's progress. I'm glad that you guys are looking forward to more travels and adventures and have not let medical challenges get in your way.

Jeanne and I are both interested in the retirees' lunch idea in few more months when we actually become retirees.

## **Andy Hooper**

We will certainly keep you and Carrie in the loop if we make another trek out to Eugene in 2017. I should be retired by then, so time should be less of a constraint for us.

You gave us more absorbing details on Nycon attendees, particularly Isaac Asimov, who has always been to me one of those famous SF figures I don't know much about, especially about his past and how he got his start.

## **Jae Leslie Adams**

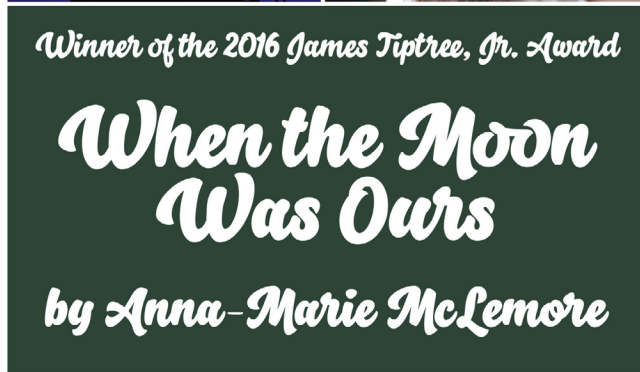
You shared with us a glimpse of a chaotic childhood and very unstable sibling relationships quite different from how I grew up. Small wonder you had fears of abandonment. The biggest move of my childhood was to go from an apartment in my small hometown to a 20 acre farm about 2 miles away. I did not move away from the farm until I went off to college. My sister is ten years older than me, and my brother is seven years older than me. They were both out of the house and on their own while I was starting middle school. Although they were not around the house very long as I was growing up, I did not completely lose contact with them like you did. You seem to have responded to your experience by settling down and becoming a pillar of stability for your son.

## **Patrick Ijima-Washburn**

I enjoyed your reminiscence of your Sunday mornings watching wrestling on TV. I tried watching professional wrestling a few times, but it never hooked me, maybe

because I didn't really try to sit down and watch it until I went to college. Had I started watching it on TV as a kid, maybe it would have pulled me in. I was a big comic book fan as a kid, and wrestling has a lot in common with comic book story telling. I was a big fan of Westerns, mainly on Saturdays. Sundays I had to actually go to church. Saturdays were cartoons on TV early in the morning and selected Westerns later. Often in the summer we could go uptown to the local movie theater and see Roy Rogers westerns on Saturday afternoons. I'm still a sucker for a good Western.

Scott Custis  
20 March 2017



The winner of the 2016 Tiptree Award is Anna-Marie McLemore for her novel *When the Moon Was Ours* by Anna-Marie McLemore (Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's, 2016)

This novel is a fairytale about Samir, a transgender boy, and Miel, an orphan girl who grows roses from her wrists and is bullied as a result. In fact, there is a fairytale within the fairytale, the first chapter telling us the version of the story that mothers would tell children for years after – before also telling us what that story leaves out. Then the book takes us through all of it, step by step, exploring the heartache and frustration that being and loving differently generates. Beautifully, the novel never lets go of its unique magical realism framework. While the thoughts and emotions these characters share are incredibly familiar to anyone who is queer or trans or has loved someone who is queer or trans, the imagery and particular scenarios the characters encounter are also completely bright and new.

In the author's note at the end of the book, Anna-Marie McLemore tells us that when she was a teenager she fell in love with a transgender boy who would grow into the man she married. This is their story, reimagined as legend.

## 2016 Tiptree Honor List

In addition to selecting the winners, the jury chooses a Tiptree Award Honor List. The Honor List is a strong part of the award's identity and is used by many readers as a recommended reading list. These notes on each work are excerpted and edited from comments by members of this year's jury. This year's Honor List is:

**Eleanor Arnason, *Hwarhath Stories*** (Aqueduct Press, 2016) – This is a wonderful collection of stories that examine the ways that culturally, deep-rooted assumptions around gender restrict vocation and recognition of skills. Arnason tells of a culture with significantly different gender assumptions and customs that lead to a number of subtly shifted societal impacts -- both positive and negative.

**Mishell Baker, *Borderline*** (Saga Press, 2016) – A fascinating whodunit with wonderful characters, *Borderline* spotlights diversity and intersectionality. Most of the characters in this novel are viewed as disabled by others, even by each other. But the characters' so-called disabilities give them advantages in certain situations. Understanding this helps the characters love each other and themselves. Almost every character can be described as having attributes that are both disabilities and advantages. What builds us up can bring us down. Or put another way: our imperfections are openings to beautiful achievements.

**Nino Cipri, "Opals and Clay"** (Podcastle, 2016) – A beautiful love story about solidarity. With just three major characters, this story does a lot with gender, demonstrating how gendering can be something one does to control or out of love.

**Andrea Hairston, *Will Do Magic for Small Change*** (Aqueduct Press, 2016) – A beautiful story of magic and love that spans two centuries and three continents, moving between times and places through a book-within-a-book structure. Its 1980s protagonists are a family who has been torn apart by an act of homophobic violence. Through a discovery of their past, they are able to reconnect and find love again. Among other things, this novel depicts an amazing range of queer characters. Importantly, the book de-colonizes these representations, making queerness not a white or American thing, but something that emerges in different shapes and structures at different times and places, particular to individuals as well as the cultures and communities that they are a part of.

**Rachael K. Jones, "The Night Bazaar for Women Becoming Reptiles"** (*Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, 2016) – A moving story set in a world where people live separate lives by night and day, with an opposite-sex lover by day and same-sex lover by night as the standard family structure. The theme of being trapped in one's body and circumstances and in the customs of one's times is dealt with well. The metaphor of a city/body that traps people in prisons of identity was very powerful. A surprising (yet well set up) twist to the story broadens its scope.

**Seanán McGuire, *Every Heart a Doorway*** (Tor Books, 2016) – This is a lovely YA novel about teenagers who return to our world, against their wishes, from magical lands that they entered through secret pathways – a magic door, an impossible stairway at the bottom of a trunk, a mirror. Their parents cannot understand their pain and misinterpret the stories their children tell and send their children to Miss West's Home for Wayward Children. Miss West, herself a returned child, helps them deal with their separation or return to what they all think of as their

## 2016 James Tiptree, Jr. Honor List



real homes. This novel came to the attention of the Tiptree jury because of the reasons the children are taken from or rejected by their magical worlds. The protagonist, Nancy, is asexual, and finds an ideal world through her door. A character named Kade was born Katie, and discovers he is a boy, not a girl. He is thrown out of Fairyland as punishment for his transition. Two twin girls named Jack and Jill take up identities opposite from those their parents imposed upon them. There are beautiful lessons here about the importance of finding one's home--that place where one can be one's self. An emotionally engaging novel.

**Ada Palmer, *Too Like the Lightning*** (Tor Books, 2016) – This book will start conversations about gender, philosophy, religion, government, even war. The judges perceived contradictions within this book that may be resolved in the sequel, but these only serve to spark interest. In the future in which it is set (the twenty-fifth century of our world), gendered language is considered taboo in most circles and gender/sex-related cues are minimized and overlooked in clothing, vocation, and all other public areas of life. However, the book slowly reveals that gender stereotypes, sexism, and sexual taboos still remain strong despite the century's supposed enlightenment and escape from such notions.

**Johanna Sinisalo, *The Core of the Sun*** (Grove Press/Black Cat, 2016) – This emotional, moving and thought-provoking novel, set in an alternate present in Finland, provides a critique of heteronormativity, eugenics, and all forms of social control, done uniquely and with humor. In this alternate present, the government values public health and social stability above all else. Sex and gender have been organized as the government sees fit, much to the detriment of women, who are bred and



raised to be docile. All drugs, including alcohol and caffeine, have long been banned. Capsaicin from hot peppers is the most recent substance to be added to the list. Our protagonist, Vera/Vanna, is a capsaicin addict. Consuming peppers provides an escape from a world that has treated her horribly. Most chapters are from Vera/Vanna's perspective, but others relate the history, laws, fairytales, and other literature of this fictional Finland.

Nisi Shawl, *Everfair* (Tor Books, 2016) – In this gorgeous steampunk revisionist history of anticolonial resistance, a coalition of rebels defeat King Leopold and transform the former Belgian Congo into Everfair: a new nation whose citizens comprise Africans, European settlers, and Asian laborers. Told from many different perspectives, the story switches among the viewpoints of a dozen protagonists. This novel shows how relationships can grow over time between people of different races, classes, and religions as they build community together. Characters work through their internalized racisms and demonstrate how this is necessary for those in interracial relationships.

### 2016 Tiptree Long List

**All the Birds in the Sky**, Charlie Jane Anders

**The Waterdancer's World**, L. Timmel Duchamp

**Lily**, Michael Thomas Ford

**King of the Worlds**, M. Thomas Gammarino

**"Vesp: A History of Sapphic Scaphism,"** Porpentine Charity Heartscape

**Cantor for Pearls**, M.C.A. Hogarth

**The Obelisk Gate**, N.K. Jemisin

**An Accident of Stars**, Foz Meadows

**Sleeping Under the Tree of Life**, Sheree Renée Thomas.

**Suddenly, Paris**, Olga & Christopher Werby

**The Arrival of Missives**, Aliya Whiteley

**The Natural Way of Things**, Charlotte Wood

The Tiptree Award winner, along with authors and works on the Honor List will be celebrated during Memorial Day weekend at WisCon in Madison, Wisconsin. Anna-Marie McLemore will attend the ceremony at WisCon, May 26-29, 2017. The winner will receive \$1000 in prize money, a specially commissioned piece of original artwork, and (as always) chocolate.

Each year, a panel of five judges selects the Tiptree Award winner. The 2016 judges were Jeanne Gomoll (chair), Aimee Bahng, James Fox, Roxanne Samer, and Deb Taber.

Reading for 2017 will soon begin. The panel consists of Alexis Lothian (chair), E.J. Fischer, Kazue Harada, Cheryl Morgan, and Julia Starkey.

The Tiptree Award invites everyone to recommend works for the award. Please submit recommendations via the recommendation page of Tiptree Award website. On the website, you can also donate to help fund the award and read more about past winners and works it has honored.

For more information on the Tiptree Award or this press release, contact Pat Murphy at zapmurphy@gmail.com.

# 2016 James Tiptree, Jr. Long List

