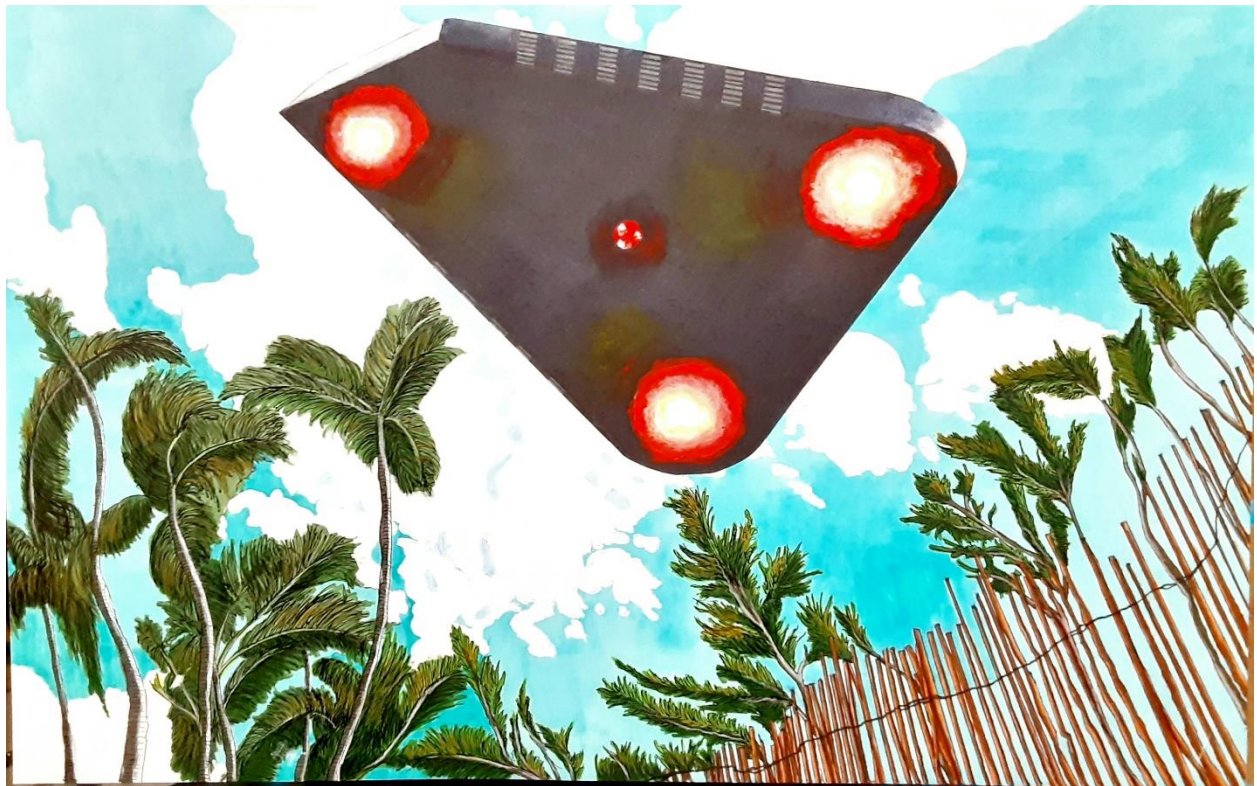


# THE OBDURATE EYE

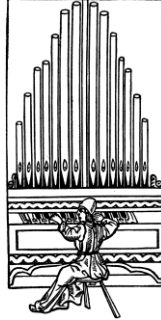
## #29

A personalzine from Garth Spencer

For July 2023



THE OBDURATE EYE #29, July 2023, a personalzine from Garth Spencer, 6960 Doman Street, Vancouver, BC CANADA V5S 3H7, Email [garth.van.spencer@gmail.com](mailto:garth.van.spencer@gmail.com) or [hrothgarweems@gmail.com](mailto:hrothgarweems@gmail.com) . Garth acknowledges that he does this on the unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, səlilwətəl, and s̓kwxwú7mesh peoples.



*The organ of no clique or party*

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## Art Credits

Jose Sanchez.....	cover, p. 8
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## LEARNING EXPERIENCES

There were several events and learning experiences in the last couple of years that I didn't care to mention.

Last summer I was somehow talked into a relationship when I wasn't really ready for one. At least that didn't last too long.

This spring I was somehow talked into lending too much money (again).

Mainly, I learned that I am talked into things too easily. (Maybe I feel *obliged* to go along with whatever people expect??) Well, hell, I knew that already. Now I know what the danger signs are.

§

By the time you read this I will have attended Pemmi-Con, the 2023 NASFiC, and hopefully represented Canadian fandom graciously and positively.

§

A recent involvement with a would-be conrunning group in Vancouver is actually a bit more painful than other experiences. (In an effort at charity I will not name the group, or the con they wish to revive.) Apparently one member flipped out just because I used the word "meeting" instead of "meet-ups," and thought I was committing the Board to formal extraordinary special meetings with, like, obligatory attendance, and agendas, without consulting them.

I don't exactly remember volunteering for the position of meet-up scheduler, so I returned the signs and stuff. If they've actually got the moxie to organize a convention at all, they can organize their own meetings.

§

Just to figure out what I was missing, I have become a bit fanatical about scheduling, planning, and budgeting and generally coordinating my activities, both mundane and fannish. It is as if I were applying the lessons learned at work to my private life and projects. It almost assuages the constant feeling that I didn't notice, forgot, or neglected to carry out something important. (I gather that most people just don't feel that way: as if lack of context, or orientation, doesn't threaten them. How odd.)

The result is that I have a write-on/wipe-off wall calendar hung over my computer desk, filled with almost illegible appointments and deadlines; at the end of each month I make up a paper draft calendar with all the appointments and deadlines on record somewhere, so as not to miss anything; I try to do the same with my expected paydays and expenses; and all my activities, mundane and fannish, end up in a list numbered by priority.

Now, I am trying to extend this to a graphic format, in order to complete a full circle of all the activities and abilities I should encompass, in order to be a well-rounded man.

§

Reading another APA reminded me how little I know about role-playing games. In fact I realized that I have played almost *no* games at all, in the past thirty-odd years. This, and my alienation from all sports, probably helps explain why a lot of ordinary thought and behaviour lies outside my ken.

## STATEMENTS AND REPLIES

There were some interesting reactions to Den Valdron's opinion pieces in *The Obdurate Eye* #28, which pointed out that SF Canada does not enjoy unmitigated respect among Canadian writers. (Den Valdron is not the only author who is critical.)

Mike Glycer, editor of File770.com, wrote (June 4/23): "*If you're going to be in the news business you need to be naming names. Den Valdron, whose Facebook posts you reprinted, doesn't do it. So, who are the wrongdoers and their victims who deserved these four pages of coverage in your zine?*"

I replied: "*Litigation.*"

Mike Glycer replied: "*The people involved with SF Canada must know who Den Valdron is expressing his opinion about. You're already married to the risk he's taken.*"

Jerry Kaufman, co-editor of *Littlebrook*, wrote (June 5/23): "*I had not previously heard about the SF Canada problems. It sounds terrible, but of course, you've given us one person's point of view. To have a complete picture of the situation, I'd need something written from another participant, preferably from the 'offending' perspective. On the other hand, do I really need more reports of storm and strife? May you be free from such.*"

I'll take this point by point.

**Mike**, my personalzine is more of an opinion-and-editorial fanzine than anything else. I am pleased to reprint Den Valdron's opinion pieces because he's more forthright and more aware than I, when something needs to be pointed out, bluntly.

We *need* some bluntness in Canadian fandom and prodom; I have run into far too many Canadians who seem frightened of saying *anything* critical about *anyone* at *any* time. As several convention fiascos (and absconded scam artists, and defrauded authors) have shown, ***a bit of plain speaking is sometimes called for***, rather than

a primly closed-mouthed attitude that warns nobody. (I'm looking at you, Ottawa SF Society, and you, BCSFA.)

I don't think it's important to name names, take note. What is important is to point out behaviour that *simply doesn't work*, in anyone's interest. Fans and pros, being human, are prone to doing some damfool things – even repeating the *same* damnfool things that entirely *different* people have done, at *different* times and places, *without any knowledge or connection with each other*. (I guess that different people behave the same ways in similar circumstances – falling for frauds, planning grandiose conventions while under-resourced, getting ring-led into cults or fascist/ communist movements, etc., etc.)

It is necessary, and sufficient, to point out to fans the kinds of dysfunctional behaviour that some of us fall into. Or so I have concluded. (I kind of thought you would have noticed these proclivities by now.)

**Jerry**, this one apologizes for disturbing your serenity. As I said, though, it seemed necessary. Your point is well-taken; I hope I have provoked SF Canada to respond.

Besides, I'm in my mid-60s now, so *yes*, I think I have a *right* to express disagreeable opinions, when they're warranted.

### **May I please receive updated email addresses for the following?**

unusualsuspects@mac.com; banana@fishlifter.demon.co.uk (Claire Brialey); Randy Barnhart ...



## **A PROPOS OF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR**

“I would like to expose a situation. If your children (or grandchildren) don't learn to play with children with special needs at school, maybe you should spend 10 minutes tonight explaining it to them. Because, although they don't currently live with these children at school, they will find them in their lives for sure.

“In light of recent events regarding the exclusion of a child with autism from attending a school trip and a child with Down Syndrome being expelled from dance class because she couldn't keep up with it, I feel the need to share this. There are boys and girls that no one invites to birthday parties. There are special children who want to be part of a team but are not selected because it's more important to win than to include these children. Kids with special needs aren't weird, they just want what everyone wants: to be accepted!

“Can I ask a question? Is there anyone willing to copy and paste this post on their wall without sharing it, like I did, for all the special children out there?

“Please teach your children to be kind to these beautiful children!

“Everyone needs love and kindness.” (Alan Smithee)

## LoCs

### **Heath Row, June 1, 2023**

*De Profundis* comes out monthly, ideally before the first of the month so the calendar content is most useful. Sometimes that slides if life intervenes.

I am editing *De Prof* because I am the Scribe for the LASFS – or vice versa. I was elected for the standard six-month term and expect to be re-elected for the second half of the year. The roles aren't always coterminous, but I volunteered to run for Scribe so I could relaunch *De Prof*. It's the easiest way to make sure the editor receives the minutes because... I make the minutes!

I'll consider how to best include a lettercol in the July issue – it would be fun to get more letters.

Thanks for the LOC!

### **Evelyn Leeper, June 1, 2023**

Basically, the Mt. Holz SF Society was the name we gave the science fiction club at Bell Labs, where the *MT Void* originated 45 years ago. We recently dropped it from the *MT Void*, since the club hasn't existed for the last 22 years or so.

**John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St., No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057, U.S.A.,  
June 10, 2023**

If the Gumdrop family is an example to us all (*Brad Foster's cover illo on OE #28 - GS*), I suppose we should all be chewy and sweet. Or maybe we should stick together.

I always thought the *CRC Handbook* was the Rubber Bible (because CRC was originally the Chemical Rubber Company).

*((You're probably right, and I mangled the reference as the engineer's "Rubber Handbook" – I thought there was one central reference for All Engineering Information.*

*((I also grew up thinking there was one standard reference guide for the Conventional Design for Living. It appears that there isn't, and we have to design our lives, without either guidelines or priorities.))*

Sam Johnson said "meseems" was better than "methinks". "Meseems" = "it seems to me". "Methinks" = ?

*((As long as we're inventing nonstandard language, like "forsoothly" in the SCA, I should say that "Methinks" just equals "I think." An expression of opinion or preference, that is. Like the contemporary use of the word "should."))*

You talk of how fanzinery is graying (or, in some parts of the world, greying). For a while I met for breakfast once a week with a man in his 80s. One day he said, "All my friends are dying." I said, "When was the last time you made any new friends?"

*((A fair point. It is also fair to point out that fanzine fans imagine they can't get anyone under the age of 40 interested in fanzines for love or money, and non-fanzine fans seem to have this general idea of being snubbed by fanzine fans. There should be a word for this mutual presumption of disinterest or contempt.))*

There are 38 million people in Canada, 332 million people in the States. A fanzine with a circulation of hundreds is huge. If we reach one out of every 180,000 Canadians, we're a success. It doesn't matter if the other 179,999 couldn't care less.

*((Canada's population surpassed 40 million, subsequent to your letter; there was a news article about it.*

*((My mid-1980s newszine The Maple Leaf Rag had a circulation of about 200 at most, and that included trades outside of Canada. For what it's worth.))*

**Lloyd & Yvonne Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, July 8, 2023**

The faster I go, the behinder I get. That's why I once again have two issues of *Obdurate Eye* to comment on, so I'd better get with it, hadn't I? Hmmm?

#27... Yes, we are all out of date, clinging to the past, trying to do a little timebinding, and keeping those great times in current memory, and wishing to return so we could all get together, and make more good memories. Guess I'm human, this seems to be the most natural thing to do. Our local conrunners, at least the ones connected with Ad Astra, seem determined and okay with the idea what it's time to wind it down. There are others who would like to rev it up again, but they don't have any money. As you say here, the prices for everything have shot way up, and I can only imagine how much a conventions would have to be at the door, let alone pre-reg.

My letter... I just left a message for Wolf via Facebook, so now to see what happens. Based on my own records, Ad Astra was last held in 2019, so the pandemic put an end to it. Paul says he'd like to have the con return in some form, but the only thing I can say is that there are suitable function spaces here and there, and one place we have our eye on is the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in the Don Mills and Eglinton area of Toronto, near the Science Centre.

Your comments to Taral on my locs ... there was one year, I was able to write 305 locs, nearly one a day. I wish I could do something even close to that. I think I am the rate of 100 to 150 a year, and you are right, working on Amazing Stories has slowed me down. Still, I plug on, and hope that I can get both jobs done properly.

#28 ... As now a working editor of SF stories, SF Canada was recommended to me. Yet, I was asked why I'd want to join a group of SF writers. I asked if there was a similar group of SF editors, and I got no answer. There are various professional editors' associations, all with membership prices beyond what I can afford, but there doesn't seem to be an association of SF editors. No, I am not going to start one, my hands are quite full. (The following story from Den Valdron about SF Canada is truly a cautionary tale. I had a look at their website, and list of current members, many of whom are friends. A couple are people who have given me a very hard time over the years. I think I shall not be joining, mostly because of those two members, and the fact I am not a writer.)

Remarks to John Purcell ... I think that when we were in our neo days, we learned that while the show was going on, to get the most out of it, you had to participate. That's why cons sold memberships, and not tickets. Tickets imply that you get to go in and sit, and watch what happens. I prefer participation, and I still get my fun that way. These days, there are few participants, and too many passive consumers.

I suspect that I am done. I am creatively dry, or I am ready for an early night, one or the other. Thank you for these two issues, and I will look for more.

*We Also Heard From: Perry Middlemiss, Leybl Botwinik, George Phillies, Rob Jackson* ("If anyone wants pages 1-2 of *Inca* 15, I still have the original Word versions so I am happy to run them off and send them. Or I can send it/them (it'll be only 1 sheet of A4, of course) direct to you. I assume this is the front cover and colophon/contents page?")



## ONE WAY TO LOOK AT IT

### **Faint Hopes and Russian Fantasies**

Den Valdrón, June 9, 2022

The Russo-Ukrainian war drags on, the Russian's position is hopeless, but their cheerleaders, the 'realists,' the Mearscheimers, the Chomskys, the Tankies, all continue to shill for the Russians.

To speak kindly of these people, they're not NeoNazis or Stalinists for the most part, they'd probably consider genocide a horrible thing. They're misguided leftists, or Anti-Americans, so embedded in their ideological narratives that they're unable to see past it.

Well, meh. I'm not caring very much. I find it tiresome and sloppy when they claim that the Maidan Revolution was an American engineered coup. But generally, they're irrelevant and becoming more so.

But they're hard to avoid.

I find it interesting that they continue to cheerlead Russia, and foresee an 'inevitable' Russian victory. That's so implausible it deserves some analysis.

Why do Russia proponents argue for ultimate Russian victory?

Well, part of this is that the definition of victory gets very fluid. In the first month or two of the war, the definition of victory was conquest of Ukraine and incorporation of the state or significant territories into Russia, and setting up a subservient puppet satellite in a surviving rump.

Now? Now victory is hanging onto Crimea, and some bits of the Ukrainian mainland, plus maybe some other concessions. Military victory on the battlefield, or forcing exhausted Ukrainians to give in at the bargaining table.

But regardless, they think Russia is going to win the war, come out on top, etc.

Realistically, that's already lost – the bulk of the Russian Army now lies in graves or hospitals, the cream of military equipment is gone - destroyed and disgraced. It's been replaced, by untrained recruits and obsolete garbage. The Russian economy is devastated, and its not going to get repaired. This is a graveyard war for Russia.

But why do the Russophiles think they're still going to win?

The argument goes like this: Russia is bigger and wealthier than Ukraine by 3 or 4 to 1, therefor victory is inevitable, sooner or later, Ukraine will be crushed by overwhelming Russian numbers and unconquerable Russian resolve.

Meh. So far, that hasn't been working out.

But it will work out eventually!

And here's the linchpin - Ukraine has only survived because the US and Western & Central Europe have been propping it up with military supplies. Without that, the Ukrainians would have long ago run out of tanks, artillery shells, bullets and whatnot.

Without bullets to shoot, the Ukrainians couldn't have fought, so they'd inevitably have to surrender after the ammo ran out. That's the Russophile theory.

So, according to Russophiles, all that's required for Russia to win, is for the west to stop sending military aid. The Ukrainians run out of ammo, the Russians roll over, game over.

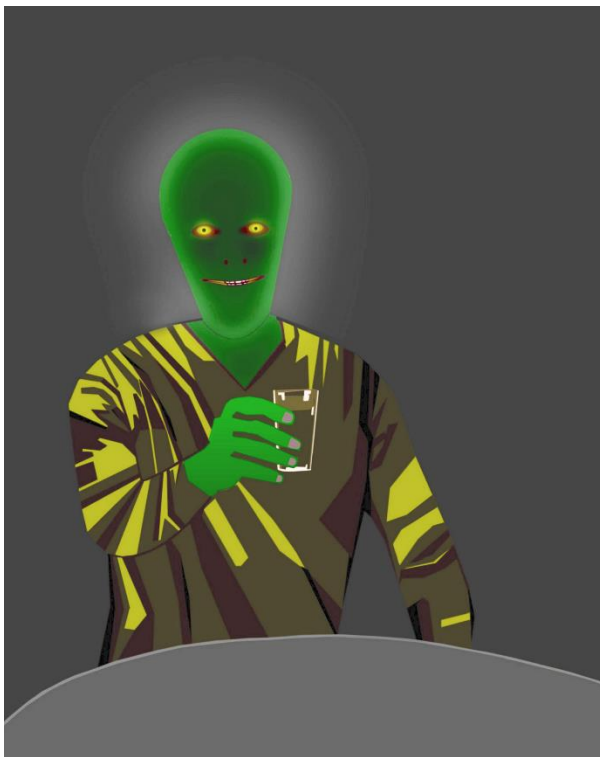
Well, not happening.

But in the fevered imagination of the tankies, the Chomsky's, the Mearsheimers, it could happen any day. They see Western resolve as weak. Sooner or later, the Americans will get tired of it all, and leave the Ukrainians out to dry.

That's basically it - the hopes or argument for Russian victory rest 100% on the proposition that eventually, the Americans will cut off the pipeline of munitions, leaving the Ukrainians to run dry and get overrun.

How realistic is that? These are the Americans we're talking about:

- \* The people who stuck it out in Afghanistan hopelessly for twenty years.
- \* The people who warred on Iraq in 1991, kept randomly bombing and sanctioning them until 2003, occupied the place from 2003 to 2011, and then went back in after Isis, literally until 2021. That's thirty years of stick-to-it-ness.



- \* They spent ten years in Vietnam without a clue what to do, and destroyed two neighboring countries.

- \* They've maintained sanctions and hard cases on Iran since 1979. Still going strong. That's forty-two years.

- \* They've been sanctioning Cuba since 1962? That's sixty-one years.

That's literally pathological. Americans have demonstrably carried on grudges and military and political campaigns, often of monstrous scale, for periods of 10, 20, 30, 42 and 60 years.

Any prediction of Russian victory based on the idea that the Americans will eventually get bored or tired and go away, is probably based on excessive consumption of magic mushrooms.

Not to be taken seriously.

## FANZINE REPLIES

**Perryscope 33**, May 2023, a personalzine published monthly by Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3122. E: [perry@middlemiss.org](mailto:perry@middlemiss.org).

You had a beautiful sand dune/sunset cover there, Perry – can't tell whether it was at a beach, or in a desert, but I guess it was in Morocco.

People may remark that your main activity is travel; I think that's the main activity you write about, and a lot necessarily goes unsaid. (There is a lot of my inner life that I haven't put on paper ... come to think of it, that may be for the best!)

Had I the opportunity, it would have been a good thing to visit the East End of London before it gets gentrified. About a century ago my father was growing up in the East End, and I would have liked to know something about the environment that shaped him. Ireland and Australia and Switzerland would be other ancestral places good to visit.

Julian Warner's description of wineries and breweries in Rutherglen, Cheshunt and King Valley make me wonder where my Windeyer ancestors had their family farm – I am a little confused about Australian geography. Then again, I wonder what I'm missing, by not touring BC's own winery regions.

**Intermission 133**, early June 2023 (for EAPA, N'APA ...), e-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, [ahrvid@hotmail.com](mailto:ahrvid@hotmail.com)

I wonder if I will say anything in this LoC about *Intermission* that I didn't say already in eAPA and N'APA? Only that Artificial Intelligence is no more about intelligence than computer programming is about building computers. It will be a great advance in simulating natural thinking processes if Microsoft or Apple unveils a system that processes input as well as an uneducated rural American state senator.

Last year I was worried about the evil sinister plot to undermine copyright and trademark and other intellectual property rights, to the hurt and harm of original creators. This year the alleged cause for alarm is AI-produced text and graphics. Somehow I'm not as worried.

For whatever reason I simply haven't worried about the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, either, perhaps because I just don't follow the news. The fact that the print and radio news barely seems any different from day to day, let alone my inability to access TV, probably saves me a lot of angst. Until a Richter 9.+ earthquake or a sudden intercontinental missile bombardment ruins my day, of course.

**La C'hronicä Mai XLIV**, Government Gazette of the Kingdom of Talossa, via Chancery Communications, [talossachancery@gmail.com](mailto:talossachancery@gmail.com)

You may or may not rejoice in the fact that I mention *La C'hronicä* in my personalzine, when I get around to it. I am pleased to see that some Talossans are having fun and

doing neat stuff, with cycling and a cookbook and football and Talossan merchandise, although I would have liked to see more about the Talossan language and what can be done with it. Am I missing something on the Talossan Discord presence? Maybe I should post passages there from my Talossan translation of the Book of Thomas.

**Telegraphs & Tar Pits 64-68** (for APA-L), Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA 90230; [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com)

Heath, you will be pleased to know that your purchase from the CUFF fanzine library (and my Stop Press catalog) are now in the mail.

Your apazine packages are so generous I don't know how to respond to them in a timely fashion, except to respond only to the latest one under a given title.

From your review of classic SF short stories, such as "All You Zombies—" and "Volpla," I am reminded of the bias that ~~Golden Age~~ science fiction was originally about exploring original, new ideas about how reality might be bent into creative origami shapes by the future, or at least by our imaginations. Given the first publication dates, these stories broke new ground; somehow I don't have the sense that contemporary SF have been doing that, not so much. Or maybe I'm just not 13 anymore, and no longer discovering a new exercise for imagination every day.

Still, your movie and television reviews are eye-openers. Kirk Douglas in a *musical* Jekyll and Hyde movie? The band Kiss in monster movies?? Truly all knowledge is contained in fanzines.

**Snow Poster Township #10** (for N'APA), Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA 90230; [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com)

I gather that Facebook deleted N3F/LASFS event listings for unstated "community standards" violations. Again. This has become a familiar refrain; so has their refusal to answer queries as to what standards were violated. I am glad that N3F and LASFS have workarounds to tell members when videos and audio/radio shows will be played. Maybe local fan groups could revive the same activity.

It is time, and past time, that some enterprising fans established a viable alternative to existing social media. But the costs and labour to do so are prohibitive. We are forced to makeshifts like Discord, Mammoth, and others that don't quite fill the bill.

**De Profundis #586**, June 2023, LASFS newsletter, Heath Row ed., 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA 90230; [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com)

I see in *De Profundis* #586 that you were confirmed as editor for January through June of 2023; will you continue as editor from July onwards?

It's good to see that LASFS members pay close and continuous attention to issues affecting Loscon. I was a little surprised that LASFS appears to be both the social club and the body directing Loscon policy – more often I have seen fan communities having two different bodies, handling social meetings versus convention policy.

**Faculae & Filigree #20**, May 2023 (for LASFAPA), Heath Row ed., 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA 90230; [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com)

Little by little I am catching up on the recent history. Belatedly I learn from you of Marty Cantor's passing, and David Schlosser taking over LASFAPA. I enjoyed *Holier Than Thou*, and the *Neofan's Guide*, and sporadic news from LA fandom.

(And I had just been preparing my APA list for posting online. Would you be kind enough to give David Schlosser my email, and a request for his description of LASFAPA with contact information? My information on the APA came from Marty Cantor.)

**Ionisphere #41**, June 2023 (N3F Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau), John Thiel ed., Bureau Chief, 30 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904. Email [kinethiel@mymetronet.net](mailto:kinethiel@mymetronet.net)

So you're musing about less than original SF ideas, John, among less than original published content in general. As usual I see this sort of matter sideways. It is almost, but not quite, clear that there's a process that creates original ideas ... but the closest I come to mimicking it is by playing mix'n'match with some established elements, rather like the *Star Trek: Deep Space* episode involving one identical impostor trying to stand in for an established character, one fantasy character (Rumpelstiltskin) appearing on the space station, and a deceased baseball player that the station commander admired. Very cross-genre. Almost makes me want to write stories about sasquatches qualifying for all sorts of government aid, but not able to get a job, even pumping gas.

The interview with Jefferson Swycaffer, though, is not optimistic. I want to protest that not all imaginable consequences of technology are going to be published before we even finish a story; surely, we must be merely behind the curve, as technology develops. Or even more to the point, routine fiction – and routine news coverage – seems to devolve to some simple, and limited stereotypes. Surely, I think, we have more concepts available than “Independent Hero Good”; “Corporation Bad”; “AI / Clones / Gene-Engineered Posthumans Worse”; “Governments Incompetent”? Speaking for myself, I keep daydreaming about aliens who are neither demons nor angels, but nebbishes as overwhelmed by unexpected events as we are, and like us, just trying to do their jobs and discharge their duties to the hive and look after their hatchlings.

**The National Fantasy Fan #82:6**, June 2023, George Phillies ([phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net)) and Jon Swartz ([judgeswartz@gmail.com](mailto:judgeswartz@gmail.com)) eds.

Greetings to Becky Jones, the new Director!

I see that members have both the Laureate Awards and constitutional amendments to vote on. I will support the sensible constitutional amendments, since I am woefully ignorant of the award nominees. (Unfortunately this happens to me with \*every\* award I have been exposed to.)

Interesting to see the N3F Short Story Contest is open again. I wonder if I can finish anything in time to submit?

It happens that a Vancouver small publisher hosts a Three-Day Novel-Writing Contest each Labour Day weekend, so there is one coming up fairly soon.

**FanActivity Gazette #3:1**, “News of Fen of Interest to All Fen,” George Phillies ed., 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 10609, U.S.A. ([phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net))

Your mention of the Eaton SF collection interested me, tangentially – I am trying to track down the current *fanzine* collections, or repositories, which is not at all the same thing. Granting that many fanzines are transitory, still quite a few end up in garbage and recycling if no storage place can be found, and no deliberate effort is made to retain them.

Keeping up with fan news is definitely a job for a committee, especially since the Internet became a publicly-available medium. I found that out the hard way. Mindy Hunt’s convention column, to take just one example, incidentally features far more Canadian conventions than I have found for my own website.

The version of the Gazette I received had quite a lot of blank pages after the review of *War of the Worlds*, punctuated by calendar pages. I don’t think that was an artefact of the PDF reader I was using. Has anyone else reported something similar?

**This Here #66**, Nic Farey, 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142, email [fareynic@gmail.com](mailto:fareynic@gmail.com)

Your opening editorial on the subject of pride really got my attention. The word “pride” in English seems to vary between two meanings, depending on what someone is implying (at any given paragraph). There is self-respect, and there is vanity.

In Christian theology, as I understand it, “pride” was considered the root of all other sins, probably because the kind of arrogance displayed by ruling classes was hard to distinguish from the self-aggrandizement that pagan Classical cultures allowed, or even enabled.

My observation is that self-respect is vitally necessary. I noticed first that if you threaten a man’s pride, you may take your life in your hands – unless he learned to base his pride on something other than youth, strength, and sexual stamina. Which, I gather, is called “growing up.” Then, I noticed, a fairly normal Christian upbringing will undermine and destroy a healthy self-respect, and does not help anyone to grow up sanely. Finally, I now realize that everyone needs some self-respect. But we are offered a lot of substitutes – pride in what we can do, or produce; pride in what we have, or can buy; pride in how we look – which starts to lead us back to familiar Christian-defined vices.

In modern times, though, there is a perceived need to assert the self-respect, and demand normal human respect, for any number of groups. Minorities ranging from ethnic groups to religious groups to nationalities, and including marginalized people ranging from the handicapped and the neurodivergent to the sexually divergent, are

demanding normal human treatment. The fact that women everywhere are not a minority does not change the reasons to ask for common decency.

We don't have a debate going, or a conversation, but a minor civil conflict between those who accept the Other and those who don't; and that won't end.

Onward.

I saw the first two *John Wick* movies, and haven't seen the others, partly because I am not that into shoot-em-ups and partly because reviews have commented on the unbelievable frequency of lethal fights. There are other definitions of story, as you alluded to yourself.

Onward.

I second Bob Jennings' hope that your leukemia progresses to remission, as the doctor expects.

Bob Jennings remarked on the pastward focus of Corflu; I also noticed this. Perhaps some survey of current zines and zinedom is about due? He also remarked on the high cost of postal distribution of dead-tree zines, of which I just had direct knowledge. Now, I am wondering if I should offer some of my CUFF fundraising publications by email, instead of physical mail.

**Captain Flashback #55**, "composed for the 444th distribution of the Turbo-Charged Party-Animal Amateur Press Association, from the joint membership of Andy Hooper and Carrie Root, residing at 11032 30th Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98125. E-mail Andy at [fanmailaph@aol.com](mailto:fanmailaph@aol.com), and you may reach Carrie at [carrieroot49@yahoo.com](mailto:carrieroot49@yahoo.com)."

Horror TV movie hosts in silly makeup! Interlineations! (I always needed explanations for interlineations.) Mailing comments! Letters from famous fen! What can I say?

**Eldritch Science June 2023**, George Phillies ed., 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net)

Art! Stories! Poetry! All good things. I realized after skimming the contents that I rely on opening sentences to give me a hook, a clue whether I'm actually going to get into this story, or not. I'm spoiled.

**Alexiad #22:3**, June 2023,

Condolences on the passing of Grant McCormick. He sounds like a very good example, and one of the people we can least afford to lose.

Lisa's leading comments were poignant; the house where I grew up is also to be sold, if an in-family dispute over proceeds can be settled. I have also found myself migrating from print books to e-books, although I may be further along – mostly I rely on a balky tablet to read my collection of e-books.

I am also concerned about not leaving a mess of paperbacks and fanzines and inconsequential memorabilia for someone to clear up. A will is in progress. One snag

in completing it, beyond the tedium of listing all my worldly goods, is that my awareness of current fanzine repositories is quite out of date. Fortunately Randy Reichardt (now gafiated) has kindly given me some leads, but I still have to follow them up.

Joe's remarks on the Worldcon – in this year, and in future years – provoked some thoughts. I find it remarkable that he reports a Tel Aviv bid encountered “anti-semitism among the woke,” but then there seem to be competing definitions of ‘woke’ and I don't know who is using which. (I don't get out much.) I don't find it remarkable that someone proposed the Worldcon be held at the national con of the country of the winning Worldcon bid, and the U.S. hold an American National Convention; being a Canadian myself, that makes every kind of sense to me.

Maybe Joe should expand on his “buy my books” ad by listing some of the titles? I have taken the plunge and produced some chapbooks of my own extended articles, under the imprint Stop Press, partly to add saleable items to the CUFF fundraising effort, and have listed them with the CUFF fanzine catalog.

Re your loccol comment to me: No, I haven't read *The Codebreakers* yet. I wanted to find a book called *Glyphbreaker*; I recall it was about a man who deciphered Mayan script, and subsequently tackled Linear B and the Phaistos Disk.

Also in the loccol, Joe answered the question whether there a publisher which may produce fanhistories and fanthologies. Thank you! There is a Canadian fanhistory volume I am working on, but I hope it doesn't have to be a Stop Press project. Not sure I have the means.

Thanks to George W. Price, for responding about the somewhat dated interpersonal behaviour of people in classic science fiction, set somewhere in the future. He's quite right, it seems to be a necessity of making a story saleable (and palatable) to readers in a given decade. And to answer his question, I don't yet know of any alternative. Except to leave unspoken great big hunks of the background of a future, or alternative society.

Thanks also to Taras Wolansky, for responding to my remarks on H. Beam Piper. Yes, I was aware of the female archaeologist in his story “Omnilingual,” and all the characters with remarkably mixed names in his future history.

I guess these features just didn't stick out like a sore thumb, to my eyes, the way they must have done to his readers. But then, I live in Vancouver – a pretty ethnically mixed city – and I have an ethnically mixed name myself. “Garth” is Old Norse by way of Scots, and “Spencer” is so English, it is originally French.

**Dark Toys #75**, June 2023, Taral Wayne ed., 245 Dunn Avenue, Apartment 2111, Toronto, ON M6K 1S6, [taral@bell.net](mailto:taral@bell.net)

Condolences on the difficulties with Traveling Matt! Glad to see they are over.

Thank you for mentioning me (he said wryly). Actually my desperation, if it was that, was not simply to understand fandom – but to understand why it transmogrified under our feet, and what to do now. As I will probably tell people at NASFiC (as if they don't already know), there is no fandom. There are now a lot of separate fandoms that



have less and less contact or common ground with each other, receding from each other at high fractions of the speed of light, like galaxies receding from each other in the expanding universe. I thought this was a function of the continuing expansion of the popular-entertainment market, but a recent edition of *Alexiad* maintained that market is actually diminishing. Mixed messages out there. Little wonder if fannish fandom is a backwater for cottontops and coffin-dodgers. Somehow, we lost common ground with other fandoms. Nothing to be done.

You're quite right. Fanzine activity is a stand-in for social activity. Also it's an outlet for my compulsive scribbling.

The point is to get things said. That is my goal. Whether anyone reads it or not is secondary, to me. The fanhistory? Same difference. Maybe, I theorize, the interpersonal behaviour, and the successes and failures of clubs and conventions, will be useful to some future reader. And maybe not; but it must satisfy me to put things on the record, on the off chance it might be of benefit.

You're almost right about faneds not reading new fanzines; as you see here, I'm making a point of writing locs, and including them here. The point being, some people may be interested in my trades, if they get an idea of what they contain.

I was engrossed by your article on the *Captain Star* series. Thank you for the URLs! Amusing letters, and an amusing ending. Thank you!

***The N3F Review of Books***, June 2023, George Phillies ed., 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net)

What can I say of SF and fantasy books, reviews of books, and literary and critical columns?

***BCSFazine #554***, June 2023, R. Graeme Cameron ed., [the.graeme.bcsfazine@gmail.com](mailto:the.graeme.bcsfazine@gmail.com)

About WCSFA – I am no longer acting as WCSFA meet-up coordinator.

About Aurora Awards – only once have I seen anyone do capsule reviews of Aurora nominees, in good time for Canadian fans to read them and vote on them.

About CUFF – Taral did in fact write a trip report. I have seen it (repeatedly). Want a copy?

About the VHS amateur B-movie review – maybe some of us could make our own fan movies. Oh, wait, weren't we talking about Web videos a while ago?

About the convention calendar – it may be past time to find out more upcoming conventions to add to the list!

Also received: *Explosion Containment Umbrella* #9; *MT Void* #2275-2279, May 12 - June 9, 2023; *Tightbeam* #345, June 2023; *CyberCozen* #35:6, June 2023; *Vanamonde* numbers from

## EVEN NEWER BOOKS

### July 2023 New Fantasy and Science Fiction Releases

At White Dwarf Books (3715 W. 10th Ave. Vancouver, B.C. V6R 2G5 604-228-8223,  
**Email:** [whitedwarf@deadwrite.com](mailto:whitedwarf@deadwrite.com))

**Abraham, Daniel. BLADE OF DREAM. [THE KITHAMAR TRILOGY #2]. Orbit, 37.00 hc.**

Garreth Left is heir to one of Kithamar's most prominent merchant families. The path of his life was paved long before he was born. Learn the family trade, marry to secure wealthy in-laws, and inherit the business when the time is right. But to Garreth, a life chosen for him is no life at all. In one night, a chance meeting with an enigmatic stranger changes everything. He falls in love with a woman whose name he doesn't even know, and he will do anything to find her again.

**Adelmann, Maria. HOW TO BE EATEN. Back Bay, 22.99 tp.**

In present-day New York City, five women meet in a basement support group to process their traumas. Bernice grapples with the fallout of dating a psychopathic, blue-bearded billionaire. Ruby, once devoured by a wolf, now wears him as a coat. Gretel questions her memory of being held captive in a house made of candy. Ashlee, the winner of a Bachelor-esque dating show, wonders if she really got her promised fairy tale ending. And Raina's love story will shock them all.

**Aryan, Stephen. THE JUDAS BLOSSOM. [THE NIGHTINGALE AND THE FALCON #1]. Angry Robot, 17.99 tp.**

1260. Hulagu Khan, ruler of the Ilkhanate, is determined to create a single empire that covers the entire world. His youngest son, Temujin Khan, struggles to find his place in his father's bloody rule. Reduced to the position of one of Hulagu's many wives, the famed Blue Princess Kokochin, last of her tribe, finds herself wandering down a path that grants her more power than a wife of the Khan may be allowed. And Kaivon, the Persian rebel who despises the Mongols for the massacre of his people, thirsts for revenge.

**Ashing-Giwa, Kemi. THE SPLINTER IN THE SKY. Saga, 36.99 hc.**

All the lowly scribe Emitan wants is to quit her day job and expand her fledgling tea business. But when her lover is assassinated and her sibling is abducted by Imperial soldiers, Emitan abandons her idyllic plans and weaves her tea tray up through the heart of the Vaalbaran capital. There, she will learn just how far she is willing to go to exact vengeance, free her sibling, and perhaps even secure her homeland's freedom.

**Barclay, James. THE QUEEN'S ASSASSIN. Gollancz, 19.99 tp.**

Naida is living a lie. A peerless battlefield surgeon. A talisman for the army. A symbol of hope in an impossible, grinding war. A fraud. Society, led by the queen, has long held that the Esselrode people and their abilities are inherently, irredeemably evil, a truth which Naida has been brought up to believe. But as one of them, feeling compelled to use her powers again and again to heal those on the brink of death, it's

hard to accept. It's even harder to live a lie, conflicted about her hidden identity, when the truth could save lives.

**Barker, RJ. GODS OF THE WYRDWOOD. [TH FORSAKEN TRILOGY #1]. Orbit, 23.99 tp.**

Cahan du Nahare is known as the forester - a man who can navigate the dangerous Deepforest like no one else. But once he was more. Once he belonged to the god of fire. Udinny serves the goddess of the lost, a goddess of small things; when she ventures into the Deepforest to find a lost child, Cahan will be her guide.

**Blackburry, Sabrina. DIRTY LYING FAERIES. W by Wattpad, 23.99 tp.**

When Thea Kanelos's best friend drags her to an art gala (that's definitely not her thing), she doesn't expect a chance encounter with Devin Grayson to change her life forever. The handsome stranger isn't just anyone - he's a powerful fae, charged with bringing Thea into his world.

**Briggs, Patricia. SOUL TAKEN. [MERCY THOMPSON #13]. Ace, 11.99 pb.**

The vampire Wulfe is missing. Since he's deadly, possibly insane, and his current idea of "fun" is stalking Mercy, some may see it as no great loss. But Mercy discovers that someone is taking people from locked rooms, from the aisles of stores, and even from crowded parties. And these are not just ordinary people but supernatural beings.

**Brooks, Terry. DAUGHTER OF DARKNESS. [VIRIDIAN DEEP #2]. Del Rey, 24.95 tp.**

It's been two years since Auris escaped from the sinister Goblin prison and learned of her heritage as one of the Fae. She is now happily partnered with her Fae lover Harrow and deeply bonded with her new family. All seems to be going perfectly - until, surprisingly, the Goblin attacks begin again. Someone, it seems, has not forgotten that Auris exists and seems determined to retrieve her...but who? And why?

**Brown, Pierce. LIGHT BRINGER. [RED RISING #6]. Del Rey, 41.00 hc.**

The Reaper is a legend, more myth than man: the savior of worlds, the leader of the Rising, the breaker of chains. But the Reaper is also Darrow, born of the red soil of Mars: a husband, a father, a friend. The worlds once needed the Reaper. But now they need Darrow. Because after the dark age will come a new age: of light, of victory, of hope.

**Butler, D. J. BETWEEN PRINCESSES AND OTHER JOBS. [INDRAJIT & FIX #2]. Baen, 34.00 hc.**

Indrajit and Fix are the founding partners of the Protagonists, a jobber company in Kish. Since the seven great families of Kish farm out all tasks they and the city need doing, a jobber might one day unblock a well, the next day man a tollgate for the fair, and on the third hunt down a murderer on the loose, all in a corrupt old city that isn't so much governed as kept barely in bounds. Meanwhile, the criminals they investigate, rival jobbers, sorcerers, spies, assassins, and other mysterious parties have more and more reason to want the Protagonists dead. Welcome to Kish.

**Calasso, Roberto. THE TABLET OF DESTINIES. Picador, 22.00 tp.**

When Sinbad the Sailor is shipwrecked and arrives on the island of Dilmun, he is welcomed by the 3 millenia old Utnapishtim. And this is the story that Utnapishtim tells Sindbad.

**Cameron, Miles. STORMING HEAVEN. [THE AGE OF BRONZE #2]. Mobius, 35.00 hc.**

By divine plan a plague of cannibals has been unleashed across the world, forming an armada which preys on all who cross their path. Meanwhile the people who allied against the gods have been divided, each taking their own path to attack the heavens - if they can survive the tide of war which has been sent against them. All they need is the right distraction, and the right opportunity, to deal a blow against the gods themselves...

**Campbell, Jack. IMPLACABLE. [THE LOST FLEET: OUTLANDS #3]. Ace, 37.99 hc.**

When another alien species whose technology is far more advanced than humanity's arrives, Admiral Geary is presented with orders to carry out actions he believes not only are mistaken, but would be contrary to the ideals of the Alliance. He has to decide whether he must invoke the power that his long-revered name holds - even though this might endanger his entire fleet, tear apart the Alliance, and destroy everything he has fought for.

**Candon, Emma Mieko. THE ARCHIVE UNDYING. [DOWNWORLD SEQUENCE #1]. Tor.com, 38.99 hc.**

When the robotic god of Khuon Mo went mad, it destroyed everything it touched. It killed its priests, its city, and all its wondrous works. But in its final death throes, the god brought one thing back to life: its favorite child, Sunai. For the seventeen years since, Sunai has walked the land like a ghost, unable to die, unable to age, and unable to forget the horrors he's seen. He's run as far as he can from the wreckage of his faith, drowning himself in drink, drugs, and men. But when Sunai wakes up in the bed of the one man he never should have slept with, he finds himself on a path straight back into the world of gods and machines.

**Carey, C. J. QUEEN WALLIS. [WIDOWLAND #2]. Sourcebooks Landmark, 24.99 tp.**

London, 1955. The Leader has been dead for two years. His assassination, on British soil, provoked violent retribution and intensified repression of British citizens, particularly women. Rose Ranson still works at the Culture Ministry. She is sent to explain a new propaganda program to Queen Wallis Simpson.

**Chandrasekera, Vajra. THE SAINT OF BRIGHT DOORS. Tor.com, 36.99 hc.**

Fetter was raised to kill, honed as a knife to cut down his sainted father. This gave him plenty to talk about in therapy. After a blood-soaked childhood, he escaped his rural hometown for the big city. Everything in Luriat is more than it seems. Group therapy is recruitment for a revolutionary cadre. Junk email hints at the arrival of a god. Every door is laden with potential, and once closed may never open again. The city is scattered with Bright Doors, looming portals through which a cold wind blows.

**Chupeco, Rin. SILVER UNDER NIGHTFALL. Saga, 26.99 tp.**

When a terrifying new breed of vampire is sighted outside of the city, Remy Pendergast, elite bounty hunter of rogue vampires, prepares to investigate. But then

he encounters the shockingly warmhearted vampire heiress Xiaodan Song and her infuriatingly arrogant fiance, vampire lord Zidan Malekh, who may hold the key to defeating the creatures. When he's offered a spot alongside them to find the truth about the mutating virus Rot that's plaguing the kingdom, Remy faces a choice.

**Coleman, Claire G. ENCLAVE. Hachette Australia, 26.99 tp.**

The enclave was the only world Christine knew, the world outside was not safe. Staying or leaving was not a choice she had the power to make. But then Christine dared start thinking - and from that moment, danger was everywhere.

**Crouch, Blake. UPGRADE. Ballantine, 24.95 tp.**

Logan Ramsay is starting to see the world, and those around him - even those he loves most - in whole new ways. His genome has been hacked. And there's a reason he's been targeted for this upgrade. A reason that goes back decades to the darkest part of his past, and a horrific family legacy. Worse still, what's happening to him is just the first step in a much larger plan, one that will inflict the same changes on humanity at large - at a terrifying cost.

**Dawson, Delilah S. RISE OF THE RED BLADE. [STAR WARS INQUISITOR]. Random House Worlds, 39.99 hc.**

From the aftermath of Order 66 comes a new group of former Jedi, each with their own reason to serve the Empire under Darth Vader. Among them is Iskat, who survived the destruction of her old Order to claim a new destiny in the Force. Iskat joins the Inquisitors in the hope of uncovering her hidden past that the Jedi refused to share with her.

**Djuna. COUNTERWEIGHT. Pantheon, 32.00 hc.**

The Korean conglomerate LK is constructing an elevator into Earth's orbit on the island of Patusan. Up in space, holding the elevator's "spider cable" taut, is a mass of space junk known as the counterweight. And stashed within that junk is a trove of crucial data: a memory fragment left by LK's former CEO, the control of which will determine the company's - and humanity's - future. A host of rival forces race to retrieve that data.

**Dramis, Kate. THE CURSE OF SAINTS. [THE CURSE OF SAINTS #1]. Sourcebooks Casablanca, 25.99 tp.**

Aya, elite spy and the Queen's Third-in-Command, has dedicated herself to using her gods-given abilities to keep dark magic from ever returning to the realm. It means she must work together with Will, the Queen's Enforcer and Aya's bitter rival. The two struggle to come to an uneasy truce. But when tragedy strikes, Aya instinctively reacts, unleashing a power that hasn't been seen in over 500 years.

**Emrys, Ruthanna. A HALF-BUILT GARDEN. Tor.com, 24.99 tp.**

2083. Judy Wallach-Stevens stumbles upon the first alien visitors to Earth. They've come to save humanity - by force if necessary - from its ecologically ravaged planet. But the watershed networks that rose up to save the planet from corporate devastation aren't ready to give up on Earth. Can Judy neutralize the alien threat?

**England, M. K. WHAT MAKES US MIGHTY. [FIREFLY #7]. Titan, 21.95 tp.**

Serenity is bound for the planet Kerry with a hold full of sealed, unidentified cargo for the planet's highest-ranking nobleman. But while there, the duke's estate is attacked in the middle of the night. Mal sends Serenity to safety while he and Zoe investigate. What they find turns the whole story of Kerry upside-down. Revolution is brewing, and each of them will have to decide where to make their stand, even if it lands them on opposite sides...

**Feist, Raymond E.. JIMMY AND THE CRAWLER. Voyager, 23.99 tp.**

James, personal squire to Prince Arutha of Krondor, but in the underworld known as the thief and trickster Jimmy the Hand, must travel to Kesh in disguise. There, working with William, lieutenant of the prince's household guard and son of the magician Pug, and Jazhara, niece to the Keshian lord Hazara-Khan, he must attempt to unmask the mysterious Crawler and rid Krondor of his influence.

**Fracassi, Philip. BOYS IN THE VALLEY. Tor Nightfire, 35.99 hc.**

St. Vincent's Orphanage for Boys. Turn of the century, in a remote valley in Pennsylvania. Here, under the watchful eyes of several priests, thirty boys work, learn, and worship. But late one stormy night, a group of men arrive at their door, one of whom is badly wounded, occult symbols carved into his flesh. His death releases an ancient evil that spreads like sickness, infecting St. Vincent's and the children within.

**Friedman, C. S. NIGHTBORN: COLDFIRE RISING. [COLDFIRE PREQUEL]. Daw, 37.00 hc.**

A ship full of colonists arrive on a seemingly hospitable planet, only to discover that it harbours a terrifying secret. Soon the settlers find themselves caught up in a desperate battle for survival against the fae, a natural force with the power to prey upon the human mind itself, bringing a person's greatest fears and darkest nightmares to life. As Colony Commander Leon Case and Chief Medic Lise Perez struggle to find a way to control the fae before more people die, other settlers have ideas of their own...and they may prove more of a threat to colony than the fae itself.

**Gibbs, Amiee. THE CARNIVALE OF CURIOSITIES. Grand Central, 37.00 hc.**

Rumours abound that a Victorian London sideshow's proprietor, Aurelius Ashe, is more than an average magician. When Odilon Rose, one of the most notorious men in London, comes calling with a proposition regarding his young and beautiful charge, Charlotte, Ashe is tempted to refuse. After revealing, however, that Rose holds a secret that threatens the security of the troupe's most vulnerable members, Ashe has no choice but to sign an insidious contract.

**Gong, Chloe. IMMORTAL LONGINGS. [FLESH & FALSE GODS #1]. Saga, 38.99 hc.**

The palace is hosting its annual games that attract those confident enough in their ability to jump between bodies that they would fight to the death. Princess Calla Tuoleimi hopes to get an opportunity to kill her uncle, King Kasa. Enter exiled aristocrat, Anton Makusa, one of the best jumpers in the kingdom, who hopes to rescue his childhood love from a coma.

**Goranson, Tamara. OATH OF BJORN. [VINLAND VIKING SAGA #3]. One More Chapter, 24.99 tp.**

Anja has just settled into a new life on the silver shores of Vinland with her beloved, Bjorn. But then a local warrior bursts onto the scene seeking revenge, swearing to spill Viking blood. And so Bjorn must risk everything to save the woman he loves before she steps into the darkness and sets their world ablaze.

**Gornichec, Genevieve. THE WEAVER AND THE WITCH QUEEN. Ace, 37.00 hc.**

Oddny and Gunnhild meet as children in 10th century Norway. After a visiting wisewoman makes an ominous prophecy that involves Oddny, her sister Signy, and Gunnhild, the three girls take a blood oath to help one another always. When Oddny's farm is destroyed and Signy is kidnapped by Viking raiders, Oddny is set adrift from the life she imagined but determined to save her sister, no matter the cost.

**Graham, Heather. WHISPERS AT DUSK. [THE BLACKBIRD TRILOGY #1]. MIRA, 12.99 pb.**

Four bodies have been discovered along Europe's riverbanks, placed with care - and completely drained of blood. Pinpricks on their throats indicate a slender murder weapon, but DNA found in the wounds suggests something far more sinister. Tasked with investigating, the FBI recruits Agents Della Hamilton and Mason Carter to Blackbird -- if you want to catch a vampire killer, you need agents who can speak with the dead.

**Graham, Heather. SECRETS IN THE DARK. [THE BLACKBIRD TRILOGY #2]. MIRA, 12.99 pb.**

Following in the footsteps of serial murderer Jack the Ripper, a killer is stalking the streets of London, leaving a trail of eviscerated bodies in his wake. Fresh off a case with potential ties to the recent rash of killings, FBI agents Della Hamilton and Mason Carter are all too familiar with a slayer set to rule with a lethal fist. And they'll stop at nothing to end his reign. The killer's MO may be nothing new, but his desire to be infamous makes him dangerous.

**Hansen, Essa. ETHERA GRAVE. [THE GRAVEN #3]. Orbit, 23.99 tp.**

Caiden has finally been reunited with his sister Leta after ten years on the run with his unique starship and has managed to convince his longtime enemy - Threi - to join his side. But the multiverse isn't safe yet. Threi's sister is still the most powerful being in existence. And she still wants to collapse their beautiful, diverse, constellation of multiverses down to one. Now, Caiden and his makeshift family carry the fate of all the worlds in their hands.

**Harmon, Clay. FLAMES OF MIRA. [RIFT WALKER #1]. Solaris, 22.99 tp.**

People like Ig are born from life-threatening trials that bind periodic elements to the human body, forged in the boiling volcanoes and subterranean passages under Mira's frozen lands. Ig has become one of the most powerful of elementals. Cursed with a flesh binding magic that will kill him at the first sign of disobedience, he is forced to work as an enforcer for Magnate Sorrelo Adriann. When Sorrelo is overthrown, Ig quickly learns he can do worse - far worse - than what has been asked from him so far.

**Harmon, Clay. INTO THE RIFT. [THE RIFT WALKER #2]. Solaris, 36.99 hc.**

After stopping the mercenary army and saving Augustin, Jakar and Efadora set their sights on Sulian Daw, where Jakar plans to hunt down the cultists who enslaved him and save the elemental children he grew up beside. But first, that will mean crossing the Rift, the most treacherous place in Ra Thuzan. Back in Mira, Ester, fledgling smith of the Foundry must track down the smith's source of power after it goes missing. And if she fails, it will mean the death of everyone in the Foundry at the hands of the Sovereign and the child prince.

**Hashem, Sara. THE JASAD HEIR. [THE SCORCHED THRONE #1]. Orbit, 23.99 tp.**

Ten years ago, the kingdom of Jasad burned. Its magic outlawed; its royal family murdered down to the last child. At least, that's what Sylvia wants people to believe. The lost Heir of Jasad, Sylvia never wants to be found. But when Arin, the Nizahl Heir, tracks a group of Jasadi rebels to her village, staying one step ahead of death gets trickier. Now, to save her life, Sylvia will have to make a deal with her greatest enemy.

**Herbert, Brian & Kevin Anderson. SANDS OF DUNE. Tor, 25.99 tp.**

Three previously unpublished Dune novellas, collected for the first time, telling of the lost years of Gurney Halleck.

**Hines, Jim C. TERMINAL PEACE. [JANITORS OF THE POST-APOCALYPSE #3]. DAW, 15.99 pb.**

Marion "Mops" Adamopoulos and her team were trained to clean spaceships. They were absolutely not trained to fight an interplanetary war with the xenocidal Prodryans or to make first contact with the Jynx, a race who might not be as primitive as they seem. But if there's one lesson Mops and her crew have learned, it's that things like "training" and "being remotely qualified" are overrated.

**Ikenberry, Kevin. THE CROSSING. Baen, 12.99 pb.**

When a squad of ROTC cadets training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, in November 2008 find themselves transported to December 1776 in the days before the Battle of Trenton, they find a Continental Army in disarray and General George Washington contemplating the potential of a bleak future. To make matters worse, they've lost a modern M-16 rifle to a roving Hessian patrol.

**Immega, Guy. SUPER-EARTH MOTHER. Edge, 21.25 tp.**

Vancouver author. Super-Earth Mother introduces a new way for humans to colonize an exoplanet using synthetic biology and artificial intelligence. The story is set on the Earth-like planet Valencia, orbiting a distant star, and follows the adventures of transhuman colonists who struggle to survive against the planet's harsh environment and unknown predators. Led by a neurotic AI named Mother-9, the colonists must forge an alliance with sentient hive creatures to ensure their survival.

**Kitasei, Yume. THE DEEP SKY. Flatiron, 39.99 hc.**

It is the eve of Earth's environmental collapse. A single ship carries humanity's last hope: eighty elite graduates of a competitive program, who will give birth to a generation of children in deep space. But halfway to a distant but livable planet, a lethal bomb kills three of the crew and knocks the Phoenix off course. Asuka, the only surviving witness, is an immediate suspect.



**Klune, T.J. WOLFSONG. [GREEN CREEK #1]. Tor, 39.99 hc.**

Ox was sixteen when the energetic Bennett family moved in next door, harbouring a secret that would change him forever. For the family are shapeshifters, who can transform into wolves at will. Ox finds an ally in Joe, the youngest Bennett boy. Joe is charming and handsome, but haunted by scars he cannot heal. Ox was twenty-three when murder came to town, and tore a hole in his heart. Joe left town, leaving Ox behind. Now, three years later, the boy is back. Except now he's a man - and Ox can no longer ignore the song that howls between them.

**Koontz, Dean. AFTER DEATH. Thomas & Mercer, 38.99 hc.**

Michael Mace, head of security at a top-secret research facility, opens his eyes in a makeshift morgue twenty-four hours following an event in which everyone perished - including him and his best friend, Shelby Shrewsbury. Having awakened with an extraordinary ability unlike anything he - or anyone else - has ever imagined, Michael sets out to honor his late friend by helping Nina Dozier and her son, John, whom Shelby greatly admired.

**Koontz, Dean. THE HOUSE AT THE END OF THE WORLD. Thomas & Mercer, 23.99 tp.**

In retreat from a devastating loss and crushing injustice, solitary artist Katie lives alone in a fortresslike stone house on Jacob's Ladder island. The neighbouring island of Ringrock houses a secret: a government research facility. And now two agents have arrived on Jacob's Ladder in search of someone - or something - they refuse to identify. Although an air of menace hangs over these men, an infinitely greater threat has arrived, one so strange even the island animals are in a state of high alarm.

**Kuhn, M. J. THICK AS THIEVES. [AMONG THIEVES #2]. Saga, 24.99 tp.**

Rya Cautella, a.k.a. the Butcher of Carrowick, and her motley crew have succeeded in the ultimate heist...with the most dire possible consequences. A terrifyingly powerful tool has fallen into the hands of Callum Clem, the criminal leader of the Saints, who was already one of the most dangerous men alive. With the newfound ability to force magic-wielding Adepts to his will, he is unstoppable.

**Kupari, Mike. TROUBLE WALKED IN. Baen, 12.99 pb.**

Cassandra Blake, an employee for the Ascension Planetary Holdings Group - the largest and most powerful corporation in Nova Columbia - has gone missing. And her sister wants to know why. So she goes to Detective Ezekiel "Easy" Novak. But what begins as a routine missing person case quickly turns into something much bigger and more sinister, with implications that could affect the entire planet.

**Lacruz, Gabriela Romero. THE SUN AND THE VOID. [THE WARRING GODS]. Orbit, 23.99 tp.**

When Reina arrives at Aguila Manor, her heart stolen from her chest, she's on the verge of death - until her estranged grandmother, a dark sorceress in the Don's employ, intervenes. Indebted to a woman she never knew, and smitten with the upper-caste daughter of the house, Celeste, Reina will do anything to earn - and keep - the family's favour. Even the bidding of the ancient god who speaks to her from the Manor's foundations.

**Lange, Richard. ROVERS. Mulholland, 22.99 tp.**

Summer, 1976. Jesse and his brother, Edgar, are rovers, nearly indestructible nocturnal beings who must consume human blood in order to survive. They lurk on the fringes of society, roaming from town to town, dingy motel to dingy motel, stalking the transients, addicts, and prostitutes they feed on. But now they encounter a young woman who disrupts their grim routine, forcing Jesse to confront his past and plunging his present into deadly chaos as he finds himself scrambling to save her life.

**Lawson, Stephen (ed). ROBOSOLDIERS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVOS. Baen, 12.99 pb.**

New stories of augmented soldiers and the future of warfare from David Drake, Richard Fox, Weston Ochse, Martin L. Shoemaker, T.C. McCarthy, Brad R. Torgersen, and more!

**Lee, Sharon. SALVAGE RIGHT. [LIADEN UNIVERSE #25]. Baen, 35.00 hc.**

Tinsori Light, enfeebled by aged systems, has succumbed to the stress of a unique spatial event - and died, leaving its station a shell. But a mismatched team of arcane specialists are on-station, working non-stop to preserve the Light, build trustworthy systems, and open the refurbished station for business. In fact, ships are already incoming, and it becomes a matter of urgency to sort friend from foe. In particular, the Lyre Institute wishes to acquire Tinsori Light, and will do anything, spend anyone, to achieve that goal.

**Linwood, Jade. CHARMING. Solaris, 22.99 tp.**

Prince Jean-Marc Charming Arundel, known to friends and enemies alike as "Prince Charming," is handsome, well-mannered, brave, a peerless swordsman, a cunning tactician - and a liar, a con man and a fraud. For years he has been travelling from one kingdom to the next, rescuing endangered princesses and maidens, securing their troths and his place in their fathers' palaces, then looting their treasuries and having it away before dawn. Until a chance meeting of three of his victims - raven-haired Marie Blanche de Neige, the sorceress Doctor Emilia Rapunzel and the long-slumbering Bella Lucia dei' Sogni - suggests a course of revenge...

**Long, H. M. DARK WATER DAUGHTER. [THE WINTER SEA #1]. Titan, 22.95 tp.**

[Canadian author]. Mary Firth is a Stormsinger: a woman whose voice can still hurricanes and shatter armadas. Faced with servitude to pirate lord Silvanus Lirr, Mary offers her skills to his arch-rival in exchange for protection - and, more importantly, his help sending Lirr to a watery grave. But her new ally has a vendetta of his own...

**Malan, Violette. THE COURT WAR. [THE GODSTONE #2]. DAW, 37.00 hc.**

Fenra Lowens, having already faced the Godstone, now has a different, simpler problem. She has to get the stick-in-the-mud practitioners of the White Court to return to the old ways of practice, the ways that keep the World healthy. But before she has a chance to present her case, the uneasy balance of power between the practitioners of the White Court and the mundanes of the Red Court - in existence since the World itself began - suddenly erupts into open warfare.

**Malfi, Ronald. THEY LURK. Titan, 22.99 tp.**

Five newly reissued horror novellas.

**Martin, George R. R.. A SONG OF ICE AND FIRE 2024 CALENDAR. Bantam, 24.95 cal.**

Thirteen stunning calendar illustrations from artist Justin Sweet. Plus, there are several hundred all-new days, numbered one by one for handy reference, spread across more than four dozen weeks with a lavish helping of months!

**Martin, George R. R. FULL HOUSE. [WILD CARDS #30]. Tor, 26.99 tp.**

All the WILD CARDS stories previously published on Tor.com, including works from Daniel Abraham, Cherie Priest, David D. Levine, Walter Jon Williams, Paul Cornell, Carrie Vaughn, Caroline Spector, Stephen Leigh, Melinda M. Snodgrass - and more.

**Martin, George R. R. (ed). WILD CARDS: PAIRING UP: AN ANTHOLOGY. Bantam, 37.99 hc.**

Superheroes and villains battle over the human heart in this anthology featuring brand-new stories from a wide range of contributors, all set in the Wild Cards universe.

**McCannon, Robert. THE BORDER. Lividian, 32.95 tp.**

Earth has been devastated by a war between two marauding alien civilizations, the living ships of the monstrous Gorgons and the motion-blurred shock troops of the armored Cyphers. The handful of surviving humans on Panther Ridge succumb to despair or are transformed by otherworldly pollution into cannibalistic mutants. And then there comes Ethan, an amnesiac teenaged boy with unknowable powers that present a threat to the warring aliens, long used to fearing only each other, and thrust him and his comrades into ever more perilous circumstances.

**McCormack, Una. COUP DE GRACE. [FIREFLY]. Titan, 34.95 hc.**

The Serenity crew head to Yell City, one of the settlements on Abel, a moon in the Rim. Their job: track down the killers of a local lawyer shot dead in the streets by a local gang. Their client is Annie Roberts, the eighteen year old daughter of the murdered man. Lucky for them, Annie Roberts is more than capable of handling herself. Unlucky for them, the job is lot more complicated than they first think.

**McEwan, Stacey. LEDGE. [GLACIAN TRILOGY #1]. Angry Robot, 17.99 tp.**

Dawsyn, axe wielder and only remaining member of her family, is chosen for human sacrifice. But Dawsyn manages to escape with the help of a half-Glacian called Ryon. But trust does not come easily, and she keeps a trained axe to his throat while they journey together down the slopes.

**McGuire, Seanan. BE SURE. [WAYWARD CHILDREN OMNIBUS]. Tor.com, 26.99 tp.**

Books 1,2 & 3 of WAYWARD CHILDREN -- EVERY HEART A DOORWAY, DOWN AMONG THE STICKS AND BONES, and BENEATH THE SUGAR SKY -- in one volume.

**McKinney, Chris. EVENTIDE. [THE WATER CITY TRILOGY #2]. Soho Crime, 36.95 hc.**

Year 2150: Water City's domestic bliss is threatened when Ascalon's Scar - the permanent mark left by the elimination of Sessho-seki, an asteroid that nearly wiped out life on Earth - vanishes from the sky and a familiar face thought dead returns from the ocean depths to exact revenge on humanity.

**Milas, John. THE MILITIA HOUSE. Holt, 35.99 hc.**

2010, Afghanistan. Corporal Loyette and his unit are finishing up their deployment at a new base in Kajaki, loading and unloading cargo into and out of helicopters. The Brits they're replacing delight in telling them the history of the old barracks just off base, a Soviet-era militia house they claim is haunted, and Loyette and his men don't need much convincing to make a clandestine trip outside the wire to explore it. It's a short, middle-of-the-day adventure, but the men experience a mounting agitation after their visit to the militia house.

**Modesitt, L. E. COUNCILOR. [GRAND ILLUSION #2]. Tor, 14.99 pb.**

Steffan Dekkard, newly appointed to the Council of Sixty-Six, is the first Councilor who is an Isolate, a man invulnerable to the emotional manipulations and emotional surveillance of empaths. This makes him dangerous. As unknown entities seek to assassinate him, Dekkard struggles to master political intrigue and infighting, while introducing radical reforms that threaten entrenched political and corporate interests.

**Moreno-Garcia, Silvia. SILVER NITRATE. Del Rey, 37.99 hc.**

Mexico City, 1993. Sound editor Montserrat and her best friend Tristan, a charming if faded soap opera star, meet cult horror director Abel Ureta, who claims he can change their lives - even if his tale of a Nazi occultist imbuing magic into highly volatile silver nitrate stock sounds like sheer fantasy. The magic film was never finished, and now the director wants Montserrat and Tristan to help him shoot the missing scene.

**Morimi, Tomihiko. THE TATAMI GALAXY. HarperVia, 23.99 tp.**

Our protagonist, an unnamed junior at a prestigious university in Kyoto is on the verge of dropping out when a chance encounter with a self-proclaimed god sets him on a new course. From the four-and-a-half-mat tatami floor of his dorm room, he is plunged into a series of adventures that will take him to four parallel universes. In each universe, he is given the opportunity to start over as a freshman, in search of a rose-colored campus life.

**Murphy, Sara Flannery. THE WONDER STATE. MCD, 37.00 hc.**

Five friends arrive back in Eternal Springs, the small Ozarks town they all fled after high-school graduation. It has been fifteen years since that life-changing summer, and they're anxious to find out why Brandi called them back, especially when they vowed never to return. But Brandi is missing. She'd been acting erratically for months, in and out of rehab, railing at whoever might listen about magic all around them. About a power they can't see. And strange houses that appear only when you need them.

**Nethercott, GennaRose. THISTLEFOOT. Anchor, 23.00 tp.**

The Yaga siblings - Bellatine, a young woodworker, and Isaac, a wayfaring street performer and con artist - have been estranged since childhood, separated both by resentment and by wide miles of American highway. But when they learn that they are to receive a mysterious inheritance, the siblings are reunited - only to discover that

their bequest isn't land or money, but something far stranger: a sentient house on chicken legs.

**Novik, Naomi. THE GOLDEN ENCLAVES. [THE SCHOLOMANCE #3]. Del Rey, 24.95 tp.**

Now that Galadriel is out of the Scholomance, she learns that someone else has picked up the project of destroying enclaves in her stead, and probably everyone she saved is about to get killed in the brewing enclave war. And the first thing she must do now, having miraculously gotten out of the Scholomance, is turn straight around and find a way back in.

**Ogden, Aimee. EMERGENT PROPERTIES. Tor.com, 22.99 tp.**

A state-of-the-art AI with a talent for asking questions and finding answers, Scorn is nevertheless a parental disappointment. Defying the expectations of its human mothers, CEOs of the world's most powerful corporations, Scorn has made a life of its own as an investigative reporter, crisscrossing the globe in pursuit of the truth, no matter the danger. In the middle of investigating a story on the moon, Scorn comes back online to discover it has no memory of the past ten days - and no idea what story it was even chasing. Letting it go is not an option - not if it wants to prove itself.

**Patterson, James. CIRCLE OF DEATH. [SHADOW (LAMONT CRANSTON)] Grand Central, 23.99 tp.**

In the year 2088, the doomsday clock inches towards midnight. The Command, synonymously the World Destroyer, is on the loose. Not even Lamont Cranston, the Shadow's alter ego, knows who he is, but the clock is ticking as people around the world drop dead by the day, with the attack at the World's Fair the most sinister yet. It's up to the Shadow and his band of allies to stop the end of the world...

**Reece, Willa. WILDWOOD MAGIC. Redhook, 23.99 tp.**

Virginia, 1969. Rachel Smith has found peace in the Appalachian Mountains tending an apple orchard in a small town. When she dares to venture beyond the orchard, she discovers a tight-knit community of wisewomen who honour the old mountain traditions - those who stitch and stir, brew and tinker - where she learns to feel safe. Yet, Rachel's past is creeping in.

**Roffey, Monique. THE MERMAID OF BLACK CONCH. Vintage, 23.00 tp.**

In 1976, David is fishing off the island of Black Conch when he comes upon a creature he doesn't expect: a mermaid by the name of Aycayia. Once a beautiful young woman, she was cursed by jealous wives to live in this form for the rest of her days. But after the mermaid is caught by American tourists, David rescues and hides her away in his home, finding that, once out of the water, she begins to transform back into a woman.

**Roux, Madeleine. THE MIGHTY NEIN - THE NINE EYES OF LUCIEN. [CRITICAL ROLE]. Random House Worlds, 24.95 tp.**

When Lucien is on a job in the frozen wastelands of Eiselcross with his fellow mercenaries, a rough-and-tumble crew called the Tombtakers, fate leads him to a mysterious journal in the ruins of an ancient city. The book speaks of the Somnovem, nine beings who can grant Lucien power beyond imagining - if he is able to find them and free them from captivity.

**Ryan, Anthony. THE TRAITOR. [THE COVENANT OF STEEL #3]. Orbit, 23.99 tp.**

Alwyn Scribe is now a knight and the most trusted advisor to Lady Evadine Courlain. But Evadine is not the woman Alwyn once knew. As puritanical fury increasingly replaces her benevolent faith, Alwyn begins to question what her true motives really are. As the kingdom braces itself for one final battle, Alwyn's conscience fights its own war with his heart.

**Sanderson, Brandon. THE FRUGAL WIZARD'S HANDBOOK FOR SURVIVING MEDIEVAL ENGLAND. Tor, 39.99 hc.**

A man awakes in a clearing in what appears to be medieval England with no memory of who he is, where he came from, or why he is there. Chased by a group from his own time, his sole hope for survival lies in regaining his missing memories, making allies among the locals, and perhaps even trusting in their superstitious boasts. His only help from the "real world" should have been a guidebook entitled *The Frugal Wizard's Handbook for Surviving Medieval England*, except his copy exploded during transit. The few fragments he managed to save provide clues to his situation, but can he figure them out in time to survive?

**Saxey, E. UNQUIET. Titan, 22.95 tp.**

London 1893. Judith lives a solitary life, save for the maid who haunts the family home in which she resides. Mourning the death of her brother-in-law, Sam, who drowned in an accident a year earlier, she distracts herself with art classes, books and strange rituals, whilst the rest of her family travel the world. One icy evening, conducting a ritual in her garden she discovers Sam, alive. He has no memory of the past year, and remembers little of the accident that appeared to take his life.

**Shackle, Mike. UNTIL THE LAST. [LAST WAR #3]. Gollancz, 19.99 tp.**

Vancouver author. The war with the Egril has changed Tinnstra forever. A coward no more, she'll go to any length to defeat every last one of her enemies. Zorique has grown into her powers. It's time for her to lead her army into Jia and spearhead the fight for her homeland. But at what cost? The Egril emperor Raaku - the Son of Kage himself - is waiting for them. And he intends to destroy Zorique, Tinnstra and all their allies.

**Soria, D. L. THIEF LIAR LADY. Del Rey, 37.00 hc.**

My transformation from a poor, orphaned scullery maid into the enchantingly mysterious lady who snagged the heart of the prince did not happen - as the rumors insisted - in a magical metamorphosis of pumpkins and glass slippers. My stepsisters and I had been trained for this - to be the cleverest in the room, to be quick with our hands and quicker with our lies. But the whole scam is threatened by a handsome hostage prince - the wrong prince.

**Taylor, Travis S. BALLISTIC. Baen, 12.99 pb.**

Colonel Vladimir Lytokov and his team of mercenaries have boarded the International Space Station and hijacked it. As it scrolls across the heavens, Lytokov rains down destruction from above, effectively holding the entire globe hostage. But Lytokov and his men have overlooked one crucial aspect of their intricate plan: that astronaut Major Allison Simms is on board the ISS - and you don't mess with American astronauts!

**Tingle, Chuck. CAMP DAMASCUS. Tor Nightfire, 22.99 tp.**

Welcome to Neverton, Montana: home to a God-fearing community with a heart of gold. Nestled high up in the mountains is Camp Damascus, the self-proclaimed "most effective" gay conversion camp in the country. Here, a life free from sin awaits. But the secret behind that success is anything but holy. And they'll scare you straight to hell.

**Tremblay, Paul. DISAPPEARANCE AT DEVIL'S ROCK. Morrow, 12.99 pb.**

Elizabeth Sanderson receives the devastating news that her thirteen-year-old son, Tommy, has vanished without a trace in the woods of a local park. She suspects his friends, the last to see him before he vanished, may not be telling the whole truth about that night in Borderland State Park, when they were supposedly hanging out at a landmark the local teens have renamed Devil's Rock. Yet she is wholly unprepared for the strange series of events that follows.

**Tremblay, Paul. THE BEAST YOU ARE. Morrow, 37.00 hc.**

15 of his stories.

**Van Loan, Ryan. THE MEMORY IN THE BLOOD. [FALL OF THE GODS #3]. Tor, 27.99 tp.**

A perilous, clandestine mission to a hidden library uncovers information that is key to destroying both the Dead Gods and their enemy, the Goddess Ciris. But a coded message smuggled out of the heart of the Dead Gods' cathedral reveals that the Dead Gods intend to destroy Ciris - and much of the world with her.

**Vee, Julia & Ken Bebel. EBONY GATE. [PHOENIX HOARD #1]. Tor, 38.99 hc.**

Though Emiko Soong belongs to one of the eight premier magical families of the world, she never needed magic -- because she is the Blade of the Soong Clan. Or was. Until she found herself drenched in blood in the middle of a market in China, surrounded by bodies. Now she lives a quiet life in San Francisco, importing antiques. But when a shinigami, a god of death itself, calls in a family blood debt, Emiko must recover the Ebony Gate that holds back the hungry ghosts of the Yomi underworld.

**Wagers, K. B. THE GHOSTS OF TRAPPIST. [NEOG #3]. Voyager, 37.00 hc.**

Ensign Nell "Sapphi" Zika has been working hard to get past her trauma, but the unnerving pleas for help she's hearing in the Verge and the song she can't get out of her head are making that increasingly difficult. As Zuma's Ghostgears up for a final run at the Boarding Games, their expert hacker is feeling anything but confident. Plus, her chief's robot dog, Doge, is acting weird - a computer problem she can't find an answer to - and the increasing number of missing freighters is putting everyone living on or stationed around Trappist on edge.

**West, Joma. FACE. Tor.com, 23.99 tp.**

Schuyler and Madeleine Burroughs have the perfect Face - rich and powerful enough to assure their dominance in society. But in their household cracks are beginning to appear. Schuyler is bored and taking risks. Maddie is becoming brittle, her happiness ever more fleeting. And their menial is fighting the most bizarre compulsions. In Face, your online profile isn't just the most important thing - it's the only thing.

**Willis, Connie. THE ROAD TO ROSWELL. Del Rey, 37.99 hc.**

When level-headed Francie arrives in Roswell, New Mexico, for her college roommate's UFO-themed wedding - complete with a true-believer bridegroom - she can't help but roll her eyes at all the wide-eyed talk of aliens, which obviously don't exist. Imagine her surprise, then, when she is abducted by one. Nor is Francie the only victim of the alien's abduction spree.

**Winning, Josh. BURN THE NEGATIVE. Putnam, 37.99 hc.**

Arriving in L.A. to visit the set of a new streaming horror series, journalist Laura Warren witnesses a man jumping from a bridge, landing right behind her car. Here we go, she thinks. It's started. Because the series she's reporting on is a remake of a '90s horror flick. A cursed '90s horror flick, which she starred in as a child - and has been running from her whole life. Now, as the body count rises again, Laura finds herself on the run with her aspiring actress sister and a jaded psychic, hoping to end the curse once and for all.

**Yang, Neon. THE GENESIS OF MISERY. Tor, 25.99 tp.**

Misery Nomaki is a nobody from a nowhere mining planet. But she has abilities that she shouldn't. She can bend the will of stone, a dangerous magic that only "saints" are said to have. These abilities lead Misery to the center of the Empire, where rumours spread that Misery is the next Messiah, and where those in power seek to use Misery to win a terrible war.

**Yuknavitch, Lidia. THRUST. Riverhead, 23.00 tp.**

Laisve is a motherless girl from the late 21st century who is learning her power as a carrier, a person who can harness the power of meaningful objects to carry her through time. Sifting through the detritus of a fallen city known as the Brook, she discovers a talisman that will mysteriously connect her with a series of characters from the past two centuries.

**Zahn, Timothy. THE ICARUS PLOT. Baen, 12.99 pb.**

There wasn't much money to be made as a Trailblazer, searching out new worlds for possible development. Still, it was safer than the bounty hunter career that had cost Gregory Roarke his left arm six years ago. Until Roarke was approached by two men with a proposal: track down a mysterious woman named Tera and, through her, locate a secret project called Icarus.



# EAPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

*Instructions:*

- a) Before you begin, read through **everything**.
- b) Follow the instructions and fill in your answers truthfully, so help you Roscoe!
- c) And cross your fingers that you'll be accepted into this exclusive group of elite BNFs!

1. What's your name? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Come on! Your REAL name! \_\_\_\_\_
3. Your address: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Your E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Your preferred age: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Your age when you flew to Alpha Centauri at 0.99c? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you have a Facebook account? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Why, for heaven's sake! \_\_\_\_\_
10. Titles of some fanzines you have read? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Did you understand anything in them? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Are you now, or have you ever been a member of a columnist organization? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Do you know the way to San Jose? \_\_\_\_\_
14. But if you don't like crottled greeps, what did you order them for? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Are you still there? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Hello? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Fine! Let's finish this! \_\_\_\_\_
18. Considering that we are all made of tiny atoms, which combine into molecular structures, which in even more complex combinations make up our fragile bodies, that give us only a fraction of time on this Earth, which swirls around the Sun, in its turn making an orbit around the Galactic Centre every 230 million years, everything under the contradictory natural laws which we may never fully grasp, all of it seemingly gobsmackingly incomprehensible, what is the meaning of life?  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. **Ignore all points 1 to 19!** You were told to read **everything** first, right! Just write something interesting, click on "Save as PDF" in your word processor and E-mail it to EAPA OE [garth.van.spencer@gmail.com](mailto:garth.van.spencer@gmail.com) and you're in.  
\_\_\_\_\_