

Fan Activity

News of Fen of Interest to All Fen



Gazette

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Contributions
welcome.

From the Editor:

We've made it to November.

I don't know if this year has been long or short because it seems time just doesn't really exist in a normal way anymore. But this is the month we look back and express what we're thankful for.

Me? I'm thankful for my family that keeps growing. This year our house gained a 22-year-old kid, a 2 and ½ year old cat named Squid (yea, Squid), a 6-year-old chihuahua named Honey (and a promise to never call her Honey Boo-Boo), and Tuesday...a maybe 5-year-old cat who has decided that he wanted to adopt us. He showed up, decided to help me tend my inside porch garden and get belly skritches, and hasn't left. Not that this sucker at the keyboard would have let him easily (and I did get the kid involved – Mr. Boss can't say no to *both* of us). But life is good and I love my family (and next month I'll lament over not being able to get a family picture of us in matching pajamas...)

Anyway, I'm starting to digress. Let me bring this back to you and what you're thankful for.

More specifically, in fandom.

I know it's gone through many changes over the years, some good, some bad. So in this past year, take a look at your fandom, the movies, books, comics, anything. Has there been something that has changed? Was it good or bad? Are you thankful for that change?

~ Mindy

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You'd Better Watch Out...

Bob Jennings



SANTA CLAUS, one of the most enduring fantasy figures of all time makes his traditional appearance on December 24th every year. To quote directly from his Wikipedia entry:

Santa Claus, also known as Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Saint Nick, Kris Kringle, or simply Santa, is a legendary character originating in Western Christian culture, who is said to bring children gifts during the late evening and overnight hours on Christmas Eve of toys and candy or coal or nothing, depending on whether they are "naughty of nice". He supposedly accomplishes this with the aid of Christmas elves, who make the toys in his workshop, often said to be at the North Pole, and flying reindeer who pull his sleigh through the air. The modern character of Santa is based on folklore traditions surrounding Saint Nicholas, the English figure of Father Christmas and the Dutch figure of Sinterklass.

Santa is generally depicted as a portly, jolly, white-bearded man, often with spectacle, wearing a red coat with white fur collar and cuffs, white-fur-cuffed red trousers, red hat with white fur, and black leather belt and boots, carrying a bag full of gifts for children. He is commonly portrayed as laughing in a way that sounds like "ho ho ho". This image became popular in the United States and Canada in the 19th century due to the significant influence of the 1823 poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas". Caricaturist and political cartoonist Thomas Nast also played a role in the creation of Santa's image. This image has been maintained and reinforced through song, radio, television, children's books, family Christmas traditions, films, and advertising.

So powerful is this image of holiday good will and gift giving to children that it has been adopted into other cultures that have no long-standing Christian traditions to support it, including Japan and Korea, where it is seen as an opportunity to have a family holiday and give sweets and gifts to children.

In addition to the zillions of stories about him that have appeared in prose, verse, visual and audio media of all kinds, the character has been the subject of serious scientific studies including weighty examinations of the potential psychological effects Santa Claus can have on young children happily accepting everything they hear about him as factual.

Despite being relentlessly commercialized, the traditional image of Santa retains his appeal, easily overcoming critics, cynics, disbelievers, and would-be distracters. Grumps and Scrooges are no match for the venerable legend who embodies the very spirit of good will and happiness.

Santa Claus has been an icon of western civilization for centuries, but it is also clear that the need for a holiday of thanksgiving and gift giving in the midst of winter, a holiday positioned at or just after the Winter Solstice, is a long-standing tradition in most human cultures. The worst of winter might be still ahead, but the sun is returning and we, our families, our friends, and our neighbors will manage to survive. And Santa Claus is just the latest incarnation of this universal spirit of hope and thanksgiving.



Bob Jennings has been involved in fandom since the late 1950s, and is one of the original founding members of comics fandom, founding the SFPA and publishing hundreds of fanzines. From 1979 to 2000, Bob ran a science fiction/comics/game store, which is now all mail order. He's currently at work to develop a device that will zap robo-callers and internet spammers.

LETTERS

I am not inclined to cosplay, but I do have experience with wound vacs. For about a month after being treated for a serious leg infection by the VA, they sent a visiting nurse around to deal with the vac. He was a Mongol who was amazed that I'd even heard of his country, much less its colorful history.

Apparently in recent years wound vacs have become smaller and (can you believe it?) somewhat disposable - they slap one on the wound for a week and change out the whole dressing. Maybe we don't have flying cars or regeneration stimulators yet, but medical technology continues to surprise us.

Kevin Trainor



Dear Mindy,

The last issue had an interesting range of reviews and columns, but nothing I can comment on. But I may have reason to copy some listings from your calendar of upcoming conventions, for a fannish reference website I am compiling.

Yours,

Garth Spencer
Editor, *The Obdurate Eye*



Dear Mindy:

Thank you for Vol. 4, No. 5 of the *FanActivity Gazette*. I sympathize with you when it comes to operations. I've only had a couple, but both have been eye operations, for a separated cornea (woke up in the middle of the operation!), and for a cataract. This getting old is really getting old.

Yvonne loves the fact that you print up her Pubnites newsletter. In some ways, it's the only fanac we have left, other than actually going to the pubnight. It looks like I must get the Forster book.

Just for the record, and not sure that you have it on record, Yvonne's birthday is on December 19, same day as the sainted Harry Warner Jr.

Just the other day, we came back from Niagara Falls, New York, and the annual World Fantasy Convention. The only previous WFC we'd been to was in 2001 in Montreal, and we were staff for the green room, so this one was special for us. Now that I have the AS Best of 2023 out, that means I am a published...well, not author, but editor, so we ran a table for Amazing Stories, and we went to some programming on being a better editor, and were a part of special programming like the autograph session. Great fun, educational, and lucrative, too. I doubt we will ever get to another one, but the fact that both the NASFiC and WFC were geographically close, close together on the calendar, and easy to get to meant that we just had to go.

Next up is Loscon 50 in Los Angeles, just outside of LAX, and we plan to meet up with old friends, and some unique fun from a 50-year-old con. 2025 seems to have nothing on the go, not even the Seattle Worldcon, but we might go up to Ottawa for CanCon, which is similar to WFC, but one of two litcons in Canada, each serving one half of the country.

I think I am done...so much to catch up after five days at Niagara Falls. See you next issue!

Yours,
Lloyd Penney.

Got something to share with us? Send an e-mail to mindyhunt@scifi4me.com

Pubnites and Other Events

Yvonne & Lloyd Penney (Toronto, ON, CAN)

THURSDAY NIGHT OF NONSENSE

Is the first Thursday of the month at the Fox and Fiddle at 27 Wellesley from 6PM -10ish.

We're a casual collection of sci-fi fans and friends who eat and have friendly discussion on any topic of interest. We encourage consideration of diverse opinions and intelligent debate that includes topics which are sometimes controversial. Our social media centre is currently a Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057256547793>) where people will find announcements of any special activities such as a book swap or a birthday celebration.

All newcomers welcome to just show up. For more info call Yvonne at 647-226-4249 before 10PM or email us at: [**Penneys@bell.net**](mailto:Penneys@bell.net)

See you there!!!
Yvonne ;-)

THIRD MONDAY

November 18, 2024

The Red Cardinal Tavern

555 Burnhamthorpe Rd., Unit 102, in Etobicoke. It is at the north-west corner of Burnhamthorpe and The West Mall, right beside the Tim Horton's. There's plenty of parking out back, free after 5pm, and you can drive in to the parking from either street, although the Burnhamthorpe entrance is easier. If you are taking transit, you can take the 50 Burnhamthorpe bus from Islington station and get off at The West Mall, or the 112B or 112C West Mall bus from Kipling station and get off on the north side of Burnhamthorpe.

Start time is 6:30 and we have the back table area 4, 5 & 6.

TORONTO PAGAN PUB MOOT

Third Monday of each month


Gatherings Resto Bar, 49 St. Clair Ave W.

For more info call Karen or Evan at 416-635-5981 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TorontoPaganPubMoot>



December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 National Cookie Cutter Day	2 Cyber Monday (all crypto banks closed)	3 National Roof Over Your Head Day	4 National Cookie Day	5 Bathtub Party Day	6 Put On Your Own Shoes Day (see Dec 5th)	7 Pearl Harbor Day (National Amnesia Day In Japan)
8 National Lard Day (banks offer fat-back savings accounts)	9 National Llama Day (banks offer bring-your llama to work day)	10 Nobel Prize Day (banks offer free toaster to any Nobel Prize winning customer)	11 National Noodle-Ring Day	12 Gingerbread House Day (banks offer special loan rate)	13 Friday The 13th!! (most banks closed)	14 International Monkey Day (banks offer special loans to monkey's uncles)
15 National Lemon Cupcake Day	16 National Chocolate Covered Anything Day	17 National Maple Syrup Day (banks in Vermont closed)	18 National Roast Suckling Pig Day	19 National Regifting Day (banks offer toaster trade ins)	20 National Caroling Day (most Carols call in sick from work)	21 Humbug Day (most banks closed in show of support)
22 National Nut-Bread Day	23 Festivus (banks stay open extra hours)	24 National Egg-Nog Day	25 Christmas Day!	26 National Candy Cane Day (sponsored by the Nat assoc of Dentists)	27 National Fruit Cake Day (banks offer toaster trade ins)	28 Card Playing Day (banks closed where observed)
29 Pepper Pot Day	30 National Bicarbonate of Soda Day (see Dec 29th)	31 New Year's Eve				



LOSCON 50

CELEBRATING 50 LOSCONS

HILTON LOS ANGELES AIRPORT

NOV 29-DEC 1, 2024

www.loscon.org

GUESTS OF HONOR

WRITER: LARRY NIVEN MUSIC: KATHY MAR

ARTIST: DR. LAURA BRODIAN FREAS BERAHA

GHOST ARTIST: FRANK KELLY FREAS

FAN: GENNY DAZZO AND CRAIG MILLER

A FAN RUN GENERAL INTEREST SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY CONVENTION. COSPLAY, DEALERS ROOM, ICE-CREAM SOCIAL, ART SHOW, GAMING, PANELS AND MORE.

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November 2024 New Fantasy and Science Fiction Releases

Walter Bruce Sinclair, White Dwarf Books, Vancouver

- **Attico, Derek Tyler.** *The Autobiography of Benjamin Sisko [Star Trek]*. Titan, 23.99 tp.

Benjamin Sisko tells the story of his career in Starfleet, and his life as a father and Bajor's Emmissary of the Prophets. Charting his rise through the ranks, his pioneering work designing the Defiant-class, his critical role as ambassador and leader during the Dominion War, and his sacred standing as a religious leader of his adopted home.

- **Balle, Solvej.** *On the Calculation of Volume (Book I)*. New Directions, 23.95 tp.

Tara Selter has involuntarily stepped off the train of time. In her world, November 18th repeats itself endlessly. We meet Tara on her 122nd November 18th. She no longer experiences the changes of days, weeks, months, or seasons. She finds herself in a lonely new reality without being able to explain why. How is it that she wakes every morning into the same day, knowing to the exact second when the blackbird will burst into song and when the rain will begin?

- **Balle, Solvej.** *On the Calculation of Volume (Book II)*. New Directions, 23.95 tp.

The first year of November 18th is coming to a close, and Tara Selter has returned to her hotel room in Paris, the place where it all began. As if perched at the edge of a precipice, she readies herself to leap into November 19th.

- **Barsukov, Yaroslav.** *Sleeping Worlds Have No Memory*. CAEZIK, 25.99 tp.

Refusing the queen's order to gas a crowd of protesters, Minister Shea Ashcroft is banished to the border to oversee the construction of the biggest defensive tower in history. However, the use of advanced technology taken from refugees makes the tower volatile and dangerous, becoming a threat to local interests. Shea has no choice but to fight the local hierarchy to ensure the construction succeeds-and to reclaim his own life.

- **Bennett, Robert Jackson.** *The Tainted Cup [Shadow of the Leviathan #1]*. Del Rey, 38.99 hc.

In Daretana's greatest mansion, a high imperial officer lies dead - killed, to all appearances, when a tree erupted from his body. Even here at the Empire's borders, where contagions abound and the blood of the leviathans works strange magical changes, it's a death both terrifying and impossible. Assigned to investigate is Ana Dolabra, a detective whose reputation for brilliance is matched only by her eccentricities. At her side is her new assistant, Dinios Kol, magically altered in ways that make him the perfect aide to Ana's brilliance.

- **Bond, Charlotte.** *The Bloodless Princes [Fireborne Blade #2]*. Tor.com, 27.99 hc.

Cursed by the previous High Mage, and following an - incident - with a supremely powerful dragon, newly-promoted High Mage Saralene visits the afterlife with a boon to beg of the Bloodless Princes who run the underworld. But Saralene and her most trusted advisor/champion/companion, Sir Maddileh, will soon discover that there's only so much research to be done by studying the old tales. Saralene will need more than just her wits to leave the underworld alive. And Maddileh will need more than just her Fireborne Blade.

- **Boop, David (ed).** *Last Train Outta Kepler-283C*. Baen, 25.00 tp.

David Boop's third space western anthology, consisting of 13 stories in all, features Sharon Lee & Steve Miller, Mark L. Van Name, Chesya Burke, Kevin Ikenberry, David Mack, John Stith, and more!

- **Britain, Kristen.** *Spirit of the Wood [Green Rider]*. Daw, 24.95 tp.

208 pages. When Lieutenant-Rider Laren Mapstone is made mentor to Tavin Bankside, a Green Rider trainee on his first message errand, her cold and brooding exterior quickly earns her the moniker the "Ice Lady." But after Laren is severely

wounded, the walls fall and Tavin's natural empathic gift leaves him vulnerable to the assault of the lieutenant's emotions. Tavin must save Lieutenant Mapstone's life and master his own empathic gift before it destroys them both.

- **Broadbent, Carissa.** *The Songbird & The Heart of Stone* [*Crowns of Nyaxia* #3]. **Bramble, 39.99 hc.**

Mische and Asar must travel the treacherous path to the underworld, facing trials, beasts, and the vengeful ghosts of their pasts. Yet, most dangerous of all is the alluring call of the darkness - and her forbidden attraction to Asar, a burgeoning bond that risks invoking the wrath of gods. As her betrayal looms, the underworld closes in and angry gods are growing restless. Mische will be forced to choose between the redemption of the sun or the damnation of the darkness.

- **Burke, Sue.** *Usurpation* [*Semiosis* #3]. **Tor, 38.99 hc.**

Stevland, the dominant sentient lifeform of Pax, has clandestinely sent some of its progeny to Earth. To explore, to spread, to report back. Since their germination, Earth has been a powder keg. Human rebellion, robot uprisings, and global pandemics have created chaos, distrust, and deaths. As more and more conflicts break out across Earth, Stevland's children work in the background, in an attempt to control human behavior and, perhaps, bring peace to the planet. Stevland took control of Pax. Earth shouldn't be too difficult...

- **Caruso, Melissa.** *The Last Hour Between Worlds* [*The Echo Archives*]. **Orbit, 25.99 tp.**

Kembral Thorne has a few hours away from her newborn, and she's determined to enjoy herself at the year-turning ball. But when guests start dropping dead, she can't help sniffing out trouble--she's a Hound, after all. Especially when her professional and personal nemesis, notorious burglar Rika Nonesuch, is also on the prowl. Everyone knows you shouldn't get involved with Echo games. Let alone one involving ancient Echo lords who can turn layers of reality into a gameboard with human lives for pieces.

- **Correia, Larry.** *Graveyard of Demons* [*Saga of the Forgotten War* #5]. **Baen, 37.00 hc.**

Following the directions of a demon with whom Vokkan made a pact, Vokkan travels to seek the treasure he most desires: immortality. None stand in his way - or so he thinks. But Ashok Vadal is not dead. The shard of the Black Sword embedded in his heart - the sword that called him to wield it - is not done with Vadal yet. Now, wielding another Black Sword, Vadal sets out to rescue the prophetess Thera Vane, find the Sons of the Black Sword, defeat the wicked Capitol - and throw down the Law forever, bringing for the first time, freedom to all the people of Lok.

- **Crowley, Nate.** *Notes From Small Planets: Your Pocket Travel Guide to the Worlds of Science Fiction and Fantasy.* **Voyager, 22.99 tp.**

Your ultimate travel guide to all the must-see locations in the worlds of Science Fiction and Fantasy. From misty mountains to wizarding schools, from the homes of superheroes to lairs of infamous villains - visit your favourite worlds and discover new ones - all without ever missing a single landmark or traditional dish. What's orc for 'bon voyage'?

- **Datlow, Ellen (ed).** *The Best Horror of the Year, Volume Sixteen.* **Night Shade, 26.99 tp.**

The best horror stories of the previous year.

- **Dewes, J. S.** *The Relentless Legion* [*Divide* #3]. **Tor, 26.99 tp.**

The Sentinels have rallied under the leadership of Adequin Rake, and Cavalon Mercer has uncovered the horrifying genetic solution his grandfather is about to unleash on the unsuspecting outer colonies. Both Rake and Cavalon race against time to save the universe once again. They'll need every resource, every ally who might answer the call. It might not be enough.

- **Dinsdale, Robert.** *Once a Monster: a Reimagining of the Legend of the Minotaur.* **Pan, 21.99 tp.**

London, 1861. Ten-year-old Nell belongs to a crew of mudlarks who work a stretch of the Thames along the Ratcliffe Highway dredging up coals, copper and pieces of iron spilled by the river barges - searching for treasure in the mud in order to appease her master, Benjamin Murdstone. But one day, Nell discovers a body on the shore. He's nearly seven feet tall, with matted hair covering his legs, and on his head are the suggestion of horns.

- **Drakeford, Scott.** *The Fate of Silent Gods [Age of Ire #2]*. Tor, 39.99 hc.

Emrael Ire has won the first round of war against the dark god, but at a terrible cost to himself. Unsure of who he can trust, even among his own people, Emrael must find a way to score a major victory against both the forces of the dark lord and the corrupt lords of the provinces. He thought he already paid his price. The gods will exact another.

- **Fox, Richard.** *Men of Bretton [A Dream of Home #1]*. Baen, 37.00 hc.

The soldiers of the 11th Bretton Infantry knew they were being dropped into a combat zone on Dharien. But they didn't know just how bad things really were, with the entire planet about to fall to the rebel Flags. The orders from the Highest are clear: make their way to Tabuk and keep the city under the banner of the Hegemony. For Mason Tellec, it's one more combat mission - with a difference. Noah, his younger brother, is along for the ride this time, and Mason has promised his mother and father he'll keep an eye out.

- **Gibson, S.T.** *Odd Spirits. Angry Robot*, 25.95 hc.

Illustrated novella, prequel to The Summoner's Circle series. It takes a lot of commitment to make a marriage between a modern ceremonial magician and a tarot witch work, but when a malevolent entity takes up residence in Rhys and Moira's home, their love will be pushed to the limits.

- **Glover, Nicole.** *The Improvisers [Murder and Magic standalone]*. Voyager, 24.99 tp.

1930s America. Velma Frye is many things. A pilot, a former bootlegger, a well-seasoned traveler, a jazz pianist...and a wielder of celestial magic. She's also a member of the mystical Rhodes family as well as an investigator for arcane oddities for a magic rights organization, dealing with both simple and complicated cases. And when a pocket watch instigates a magical brawl after one of her flight shows, things become very complicated.

- **Green, Ian.** *Extremophile. AdAstra*, 39.99 hc.

Charlie and Parker are punks by night, biohackers by day, living in the stuttering decay of near-future climate-collapse London. When a group of extremist Green activists hire them for a series of jobs ranging from robbery to murder, they enter an escalating biological arms race against faceless corporations, amoral biohackers, and criminal cyberpunks.

- **Guanzon, Thea.** *The Hurricane Wars. Voyager*, 24.99 tp.

The heart is a battlefield. All Talasyn has ever known is the Hurricane Wars. Growing up an orphan in a nation under siege by the ruthless Night Emperor, she found her family among the soldiers who fight for freedom. But she is hiding a deadly secret. Light magic courses through her veins, a blazing power believed to have been wiped out years ago that can cut through the Night Empire's shadows.

- **Hackwith, A. J.** *Toto. Ace*, 25.99 tp.

I was mostly a Good Dog until they sold me out to animal control, okay? But if it's a choice between Oz, with its creepy little singing dudes, and being behind bars in gray old Kansas, I'll choose the place where animals talk and run the show for now, thanks. It's not my fault that the kid is stuck here too, or that she stumbled into a tug-of-war over a pair of slippers that don't even taste good. Now one witch in good eyeliner calls her pretty and we're off on a quest? Teenagers.

- **Hair, David.** *The Burning Land [The Talmont Trilogy #1]*. Mobius, 23.99 tp.

The Falcons are knights of the Vestal Order, pledged to use their powers to protect the Empire of Talmont from the cruel Vyr and the carnage they have unleashed upon the world. When the Falcons take a Vyr alive, they go against the protocols of the Vestal Order and interrogate him. They are horrified to learn, if the Vyr speaks truly, that the Empire's worst enemy may not be the Vyr - but the Vestal Order itself.

- **Hallahan, Katie. *The Twice-Sold Soul* [The McKenna Ellerbeck Series #1]. Orbit, 25.99 tp.**

You can't outrun your demons - McKenna Ellerbeck knows this all too well. She's been running from literal demons for a decade, one that will stop at nothing to take McKenna's magic for their own and one that shattered her heart by grasping for dark power. McKenna is ready to hide again when she's confronted by her ex, the Archdemon of Desire Remiel Blake. Remi calls in an old debt -- all McKenna must do to repay it is return to her hometown of Arcadia Commons, Massachusetts, for seven days.

- **Hawley, Sarah. *Servant of Earth* [The Shards of Magic #1]. Ace, 39.00 hc.**

Kenna Heron is best known in her village for being a little wild - some say half feral - but she'll need every ounce of that ferocity to survive captivity in the cruel Fae court. Trapped as a servant in the faeries' underground kingdom of Mistei, Kenna must help her new mistress undertake six deadly trials, one for each branch of magic.

- **Hopkinson, Nalo. *Jamaica Ginger and Other Concoctions*. Tachyon, 21.95 tp.**

Book launch at White Dwarf Books Nov 5, 2024. This is a new collection of short fiction, her first since 2015, from Caribbean-Canadian author Nalo Hopkinson: a woman and her cyborg pig eke a living in a future waterworld; two scientists contemplate the cavernous remains of an alien lifeform; and an artist creates nanotechnology that asserts Blackness where it is least welcome.

- **Jensen, Danielle L. *The Traitor Queen* [The Bridge Kingdom #2]. Del Rey, 24.95 tp.**

Risking her life on the Tempest Seas, Lara returns to Ithicana with a plan not only to free its king but to liberate the Bridge Kingdom from her father's clutches, using his own weapons: the sisters whose lives she spared. Yet not only is the palace inescapable, there are more players in the game than Lara ever realized. Enemies and allies switching sides in the fight for crowns, kingdoms, and bridges. But her greatest adversary of all might be the man she's trying to free - the husband she betrayed.

- **Kawaguchi, Toshikazu. *Before We Forget Kindness* [Before the Coffee Gets Cold #5]. Hanover Square, 26.99 hc.**

The mysterious cafe where customers arrive hoping to travel back in time welcomes four new guests. The father who could not allow his daughter to get married. A woman who couldn't give Valentine's Day chocolates to her loved one. A boy who wants to show his smile to his divorced parents. A wife holding a child with no name. They must follow the cafe's strict rules, however, and come back to the present before their coffee goes cold.

- **Koja, Kathe. *Catherine the Ghost*. CLASH, 25.95 tp.**

Cathy Earnshaw. Catherine Linton. Mother. Daughter. They never saw each other alive. In Catherine the Ghost these two young women confront loss, captivity, and the dark edge of eternity itself, to claim their full existence and share their power.

- **Kristjansson, Snorri. *The Silent Emperor* [The Hidden Legion #2]. Solaris, 22.99 tp.**

Beaten and bloodied, down two of their number after the fray in Alexandria, Aemilius and his new comrades of the Hidden Legion make their way back to the Fort, the Legion's mysterious headquarters and seat of power, where they receive new information and a new mission: to infiltrate the mansion of a powerful senator and foil a plot to poison him. A

wild chase ensues, from the shores of Greece to the frozen plains of Germania, as the Legion tracks down an enemy who mocks them at every turn...

- **Lakshminarayan, Lavanya. *Interstellar Megachef* [Flavour Hacker #1]. Solaris, 22.99 tp.**

Stepping off a long-haul star freighter from Earth, Saras Kaveri has one bag of clothes, her little flying robot Kili... and an invitation to compete in the galaxy's most watched, most prestigious cooking show. Corporate prodigy Serenity Ko, inventor of the smash-hit sim SoundSpace, has just got messily drunk at a floating bar, narrowly escaped an angry mob and been put on two weeks' mandatory leave to rest and get her work-life balance back. A chance meeting in the back of a flying cab has Saras and Serenity Ko working together on a new technology that could change the future of food - and both their lives - forever...

- **Landers, Melissa. *Half King. Entangled*, 43.99 hc.**

Like all the second-born children of the Allied Realm, Cerise Solon is destined to serve the goddess and become a Seer...only she has no gift of foretelling. In fact, she has no magical gift at all. Instead, she's surrounded by courtiers and priests and smiling sycophants. And at the center of it all sits His Majesty Kian Hannibal Mortara, with his haunting eyes. Falling for him is unthinkable. Because the king is the last of his line, and the specter of his twenty-first birthday and the full force of his curse approaches. But there's only one way to save a dying king - and it lies with the one person who is hiding the biggest secret of all. Cerise.

- **Lares, Mariely. *Sun of Blood and Ruin. Voyager*, 23.99 tp.**

In 16th-century New Spain, witchcraft is punishable by death, indigenous temples have been destroyed, and tales of mythical creatures that once roamed the land have become whispers in the night. Hidden behind a mask, Pantera uses her magic and legendary swordplay skills to fight the tyranny of Spanish rule. The mask off, Leonora de las Casas Tlazohtzin never leaves the palace and is promised to the heir of the Spanish throne. The respectable, law-abiding Lady Leonora faints at the sight of blood and would rather be caught dead than meddle in court affairs.

- **Leong, Julie. *The Teller of Small Fortunes. Ace*, 25.99 tp.**

Tao is an immigrant fortune teller, traveling between villages with just her trusty mule for company. She only tells "small" fortunes: whether it will hail next week; which boy the barmaid will kiss; when the cow will calve. But a small fortune unexpectedly becomes something more when a (semi) reformed thief and an ex-mercenary recruit her into their desperate search for a lost child. Soon, they're joined by a baker with a "knead" for adventure, and - of course - a slightly magical cat.

- **Lovegrove, James. *Conan: Cult of the Obsidian Moon. Titan*, 36.99 hc.**

Still mourning Belit and flush with gold after a heist, Conan attempts to drink away his sorrows. In his tavern-hopping journey he meets and befriends married couple Hunwulf and Gudrun and their son, Bjorn. When Bjorn is kidnapped, Conan and Bjorn's vengeful parents search for the lad. They catch up to the tribe, only to find Bjorn has been taken by murderous bat-winged figures, who fought with talon and sword. The boy, and other "gifted" children have been taken to the Rotlands, a place plagued by a contaminating supernatural force that warps all who go there.

- **Maniscalco, Kerri. *Throne of Secrets* [Prince of Sin #2]. Little, Brown, 38.00 hc.**

Gabriel Axton - infamous as the Prince of Gluttony, the self-proclaimed rake of rakes - has always lived for indulgence in delicious food, in tantalizing women, and most of all, in the thrill of the hunt. But when his favourite adventure takes a deadly turn, he realizes something is very wrong in his demon court. With the clock ticking, he must turn to the only one who might uncover the truth: Adriana, a journalist he has spent a decade avoiding...

- **Marino, Andy. *The Swarm. Redhook*, 25.99 tp.**

When millions of cicadas appear unexpectedly, off the rhythm of their 17-year cycle, Detective Vicky Paterson is investigating a bizarre killing in her sleepy hometown. At the same time, a pair of hired guns work to free their client's daughter from a shadowy cult. As these events intertwine, things begin to spiral out of control. When Vicky's young daughter, Sadie, is attacked by the insects, it's clear that the once-harmless creatures have invaded with a malevolent purpose. But this is only the first wave.

- **Martin, George R. R. & Melinda Snodgrass (eds) *Wild Cards: Sleeper Straddle*. Bantam, 25.99 tp.**

Ever since his initial infection in 1946, Croyd's awoken in a singular body - until now. His latest awakening has left him split into six different incarnations, each of them a self-contained piece of the original and each with a unique look and ability. Featuring stories from Christopher Rowe, Carrie Vaughn, Cherie Priest, William F. Wu, Walter Jon Williams, Stephen Leigh, Mary Anne Mohanraj and Max Gladstone.

- **McDonald, Ed. *Witch Queen of Redwinter [Redwinter Chronicles #3]*. Tor, 40.99 hc.**

Having been saved from execution at the hands of the Draoihn - powerful magic users Raine used to count as allies - Raine finds herself in the Fault, a vast magical wasteland, which is falling apart before her eyes. Alongside her two closest companions, Raine is searching for the only person she believes can help them get back home: the enigmatic and infuriatingly elusive Queen of Feathers.

- **Mercedes, Sylvia. *Bride of the Shadow King*. Ace, 25.99 tp.**

Though she is the oldest daughter, Princess Faraine lives in the background, shunned from court and kept out of sight. She's told her gods-gift makes her a liability to the crown, and has learned to give place to her beautiful, favored younger sister in all things. When the handsome and enigmatic Shadow King comes seeking a bride, Faraine is not surprised that her sister is his choice. Though not eager to take a human bride, King Vor is willing to do what is necessary for the sake of his people. When he meets the lively Princess Ilsevel, he quickly agrees to a marriage arrangement. So why can't he get the haunting eyes of her older sister out of his head?

- **Mesa, Desideria. *Bindle Punk Jefe [Bindle Punk #2]*. Voyager, 21.99 tp.**

Prohibition is in full swing, and the glamorous life of upper-class Kansas City is everything Rose (Luna) Lane ever hoped it would be. But soon the balancing act between the life of Luna and Rose becomes a full-time job itself, making visiting home harder than ever before. Her community of brujas criticizes her methods of using magic for economic and social gain while consorting with nefarious witches of the North. Meanwhile, the Pendergast Machine is running at full force, pushing his will and money all over the city.

- **Miller, John Jackson. *The Living Force [Star Wars]*. Worlds, 25.99 tp.**

All twelve Jedi Masters embark on a goodwill mission to help a planet and to remind the people of the galaxy that the Jedi remain as stalwart and present as they have been across the ages. But the warring pirate factions that now infest the sector unite, intent on assassinating the Council members.

- **Modesitt, L. E. *Overcaptain [Saga of Recluce #24]*. Tor, 41.99 hc.**

Alyiakal, overcaptain in the Mirror Lancers of Cyador, has completed his tour of duty as officer-in-charge of a small, remote post. He just wants to finish and see his best friend consorted and assume his next post assignment. If only it were that easy. He discovers corruption in the Merchanter Clans of Cyador, but investigating Mirror Lancer officers end up dead. Before he can go on leave, he has to replace one of these officers, close a post, dodge an attempt on his life, and an investigation from Magi-i.

- **Morimi, Tomihiko. *The Tatami Time Machine Blues*. HarperVia, 19.99 tp.**

During a scorching August in Kyoto, our protagonist and his worst friend, Ozu, are locked in a glaring contest in a four-and-a-half-tatami-mat room. Ozu has spilled Coke on the air conditioner's remote control. When a young man claiming to be a time traveler appears, our protagonist has a brilliant idea. The sweetest revenge would be to go back one day in time and retrieve the functioning remote control.

- **Oghenechovwe, Donald (ed).** *The Year's Best African Speculative Fiction 2023*. Caezik, 27.99 tp.

The third volume of the best in African sf.

- **Okorafor, Nnedi.** *Like Thunder [The Desert Magician's Duology #2]*. DAW, 24.95 tp.

Dikeogu Obidimkpa is slowly losing his mind. Yes, that boy who can bring rain just by thinking about it is having some...issues. Years ago, Dikeogu went on an epic journey to save Earth with the shadow speaker girl, Ejii Ubaid, who became his best friend. When it was all over, they went their separate ways, but now he's learned their quest never really ended at all.

- **Pearson, Mary E.** *The Courting of Bristol Keats [The Courting of Bristol Keats #1]*. Flatiron, 40.99 hc.

After losing both their parents, Bristol Keats and her sisters struggle to stay afloat in their small, quiet town of Bowskeep. When Bristol begins to receive letters from an "aunt" she's never heard of who promises she can help, she reluctantly agrees to meet - and discovers that everything she thought she knew about her family is a lie. Even her father might still be alive, not killed but kidnapped by terrifying creatures to a whole other realm - the one he is from. Desperate to save her father and find the truth, Bristol journeys to a land of gods and fae and monsters.

- **Pratchett, Terry.** *A Stroke of the Pen: The Lost Stories*. Transworld, 21.99 tp.

Twenty early short stories by one of the world's best loved authors, each accompanied by exquisite original woodcut illustrations. These are rediscovered tales (none are Discworld, sadly) that Pratchett wrote under a pseudonym for newspapers during the 1970s and 1980s.

- **Rivera, CJ.** *The Final Orchard. Angry Robot, 24.99 tp.*

In a society where bionic enhancements are the epitome of wealth and power, scientific researcher Dr. Rosio Arata threatens to topple the status quo with her pioneering organic enhancements. Yet when a horrific accident kills her daughter, Ro's quest for answers leads her to becoming trapped in a twisted version of her life's work. In a bleak underground colony, 18-year old Ever is primed to rise through the ranks, gain selection and become a Saviour. It's her dream to journey to the Surface and fight the army of Others overwhelming the globe, catching up with the boy she loves in the process.

- **Robinson, Rebecca.** *The Serpent and the Wolf*. Saga, 34.99 hc.

After losing her mother - her only remaining parent - to a mysterious dark magic that has since awakened within her, Vaasa is certain death looms. So is her merciless brother, who aims to eliminate Vaasa as a threat to his crown. In one last political scheme, he marries her off to Reid of Mireh, a ruthless foreign ruler, in hopes that he can use her death as a rallying cry to finally invade Reid's nation. But to her surprise, Reid offers her a deal: help him win the votes to rise in power, and she can walk free. In exchange, he will share his knowledge about the dark magic running through her veins - and help keep it at bay.

- **Simcox, Adam.** *The Ungrateful Dead [Joe Lazarus #3]*. Gollancz, 34.99 hc.

Detective Joe Lazarus is missing. The Dying Squad are on the case, but following reports of his sighting, signs suggest he may have fallen back into his criminal ways. A new drug is taking the world by storm. Spook allows the living to see the dead, but its effects are often fatal. The Dying Squad's visit to a Berlin nightclub quickly turns their search into an entirely more sinister case.

- **Simone, Gail. *Consumed [Red Sonja #1]. Orbit, 39.00 hc.***

Red Sonja, the famous, fiery She-Devil and barbarian of Hyrkania has taken what she wanted, from treasure to drink to the companionship of bedfellows. She's fought who deserved it (and sometimes those who didn't). And she's never looked back. But when rumours start bubbling up from her homeland - rumors of unknown horrors emerging from the ground and pulling their unsuspecting victims to their deaths, she realizes she may have to return to the country that abandoned her.

- **Smale, Alan. *Radiant Sky [Apollo Rising #2]. CAEZIK, 25.99 tp.***

In the sequel to *Hot Moon*, set in an alternate 1983, Apollo astronaut Vivian Carter and her crew barely survive an armed attack from mysterious assailants at the lunar South Pole. Back at the joint Zvezda-US Copernicus Moonbase, the precarious Cold War cease-fire between the NASA and Soviet crews comes under threat from another consolidated assault. Vivian must navigate a treacherous political and military landscape, and travel from the lunar surface to high lunar orbit and back again, to solve the riddle of these strange lunar incursions and move ahead to a future that even she can barely imagine.

- **Suri, Tasha. *The Lotus Empire [The Burning Kingdoms #3]. Orbit, 25.99 tp.***

Malini has claimed her rightful throne as the empress of Parijatdvipa, but must now find another willing to take her place on the pyre. A yaksa promises protection for Ahiranya. But in exchange, she needs a sacrifice. And she's chosen Priya as the one to offer it. Two women once entwined by fate now stand against each other. But when an ancient enemy rises to threaten their world, Priya and Malini will find themselves fighting together once more - to prevent their kingdoms, and their futures, from burning to ash.

- **Taylor, Travis S. & Les Johnson. *Crisis at Proxima. Baen, 37.00 hc.***

First contact with the seemingly impossible human civilization at Proxima Centauri is not going well. The Earth ships sent to render aid have not been able to reverse the contagion ravaging their population and, worse, many Proximans are now wondering if the humans from Earth are there for other, not so charitable, reasons. Can the extinction-level disaster faced at Proxima be reversed by the combined ingenuity of scientists from both worlds working together?

- **Tolkien, Christopher. *The History of Middle-Earth (Boxed Set 4): Morgoth's Ring, The War of the Jewels, The Peoples of Middle-Earth & Index. HarperCollins, 170.00 hc.***

Fourth in a series of hardcover boxed sets celebrating the literary achievement of Christopher Tolkien, featuring double-sided dustjackets. Set 4 contains *Morgoth's Ring*, *The War of the Jewels*, *The Peoples of Middle-earth* and *The History of Middle-earth Index*.

- **Vaughn, Carrie. *The Naturalist Society. 47North, 24.99 tp.***

Summer, 1880. The death of Beth Stanley's husband puts her life's work in jeopardy. The magic of Arcane Taxonomy dictates that every natural thing in the world, from weather to animals, can be labeled, and doing so grants the practitioner some of that subject's unique power. But only men are permitted to train in this philosophy. And so Beth has lost the name they put on her work. And now Brandon West and Anton Torrance are campaigning for their expedition to the South Pole, a mission that some believe could make a taxonomist all-powerful by tapping into the earth's magnetic forces.

- **Wagers, K. B. *And the Mighty Will Fall [NeoG #4]. Voyager, 24.99 tp.***

The mission of the Near-Earth Orbital Guard is to ensure the peace and security of the solar system. Commander Maxine Carmichael and Lieutenant Commander Saqib Vahid are at the Mars Orbital Station (MOS) to help facilitate the official handover from NeoG to Mars civilian control as part of the ongoing negotiations. Members of the extreme wings of the fight for Martian independence refuse to remain silent, and are willing to resort to violence to make their voices heard; Max and Saqib find themselves fighting for their lives.

- **Wees, Alyssa. *We Shall Be Monsters*. Del Rey, 25.99 tp.**

Gemma Cassata lives with her mother in an isolated antiques shop in Michigan, near a seductive patch of woods concealing an enchanted gateway to fairyland. Gemma knows she's not supposed to go into the woods - her mother, Virginia, has warned her multiple times. But everything changes when Gemma gets too close to the truth, and a witch takes Virginia. Now it is up to Gemma to venture deep into the mysterious woods to rescue her mother and break a curse.

- **Wellington, David. *Revenant-X [Red Space #2]*. Orbit, 28.99 tp.**

The crew of the Artemis - led by Firewatch agent Alexandra Petrova - have survived the furious onslaught of the Basilisk and broken through the space blockade around Paradise-1. Now they can pursue their original mission and investigate why Earth's first deep space colony has fallen silent. The answer seems obvious: the site is deserted. Or so they think. Some of the colonists remain...but they're no longer human.

- **Williams, Tad. *The Navigator's Children [Last King of Osten Ard #4]*. DAW, 42.00 hc.**

Queen Miriamele hurries to save the Hayholt and capture the treacherous noble Pasevalles, but arrives to discover the traitor has escaped. And inside Tanakiru, Vale of Mists, the bond between Prince Morgan and Nezeru, a renegade Norn, has become something deeper and stranger than either of them could have anticipated. They journey ever deeper to the heart of the valley's mystery, encountering wonder and horror, and come face to face at last with the ancient secret that has kindled the Norn Queen's war - a secret that will destroy immortals and humans alike.

- **Willis, Deborah. *Girlfriend on Mars*. Penguin Canada, 24.95 tp.**

Amber Kivinen is moving to Mars. Or at least, she will be if she wins a chance to join MarsNow. She and 23 reality TV contestants from around the world - including a handsome Israeli, an endearing fellow Canadian, and an assortment of science nerds and wannabe influencers - are competing for two seats on the first human-led mission to Mars, sponsored by billionaire Geoff Task. Meanwhile Kevin, Amber's boyfriend of fourteen years, was content going nowhere until Amber left him - and their hydroponic weed business - behind.

- **Winters, Demi. *The Road of Bones [The Ashen Series #1]*. Delacorte, 38.99 hc.**

Silla Nordvig is running for her life. The Queen of Iseldur has sent warriors to bring Silla to Sunnavik, where death awaits her. When her father is killed, his last words set Silla on a perilous quest. Travel the treacherous Road of Bones - a thousand-mile stretch haunted by warbands, creatures of darkness, and a mysterious murderer - and go to Kopa, where a shield-house awaits her. After barely surviving the first stretch of road, a desperate Silla sneaks into a supply wagon belonging to the notorious Bloodaxe Crew.

- **Zahn, Timothy. *The Icarus Twin [Icarus Saga #2]*. Baen, 12.99 pb.**

Gregory Roarke and his Kadolian partner Selene now work for the Icarus Group, a top-secret government organization hunting for portals created by a long-vanished alien race, portals that can teleport a person hundreds or thousands of light-years in the blink of an eye. Roarke and Selene are searching one such possibility when they find that someone appears to be stalking them.

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Gilgamesh, Mozart, and Bram Stoker Walk Into a Bar in Westeros...

Jason P Hunt (originally posted to SciFi4Me.com)

"Gilgamesh and Enkidu at Uruk." ~ Jean-Luc Picard

There's an episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* — "Darmok", the second episode of the fifth season, for those keeping track — wherein Captain Picard realizes that the alien he's met (Dathon, played by Paul Winfield) speaks only in metaphor, thus prompting him to try to relate using events from Earth's history. *The Epic of Gilgamesh* has been part of the human lexicon for thousands of years, and *of course* Picard is as familiar with that story as he is with the works of Shakespeare. Using the friendship of Gilgamesh and Enkidu as his example, Picard manages to bridge the communications gap with Dathon before the Tamarian dies.

Being a relic of the Babylonian Era, *The Epic of Gilgamesh* has been translated and re-told countless times, mainly based off a copy that was discovered in Nineveh in 1853. I've even got a copy of the book by Robert Silverberg in my library. It's not a new story, and one could be forgiven for thinking that there's nothing more to the story than what we've had for however many years, right? I mean, it's always existed in fragments of stone tablets and such since the 18th century BC (that's Before Christ for those of you in Berkeley), and there's been a possibility of finding more.

Well, there's now more to the story.

In September 2024, the Sulaymaniyah Museum in the Kurdistan region of Iraq announced the discovery of a tablet that had been recovered after the fall of Baghdad in 2003. The museum paid smugglers and other scoundrel types to make sure that historical and cultural artifacts wouldn't leave the country in spite of the massive amounts of looting that came with the downfall of Saddam Hussein. One of those artifacts was a tablet with additional lines from Chapter Five of the tale. This new fragment adds to the story of Gilgamesh and Enkidu killing Humbaba, along with the two meeting a monkey.

So, score one for the Babylonians. They've published a new piece of the story before George R. R. Martin has.

Also in September, researchers at the Leipzig Municipal Libraries were compiling a new edition of the *Köchel* catalog, a comprehensive archive of work by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Hidden amongst the material was a previously unknown composition, *Serenade in C*, a 12-minute string trio written for two violins and a bass. Researchers believe Mozart might have been around twelve years old when he wrote it, although the manuscript is not in his hand. This may be a copy that was made around 1780.

Ulrich Leisinger, head of research at the International Mozarteum Foundation, says the manuscript is stylistically consistent with his work between the ages of ten and thirteen years of age. "It looks as if—thanks to a series of favorable circumstances—a complete string trio has survived in Leipzig," Leisinger adds. "The source was evidently Mozart's sister, and so it is tempting to think that she preserved the work as a memento of her brother. Perhaps he wrote the trio specially for her." With its entry into the catalog, the piece has been renamed *Eine Ganz kleine Nachtmusik* and was performed in Salzburg, Austria on September 19.

Score one for the musical prodigy, who has a new piece for us to enjoy before George R. R. Martin has.

Not to be outdone, Bram Stoker also has made the news with a discovery in a Dublin library archive.

Brian Cleary was browsing through a Christmas supplement of the Dublin edition of the *Daily Mail* from 1890 when he stumbled across "Gibbet Hill," a previously undocumented piece from the writer of *Dracula*. The short story has never been referenced in any Stoker bibliography, remaining hidden for over 130 years.

"I read *Dracula* as a child and it stuck with me, I read everything from and about Stoker that I could get my hands on," said Cleary. He was visiting the National Library of Ireland while on leave to retrain his hearing after cochlear implant surgery. "I sat in the library flabbergasted, that I was looking at potentially a lost ghost story from Stoker, especially one from around the time he was writing *Dracula*, with elements of *Dracula* in it," said Cleary. "I sat looking at the screen wondering, am I the only living person who had read it? Followed by, what on earth do I do with it?"

Cleary consulted Stoker biographer Paul Murray, who confirmed that the story was previously unknown. It's a story about a sailor murdered by three criminals, whose bodies were hanged on a gibbet (gallows) as a warning to travelers. Murray says, "It's a classic Stoker story, the struggle between good and evil, evil which crops up in exotic and unexplained ways, and is a way station on his route to publishing *Dracula*."

So, after 130 years, Bram Stoker has given the world a new story before George R. R. Martin has.

So that's three brand new (new to us, anyway) stories from dead people. Oh, and let's not forget that Brandon Sanderson wrote *five* novels during the pandemic lockdown, too. *And* there's now a brand new edition of *Heavy Metal* coming back into the world.

What's Martin's excuse?

The Week's Brendan Morrow has a nicely organized timeline of the epic tale of the Story That Refuses To Be Written. Read it here: <https://theweek.com/feature/briefing/1022767/a-complete-timeline-of-george-rr-martins-progress-on-the-winds-of-winter>

Starting in June 2010, when Martin announced that he had four completed chapters, the timeline reads like a "Will they or won't they?" dance of anticipation and disappointment as Martin continuously makes promises, teasing progress, but then failing to deliver time and again. Throughout the process, Martin *insists* that this book is his priority, only to be sidetracked by *Fire & Blood* and HBO's spinoff series *House of the Dragon*. In fact, all of the various spinoff productions take up a good chunk of time, plus there are the other stories he has to write in order to meet certain other obligations and such and thus and so....

So a book that was originally planned for a 2014 release now sits in abeyance ten years later, two years after Martin says it was "three-quarters of the way done" during a Penguin Random House Q&A session.

And now, here we are a month after Martin posted on his blog, that he's *still* not done — but he's made progress! He's added pages to both *The Winds of Winter* and *Blood & Fire*, which is the second book informing *HOTD*. He's also got another Dunk & Egg story to write. And once *Winds* is (finally) published(?), he still has *A Dream of Spring* to write for the main series. Is *Dream* the final book in the series? Will he even get to that one? Or will he once again deliver excuse after excuse, to the consternation of those fans who have persevered and stuck it out to the very last?

To be sure, Martin's not the only author who's failed to deliver the next book in a series — looking at you, David Gerrold — but right now, he's the most visible and well-known. And he's still alive, which kind of but not really gives him a leg up on Bram Stoker and Mozart, but then again... And no, he doesn't *owe* you a scrap or shred of any new story at all. Except for the fact that he continues to say he's working on it. He continues to promise delivery and scold you for being impatient when he doesn't live up to his word. And he continues to demonstrate that he's a man without integrity.

(But at least he's not trying to fleece you out of more money to pay for the thing he's not delivering, right, Alec?)



New Movies in December

[H = horror, F = fantasy, SF = sci-fi, T = thriller, A = animated, C = comic book, D = documentary] *limited release **re-release

December 6

Nightbitch (H) ~ *Werewolves* (H) ~ *Y2K* (H)* ~ *Get Away* (H) ~ *Solo Leveling: ReAwakening* (A)
The End (SF)* ~ *The Invisible Raptor* (SF)* ~ *Year 10* (H)*

December 7

My Neighbor Totoro (A)**

December 13

The Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim (A) ~ *Kraven the Hunter* (C) ~ *The Man in the White Van* (H)*

December 18

Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl (A)*

December 20

Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (F) ~ *Mufasa: The Lion King* (A)
Homestead (T)

December 25

Nosferatu (H/F)

December 29

Alien Wars: Judgement Day (SF)

December 30

Crystal (H) ~ *Apophis 2029* (SF)



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Convention Corner

Add to Your Award Collection!

- Imaginarium 2025 Imadjinn Award Nominations
- Imaginarium – Louisville, KY Jul 18-20

- IX (Illuxcon) – Reading, PA Oct 22-26
- IX 2025 Main Show Jury Submissions (Nov 1)

- The Illustrators of the Future (Deadline: Dec 31)
- The Writers of the Future (Deadline: Dec 31)

- FirstGlance Film Festival New York – New York, NY Mar 7-9
 - Deadline: Dec 1
 - Late: Jan 1
 - Final Extended: Jan 20

Help Wanted

- SaltCON Bryce Twice – Bryce Canyon City, UT Jan 24-26
- AnimeCon.org – Ani.me, Anime Midwest, animinneapolis, METACON
- EuroCon/MetropolCon – Berlin, Germany Jul 2-5 2026

If you have an update on a convention, please let us know!
Venue changes, new dates, cancellations, etc.



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Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays

Jason P Hunt

This list of fandom-related birthdays was first published by Bruce Pelz in the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. Andrew Porter published and updated the list for Science Fiction Chronicle. Updates are welcome!

Unless stated otherwise, all birthdays are in the 20th century.

December

Charles Finney, 12/1/05; Scott Sigler, 12/1/69; Delos W. Lovelace, 12/2/1894; Jerry Sohl, 12/2/13; Brian Lumley, 12/2/37; Andy Mangels, 12/2/66; John Dalmas, 12/3/26; Morgan Llyweln, 12/3/37; Bruce Golden, 12/3/52; Doug Beason, Leigh Strother-Vein, 12/3/53; Tony Cvetko, 12/3/54; Ian Wallace, 12/4/12; Bill & Dick Glass, 12/4/45; Richard Lynch, 12/4/49; Kurt R.A. Giambastiani, 12/4/58; Walt Richmond, 12/5/22; Betsy Wollheim, Susan Palermo, 12/5/51; Susan Rothman, 12/5/54; Arthur K. Barnes, 12/6/09; Ejler Jakobsson, 12/6/11; Roger Dee, 12/6/14; William P. McGivern, 12/6/21; Ted Pauls, 12/6/42; Linda Evans, 12/6/58; Kevin Brockmeier, 12/6/72; James Maxey, 12/6/78; Leigh Brackett, 12/7/15; Buzz Dixon, 12/7/53; Tom Galloway, 12/7/60; Kelly Barnhill, 12/7/73; John Morrissey, 12/8/30; Ann Morris, 12/8/49; Paula Downing, Brian Attebery 12/8/51; Lise Eisenberg, 12/8/56; Laura Mixon, 12/8/57; Aaron Allston, 12/8/60; Steve Fahnstalk, 12/9/47; Curt Stubbs, 12/9/48; Nicki Lynch, 12/9/52; Jennifer Brozek, Kevin Hearne, 12/9/70; George McDonald, 12/10/1824; Janny Wurts, 12/10/53

Rachel Cosgrove Payes, 12/11/22; Mann Rubin, 12/11/27; Fred Patten, 12/11/40; Ralph Roberts, 12/11/45; Ken Fletcher, 12/11/46; Rebecca Lyons, 12/11/53; Richard Paul Russo, 12/11/54; M. Rickert, 12/11/59; Don Pendleton, 12/12/27; Ken Ozanne, 12/12/41; Ginjer Buchanan, 12/12/44; Karl Wagner, 12/12/45; Paul Novitski, 12/12/50; Timothy Lane, 12/12/51; Susan R. Higgins, 12/12/52; Joan Verba, 12/12/53; Toni Weisskopf, 12/12/65; Tim Pratt, 12/12/76; Steve White, 12/13/48; R.A. MacAvoy, 12/13/49; Emma Bull, 12/13/54; Shirley Jackson, 12/14/16; J.G. Newkom, 12/14/35; John Baxter, 12/14/39; Sarah Zettel, 12/14/66; Rachel Cohn, 12/14/68; Edward Llewelyn, 12/15/17; John Sladek, 12/15/37; John Guidry, 12/15/44; David Bischoff, 12/15/51; Robert Charles Wilson, 12/15/53; Harry Hopkins III, 12/15/55; Leslie Smith, 12/15/58; Arthur C. Clarke, 12/16/17; Willis E. McNelly, 12/16/20; Randall Garrett, 12/16/27; Philip K. Dick, 12/16/28; Norm Metcalf, 12/16/37; Steve Forty, 12/16/48; Alexander Bouchard, 12/16/56; Lex Nakashima, 12/16/60; Jack Chalker, 12/17/44; J.R. Madden, 12/17/50; Angela Kessler, 12/17/70; H.H. Munro, 12/18/1870; Alfred Bester, 12/18/13; Walter J. Daugherty, 12/18/16; Sterling Lanier, 12/18/27; David G. Hulan, 12/18/36; Fran Skene, 12/18/37; Michael Moorcock, 12/18/39; Jack Haldeman II, 12/18/41; Stephen Spielberg, 12/18/47; Jamil Nasir, 12/18/55; Rysa Walker, 12/18/61; Harry Warner, Jr., 12/19/22; Lee Pelton, 12/19/49; Theodore Judson, 12/19/51; Brandon Sanderson, 12/19/75; David Barr Kirtley, 12/19/77; Tom Boardman, 12/20/30; Peter Tieryas, 12/20/79

Malcolm Jameson, 12/21/1891; Larry Eisenberg, 12/21/19; James Sallis, 12/21/44; Lenny Bailes, 12/21/46; Mandy Slater, 12/21/63; Raven Oak, 12/21/77; Norma Auer Adams, 12/22/39; Bea Barrio, 12/22/42; Christopher Bunch, 12/22/43; Brian Daley, 12/22/47; P.D. Cacek, 12/22/51; David H. Keller, 12/23/1880; Chuch Harris, 12/23/27; George Heap, 12/23/28; Raymond Feist, 12/23/45; Fritz Leiber, 12/24/10; Dan Morgan, 12/24/25; Ray Beam, 12/24/32; Michael Kandel, 12/24/41; Joseph T. Major, 12/24/54; Joseph Matheny, 12/24/61; Stephanie Meyer, 12/24/73; Rod Serling, 12/25/24; Bill Fesselmeyer, 12/26/47; Clayton Emery, 12/26/53; Ken Slater, 12/27/17; Perdita Boardman, 12/27/31; Fred Lerner, 12/27/45; James E. LaBarre, 12/27/59; Elanor Arnason, 12/28/42; George Zebrowski, 12/28/45; Stan Lee, 12/28/22; Sheryl Birkhead, 12/28/46; Charles L. Harness, 12/29/15; Sam Long, 12/29/45; John D.F. Black, 12/30/32; David L. Travis, 12/30/35; James Kahn, 12/30/47; Lewis Shiner, 12/30/50; Avedon Carol, 12/30/51; S.P. Somtow, 12/30/52; Elizabeth Humphreys Penrose, 12/30/60; Eugie Foster, 12/30/71; Bob Shaw, 12/31/31; Bari Wood, 12/31/36; Connie Willis, 12/31/45; Susan Shwartz, 12/31/49.

[Note: these monthly lists are by no means complete, so please be patient while we update – it's an ongoing process! And if you'd like to help, or if you notice someone's missing from the rolls, please let us know! Send an e-mail to jphunt@scifi4me.com and we'll revise accordingly. Thank you!]



DECEMBER CONVENTIONS & EVENTS

Mindy Hunt

Each month we will provide a list of conventions from around the world. This list is constantly being updated throughout the month. You can find our full events list as well as a calendar at SciFi4Me.com.

If you know of a local event, big or little, send us and email at events@scifi4me.com so we can add it and make it the most comprehensive conventions list on the internet.

There are currently **3,225 listings**, and we continue to add events regularly.

Nov 28 – Dec 1

Debello Ludico – Bracciano, Italy Nov 27-Dec 1
 GobbleCon – Burlingame, CA Nov 28-Dec 1
Comic Con Arabia – Jeddah, Saudi Arabia Nov 28-29
 Anime Dallas – Dallas, TX Nov 29-Dec 1
 Chicago Tardis – Chicago, IL Nov 29-Dec 1
 FanExpo San Francisco – San Francisco, CA Nov 29-Dec 1
 Loscon – Los Angeles, CA Nov 29-Dec 1
 MCM Comic Con Birmingham – Birmingham, United Kingdom Nov 29-Dec 1
NAG LAN – Johannesburg, South Africa Nov 29-Dec 1
 NorthEast Comic Con & Collectibles Extravaganza – Boxborough, MA Nov 29-Dec 1
rAge Expo – Johannesburg, South Africa Nov 29-Dec 1
 Starbase Indy – Indianapolis, IN Nov 29-Dec 1
 GeekCraft Expo Seattle – Seattle, WA Nov 29-30
Comic Con Stuttgart – Stuttgart, Germany Nov 30-Dec 1
Oddities & Curiosities Expo – Adelaide, South Australia, Australia Nov 30-Dec 1
 Tabletop Oahu – Honolulu, HI Nov 30-Dec 1
AniMangapop! – Cardiff, United Kingdom Nov 30
Bracknell Brick Festival – Croydon, United Kingdom Nov 30
 Clarksville Anime-Fest – Clarksville, TN Nov 30
 Collectorabilia – Green Bay, WI Nov 30
Dragonmeet – London, United Kingdom Nov 30
Garden City Comic Con – St Catharines, Ontario, Canada Nov 30
Stars of Time Film & Comic Con – Weston-super-Mare, United Kingdom Nov 30
 Waynesburg Toy & Comic Expo – Waynesburg, PA Nov 30
Chichester Comic-Con – Chichester, United Kingdom Dec 1
London Comic Mart – London, United Kingdom Dec 1
 Madison Comic Con – Madison, WI Dec 1
 Merced Toy-Anime-Comic Con – Merced, CA Dec 1
 Raleigh Comic Book Show – Raleigh, NC Dec 1
 SW-FloridaCon – Fort Myers, FL Dec 1
Toronto Toy & Nostalgia Show – Toronto, Ontario, Canada Dec 1
 Wayne NJ Toy Show – Wayne, NJ Dec 1

Dec 5 – 8

VIRTUAL

New York City Horror Film Festival – New York City, NY Dec 6-10

Emerald Con – Bellevue, WA Dec 6-8

ON-SITE

Sci-Fi Sea Cruise – Miami, FL Dec 5-15

CCXP – Sao Paulo, Brazil Dec 5-8

Manga Barcelona – Barcelona, Spain Dec 5-8

MidWest FurFest – Rosemont, IL Dec 5-8

New York City Horror Film Festival – New York City, NY Dec 5-8

Anime Frontier – Fort Worth, TX Dec 6-8

AthensCon – Palaio Faliro, Greece Dec 6-8

Delhi Comic Con – Delhi, India Dec 6-8

Emerald Con – Bellevue, WA Dec 6-8

Galaxy Con Columbus– Columbus, OH Dec 6-8

KSAGG V – Roseville, MN Dec 6-8

Nostalgia Con – Houston, TX Dec 6-8

PAX Unplugged – Philadelphia, PA Dec 6-8

SMOFCCon – Seattle, WA – Nashville, TN Dec 6-8

Steel City Con – Monroeville, PA Dec 6-8

TsunamiCon – Wichita, KS Dec 6-8

Yama-Con – Pigeon Forge, TN Dec 6-8

Abilene Comic Con – Abilene, TX Dec 7-8

Brick Universe Augusta County – Fishersville, VA Dec 7-8

Brickfest Live Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA Dec 7-8

Furs Upon Malaysia – Selangor, Malaysia Dec 7-8

German Film & Comic Con Winter – Dortmund, Germany Dec 7-8

Oddities & Curiosities Expo – Brisbane, Queensland, Australia Dec 7-8

Oz Comic Con Melbourne Xmas Edition – Melbourne, Victoria, Australia Dec 7-8

Quad City Con Davenport – Davenport, IA Dec 7-8

Singapore Comic Con – Singapore, Singapore Dec 7-8

Cosplay World Richmond – Richmond, VA Dec 7

LouisvilleCon – Louisville, KY Dec 7

MidSouth Toy Fest – Memphis, TN Dec 7

Midwest Comic Book Convention Madison – Madison, WI Dec 7

Newmarket Comicon – Newmarket, Ontario, Canada Dec 7

North Dallas Toy Show – Plano, TX Dec 7

Pulp Adventurecon – Langhorne, PA Dec 7

Rise of the Phoenix Comic & Toy Fest – Deltona, FL Dec 7

Tri-Cities Comicon – Bristol, VA Dec 7

Winter Kawaii Dreams Fest – Stone Mountain, GA Dec 7

Annandale Comic Book & NonSports Card Show – Annandale, VA Dec 8

Captial Trade Show – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Dec 8

Clandestine Comics – Hunt Valley, MD Dec 8

Comic & Toy Show – Dayton, OH Dec 8

Comic Con Okinawa – Okinawa, Japan Dec 8

Doncaster Brick Festival – Doncaster, United Kingdom Dec 8

JohnsonCity Anime-Fest – Johnson City, TN Dec 8

Modesto Toy-Anime-Comic Con – Modesto, CA Dec 8

Port Perry Comicon – Port Perry, Ontario, Canada Dec 8
SoCal Joe Show & Toy Convention – Temecula, CA Dec 8
Star Wars Holiday Collectors – Orlando, FL Dec 8

Dec 12 – 15

Anime Weekend Atlanta – Atlanta, GA Dec 12-15
Ecchi Expo Anime– San Antonio, TX Dec 13-15
HauntFest South Carolina – Greenville, SC Dec 13-15
Brickfest Live Boise – Boise, ID Dec 14-15
Comics Arts LA – Los Angeles, CA Dec 14-15
Comic World Taiwan Taipei Show – Taipei City, Taiwan Dec 14-15
Holiday Cosplay – Tampa Bay, FL Dec 14-15
Ocean City Comic Con – Ocean City, MD Dec 14-15
Oddities & Curiosities Expo –Melbourne, Victoria, Australia Dec 14-15
Permian Basin Comic Con – Midland, TX Dec 14-15
Quad City Con Des Moines – Des Moines, IA Dec 14-15
Sac Gamers Expo – Sacramento, CA Dec 14-15
Asheville Anime-Fest – Asheville, NC Dec 14
Great Lakes Holiday Expo – Clinton Township, MI Dec 14
Southampton Brick Festival – Southampton, United Kingdom Dec 14
Huntsville Anime-Fest – Huntsville, AL Dec 15
Rancho Cordova Toy-Anime-Comic Con – Rancho Cordova, CA Dec 15

Dec 19 – 22

Con+Alt+Delete – Chicago, IL Dec 20-22
DarknessCon Denver – Denver, CO Dec 20-22
Holiday Matsuri – Orlando, FL Dec 20-22
Kisuucon – Portland, OR Dec 20-22
Brickfest Live Salt Lake City – Salt Lake City, UT Dec 21-22
Comic World Taiwan Taipei Kaohsiung – Kaohsiung City, Taiwan Dec 21-22
Lumberton Comic and Toy Show – Lumberton, NC Dec 21-22
Oddities & Curiosities Expo –Sydney, New South Wales, Australia Dec 21-22
Nashville Anime Day – Nashville, TN Dec 21

Dec 26 – 29

Collecti.Con Hamilton Toy and Collectible Show – Hamilton, Ontario, Canada Dec 26
OKiCon – Norman, OK Dec 27-29
Oshawa Comicon – Oshawa, Ontario, Canada Dec 27
Cosplay Matsuir – Pasay City, Philippines Dec 28-30
Brickfest Live Tinley Park – Tinley Park, IL Dec 28-29
Brickfest Live Worcester – Worcester, MA Dec 28-29
Furvester – Stuttgart, Germany Dec 29-Jan 2
Comic Market – Tokyo, Japan Dec 29-30





We welcome your feedback!

If you have comments, suggestions, or articles to share please send an e-mail to mindyhunt@scifi4me.com or jphunt@scifi4me.com and let us know how we're doing!

Thank you for taking the time to read and respond.

