

THE OBDURATE EYE #45

November 2024

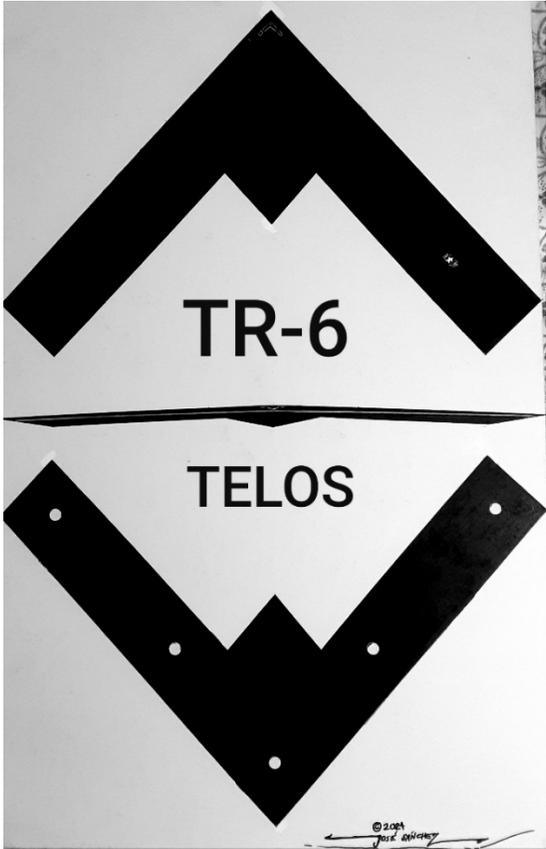


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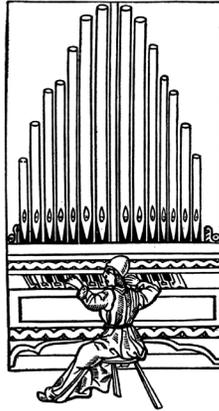
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THE OBDURATE EYE #45, November 2024, a personalzine from Garth Spencer, 6960 Doman Street, Vancouver, BC CANADA V5S 3H7, Email garth.van.spencer@gmail.com or hrothgarweems@gmail.com . Garth acknowledges that he does this on the unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəyəm, səlilwətəl, and skwxwú7mesh peoples.



The organ of no clique or party

Art Credits

Jose Sanchez	cover, p. 14
Clipart	pp. ii, 8, 15
Megan Giles, “The VW Rabbit” (2008)	p. 1
Brad Foster, “Hovering” (2010)	p. 5
Teddy Harvia	pp. 7, 10
Garth Spencer photo	p. 11

Jose Sanchez identifies the cover illustration as

“The Northrop Grumman TR-6 / T.E.L.O.S. (Transatmospheric Electrogravetic Low Observation Surveillance) platform.

“Also known as ‘The Phoenix Lights’ and ‘The Starfield Maker’ for allegedly having self-projected onto its belly area an actual star background as if to camouflage or conceal itself against the night sky – witnessed by hundreds of people back in 1997 in the infamous UFO flap of Phoenix, Arizona.

“Additionally since then, there have been persistent rumors that these craft may be restructured or reformed advanced stealth blimps since, when witnessed, they are completely silent and travel at very low altitudes and can loiter for long periods of time moving slowly about.”



The VW Rabbit (Megan Giles)

Learning How to Adult

Financial: For the moment I am working part-time and benefiting from some government pension plans, and paying down my taxes and credit card. Of course it's all a house of cards, until and unless I have more savings.

Work: I still work as a sort of on-call part-time secretary, for just a few clients. Maybe I should be promoting myself aggressively, but ... aggression and self-promotion are not within me.

Medical: I am healthy, have received COVID and influenza booster shots, and give blood about as often as I can. Maybe I have to get my eyes checked for conjunctivitis.

Social:

Did my duty and voted in the provincial election. Due to inclement weather (and consequent flooding and power outages in some places) BC's electoral results took longer to tally than the results of other provinces.

I also serve as a house rep and outreach support worker in Unity Housing, the subsidized housing society of which I am a resident member. This allows me a measure of regular social contact, if only at semiformal business meetings; and other activities, such as CSFFA or writing workshops, also allow me contact with others. But in other respects I am a hermit. I don't relate to very many people – nor even

communicate with others easily, despite my command of English. (Perhaps **because** of my command of English?)

It is as if I barely learned the AngloAmerican.1975 social operating system, if you can put it that way, and I haven't been updating it regularly. Not having a manual to assist me, I am trying to invent my own, even knowing that I'm not well equipped, even knowing that professionals have adequately covered life skills and common knowledge and social training already. And I've told you about all this before. Maybe I should just make my manual a satirical handbook, like others in the self-help or humour bookshelves.

Appliances: Not having found a workshop or a supplier where I could find parts and make my own pocket computer, I finally bought a small tablet, intending to find a small keyboard to complement it, which I did. Then the tablet's battery went toes-up and I had to do the same thing over again. Now I find this lightweight tablet-and-keyboard assembly, which I hoped would be a more compact and lightweight alternative to a laptop, is slow and reluctant to serve either as a word processor, **or** as a web surfing machine, even now that the keyboard communicates with it. GAAAAH!

I have another tablet, which I use as an e-book reader and which has a port for a micro-SD card, but so far it fails to read the card I loaded with e-books from my desktop. Either this is an incompatibility between Windows 365 and Android operating systems, or the card is too high-density to be read.

Fandom:

I serve as secretary to the committee overseeing the national Aurora Awards. So, now I know with how to transcribe minutes from Zoom meetings.

As to another fan project, the Canadian Unity Fan Fund ... I have to revisit this in 2025. Fandom here just isn't fandom as I knew it, not like the fandom that supports fan funds, anyway. Maybe a travel fund that enhances communication between fandoms can be reinvented?

As to other fan publications: I am down to less than ten members in eAPA, and would like to attract more members. eAPA is at present a monthly online APA which is completely open to any subject, as long as it's semi-rational and not offensive material. The cost of participation is, well, participation – in the form of monthly PDF contributions by the first of each month. There are more details on the eAPA index page on eFanzines.com (<https://efanzines.com/eapa/>), and in the thumbnail description in the newly-updated Blue Moon directory (<https://tinyurl.com/bluemoonspecial2024>).

As to websites ... There used to be a gentleman in Seattle who kept up a "Northwest SF Resources" page, but he stopped updating it in about 2000. There were probably good and sufficient reasons, like expense or illness or sheer loss of energy, or no one else to pick up the reins.

So I am finally taking steps to erect my own long-promised Canadian/Pacific Northwest Fandom website, with much the same intent. My webhost, the Vancouver CommunityNet, offers webteam services to supply a webpage format, and to tutor me in using Wordpress for my web pages. But it begins to look as if I will make faster progress by just hosting it on Wordpress.

Fiction Writing: I am going through another patch of low confidence in my storytelling ability. (I didn't think I would be so sensitive, or so discouraged by writers' workshop critiques.) Then again, the faults of my writing entirely aside, this seems to be an unusually competitive and difficult time for writers to gain acceptance for submissions; for that matter publishers – and printers! – have been suffering pressures from a deflating market for printed fiction, and even from reduced availability of pulp paper supplies.

Maybe animated graphic stories published online will be the Wave of the Future.

§

Is it just my imagination, or are hinterland communities in Canada – that is, anything north of the 55th Parallel – badly served for transportation, communications, and all kinds of public services? I was shocked by the closure of Greyhound Canada, which I gather was the major, if not sole land transportation for many northern communities. I was not shocked by the deserted railway station in Winnipeg, only because I had received news for some years about the withdrawal from passenger rail service.

Now, I understand that passenger rail, even the southern concentration of population in Canada, is not economical. Our population is thinly spread except in the south (especially in the western provinces).

I still wonder if we have some practical solutions staring us in the face, such as establishing medical centres in northern latitudes to supply more immediate services than flying patients down to Vancouver or Toronto from communities such as Bella Coola or Cameron Wells; or, perhaps, establishing modern electric-train lines commuting between north and south, cutting the cost of both freight and passenger transportation.

§

It dawned upon me recently that I often find it painful to listen to people. After some cogitation I had worked out that words are clearly components for constructing devices that convey information. But I am surrounded by people who think of words as clay, and keep clumsily slapping handfuls of clay at whatever immaterial thought they're trying to express, until they hope they've covered it in a shape others will grasp. Even insurance adjusters and trademark agents I have worked for talk this way, belying the courses they've taken and the degrees they've acquired.

Beside that issue, picking on people's grammar and spelling is trivial, and the inability to read handwriting is unimportant.

	READ MORE 'ZINES!	Eldritch Science FanActivity Gazette Films Fantastic Ionisphere Mangaverse	N'APA The National Fantasy Fan N3F Review of Books Origin Tightbeam
National Fantasy Fan Federation - n3ff.org			

Does This Qualify as a Poem?

“Garth’s Attempt at Self-Definition”

I have no clue.

By slowly and painfully working out the obvious, I finally get a clue.

I have no worldview.

After outliving a lot of fear, I built a worldview.

I have no self-confidence.

After surviving my share of difficulties, I have self-confidence.

I have no empathy.

By pretending really hard, I simulate empathy.

I can’t read people.

After considering the people I know, I began to read people.

I have no love.

After my experiences I realize I have loved, and lost, and lived with it.

I have no ambition.

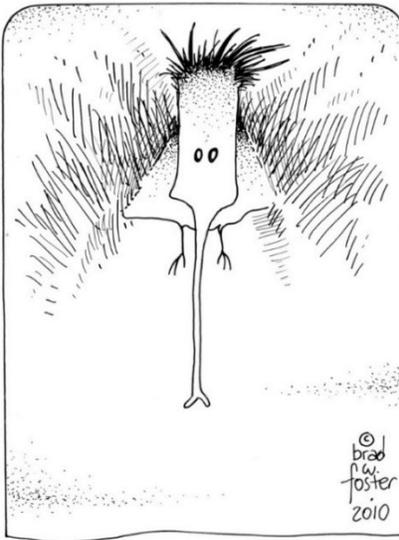
After a lot of reflection I evaluated shibboleths like ambition.

I have no faith.

After weighing a lot of considerations I arrived at a kind of faith.

I have no hope.

After many emotional ups and downs, I have acceptance.



HOVERING REQUIRES
FRENZIED
WING MOVEMENTS.

Locs to *The Obdurate Eye*

(Question for everybody: Am I erring too far on the side of respecting privacy, by withholding postal and email addresses in the letter column?)

Jean-Paul L. Garnier, Oct. 3, 2024

Always great to hear from you. Yes, life is hectic! Running a bookstore, podcast, publishing house, etc. is an incredible amount of work. And trying to make a living with anything book related is insanely difficult. But I wouldn't have it any other way, as I love what I do and live for SF. I try to take the strategy of building mountains out of pebbles. Everyday I try to do a little bit of something, and eventually it all adds up. I'm tired most of the time, but it's worth it to be helping out so many authors. Culture is only as good as we make it, so I try to do my bit.

Nic Farey, Oct. 5, 2024

Well!

As mentioned, the (not entirely new) idea is to do a parody of the 'Old Farmer's Almanac', repurposed for fannishness. If unfamiliar with the original, here's a link to an old issue:

https://archive.org/details/oldfarmersalmana0000unse_k3j5/page/36/mode/2up

There's several bits and pieces here which are eminently parodiabale, and I really should start working on a draft list of contents for "assignments" or up for grabs by anyone interested, whatever. It strikes me that this is something you'd enjoy contributing to, and I'd be well pleased to have you aboard! Deadline is roughly mid-end of next month which should perhaps give us enough time to grant us stocking-filler status...

Good arrers!

((Challenge accepted.))

Ryan Hawe, Oct. 6, 2024

(Re my Facebook suspension)

Well, the RSN group was long dormant, but there's a few other groups that might be a bit rudderless without you.

That said, I've been rather quiet on the Book of Faces myself, I get a little tired of some of the feeds I constantly get, to be honest. And The Same Photo of Chief O'Brien Every Day just isn't the same without some story to go with it.

Anyway. Finding out you had Mastodon persuaded me to link to you. (You and William Gibson on the same day!) I've also been building up my Instagram (also from Meta) connections, and marvelling at just how separated the Web seems to be if one isn't already ensconced in some megasite. This was not what I was promised in 1996.... or even 2003-2005, come to think of it.

RailFan Zine, Oct. 10, 2024

Hello! Thanks for the issue. Re: the commentary on *The Visionary* on whether evolution should count as a religion: one lecture that changed how I think about things was when one of my Communication professors described science as a "mythology." He did not mean in the sense that it was fake – rather, he meant that storytelling is a necessary tool for scientific communication. Think of the methodology section of a journal article. Describing the process of the research is meant to make the results more trustworthy. I admit this isn't directly related to parents objecting to certain school lessons, but it made me understand more why people are resistant to "disharmonious" explanations being taught.

As I write this, I'm finishing up my thesis for my master's degree. It's about health journalism. I think I like reading research more than I like doing it. Doing this study and writing it up has been unexpectedly difficult. Wish me luck!

Lloyd Penney, Oct. 10, 2024

Speeding along in responding to the few fanzines I have...here are some cogent comments on The Obdurate Eye 44.

Neat cover illo, flying U's...the U in UFO?

((There have always been more objects in the sky than saucers or globes. Before UFOs, people reported “airships” with no established origins, which presumably looked like cylinders or dirigibles. And before that, well, look at some puzzling artifacts in medieval pictures. There are anomalies everywhere.))

Common sense...seems so uncommon these days. Everyone, if they think about it (and I don't think most do), has their own version of common sense, but there isn't much consensus on what it consists of, and how common it might be to another person at random. At its beginning, fandom was all literary, and some thought their favourite part of fandom was fandom itself, and the personalities within. Very self-referential, but some liked it. With broadcasting came radio and television, and specialty fandoms came about from this. There are so many interests today with some connection to SF fandom, and those special interests tend to dominate. My closest literary convention is now in Rochester, New York. I have no problems with Facebook, but I see so many FB friends who have nothing but frustrating experiences with it.

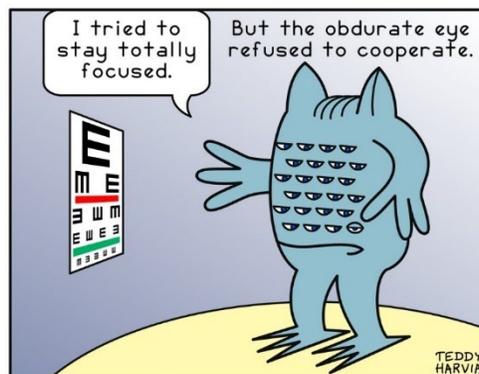
Graeme Cameron's comment that some say that 40 years of fanac doesn't necessarily mean you're a genuine fan...screw the gatekeepers. Do they have a graven-in-stone definition of what a genuine fan is? I got that nonsense when I first came to Toronto fandom from Victoria, and I still get it from some older fans, of which I thought I was one. As of December, it is 47 years in fandom for me. Where's my gold watch?

I had lost track of WCSAAL many years ago, and I thought he might have gafiated. I really like the term “archaeology of his life,” strikes a chord with me. I wish his son Ian luck in his archaeological dig, and I hope he will share what he finds.

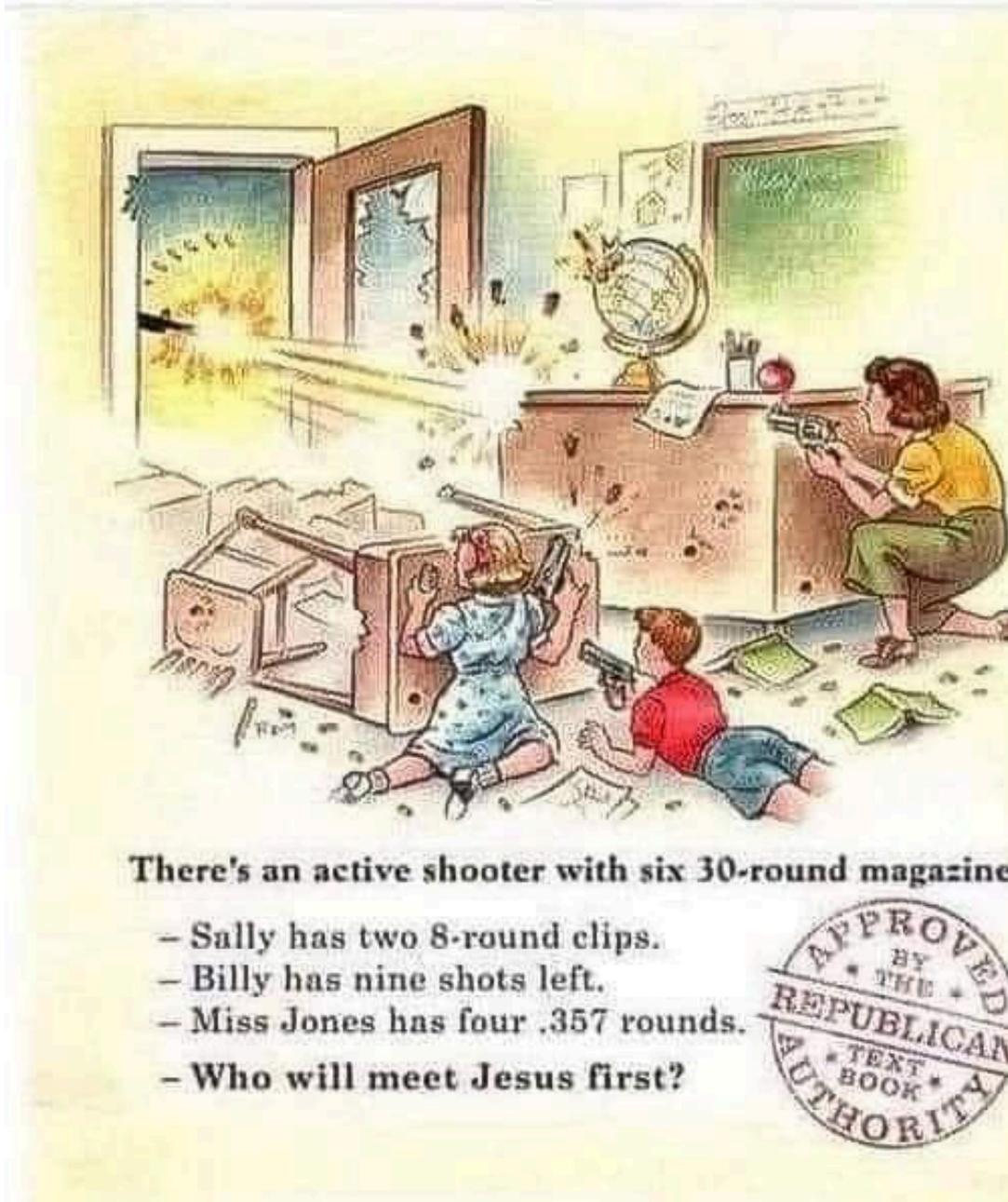
After so many years, we got our pre-supports for Minneapolis in 2073 at the NASFiC in Buffalo. Given we would purchase our memberships each worth \$20.73, we each put out an American \$20 bill, plus each a Canadian dollar, worth about 73 cents US at the time. As far as we were concerned, we paid \$20.73 in full.

Time to go, eyes getting gritty, and it is close to dinner time. Thanks for this issue.

We Also Heard From: George Phillies (President, National Fantasy Fan Federation); Heath Row; Catherine Groves; Keith Lynch; Matthew Strait; Hugh Spencer; Faith Magwood; and the Infinite Goof



One Way to Look at It



FILMS FANTASTIC *Is Back!*

The revue of reviews has returned! Check it out today at tnfff.org!

News

Book launch at White Dwarf Books Nov 5, 2024

JAMAICA GINGER AND OTHER CONCOCTIONS (Hopkinson, Nalo, Tachyon, 21.95 tp) is a new collection of short fiction, her first since 2015, from Caribbean-Canadian author Nalo Hopkinson: a woman and her cyborg pig eke out 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.

(White Dwarf Books)

At the Risk of Publishing CSFFA News Prematurely

The CSFFA Board of Directors decided at their October 2024 meeting to open their Eligibility Lists early this time, on November 1, 2024. That means that all paid-up CSFFA members can suggest works released in 2024, which may be eligible for the 2025 CSFFA/Aurora Awards. (A team of volunteers will be recruited to verify that these works qualify for nomination.)

(Garth Spencer, CSFFA)

Upcoming Canadian SF and Fantasy/Aurora Award Probable Dates

“These are the best guess dates for CSFFA in 2025. They include dates for the awards, our AGM, and our grants. If situations call for it, we will make changes to the dates to accommodate unforeseen circumstances.

“**NOTE:** All memberships to CSFFA must have been purchased **one week prior** to the close of voting for the awards.

“**January 4** – Membership payments open, ... Development grants (Part 1) open

“**February 22** – Eligibility Lists close

“**March 1** – Nominations open

“**March 31** – Development grants (Part 1) close

“**April 5** – Nominations close

“**May 17** – CSFFA AGM online voting open

“**May 10** – Voters’ package available to download (expected date)

“**May 30** – CSFFA AGM online voting close

“**May 31** – CSFFA AGM online, Development grants (Part 2) open

“**June 7** – Aurora Awards voting opens

“**July 12** – Membership payments close, Voters’ package download closes

“**July 19** – Aurora Awards voting closes

“**August 9** – Aurora Awards ceremony (online) – Note: Return to Saturday

“**August 31** – Development grants (Part 2) close

“Membership payments: January 4th (or as close as possible) and will close on July 12^h (one week prior to voting for the awards).

“Eligibility Period: Opens when payments open (around January 3rd) and closes at 11:59pm Eastern Time on February 22nd. (This is for works done in 2023 that members feel should be considered for the 2024 Awards)

“Professional Development Grants: There are two periods when we will be accepting grant questions. The first starts on January 4th and ends March 31st. The second begins June 1st and ends August 31st. For full details about these grants go to: <https://www.csffa.ca/csffa-professional-development-grant/>

“Nomination Period: Opens on March 1st and will close on April 5th.

“Voters Package should be available by May 10th (earlier if we get everything on time). Downloads of the voters’ package will close on July 12th (one week prior to the close of voting)

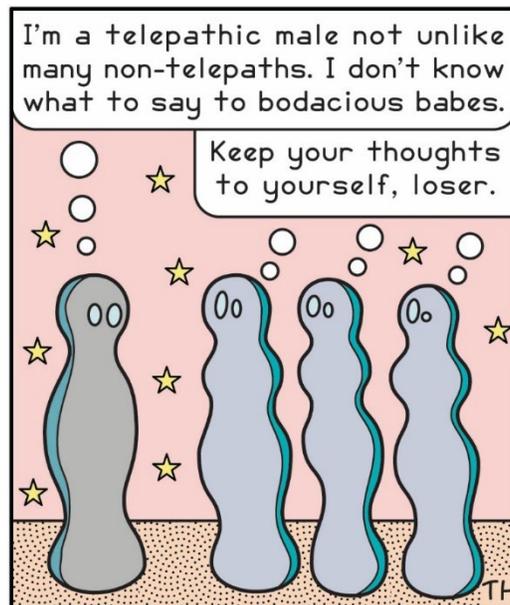
“CSFFA AGM voting period: Online voting for our AGM will be on May 18th and closes on May 30th.

“CSFFA Online AGM will take place on June 1st

“Voting Period for the Aurora Awards: Opens June 8th and closes on July 13th

“Awards Ceremony (Online): Sunday, August 11th, 5pm EDT (starting time is earlier than last year)”

(Cliff Samuels, CSFFA)



Locs to Trades

Pablo Lennis, October 2024, John Thiel ed., kinethiel@outlook.com

Maybe I should try submitting fiction to your fictionzine?

Rhyme & Paradox #6, August 2024, by Katrina A. “Kat” Templeton, katster@retstak.org

Let me apologize first for omitting to mention your fanzine, in my last issue.

Congratulations on recovering your hard drive, and your email archives! (I have recently acquired a compact external drive for my own backup purposes.)

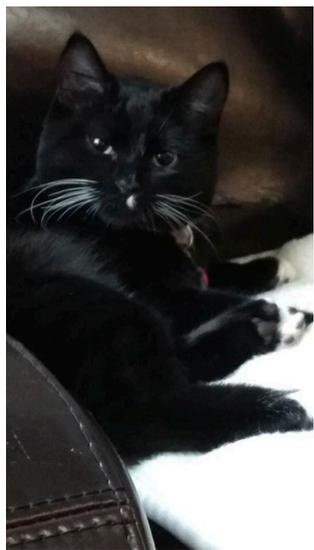
Condolences on the water leak taking out your kitchen, and much of your home with it. The housing society I joined has a good deal of experience with similar refrigerator leaks. Good that you’re getting your kitchen back!

You can deduce what kinds of things I think of writing by the contents that appear here, or in eAPA. (Welcome back! I’m glad you rejoined!) The slice-of-life and semi-diary content you have here is regular personal-journalism content for fanwriting.

Heath Row, elsewhere in this fanzine, describes the concept of “Ignorable Themes”:

“an idea I cribbed from Lee Gold and the roleplaying game-related amateur press association Alarums & Excursions. The basic idea is that questions are posed for future mailings or distributions. If a contributor is looking for something to write about, they can choose to address the Ignorable Theme. It’s a good way to encourage apahacking if comment hooks don’t present themselves or a contributor doesn’t otherwise feel inspired to write.”

I had a similar idea that somehow didn’t catch on – inviting articles or stories about ... oh ... sasquatches and other cryptids, campaigning for citizenship rights and government assistance; anti-defamation leagues for the mutual protection of



Lovecraftian, giant mutant, or folklorical monsters; professional societies for witches and druids and heathen runemasters, concerned with proficiency examinations, licensing fees, disbarment and discipline procedures – all couched in current bureaucratic and academic jargon.

For some time I’ve been pondering the greying of fanzine fandom, and the changes in convention fandoms. After the long-running general-interest VCON ceased, the only fannish conventions I attended were Corflu, in Vancouver in 2022, and Keycon (as a CUFF delegate) in 2023. I may go to the Seattle Worldcon, despite the cost, just because there is nothing closer that even faintly resembles fandom as I knew it.

Kittens! Cats! Felines are cool. I have my own tuxedo cat, Yvette. My brother and sister-in-law have four cats, two of them Scots Mists and one Scots Fold with an orange coat. One household I know of has at least six orange cats (I’m not

certain whether I am including the pair that had kittens together, plus the neighbour's cat they adopted).

Depression. I've been prone to depression for a long time, partly for external reasons I now understand; and for over twenty years I have been on antidepressants, first clomipramine and now citalopram. At the moment I am taking a break just to test whether I can do without for a while. Survive and succeed, Kat!

The Visionary, Universal Life Church Ministries, 2720 1st Avenue S., Seattle, WA 98134, U.S.A., newsletter@themonastery.org

Your October 2nd email subject was "Could You Spot a Witch?" I only have to contact some of my Wiccan friends.

I really must search out the "secular churches" topic you covered – it is no surprise to me that someone would start them, to answer the hunger for a sense of community.

Your October 9th email asked the perennial question what role the Bible should play in public life, especially in schools. The British already answered this by including religious-education classes in their schools – with, I believe, a comparison of religions in the curriculum. In my town, any such classes could survey Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, Taoism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and possibly Native American, Wiccan and heathen belief systems. Is there some reason why American schools can't adopt the same solution?

Your October 16th email asked how I identify? I could be honest, and say I identify as just one more surplus cis het Canadian male; or be flippant, and say I identify as an alien unaware of his origins, trying to live as a human among other humans, while being the unwitting straight man in a comedy show about his gormlessness. To be serious, I don't see how anti-transgenderism constitutes a religion, unless the Westboro Baptist Church qualifies as a religion. Granting that J.K. Rowling is simply being human in her inability to accept transsexuals as people, there's a limit to how far active opposition to any people's existence can be tolerated. Isn't there?

The Stf Amateur #13, October 2024, a bundlezine published by Blasted Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com

Quite the diverse gang at the pub, in your cover illustration.

Continuing the discussion of hobby science kits, construction toys, and "maker" fandom (Cy Chauvin's and my comments) – not really being in touch with maker fandom, if there is any in my town, I don't really know what's required. I am in some despair when it comes to learning how to build a minicomputer for myself, or how to deal with operating system and program concepts. Maybe I should stick to daydreaming about flying submarines, underwater railroads, or spacegoing tunnelling machines.

Thank you for the explanation of Ignorable Themes! I have recommended them above to Kat Templeton.

Re *Telegraphs & Tar Pits* 130-1: Maybe you and I and Jean-Paul GB, among others, can start listing SFnal podcasts?

I have taken the liberty of copying your starter list from this apazine, as a foundation for such a list. As noted in *The Obdurate Eye* #45, I am working up lists like this for a new fannish reference website.

***Tightbeam* #361, October 2024, quasi-monthly “literary” fanzine, editors George Phillies (phillies@4liberty.net, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, MA 01609) and Jon Swartz (judgeswartz@gmail.com).**

For a “literary” fanzine, full of reviews of popular entertainment, there are (surprisingly) no reviews of fiction in text form, except the magazine tied in to the “Witches’ Tale” broadcast series – and no reviews of fanzines at all.

***FanActivity Gazette* #4:5, October 2024; e-mails to mindyhunt@scifi4me.com or jphunt@scifi4me.com**

Interesting range of reviews and columns, but nothing I can comment on. I may have reason to copy some listings from your calendar of upcoming conventions, for a website I am compiling.

***Space Cowboy’s Accretion* #13, September 2024, author / editor Jean-Paul L. Garnier, 61871 29 Palms Hwy. Joshua Tree, CA 92252, U.S.A., spacecowboybooks@gmail.com**

I have taken the liberty of adding your podcast URL to a developing list of podcasts, which I am preparing for an SF reference website.

You’re doing so much, with a bookstore and readings and self-publishing and a website and a podcast, that I have to wonder if you’ve cloned yourself?

***The National Fantasy Fan* #83:10, October 2024, editors George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net and Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com**

That’s a whole bunch of N3F news! I have taken the liberty of adding your N3F short story contest blank to this zine, in the hope of providing it wider distribution.

***Captain Flashback* #71, October 2024, from Andy Hooper and Carrie Root at 11032 30th Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98125. E-mail Andy at fanmailaph@aol.com, and Carrie at carrieroot49@yahoo.com.**

So 1974 is in review. I hadn’t realized how many firsts that year represented – the debut of the NOVA science documentary series, the first release of a Dungeons & Dragons gamebook – or in how many ways it was the end of an era, as in the demise of Ed Sullivan, Chet Huntley, or Tim Horton. (For me it was just the year before I graduated from high school. At that time I hadn’t gained a perspective on anything.)

SMOF News #3:8, from smofnews@substack.com (Petréa Mitchell) – write to smofnews@gmx.com

I really appreciate seeing a regular news organ that not only lists upcoming conventions, but runs some articles that talk in-depth about conrunning – particularly articles with substance, like your article on how volunteers working at a convention may not be told how different their convention experience will be. I was particularly struck that you spelled out how convention committee members may experience being on duty without a break for the whole convention, and that may not be explicitly expressed. Good show!

Your list of upcoming conventions impressed me by its detail. It would be great if I might see what upcoming conventions, in Canada and in the Northwest states, are coming up at least three or six months in the future. I must follow you on Mastodon (@smofnews@wandering.shop) and at [https://smofnews.substack.com/!](https://smofnews.substack.com/)



(c)2024 Jose Sanchez

The German technology that Canada uses to maintain independence



Upcoming Book Releases

Compiled by

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Abbreviations - hc = hardcover, tp = trade (oversized) paperback, [UK ed] = British publication, [CDN ed] = Canadian publication. Default is US publication.

Other Titles - Please note that this listing is not exhaustive; we have many more (several hundred more) titles coming during this period.

October 2024 New Mystery and Crime Fiction Releases

Anderson, Lin. WHISPERS OF THE DEAD. [RHONA MACLEOD #18]. Macmillan, 42.99 hc.

Andrews, Donna. ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHICKADEE. [MEG LANGSLOW #36]. Minotaur, 36.00 hc.

Authors, Various. CHRISTMAS MITTENS MURDER. Cozies, 11.99 pb.

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Banville, John. THE DROWNED. Hanover Square, 35.99 hc.

Beaton, M. C. & R. W. Green. KILLING TIME. [AGATHA RAISIN #35]. Minotaur, 36.00 hc.

Bowen, Rhys. THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING. [ROYAL SPYNESS #17]. Berkley, 25.99 tp.

Brennan, Allison. THE MISSING WITNESS. [QUINN & COSTA #5]. MIRA, 12.99 pb.

Brown, Rita Mae. LOST & HOUND. ["SISTER" JANE #15]. Ballantine, 24.99 tp.

Bruns, Catherine. IN THE BLINK OF A PIE. [MAPLE SYRUP #3]. Poisoned Pen, 13.50 pb.

Butt, Brent. HUGE. Seal, 13.50 pb. Vancouver author.

Cameron, Marc. TOM CLANCY COMMAND AND CONTROL. [JACK RYAN #23]. Putnam, 14.99 pb.

Child, Lee & Andrew Child. IN TOO DEEP. [JACK REACHER #29]. Delacorte, 39.99 hc.

Chizmar, Richard. CHASING THE BOOGEYMAN. Pocket, 12.99 pb.

Coetzee, Olivia M. INNIE SHADOWS. Spiderline, 22.99 tp.

Connelly, Michael. THE WAITING. [RENEE BALLARD AND HARRY BOSCH #6]. Little Brown, 39.00 hc.

Connolly, John. NIGHT AND DAY. Emily Bestler, 26.99 tp. A collection of his supernatural stories.

Cornwell, Patricia. IDENTITY UNKNOWN. [KAY SCARPETTA]. Grand Central, 39.00 hc.

Cosby, S. A. (ed). THE BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE 2024 Mariner, 23.99 tp. The best twenty mystery and suspense stories from the previous year.

Cumming, Charles. KENNEDY 35. [LACHLAN KITE #3]. Penzler, 23.95 tp.

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Deaver, Jeffery. FATAL INTRUSION. [SANCHEZ & HERON #1]. Thomas & Mercer, 41.99 hc.

Devlin, A. J. BRONCO BUSTER. [HAMMERHEAD JED #4]. NeWest, 22.95 tp. Local author.

Doherty, Paul. BANNERS OF HELL. [HUGH CORBETT #24]. Headline, 36.99 hc.

Ellroy, James. THE ENCHANTERS. Vintage, 25.99 tp.

Feeney, Alice. ROCK PAPER SCISSORS. Flatiron, 12.99 pb.

Flower, Amanda. GINGERBREAD DANGER. [AMISH CANDY SHOP #9]. Cozies, 11.99 pb.

Frank, Anita. THE GOOD LIARS. HQ, 23.99 tp.

Graham, R. L. DEATH ON THE LUSITANIA. Pan, 21.99 tp.

Grandy, Shelley. DEVIOUS WEB. SparkPress, 25.95 tp.

Griffiths, Elly. THE MAN IN BLACK AND OTHER STORIES. Mariner, 35.00 hc. A collection of her stories.

Hannah, Sophie. SILENT NIGHT. [NEW HERCULE POIROT #5]. Morrow, 23.99 tp.

Harkaway, Nick. KARLA'S CHOICE: A JOHN LE CARRE NOVEL. [GEORGE SMILEY]. Viking, 36.00 hc.

Harris, Robert. PRECIPICE. Random House Canada, 25.95.

Hawkins, Rachel. THE VILLA. St. Martin's, 12.99 pb.

Hurley, Graham. DEAD GROUND. [SPOILS OF WAR #9]. Aries, 40.00 hc.

James, Peter. ONE OF US IS DEAD. [ROY GRACE #20]. Macmillan, 26.99 tp.

Jones, Philip Gwynne. THE VENETIAN SANCTUARY. Constable, 34.99 hc.

Jones, Stephen Mack. DEUS X. [AUGUST SNOW #4]. Soho, 23.95 tp.

Karber, G. T. MURDLE: THE SCHOOL OF MYSTERY [MURDLE]. Griffin, 24.00 tp.

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Klavan, Andrew. THE HOUSE OF LOVE AND DEATH. [CAMERON WINTER]. Mysterious, 23.95 tp.

Koontz, Dean. THE FOREST OF LOST SOULS. Thomas & Mercer, 41.99 hc.

Kyriacou, Eleni. THE UNSPEAKABLE ACTS OF ZINA PAVLOU. Aries, 26.99 tp.

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Marques, Patricia. BROKEN OATHS. [INSPECTOR REIS #3]. Hodder, 19.99 tp.

McCloskey, David. MOSCOW X. Norton, 24.99 tp.

McDermid, Val. QUEEN MACBETH. Atlantic Monthly, 33.50 hc.

Medawar, Tony (ed). WICKED SPIRITS: MYSTERIES, SPINE CHILLERS AND LOST TALES OF THE SUPERNATURAL. [BODIES FROM THE LIBRARY]. Collins Crime Club, 23.99 hc. A brand new anthology of previously unpublished and uncollected supernatural mysteries by some of the masters of the Golden Age.

Moss, Korina. FONDUE OR DIE. [CHEESE SHOP MYSTERIES #5]. St. Martin, 12.99 pb.

O'Brien, Tim. AMERICA FANTASTICA. Mariner, 24.99 tp.

Patterson, James & James O. Born. SHATTERED. [MICHAEL BENNETT #14]. Grand Central, 13.99 pb.

Perry, Anne. THE TRAITOR AMONG US. [ELENA STANDISH #5]. Ballantine, 24.99 tp.

Pine, Alex. THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS. [JAMES WALKER #4]. Avon, 22.99 tp.

Prose, Nita. MOLLY THE MAID: THE MISTLETOE MYSTERY:. Viking, 28.00 hc.

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Ryan, Tom. THE TREASURE HUNTERS CLUB. Simon & Schuster, 24.99 tp.
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Segura, Alex. ALTER EGO. Flatiron, 38.99 hc.
Smith, Alexander McCall. THE GREAT HIPPOPOTAMUS HOTEL. [PRECIOUS RAMOTSWE #25]. Pantheon, 37.99 hc.
Stevenson, Benjamin. EVERYONE THIS CHRISTMAS HAS A SECRET. Mariner, 24.99 hc.
Sweren-Becker, Daniel. KILL SHOW. Harper, 23.99 tp.
Trussoni, Danielle. THE PUZZLE BOX. Random House, 39.99 hc.
Vidich, Paul. BEIRUT STATION: TWO LIVES OF A SPY. Pegasus Crime, 24.95 tp.

November 2024 New Mystery and Crime Fiction Releases

Amor, Gemma. THE FOLLY. Datura, 24.99 tp.
Baldacci, David. TO DIE FOR. [6:20 MAN]. Grand Central, 39.00 hc.
Blackwell, Penny. MURDER AT THE BONFIRE. [CHERRYWOOD MURDERS #2].
Headline, 19.99 tp.
Brody, Kate. RABBIT HOLE. Soho Crime, 23.95 tp.
Burr, Shelley. MURDER TOWN. Morrow, 23.99 tp.
Collins, Max Allan. QUARRY'S RETURN. [QUARRY #17]. Hard Case Crime, 22.99 tp.
Connally, Celeste. ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND TREACHERY. [LADY PETRA INQUIRES #2]. Minotaur, 37.00 hc.
Cox, Charly. ALL HIS PRETTY GIRLS. [ALYSSA WYATT]. Canelo, 12.99 pb.
Evanovich, Janet. NOW OR NEVER. [STEPHANIE PLUM #31]. Atria, 26.99 tp.
Fargo, Layne. THEY NEVER LEARN. Pocket, 12.99 pb.
Frost, Chris. THE KILLER'S CHRISTMAS LIST. [DI TOM STONEM #1]. HarperNorth, 22.99 tp.
Goldman, Matt. DEAD WEST. [NILS SHAPIRO #4]. Forge, 24.99 tp.
Hadfield, Chris. THE DEFECTOR. [APOLLO MURDERS #2]. Vintage Canada, 24.00 tp.
Hanington, Peter. THE BURNING TIME. [WILLIAM CARVER]. Baskerville, 19.99 tp.
Harper, Jordan. THE LAST KING OF CALIFORNIA. Mulholland, 24.99 tp.
Hawkins, Paula. THE BLUE HOUR. Doubleday Canada, 36.00 hc.
Johnson, Craig. TOOTH AND CLAW. [LONGMIRE]. Viking, 34.00 hc.
Khan, Ausma Zehanat. BLOOD BETRAYAL. [BLACKWATER FALLS #2]. Minotaur, 24.00 tp.
Lloyd, Chris. BANQUET OF BEGGARS. Orion, 32.99 hc.

Lupica, Mike. ROBERT B. PARKER'S BROKEN TRUST. [SPENSER #51]. Putnam, 25.99 tp.

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Straley, John. BIG BREATH IN. Soho Crime, 37.95 hc.

Tierney, Marie. DEADLY ANIMALS. Holt, 39.99 hc.

Tuti, Ilaria. DAUGHTER OF ASHES. [TERESA BATTAGLIA #3]. Soho Crime, 24.95 tp.

Westlake, Donald E. THE ACTOR. Hard Case Crime, 21.95 tp (retitled reissue).

Williams, Beatriz. THE AUTHOR'S GUIDE TO MURDER. Morrow, 37.00 hc.

October 2024 New Fantasy and Science Fiction Releases

Ajram, Sofia. COUP DE GRACE. Titan, 22.99 hc.

Alderson, Ben. A BETRAYAL OF STORMS. [REALM OF FEY #1]. Angry Robot, 24.99 tp.

Armstrong, Kelley. I'LL BE WAITING. St. Martin's, 24.99 tp.

Asher, Neal. WORLD WALKERS. Tor UK, 33.99 tp.

August, Riley. THE LAST GIFTS OF THE UNIVERSE. Hanover Square, 31.00 hc.

Blake, Olivie. JANUARIES: STORIES OF LOVE, MAGIC, & BETRAYAL. Tor, 38.99 hc.

Brody, A. L. DATING & DISMEMBERMENT. Entangled, 23.99 tp.

Brom. EVIL IN ME. Tor Nightfire, 41.99 hc.

Burnham, Sophie. SARGASSA. [EX ROMANA]. DAW, 37.99 hc.

Butcher, Jim. THE OLYMPIAN AFFAIR. [THE CINDER SPIRES #2]. Ace, 25.99 tp.

Cherryh, C. J. & Jane S. Fancher. ALLIANCE UNBOUND. [HINDER STARS #2]. DAW, 41.00 hc.

Chronister, Kay. THE BOG WIFE. Counterpoint, 36.00 hc.

Clarke, August. METAL FROM HEAVEN. Erewhon, 37.99 hc.

Clarke, Susanna. THE WOOD AT MIDWINTER. Bloomsbury, 22.99 hc.

Clarke, Susanna. THE LADIES OF GRACE ADIEU: AND OTHER STORIES. Bloomsbury, 23.99 tp. 10 stories set in the same world as JONATHAN STRANGE & MR. NORRELL.

Cooke, C. J. THE BOOK OF WITCHING. HarperCollins, 25.99 tp.

Costa, Mariana. SHOESTRING THEORY. Angry Robot, 24.99 tp.

Crouch, Blake. RUN. Ballantine, 24.99 tp.

Dara, Maxie. A GRIM REAPER'S GUIDE TO CATCHING A KILLER. [SCYTHE MYSTERY]. Berkley, 25.99 tp.

Datlow, Ellen (ed). CHRISTMAS AND OTHER HORRORS: AN ANTHOLOGY OF SOLSTICE HORROR. Titan, 24.99 tp.

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Day, David. ATLAS OF TOLKIEN DELUXE EDITION. [MIDDLE-EARTH MAPS]. Thunder Bay, 26.99 hc.

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Dinniman, Matt. THE DUNGEON ANARCHIST'S COOKBOOK. [DUNGEON CRAWLER CARL #3]. Ace, 39.99 hc.

Doocy, Maiga. SORCERY AND SMALL MAGICS. [THE WILDERSONGS TRILOGY #1]. Orbit, 25.99 tp.

El-Fassi, Nadia. BEST HEX EVER. Dell, 24.95 tp.

Ellison, Harlan (ed). LAST DANGEROUS VISIONS. [DANGEROUS VISIONS]. Blackstone, 24.95 tp (also in hc, 38.95).

Erskine, Barbara. THE STORY SPINNER. HarperCollins, 26.99 tp.

Flint, Eric & Jody Lynn Nye. 1635: THE WEAVER'S CODE. [RING OF FIRE #37]. Baen, 37.00 hc.

Garcia, R. S. A. THE NIGHTWARD. [THE WATERS OF LETHE #1]. Voyager, 24.99 tp.

Gaskell, Stephen. SHADOW OF THE ENDLESS. [ENDLESS LEGEND]. Titan, 23.99 tp.

Griffith, Nicola. MENEWOOD. [HILD #2]. Picador, 28.00 tp.

Gwynne, John. THE FURY OF THE GODS. [THE BLOODSWORN TRILOGY #3]. Orbit, 28.99 tp.

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Holo, Jacob. FREELANCERS OF NEPTUNE. [SOL BLAZERS #1]. Baen, 37.00 hc.

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Malfi, Ronald. NARROWS. Titan, 24.99 tp.

Marske, Freya. SWORDCROSSED. Bramble, 38.99 hc.

Marske, Freya. POWER UNBOUND. [LAST BINDING #3]. Tor.com, 26.99 tp.

Mayo, Laura J. HOW TO SUMMON A FAIRY GODMOTHER. [FAIRIES AND FAMILIARS #1]. Orbit, 24.99 tp.

McDonald, Ed. TRAITOR OF REDWINTER. [REDWINTER CHRONICLES #2]. Tor, 26.99 tp.

McWalter, Keith G.. LIFERS. SparkPress, 24.95 tp.

Modesitt, L. E. Jr. FROM THE FOREST. [SAGA OF RECLUCE #23]. Tor, 27.99 tp.

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Patterson, James. MURDER ISLAND. [DOC SAVAGE]. Grand Central, 25.99 tp.

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Sivinski, Stacy. THE CRESCENT MOON TEAROOM. Atria, 25.99 tp.

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Taub, Melinda. THE SCANDALOUS CONFESSIONS OF LYDIA BENNET, WITCH. Grand Central, 25.99 tp.

Taylor, Jodi. THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR: A CHRISTMAS SHORT STORY COLLECTION. Headline, 21.99 tp.

Taylor, Jodi. KILLING TIME. [TIME POLICE #5]. Headline, 36.99 hc.

Thorne, Rebecca. A PIRATE'S LIFE FOR TEA. [TOMES & TEA #2]. Bramble, 26.99 tp.

VanderMeer, Jeff. ABSOLUTION. [SOUTHERN REACH #4]. McClelland & Stewart, 30.00 tp.

Vo, Nghi. THE CITY IN GLASS. Tor.com, 32.99 hc.

Waggoner, Tim. TERRIFIER 2. Titan, 24.99 tp.

Warren, A. E. SUBJECT TWENTY-ONE. [TOMORROW'S ANCESTORS #1]. Del Rey UK, 19.99 tp.

Warren, A. E. THE HIDDEN BASE. [TOMORROW'S ANCESTORS #2]. Del Rey UK, 19.99 tp.

Warren, A. E. THE FOURTH SPECIES. [TOMORROW'S ANCESTORS #3]. Del Rey UK, 19.99 tp.

Warren, A. E. THE FINAL RISING. [TOMORROW'S ANCESTORS #4]. Del Rey UK, 21.99 tp.

Winterson, Jeanette. NIGHT SIDE OF THE RIVER. Grove, 27.50 tp. A collection of her ghost stories.

Wolfe, Gene. THE WOLFE AT THE DOOR. Tor, 25.99 tp. An all new posthumous collection of stories.

Wood, Lucy Jane. REWITCHED. Ace, 25.99 tp.

Yarros, Rebecca. FOURTH WING. [EMPYREAN #1]. Entangled: Red Tower, 27.99 tp.

November 2024 New Fantasy and Science Fiction Releases

Attico, Derek Tyler. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN SISKO. [STAR TREK]. Titan, 23.99 tp.

Balle, Solvej. ON THE CALCULATION OF VOLUME (BOOK I). New Directions, 23.95 tp.

Balle, Solvej. ON THE CALCULATION OF VOLUME (BOOK II). New Directions, 23.95 tp.

Barsukov, Yaroslav. SLEEPING WORLDS HAVE NO MEMORY. CAEZIK, 25.99 tp.

Bennett, Robert Jackson. THE TAINTED CUP. [SHADOW OF THE LEVIATHAN #1]. Del Rey, 38.99 hc.

Bond, Charlotte. THE BLOODLESS PRINCES. [FIREBORNE BLADE #2]. Tor.com, 27.99 hc.

Boop, David (ed). LAST TRAIN OUTTA KEPLER-283C. Baen, 25.00 tp.

Britain, Kristen. SPIRIT OF THE WOOD. [GREEN RIDER]. Daw, 24.95 tp.

Broadbent, Carissa. THE SONGBIRD & THE HEART OF STONE. [CROWNS OF NYAXIA #3]. Bramble, 39.99 hc.

Burke, Sue. USURPATION. [SEMIOSIS #3]. Tor, 38.99 hc.

Caruso, Melissa. THE LAST HOUR BETWEEN WORLDS. [THE ECHO ARCHIVES]. Orbit, 25.99 tp.

Correia, Larry. GRAVEYARD OF DEMONS. [SAGA OF THE FORGOTTEN WAR #5]. Baen, 37.00 hc.

Crowley, Nate. NOTES FROM SMALL PLANETS: YOUR POCKET TRAVEL GUIDE TO THE WORLDS OF SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY. Voyager, 22.99 tp.

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.

Dinsdale, Robert. ONCE A MONSTER: A REIMAGINING OF THE LEGEND OF THE MINOTAUR. Pan, 21.99 tp.

Drakeford, Scott. THE FATE OF SILENT GODS. [AGE OF IRE #2]. Tor, 39.99 hc.

Fox, Richard. MEN OF BRETTON. [A DREAM OF HOME #1]. Baen, 37.00 hc.

Gibson, S.T. ODD SPIRITS. Angry Robot, 25.95 hc.

Glover, Nicole. THE IMPROVISERS. [MURDER AND MAGIC STANDALONE]. Voyager, 24.99 tp.

Green, Ian. EXTREMOPHILE. AdAstra, 39.99 hc.

Guanzon, Thea. THE HURRICANE WARS. Voyager, 24.99 tp.

Hackwith, A. J. TOTO. Ace, 25.99 tp.

Hair, David. THE BURNING LAND. [THE TALMONT TRILOGY #1]. Mobius, 23.99 tp.

Hallahan, Katie. THE TWICE-SOLD SOUL. [THE MCKENNA ELLERBECK SERIES #1]. Orbit, 25.99 tp.

Hawley, Sarah. SERVANT OF EARTH. [THE SHARDS OF MAGIC #1]. Ace, 39.00 hc.

Hopkinson, Nalo. JAMAICA GINGER AND OTHER CONCOCTIONS. Tachyon, 21.95 tp.

Jensen, Danielle L. THE TRAITOR QUEEN. [THE BRIDGE KINGDOM #2]. Del Rey, 24.95 tp.

Kawaguchi, Toshikazu. BEFORE WE FORGET KINDNESS. [BEFORE THE COFFEE GETS COLD #5]. Hanover Square, 26.99 hc.

Koja, Kathe. CATHERINE THE GHOST. CLASH, 25.95 tp.

Kristjansson, Snorri. THE SILENT EMPEROR. [THE HIDDEN LEGION #2]. Solaris, 22.99 tp.

Lakshminarayan, Lavanya. INTERSTELLAR MEGACHEF. [FLAVOUR HACKER #1]. Solaris, 22.99 tp.

Landers, Melissa. HALF KING. Entangled, 43.99 hc.

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Leong, Julie. THE TELLER OF SMALL FORTUNES. Ace, 25.99 tp.

Lovegrove, James. CONAN: CULT OF THE OBSIDIAN MOON. Titan, 36.99 hc.

Maniscalco, Kerri. THRONE OF SECRETS. [PRINCE OF SIN #2]. Little, Brown, 38.00 hc.

Marino, Andy. THE SWARM. Redhook, 25.99 tp.

Martin, George R. R. & Melinda Snodgrass (eds) WILD CARDS: SLEEPER STRADDLE. Bantam, 25.99 tp.

McDonald, Ed. WITCH QUEEN OF REDWINTER. [REDWINTER CHRONICLES #3]. Tor, 40.99 hc.

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Mesa, Desideria. BUNDLE PUNK JEFE. [BUNDLE PUNK #2]. Voyager, 21.99 tp.

Miller, John Jackson. THE LIVING FORCE. [STAR WARS]. Worlds, 25.99 tp.

Modesitt, L. E. OVERCAPTAIN. [SAGA OF RECLUCE #24]. Tor, 41.99 hc.

Morimi, Tomihiko. THE TATAMI TIME MACHINE BLUES. HarperVia, 19.99 tp.

Oghenechovwe, Donald (ed). THE YEAR'S BEST AFRICAN SPECULATIVE FICTION 2023. Caezik, 27.99 tp.

Okorafor, Nnedi. LIKE THUNDER. [THE DESERT MAGICIAN'S DUOLOGY #2]. DAW, 24.95 tp.

Pearson, Mary E. THE COURTING OF BRISTOL KEATS. [THE COURTING OF BRISTOL KEATS #1]. Flatiron, 40.99 hc.

Pratchett, Terry. A STROKE OF THE PEN: THE LOST STORIES. Transworld, 21.99 tp.

Rivera, CJ. THE FINAL ORCHARD. Angry Robot, 24.99 tp.

Robinson, Rebecca. THE SERPENT AND THE WOLF. Saga, 34.99 hc.

Simcox, Adam. THE UNGRATEFUL DEAD. [JOE LAZARUS #3]. Gollancz, 34.99 hc.

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Smale, Alan. RADIANT SKY. [APOLLO RISING #2]. CAEZIK, 25.99 tp.

Suri, Tasha. THE LOTUS EMPIRE. [THE BURNING KINGDOMS #3]. Orbit, 25.99 tp.

Taylor, Travis S. & Les Johnson. CRISIS AT PROXIMA. Baen, 37.00 hc.

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.

Vaughn, Carrie. THE NATURALIST SOCIETY. 47North, 24.99 tp.

Wagers, K. B. AND THE MIGHTY WILL FALL. [NEOG #4]. Voyager, 24.99 tp.

Wees, Alyssa. WE SHALL BE MONSTERS. Del Rey, 25.99 tp.

Wellington, David. REVENANT-X. [RED SPACE #2]. Orbit, 28.99 tp.

Williams, Tad. THE NAVIGATOR'S CHILDREN. [LAST KING OF OSTEN ARD #4]. DAW, 42.00 hc.

Willis, Deborah. GIRLFRIEND ON MARS. Penguin Canada, 24.95 tp.

Winters, Demi. THE ROAD OF BONES. [THE ASHEN SERIES #1]. Delacorte, 38.99 hc.

Zahn, Timothy. THE ICARUS TWIN. [ICARUS SAGA #2]. Baen, 12.99 pb.

2024 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

(Jefferson Swycaffer)

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals – but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of ... but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length – and related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single-sided, on 8½” by 11” white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope (SASE)¹ if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without a SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.

¹ Check out your country's postal service website for current postal rates according to your manuscript's weight, preferably in a 9"x12" envelope. **NOTE THIS!** Canada and the U.S. have separate postal services. They really are separate countries. **NOTE ALSO** that as early as November 3, 2024, Canada Post (Postes Canada) services may be suspended due to union strike action, so you may be better served by using email. - GS

7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.

8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in Word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than **Dec. 31, 2024**.

9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.

10. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine *Eldritch Science*; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.

11. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us First World serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2025. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is **Dec. 31, 2024**. Good luck!

Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.

Title of story (for identification):

Author's name and address:

Author's email address:

I have read the above rules for the 2024 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature/Date:

Mail to: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373, U.S.A.; or email abontides@gmail.com