

# The Obdurate Eye #60

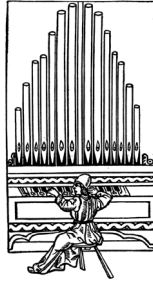
March 2026



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THE OBDURATE EYE #60, March 2026, a personal zine from Garth Spencer, 6960 Damon Street, Vancouver, BC CANADA V5S 3H7, Email [garth.van.spencer@gmail.com](mailto:garth.van.spencer@gmail.com) or [hrothgarweems@gmail.com](mailto:hrothgarweems@gmail.com). Garth acknowledges that he does this on the denounced territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, səliłwətał, and skwxwú7mesh peoples. This zine endorses the Port Alberti in 2030 bid. **(Was that bid for Worldcon or Westercon? I forget)**



*The organ of no clique or party*

## Art Credits

“Convention Chair” (clipart).....	cover
Other clipart .....	pp. 2, 8, 12
Brad Foster.....	p. 5
William Rotsler .....	pp. 8, 11
Rotsler & Stiles .....	p. 10
Roy Pounds .....	p. 14

GARTH NEED MORE ART!!

## Editorial

The more I think about it, the more I think of life as an immense put-on.

Of course I've said things like this before, but perhaps most of you have a better appreciation nowadays for the absurd lengths to which alleged reality has gone.

If only we knew the title and the contact information for the people who make up reality. We deserve better propaganda, I mean, scriptwriters and programming.

### §

Maintaining an informational website like "Across the Fandomension" is turning out to be more work than I thought, for trivial as well as serious reasons. For one thing, it feels a little like compiling an encyclopedia. For another thing, I need to find a more efficient means than hand-coding everything in HTML.

As it is I keep seeing things to update and to add. Already I have found a surprising number of the SF publishers and periodicals I was ready to list are no longer publishing, or at least not currently accepting manuscripts. I expect to be very embarrassed as soon as I do some serious checking, and discover the number of SF clubs no longer in operation. Not to mention writers' associations.

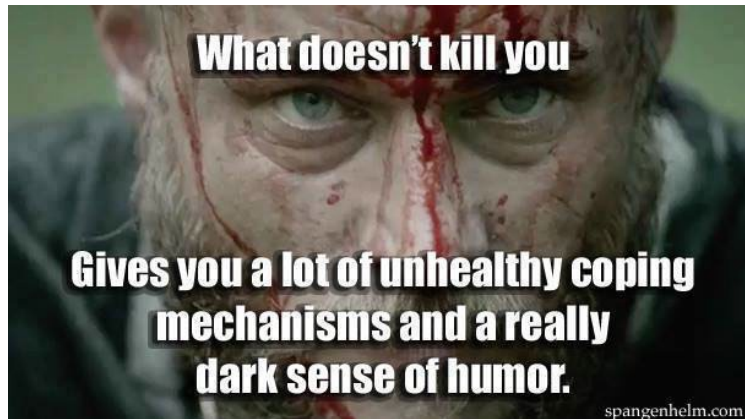
Nobody has said anything yet, but I expect to get abuse for not giving more prominence to fandoms like anime, independent comics, cosplay, filk, tabletop or online gaming, or mediafandoms. To say nothing of atompunk, cyberpunk, hopepunk, or things I haven't heard about yet. At least I have tried to be honest about my biases.

### §

One of my backburner projects, which you may recall, is a book-length manuscript provisionally titled "How to Human." Yes, it's still on my mind. Granted, there are already a lot of online resources about "lifehacks" or "adulting," which are more or less the same concept; but I think there is scope for uniting life skills information into one handbook or manual, which seems to be scattered in a number of more-or-less obscure places.

This project feels a **lot** like compiling an encyclopedia, because I have to struggle to keep it down to something manageable. Something focused on the stuff that a contemporary citizen ... oh, very well, **I** ... needed as soon as I graduated from high school, but still didn't necessarily know.

I expect "How to Human," like "Across the Fandomension," will expose my biases and will probably embarrass me eventually. A childish part of me is still stuck on the idea that people hide "common sense" information from me, as if to set me up for ridicule ... even though I know that no one intends to do this, they simply can't communicate subliminal information in a way I can process. Then it turns out everybody thought that cooking or cleaning or tying a half-Windsor knot or auto maintenance or home electrical repair was something everybody just knew, without being told.



## LoCs

**Mark Nelson** [nelsonmark07@gmail.com](mailto:nelsonmark07@gmail.com), Feb. 8, 2026

I just wrote a loc for Bob Jennings on *Fadeaway* 71. Part of this loc I forward to you because... well, because you are a Canadian! Why is it appropriate to forward it to a Canadian? Let's take a look see shall we...

---

*If I wanted to "avoid a long stretch of complaints and whining" then I wouldn't be involved with SFdom. Not to say that SFdom only consists of people complaining and whining, but there are certainly many people complaining and whining. Only I would never write "complaining and whining", I would write "complaining and whinging". However, I hasten to add, that I am not complaining about your use of the word "whining" rather than using the word "winging". I believe the former is common in American whereas "whinging" is common in English, Australian English, and New Zealand English - I don't know about Canadian English.*

*Whining and whinging are not exact synonyms. At least to my ears whining means complaining in an annoying, often high-pitched or self-pitying way. It's a poor reflection on someone who whines. OTOH, whinging infers no information about the voice pitch. There's also an inference that whinging is ongoing moaning. I wonder if the difference between whining in American English and whinging in English reflects a difference in how we go about complaining about things that upset us and indeed the kinds of things that we complain about?*

---

Are Canadians more inclined to whine or to whinge?

*(("Whine" is a verb a lot more familiar than "whinge," although more popular are the American phrases "pissing and moaning" or "weeping and wailing," followed at a distance by mentions of "pity party" and "drama." Other correspondents here may know more typically Canadian expressions.))*

**Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2 [penneys@bell.net](mailto:penneys@bell.net),  
February 9, 2026**

Working ahead, and trying to keep up, scrambling to think of something fresh, and get it on the screen. That seems to be my life these days, but the end is in sight, and then, something else will come up. Now for some words on *The Obdurate Eye* #9, maestro please ...

I used to get complaints that my letters were repetitive. Sometimes, it can't be helped. So many of us were reading the same fanzines, so no wonder they would see the same stories, anecdotes, and cheap jokes. There are fewer zines, so that doesn't happen as much anymore. It's always a good idea to come up with good material.

The loccol ... it would be great to have our wonderful ideas about magazines and books as eternal, but with many books and short stories coming from an increasing number of creators, they have become transitory, and very recyclable. Such publications are losing their value, and fewer people seem willing to devote time and effort and imagination to contributing to those publications.

My own loc ... I still believe we find our own fannish fun, but the edge has been taken off it by a lack of humour in everyday life, and the fact that everything costs so much more, so you are less likely to be confident enough in your finances to share a little humour. We're deprived, and not like to joke about ourselves. I keep asking, can we go to the original, better timeline? Indeed, we are not competent citizens, because most of us fail to have the patience or attention span to read anything that might help us be more informed.

*((There are at least two answers to this. 1: Do something silly every day, to make reality that much more entertaining. 2: Start your own chapter of the Anarcho-Surrealist Party, asking everybody to write to God for better scriptwriting from the people who make up reality for us.))*

In one month will be the 100th anniversary of the launch of *Amazing Stories* magazine. The April 1926 issue arrived on New York newsstands on March 10, 1926. I will get word out to everyone as soon as I can get information from magazine management. And yes, there will be a magazine coming out very soon.

Getting close to dinner here, so I must wind it up and get cooking. Many thanks, take care, and see you with issue #60.

**Mark Nelson [nelsonmark07@gmail.com](mailto:nelsonmark07@gmail.com), Feb. 16, 2026**

In 2017 my wife and I went to Japan for a holiday, the first of two holidays in Japan. For numerous reasons it's our favourite holiday. My wife did most of the research for the trip. One of the things that made the trip user-friendly was that she learnt that it was easy to hire a pocket Wi-Fi for the duration of the trip. We didn't need to worry about excessive charges for accessing the internet, just accessed it through the reasonably priced pocket Wi-Fi\_\_\_33. That was beneficial when using public transport. We could use various apps to see when the next train was arriving, or what sequence of trains we needed to catch to reach our destination, or when the bus was arriving, and when to alight from the bus.

We picked it up when we flew into Japan and we were supposed to drop it off at the airport when we left. Only for some reason we forgot to do that. No worries. The company said it was OK to post it back to them from Australia, no charge for late delivery.

There are many things that I could mention, but just one. Our itinerary was Tokyo-Osaka-Tokyo. We used bullet trains for internal travel. It's a bit of a drag carrying your suitcases through the subway in Tokyo and then to your hotel. Or it would have been a drag if we'd done that. In Japan, you don't need to take your suitcases with you. Tell your concierge that you are moving to a hotel in another city. The day before you leave, give the concierge your suitcases. When you arrive at the new city your suitcases will already be at your hotel, maybe even in your room.

And it's only some small fee to have your suitcases transported. That eliminates a lot of hassle when moving between cities.

I know that I said that I would only mention one thing. But as I mentioned travelling between Tokyo and Osaka on the bullet train ... Travelling on the bullet train is cool.

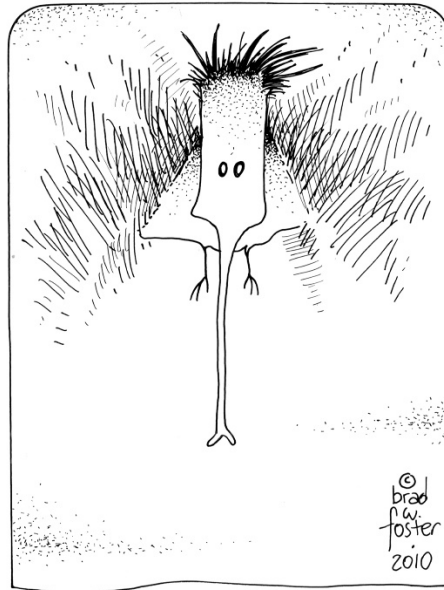
Australia has a shortage of nurses. It's predicted that by the mid-2030s there will be around 70,000-80,000 fewer nurses than needed. The shortage of nurses is exacerbated by the graying of the Australian population, with vastly increased demand in aged care. A perennial problem is recruiting nurses in rural and regional areas. (Rural and regional areas also have problems recruiting doctors, particularly GPs). Historically, there have been problems in recruiting nurses from overseas as their qualifications are not often recognised and they need to take a two-stage assessment to requalify in Australia.

The two-stage assessment consists of a written multiple-choice exam followed by a clinical exam. Until quite recently the clinical exam was only held in Adelaide. This proved to be problematic during COVID as for most of the COVID period there were restrictions on interstate travel. So there were international nurses who had passed the first-stage, but were unable to take the second-stage. Consequently, they could not qualify to work as a nurse in Australia. Since COVID a testing centre has also been set up in Melbourne. (For international readers... Adelaide is in South Australia and Melbourne is in Victoria.)

I wrote in my previous loc that "I'm glad that some issues are tackled by the Government for the population as a whole." In response you asked me, "Which government, where, and under which term's administration?" To keep in tone with my comments on nurses, the provision of a good public health care system is an issue that can only be tackled by a Government.

*((The wannabe Objectivists who seem to hold the upper hand in the United States these days don't seem to realize that. As a result, a successful promotional campaign based in British Columbia is drawing nurses out of the U.S. in droves.))*





HOVERING REQUIRES  
**FRENZIED**  
WING MOVEMENTS.

## Newslike Substances

### **Nominations Now Open for the 2026 Auroras**

CSFFA members\* can now submit their nominations for works done in 2025. Members may submit up to five different works in each of our ten categories. We ask that you only nominate in categories if you are familiar with the eligible works. Our nomination form closes at 11:59pm Eastern Time on April 4th.

Review eligible works via our eligibility lists. A basic list is open to the public from our main website page, <https://www.csffa.ca/awards-information/eligibility-lists/>. A more advanced one is available to members after you have logged into your account. The advanced lists can be sorted by field and many works have links so you can get more information.

Even after you've saved your choices you can come back another day and add to or alter your prior choices. When nominations close your choices are then locked.

The final Aurora ballot will be created from the five highest nominated works in each category. Only works that make it to the final ballot can be deemed Aurora Nominees.

NOTE: Members that submit the same work multiple times in a category will have ALL of those submissions voided.

(\*) Membership to CSFFA (Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association) is open to Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents.

(CSFFA newsletter, [newsletter@csffa.ca](mailto:newsletter@csffa.ca), March 2, 2026)

### **Corflu VanDeux Confirms**

“The 43rd Corflu (the fanzine fan convention) finished Sunday March 1st in Santa Rosa, California. The Corflu VanDeux 2027 bid for Corflu 44 to be held in Vancouver, B.C. was accepted. Tentatively scheduled for Feb 26-28, 2027. To be held at the Best Western Premier Chateau Granville at 1100 Granville Street in downtown Vancouver. The hotel is not accepting reservations yet. I will provide more info from time to time.”

(R. Graeme Cameron, Facebook, March 4, 2026)

### **Boréal Dates Announced**

L'équipe du Congrès Boréal has announced,

“Le prochain Congrès Boréal aura lieu, comme de coutume, cet automne, les 18-19 et 20 septembre 2026, à moins d'un imprévu majeur.

“Une autre bonne nouvelle, le marathon de Montréal s'est déplacé en octobre.”

Now you know.

(l'équipe Boréal, email, 20 février 2026)

**The Kigali in 2028 bid** to host the World Science Fiction Convention in Rwanda is officially on hold. The Kigali bid team has been denied visas on multiple previous occasions. They intend to bid again for a later year.

(from *SMOF News*, Feb. 11, 2026)

**European Union Fan Fund:** Nominations closed on January 30 for this year's European Fan Fund, which will send its delegate to attend Metropol Con, the 2026 Eurocon (Berlin, Germany, July 2-5).

(from *SMOF News*, Feb. 11, 2026)

**Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund:** “Voting is open for this year's Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, which is also sending its American winner to Metropol Con. The candidates are Lisa Hertel and Kat Templeton. Voting closes on April 7 [2026].” (*SMOF News*)

“Links: Online voting: <https://taff.org.uk/vote.php> **Mikołaj Kowalewski** (European TAFF Administrator): [EUTAFF@gmail.com](mailto:EUTAFF@gmail.com) [m.kowalewski@ava.waw.pl](mailto:m.kowalewski@ava.waw.pl) **Sarah Gulde** (American TAFF Administrator): [nataffemail@gmail.com](mailto:nataffemail@gmail.com) [taff.org.uk](https://taff.org.uk)” (*This Here...*)

(*This Here ...* #96, Feb. 2026, and

*SMOF News*, Feb. 11, 2026)



## **LASFS Opens New Clubhouse March 19, 2026**

at 8819 Reseda Blvd, Northridge, CA 91324-4040, USA

The Grand Opening of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society for our weekly meeting.

We welcome you to the newest LASFS clubhouse (our 4th), and provide an introduction to our community and influence in the genre of Science Fiction and Fantasy.

A panel on LASFS and its clubhouses, a panel on members who have professional careers in SF-related fields, and an auction, with plenty of time for socializing and for looking around the new place.

Starts at 1pm, ends at 7pm (though if there's a keyholder who'll stay, longer).

It's a free event, and there will be light refreshments.

We also encourage attendees to enjoy one of the many restaurants nearby.

2 PM Panel: LASFS and its influence; Craig Miller, Gene Turnbow, and Larry Niven discuss how involvement with the club helped their careers.

3:30 Auction of a LASFS Dozen (14) quality items to benefit the club.

5 PM Panel: History of LASFS and its clubhouses; with Matthew B. Tepper, Mike Glyer, and Cathy Johnson.

We hope both club members who can't get out on Thursdays and people just learning of the club will drop by.

Accessibility: There is a ramp in the back of our building facing the alley.

The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, LASFS, was founded Oct. 27, 1934. It is the world's oldest continuously active science-fiction and fantasy club.

LASFS is composed of professional writers, aspiring writers, fans of genre literature, media, gaming and more. Notable members include Larry Niven, Ray Bradbury, Forry Ackerman, David Gerrold, and far too many to list here. Our unofficial motto, "Death Will Not Release You".

The club maintains the largest privately owned lending library of Science Fiction and Fantasy in the world, with over 28,000 volumes.

(LASFS [lasfs.org],  
"Society for the Perpetuation of Fannish Fandom,"  
Facebook, March 2026)

## **2026 FAAn Awards Winners**

Genzine: *Idea* (edited by Geri Sullivan)

Perzine: *This Here...* (edited by Nic Farey)

Special Publication: *Dancing to Architecture* (Edited by Doug Bell)

Fanwriter: NIC FAREY

Fanartist (Steve Stiles Memorial Award): BRAD W. FOSTER

Letterhack (Harry Warner, Jr. Memorial Award): LEIGH EDMONDS

Cover: *Idea #15* (Jeanne Gomoll)

Lifetime Achievement Award: BILL BURNS

(from *The Incomplete Register* – special issue: 2026 FAAn Awards)



## SFFH Market News

(mostly from Open Call Facebook page)

***The War of the Words* writing competition** is open to writers across Canada, the US, and attendees of When Words Collide 2026. **Submission Deadline** is **March 31**, 2026, by 11:59 PM MT. **Submission Fee** is \$10 CAD. For more information, see <https://www.whenwordscollide.org/wars-of-the-words-2026.html>.

(from *Opuntia* Feb. 2026)

**Creepy** is currently looking for: Female and Gender-Neutral stories! (we do still accept stories from a male perspective), Stories that feature a female protagonist/main narrator, Stories where the narrator's gender is called out or eluded to in the story (so it can be read by anyone on our crew). Single narrator stories are preferred. Please limit the number of speaking characters to make it easier to read by one narrator. Just think of how you'd tell a story to a friend. Requested Length: 1,000 – 5,000 words. Payment offered: .02 USD per word. See guidelines at: <https://www.creepypod.com/submissions>

**Flash Phantoms** is calling for submissions. For the month of **April**, they are having an EVIL EASTER theme. The winning story will be featured as the Story of the Month and receive \$20. No entry fee. Submit your story at <https://flashphantoms.submittable.com/submit>

**Droids and Dragons Anthology** is open to submissions. 518 Publishing Company is accepting short stories & poetry submissions for their 2026 Anthology, 'Droids & Dragons'. The theme for the anthology is anything that includes droids and/or dragons. All submissions must align with the theme. Anticipated release of the anthology is Fall 2026. Pays \$5. For more information see: <https://www.pub518.com/submit-to-us>

**Folded Space, an Audio Science Fiction Anthology** is opening March, 1 2026 for submissions. This audio science fiction anthology is curated by the editor of the *Tales to Terrify* podcast, showcasing short-form stories from voices across the spectrum of human existence. Each season invites listeners to explore the universe, one story at a time. Open to original work of 3K to 7K words at \$.02/word, or to reprints of 3K to 7K words at \$.01/word. For guidelines see <https://www.foldedspacepodcast.com/submissions/> or <https://talestoterrify.moksha.io/.../submissions/submit>

**Pathways to the Imagination** – ‘Whispers Made Flesh’ is seeking original short fiction where the unseen insists on being seen. This volume explores what happens when ideas, desires, fears, prayers, rumors, secrets, memories, or grief take on form. These are stories of embodiment and consequence, where what was once intangible leaves a mark on the living world. We're drawn to genre-blending work that is eerie, intimate, playful, unsettling or quietly devastating. Stories where the strange is not decoration, but consequence. Requested length: between 1,000 to 7,000 words. Payment is based on word count: 1,000 to 3,000 words: \$25; 3,001 to 5,000 words: \$35; 5,000 to 7,000 words: \$45. See <https://www.rofpublishinghouse.com/pathways-to-imagination>

**Rats - Spiders – Wasps Anthology** from *A Midnight Kind of Place*. “[W]e publish short horror fiction worth talking about. I’m looking for quality, **the next big voice in the horror-sphere**. *Creep me out. Break my heart. Make me remember.* I’ll publish anyone as long as the story is brilliant. **This is a quality project, not a quota project. A note on AI: This is a human market. No AI allowed.** Anyone caught sending me AI-produced submissions will be blackballed. As successful stories are edited, we’ll never input your work into any AI tool such as Co-Pilot or ProWriting Aid. We use our own eyes here. ... For originals, we’ll ask for 3 months’ exclusivity.” Payment offered: £30 for originals, £10 for reprints. Asking for digital, print and audio rights. See guidelines at <https://www.amidnightkindofplace.com/submissions/>



## Gung Haggis Fat Choy

**Dire Haggis Now Fully Grown! Scientists Issue Public Warning as Pack Behaviour Confirmed**



Earlier this year we brought you the story of how scientists at The Roslin Institute, famous for cloning Dolly the Sheep, successfully revived the long extinct Dire Haggis after more than 10,000 years using ancient DNA samples and advanced gene editing techniques.

At the time, researchers introduced the world to two young specimens, Haggulus and Khalhaggi, who were being carefully monitored in a controlled Highland research environment. However many more were also created and released into the wild after they became too big to be contained any longer.

Today, scientists have confirmed what many feared and several pub regulars confidently predicted months ago, the Dire Haggi are now fully grown... and have begun hunting in packs.

Researchers say the animals have developed highly coordinated social behaviour far earlier than expected. Motion cameras placed across remote glens show groups of Dire Haggi moving silently through the Highlands at dusk, communicating through low growls.

Unlike modern haggis, which mainly survive on whisky and unattended teacakes, the Dire Haggis appears to favour high energy prey, particularly tourists carrying snacks.

Officials have noted a sharp rise in encounters involving visitors from overseas, with American tourists reportedly becoming a “preferred target,” believed to be due to higher blood sugar levels and the audible rustling of emergency snack supplies.

One park ranger stated,

“They’re no attacking out of malice... it’s just efficient calorie management.”

Local guides have also warned hikers that Dire Haggi hunt using classic Highland tactics, circling prey, before launching coordinated ambushes. Though they do insist there is no cause for panic, advising tourists to remain calm, avoid sudden movements, and never attempt to distract a Dire Haggis with diet snacks, as this has reportedly “caused visible offence.”

Authorities are attempting to determine whether the growing population can be contained... or if Scotland has officially returned to its natural food chain from thousands of years ago.

([Scottish Aye](#) Facebook page, February 18, 2026)





## Movie and TV Reviews

For February 6th, 2026

*Dust Bunny* (2025) - Very unique. *Delicatessen* meets *John Wick* meets *The Professional* with a dash of Jim Henson nightmares. A pretty imaginative mix with bold art direction. Like an adult fairytale. A kid hires an assassin (Mads Mikkelsen) to kill the monster under her bed. Sigourney Weaver shows up, too. I didn't love it but I liked it. I was a little mystified by some of the pacing and story choices. But it gets an A for originality and it's a fun ride. - available for rented from all the usual places

*Sorority Babes in the Slimeball Bowl-O-Rama* (aka *The Imp*)(1988) - Three nerdy frat boys and a group of sorority pledges break into a bowling alley in a mall after hours and set an imp demon free that grants them each a cursed wish. *Porky's* meets B-movie horror. The imp puppet itself is distractingly bad with a pretty cheesy voice. Scream queen Linnea Quigley is the highlight as a passing criminal named Spider. Lots of nudity but subpar kills. It's fun but it's silly. So so. I think I like my horror comedies drier than this. - streaming on Tubi and Youtube

*Christmas Evil* (aka *You Better Watch Out* aka *Terror in Toyland*)(1980) - I loved this. A toy factory worker grows up creepily obsessed with Santa Claus. He stalks neighbours, tracking who's good and who's bad, and is generally a weird, high-functioning loner. Of course he snaps one day and BECOMES Santa, leading to a wonderful film that's more of a character study than a horror. It reminded me a little of *Don't Go In The House* (1979) and of course it's got a lot in common in *Silent Night, Deadly Night* (1984). It's a 1980 film but it's a VERY seventies vibe. I had a great time. It's a slow burn but I liked it. Recommended. - Streaming on Tubi, Plex, and Youtube

*No More Ladies* (1935) - Joan Crawford and Robert Montgomery. Fairly trite. An attractive society dame (Crawford) marries a rakish wisecracking playboy



(Montgomery) and tries to reform his scallywag ways by making him jealous. Light hijinx from a different era. One of those escapist star-power films MGM cranked out by the dozen to please depression-era audiences. Broad, sausage-meat fluff that came and went and did well at the box office. I wouldn't recommend it but it's not bad, just distinctly average. - VPL DVD. Streaming on Plex.

*Frightmare* (1981) - Just okay. A very strange picture. *Weekend at Bernie's* meets *Fright Night* with the smallest dash of *Phantasm* in a weird mix. A group of horror film fans steal the fresh corpse of a horror icon that looks like Christopher Lee. The body wakes up and causes havoc. The movie has Jeffrey Combs which is a plus. It's a strange mix of comedy and horror that doesn't make the MOST sense but it's a romp. Nothing to do with the poster, which was the style at the time. - Streaming on Tubi, Youtube, and Dailymotion

*One Dark Night* (1982) - Meg Tilly, Adam West, and E. G. Daily (*Valley Girl*, *Streets of Fire*) star in this little-known 80s paranormal horror gem. A powerful psychic dies. A young woman is dared to spend the night in the mausoleum where he's buried. Hijinx ensue. Original and I enjoyed it. Some really neat art direction. Not legendary but earnest and dependable. Worth a watch. - Streaming on Tubi, Youtube, and Dailymotion

*Stuff Stephanie in the Incinerator* (1989) - How odd. Strangely obtuse art film. Lynchian. Labeled as a horror comedy but it's neither, I think. It IS unsettling and unique, though. A man wakes up with amnesia in a rich woman's house. His wife, Stephanie, is also there and appears to be brainwashed. The wealthy homeowner seems to be playing a game with them. It gets marks for strangeness but I honestly didn't make it all the way through. Like a trippy student art film. - Streaming on Tubi and Plex

*Silent Night Deadly Night Part 2* (1987) - The little brother of the killer from the first movie talks to a prison psychiatrist about what happened in the first movie. A full THIRD of this movie is just footage from the first movie disguised as flashbacks. What a ripoff haha. And the acting is appalling. What a shameless, rushed-to-market cash grab. Once the flashbacks stop, though, it at least becomes hilariously bad. An unforgivably, legendarily awful film. - Streaming on Tubi, Youtube, and Dailymotion

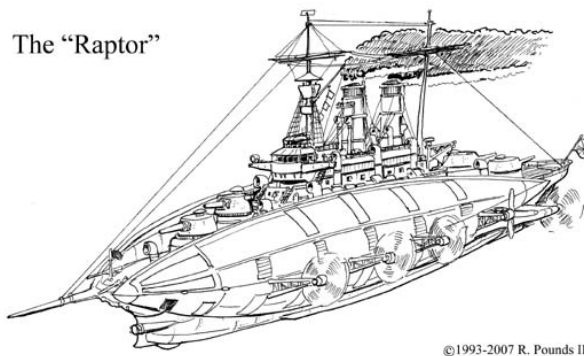
*Terror Train* (1980) - Jamie Lee Curtis is stuck on a train with other medical students during a NYE masquerade and magic show starring literally David Copperfield. I'm pretty sure I saw this in the 80s. A solid slasher because everyone's in masks and costumes so the killer can be camouflaged and impersonate at will. Good production value. Some of it doesn't quiiiiite make sense but whatever. Dependable. And JLC always lights up a screen. - Streaming on Tubi, Youtube, and Dailymotion

*Zombie High* (aka *The School That Ate My Brain*)(1987) - A creepy private boys' school decides to admit women. Radiant roommates Sherilynn Fenn and Virginia Madsen are part of the first wave to go there. It starts to become clear that the students are mysteriously being made to conform and change their personalities into dead-eyed, homogenous conservatives. The fashions and music are PURE 80s and it's real, not forced nostalgia. It's great seeing a young Fenn and Madsen but the movie's pacing is pretty iffy and the supporting cast is lacklustre. I enjoyed the nostalgia of it but it's not a classic. - Streaming on Tubi, Youtube, and Dailymotion

*Fallout* (2025)(series)(season 2) - Walton Goggins, Ella Purnell, Kyle MacLachlan, Aaron Moten, Moses Arias, and a host of character actors continue their adventures in post-apocalyptic world of *Fallout*, based on the video game. While I was very happy to return to this well-produced series of adventures in the wasteland, I've never played the game and I have no idea how far they're embellishing canon at this point. The adventures seem a little convoluted, padded to fill time, and a bit random. Which, y'know, could be like the game. I don't know. I do think I'll check out season 3 if there is one but my enthusiasm has run its course, I think. Good show but I'm okay if this is the end of the line. - Streaming on Prime

Check out all my reviews on

<https://letterboxd.com/duncanshields/films/reviews/>



## Fanzines Received

*WCSFA Newsletter* (Feb, 2026), from West Coast Speculative Fiction Association, email [info@wcsfa.org](mailto:info@wcsfa.org) – largely notices of upcoming SF-like events and entertainments in Vancouver, Victoria, and surrounding municipalities, together with invitations to get involved in WCSFA events.

*Opuntia* #613 (Feb. 2026) by Dale Speirs in Calgary, Alberta, email address [opuntia57@hotmail.com](mailto:opuntia57@hotmail.com). This issue informs me that Calgary hosts a “Chinook Blast” festival in late January/early February, when the unseasonably warm Chinook wind flows over this part of the Prairies. Many pictures. Much public music and light shows. Dale also shows us numerous Ukrainian stamps commemorating Ukraine’s war, a continuation of his “Twisted Fiction” serial article on radio mysteries, and news about the When Words Collide writers’ conference. *Opuntia* is distinguished by intriguing abstracts of scientific papers, ranging from paleontology papers about the ecological threats to dinosaurs to new engineering studies on the viability of floating cities on the ocean.

*The Visionary* (Feb. 4, 11 & 25, 2026) from the Universal Life Church of Seattle, Washington ([newsletter@themonastery.org](mailto:newsletter@themonastery.org)). Should prayer be allowed at school board

meetings? Did Christianity save the western world from pagan child sacrifices, as U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance claimed? A billboard in Los Angeles claiming that Jesus isn't God was vandalized in early February; what is more shocking, the billboard or the defacement? A teacher was fired after refusing to use transgender students' preferred pronouns; is this even a religious issue? Texas politicians are considering a bill that would make Texas the first state to have mandatory Bible lessons in public school classrooms; should this even be legal? How weird is it to bet on when the Messiah returns? These and other questions are raised in *The Visionary*.

*MIP Newsletter* (Jan./Feb., 2026), from Murderous Ink Press ([murderousinkpress.co.uk](http://murderousinkpress.co.uk)), a mystery and crime fiction publisher in the United Kingdom. This newsletter features news of crime fiction, mystery releases, and awards, including the February release of the *Canadian Chronicles* anthology. Write to [sales@murderousinkpress.co.uk](mailto:sales@murderousinkpress.co.uk) for more information about paperback or digital fiction releases.

*MT Void* (Feb. 6, 20 & 27, 2026), from Evelyn Leeper ([evelynchimelisleeper@gmail.com](mailto:evelynchimelisleeper@gmail.com)). In the Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> edition: Book, radio and film mini-reviews, and the editor's observations of AI and audiobooks failing simple factual and punctuation standards. In the Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> edition: quirky film reviews, letters of comment, and a part of a story. Interesting exercise in presenting a text-only fanzine in the body of an email.

*SMOF News* (Feb. 11, 18 & 25, 2026) from Petréa Mitchell, 548 Market Street PMB 72296, San Francisco, CA 94104 ([smofnews@substack.com](mailto:smofnews@substack.com)). Convention news, and upcoming conventions listed. Another exercise in presenting a text-only fanzine in the body of an email.

*Impulse* (Feb. 2026), 125 Rue Léonard, Châteauguay, Québec J6K 1N9; ([Keith1958@live.ca](mailto:Keith1958@live.ca)). All the internal doings of a very active club.

*The N3F Fan Gazette* (Feb. 2026), [mindyhunt@scifi4me.com](mailto:mindyhunt@scifi4me.com) or [jphunt@scifi4me.com](mailto:jphunt@scifi4me.com). Judging by this edition, the *Gazette* is well aware of fandom outside the N3F, including fanhistory and current fanzine fandom, and especially some news from Canadian fandom. And they're looking for member suggestions for more fannish content. Walter Sinclair's list of upcoming SF and fantasy novel releases also appears here. We wish editor Mindy Hunt swift recovery from her recent surgeries!

*Captain Flashback* (Feb. 2026), Andy Hooper and Carrie Root, residing at 11032 30th Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98125. You may E-mail Andy at [fanmailaph@aol.com](mailto:fanmailaph@aol.com), and you may reach Carrie at [carrieroot49@yahoo.com](mailto:carrieroot49@yahoo.com). Horror TV show hosts! Fezzes! Teddy Harvia illos! Turbo-APA mailing comments! Fezzes! Letters of comment! More illos! Cryptic and intriguing interlinos!

*The Chatter Box* 1, Leigh Edmonds, [leighedmonds01@gmail.com](mailto:leighedmonds01@gmail.com). An eight-page genzine, intended to be small and frequent unlike previous genzines. This first issue includes intriguing reviews of meaty, thought-provoking genzines (*Inca* 27 is recommended for James Bacon's "Conspiring for the Future," which may be required reading for conrunners aspiring to run big conventions), interesting locs from interesting people, a restaurant review, a Swancon review, an oscillation overthruster with two-way interpenetration, GUFF news, and *Chatter Box* policies.

*The FANAC Fan History Project Newsletter* 26 (Feb. 2026) – contact FANAC at [fanac@fanac.org](mailto:fanac@fanac.org). This is another exercise in presenting a text-only fanzine in the body of an email, chronicling Joe Siclari's and Edie Stern's never-ending quest to roam the conventions and scan into storage any and all fanzines from yesteryear. Check out the fanac.org website to view the expanding archives of fandom and fanhistory as they know it. (Suggestion to Joe and Edie: check out my potted fanhistory at <https://www.vcn.bc.ca/~garth2> for what you asked for - some coverage of early Canadian faneds and fanzines.)

*This Here...* #96, Nic Farey ed., 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142, or Email [fareynic@gmail.com](mailto:fareynic@gmail.com). This is what happens when you put a British soccer guy in Las Vegas. TAFF and Corflu news, sardonic comments on local politics in deep British slang, football, SF TV reviews, Timeless Beauty photos, mad ideas like a jet-propelled train, a wooden leg named Psmith, letters, and other crowd pleasers.

*X-Rayer* #188, Feb. 24, 2026 from Ray Palm (not to be confused with Ray Palmer), [raypalmx@gmail.com](mailto:raypalmx@gmail.com). Profile of Lloyd Penney, outlier inventors such as Hugo Gernsback, witty and erudite letters, and pictures of people in Isolator helmets.

*Rhyme & Paradox* #8, Feb. 2026 by Katrina A. “Kat” Templeton, [katster@retstak.org](mailto:katster@retstak.org). Excited to be going to Corflu 2026, William Rotsler illos, locs, and TAFF candidacy.

*Perryscope* 57, February 2026, is an issue of a personalzine published mostly monthly by Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3122. E: [perry@middlemiss.org](mailto:perry@middlemiss.org). Further Adventures in Wikipedia, ~~Harry~~ Julian Warner's column on Steele Rudd's classic but not great Queensland regional comic stories, reviews of books and film and TV shows (not all SF or Australian), and letters.

*Origins* #74, late winter 2026, this edition edited by Sam Lubell. “A National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) publication of N3F's Historical and Research Bureau,” this issue featuring “100 Years of Amazing Stories.”

*The Incomplete Register Results Issue: 2026 FAAn Awards*. A listzine published by Nic Farey 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142 [fareynic@gmail.com](mailto:fareynic@gmail.com). Yes, it is what it is.

# New Book Releases in March 2026

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

## **Science Fiction and Fantasy:**

Addison, Katherine. THE TOMB OF DRAGONS. [THE CEMETERIES OF AMALO #3]. Tor, 25.99 tp.

Alongi, C. M. THE WITCH WHO TRADES WITH DEATH. Angry Robot, 26.99 tp.

Asher, E. B. THIS WILL BE INTERESTING. Avon, 25.99 tp.

Aster, Alex. STARSIDE. Avon, 42.00 hc.

Bear, Lauren J. A. MOTHER OF ROME. Ace, 27.00 tp.

Binge, Nicholas. DISSOLUTION. Riverhead, 26.00 tp.

Bouazzaoui, Soraya. AICHA. Orbit, 24.99 tp.

Broadbent, Carissa. MOTHER OF DEATH AND DAWN. [WAR OF LOST HEARTS #3]. Bramble, 41.99 hc.

Brom. EVIL IN ME. Nightfire, 27.99 tp.

Caffall, Eiren. ALL THE WATER IN THE WORLD. St. Martin's, 26.00 tp.

Cameron, Miles. DEEP BLACK. [ARTIFACT SPACE #2]. Saga, 30.00 tp.

Christopher, Adam. CRAWLSPACE. Nightfire, 27.99 tp.

Cleary, Emma. AFTERBIRTH. HarperCanada, 24.99 tp. [Vancouver author].

Correia, Larry & Jason Cordova (eds). THE MONSTER HUNTER FILES VOL 2. Baen, 37.00 hc.

Curtis, Grace. IDOLFIRE. DAW, 29.99 tp.

El-Mohtar, Amal. THE RIVER HAS ROOTS. Tor.com, 24.99 tp. [Canadian author].

El-Mohtar, Amal. SEASONS OF GLASS AND IRON: STORIES. Tor.com, 34.99 hc. [Canadian author].

Fridman-Tell, Bar. HONEYSUCKLE. S&S, 24.99 tp. [Canadian author]

Green, Ian. EXTREMOPHILE. AdAstra, 24.99 tp.

Gregory, Daryl. WHEN WE WERE REAL. Saga, 28.00 tp.

Hair, David. THE FALLING SKY. [THE TALMONT TRILOGY #3]. Mobius, 36.00 hc.

Hamm, Emma. THE HEARTLESS ONE. [THE GRAVESINGER #2]. Gallery, 26.00 tp.

Haynes, Natalie. NO FRIEND TO THIS HOUSE. Harper, 28.99 tp.

Hess, Al. SHAKE OUT THE GHOSTS. Angry Robot, 26.99 tp.

Howard, Amalie. QUEEN OF THE NIGHT SKY. [STARKEEPER #2]. Avon, 25.99 tp.

Ibson, Jamie (ed). PLAUSIBLY DENIABLE. Baen, 25.00 tp.

Johnson, Julie. THE WIND WEAVER. [REIGN OF REMNANTS #1]. Ace, 25.99 tp.

Jordahl, Anneli. THE BEAR HUNTER'S DAUGHTERS: A TALE OF SEVEN SISTERS. HarperVia, 24.00 tp.

Josephson, Kalyn. THE LIBRARY OF AMORLIN. [THE AGE OF BEASTS #1]. Erewhon, 42.00 hc.

Kalfar, Jaroslav. A BRIEF HISTORY OF LIVING FOREVER. Back Bay, 24.99 tp.

Kelk, Lindsey. WITCH AND THE WOLF. [SAVANNAH RED #2]. Magpie, 21.99 tp.

Kingfisher, T. WOLF WORM. Nightfire, 41.99 hc.

Kingsley, Hannah. SOUL BOUND. [SOUL HATE #2]. One More Chapter, 23.99 tp.

Knighton, Andrew. FORGED FOR ROYALTY. [FORGED FOR DESTINY #3]. Orbit, 25.99 tp.

Lakshminarayan, Lavanya. INTERGALACTIC FEAST. [FLAVOUR HACKER #2]. Solaris, 25.99 tp.

Lawrence, Mark. DAUGHTER OF CROWS. [THE ACADEMY OF KINDNESS #1]. Ace, 41.99 hc.

Lawrence, Mark. THE BOOK THAT HELD HER HEART. [THE LIBRARY TRILOGY #3]. Ace, 27.00 tp.

Long, H. M. ENTWINED. [THE ENTWINED DUOLOGY #1]. Titan, 24.99 tp. [Canadian author].

Long, Ruth Frances. THE BOOK OF GOLD. [THE FERAL GODS #1].

Lyons, Jenn. GREEN & DEADLY THINGS. Tor, 42.99 hc.



Maguire, Gregory. *ELPHIE: A WICKED CHILDHOOD*. Morrow, 24.95 tp.

Mammy, Michael. *BLINDSIDE*. [PLANETSIDESIDE #5]. Voyager, 24.99 tp.

Martin, Alice. *WESTWARD WOMEN*. St. Martin's, 41.00 hc.

Martineau, Maxym M. *HOUSE OF BLIGHT*. [THE THREADMENDER CHRONICLES #1]. Voyager, 25.99 tp.

May, Francesca. *THIS VICIOUS HUNGER*. Redhook, 25.99 tp.

McGuire, Seanan. *BUTTERFLY EFFECTS*. [INCRYPTID #15]. Tor, 28.99 tp.

Moore, Alan. *THE GREAT WHEN: A LONG LONDON NOVEL*. Bloomsbury, 24.99 tp.

Moreno-Garcia, Silvia. *THE BEWITCHING*. Del Rey, 28.99 tp.

Morgyn, Ava. *ONLY SPELL DEEP*. Griffin, 26.00 tp.

Ober, Damien. *VOIDVERSE*. Saga, 42.00 hc.

Park, Silvia. *LUMINOUS*. Simon & Schuster, 26.00 tp.

Parker, Sarah A. *TO SNAP A SILVER STEM: A NOVEL*. [CRYSTAL BLOOM #2]. Avon, 28.99 tp.

Powell, Gareth L. *JITTERBUG*. Titan, 24.99 tp.

Pueyo, Hache. *CABARET IN FLAMES*. Tor.com, 34.99 hc.

Qin, Emily Yu-Xuan. *AUNT TIGRESS*. DAW, 27.99 tp. [Alberta author].

Reid, Ava. *INNAMORATA*. [THE HOUSE OF TEETH DUOLOGY #1]. Del Rey, 44.00 hc.

Scieszka, Casey. *THE FOUNTAIN*. Harper, 37.99 hc.

Spoor, Ryk E. *THE MASK OF ARES*. [GODSWAR #1]. Histrion, 27.99 tp.

Spoor, Ryk E. *THE SPEAR OF ATHENA*. [GODSWAR #2]. Histrion, 26.99 tp.

Steven, L. K. *SILVERCLOAK*. [THE SILVERCLOAK SAGA #1]. Del Rey, 28.99 tp.

Sullivan, Ariel. *BENEATH*. [THOUSAND VOICES]. Ballantine, 41.99 hc.

Summers, Georgia. *TROLLHEIM: TALE OF SYSTIR*. Titan, 36.99 hc.

Swallow, James. *TOWARD THE NIGHT*. [STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS]. Pocket, 26.00 tp.

Tamaki, A. S. *THE BOOK OF FALLEN LEAVES*. Orbit, 25.99 tp.

Taylor, Dennis E. *ALL THESE WORLDS*. [BOBIVERSE #3]. Saga, 42.00 hc.

Taylor, Travis S. *APOGEE*. [BALLISTIC #2]. Baen, 37.00 hc.

Tchaikovsky, Adrian. *SHROUD*. Tor UK, 21.99 tp.

Tchaikovsky, Adrian. *DOGS OF WAR*. [DOGS OF WAR #1]. AdAstra, 24.99 tp (reissue).

Tchaikovsky, Adrian. *BEAR HEAD*. [DOGS OF WAR #2]. AdAstra, 24.99 tp (reissue).

Tchaikovsky, Adrian. *PRETENDERS TO THE THRONE OF GOD*. [TYRANT PHILOSOPHERS #4]. AdAstra, 40.99 hc.

Tse, Dorothy. *CITY LIKE WATER*. Graywolf, 22.00 tp.

Turtledove, Harry. LIGHTNING RUNES. [CITY OF SHADOWS #2]. Caezik, 44.50 hc.  
 Waite, Olivia. NOBODY'S BABY. [DOROTHY GENTLEMAN #2]. Tor.com, 34.99 hc.  
 Wendig, Chuck. THE STAIRCASE IN THE WOODS. Del Rey, 27.00 tp.  
 White, Kiersten. THE FOX AND THE DEVIL. Del Rey, 41.99 hc.  
 Wijesekara, Maithree. THE WITCH WITHOUT MEMORY. [THE OBSIDIAN THRONE #2].  
 Voyager, 24.99 tp.  
 Wong, Tao. THE FIRST STEP. [A THOUSAND LI #1]. Ace, 39.99 hc. [Canadian author]  
 Wright, Suzanne. BLACK WILLOW WITCH. Piatkus, 24.99 tp.  
 Wurth, Erika T. THE HAUNTING OF ROOM 904. Flatiron, 25.99 tp.

### **Mystery and Crime Fiction:**

Arnott, Elizabeth. THE SECRET LIVES OF MURDERERS' WIVES. HarperAvenue,  
 25.99 tp.  
 Bishop, D. V. CARNIVAL OF LIES. [CESARE ALDO #5]. Pan, 21.99 tp  
 Bowen, Rhys & Clare Broyles. SILENT AS THE GRAVE. [MOLLY MURPHY #21].  
 Minotaur, 26.00 tp.  
 Brinkworth, J. D. THE PIE & MASH DETECTIVE AGENCY. Berkley, 27.00 tp.  
 Bruen, Ken. GALWAY'S EDGE. [JACK TAYLOR]. The Mysterious, 22.95 tp.  
 Child, Lee & Andrew. EXIT STRATEGY. [JACK REACHER]. Bantam, 28.99 tp.  
 Coben, Harlan. NOBODY'S FOOL. Grand Central, 25.99 tp.  
 Coyle, Cleo. NO ROAST FOR THE WEARY. [COFFEEHOUSE #21]. Berkley, 13.50 pb.  
 Crawford, Frances. A BAD, BAD PLACE. HarperCanada, 25.99 tp.  
 Fitzek, Sebastian. MIMIK. Aries, 24.99 tp.  
 Frances, Sam. ONE BY ONE. [DS ALICE WASHINGTON #2]. Accent, 23.99 tp.  
 Fruttero, Carlo & Franco Lucentini. AN ENIGMA BY THE SEA. Bitter Lemon, 27.95 tp.  
 Garza, Cristina Rivera. DEATH TAKES ME. Hogarth, 26.00 tp.  
 Gibney, Patricia. NO SAFE PLACE. [LOTTIE PARKER #4]. Bookouture, 24.99 tp.  
 Gibney, Patricia. TELL NOBODY. [LOTTIE PARKER #5]. Bookouture, 24.99 tp.  
 Gibney, Patricia. FINAL BETRAYAL. [LOTTIE PARKER #6]. Bookouture, 24.99 tp.  
 Hackney, Stacy. THE PRIMROSE MURDER SOCIETY. Morrow, 24.99 tp.  
 Harding, Robyn. STRANGERS IN THE VILLA. Grand Central, 25.99 tp. [Vancouver  
 author].  
 Harris, C. S. WHO WILL REMEMBER. [SEBASTIAN ST. CYR #20]. Berkley, 27.00 tp.  
 La Plante, Lynda. APPEAL. Zaffre, 22.99 tp.  
 Lane, Lyla. THE BEST LITTLE MOTEL IN TEXAS. Perennial, 23.99 tp.

Massey, Sujata. THE STAR FROM CALCUTTA. [PERVEEN MISTRY]. Soho, 39.95 hc.

Matsumoto, Seicho. SUSPICION. Modern Library, 24.00 tp.

Mellor, Sarah. DEPARTED. HarperNorth, 23.99 tp.

Meyer, Deon. LEO: A BENNY GRIESSEL NOVEL. Atlantic Crime, 27.95 tp.

Miller, C. L. THE ANTIQUE HUNTER'S MURDER AT THE CASTLE.

Mukherjee, Abir. HUNTED. Mulholland, 24.99 tp.

O'Connor, Carlene. DEATH WASN'T INVITED: A JUNE'S JOURNEY MYSTERY. Titan, 24.99 tp.

Perry, Thomas. THE TREE OF LIGHT AND FLOWERS. [JANE WHITEFIELD #10]. Mysterious, 36.95 hc.

Prose, Nita. THE MAID'S SECRET. [MOLLY THE MAID]. Penguin Canada, 13.50 pb.

Rozan, SJ & John Shen Yen Nee. THE RAILWAY CONSPIRACY. [DEE AND LAO #2]. Soho Crime, 25.95 tp.

Stabenow, Dana. THE HARVEY GIRL. Aries, 39.99 hc.

Stevenson, Benjamin. EVERYONE IN THIS BANK IS A THIEF. [ERNEST CUNNINGHAM #4]. Mariner, 28.99 tp.

Straley, John. BIG BREATH IN. Soho Crime, 24.95 tp.

Thompson, Jim. JIM THOMPSON: FIVE NOIR NOVELS OF THE 1950S AND 60S. Libray of America, 60.00 hc.

Todd, Charles. A DAY OF JUDGMENT. [INSPECTOR IAN RUTLEDGE]. Mysterious, 38.99 hc.

Uketsu. STRANGE BUILDINGS. HarperVia, 24.99 tp.

Unger, Lisa. SERVED HIM RIGHT. Park Row, 23.99 tp.

Welsh-Huggins, Andrew. THE MAILMAN. [MERCURY CARTER]. Mysterious, 22.95 tp.

Whitfield, Clare. POOR GIRLS. Aries, 26.99 tp.

Wiebe, Sam. [WAKELAND #6]. Harbour, 24.95 tp. [Local author].

Young, Glenda. DEADLY DANCING AT THE SEAVIEW HOTEL. [HELEN DEXTER #4]. Headline, 19.99 tp.