

BRUM GROUP NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

JULY 2014

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**DAVID
HOWE &
SAM
STONE**
11th July



David Howe is a writer, journalist, publisher and media historian. He began writing non-fiction articles for fanzines in the 1980's. He progressed to writing in-depth analyses of *Doctor Who*. He has written over 30 titles on the production and history of the series. In

August 8th - Summer social meal at The Bull, Price Street

2000 he and Stephen Walker founded Telos Publishing. As well as his highly regarded *Dr Who* related publications it also publishes a wide range of non-fiction and fiction including horror, SF, Fantasy and crime/mysteries. Authors include Robert Rankin, Simon Clark (author of NIGHT OF THE TRIFFIDS and various horror fiction) and Sam Stone. As well as his many writing and editing credits with Telos he was also the reviews editor for horror film magazine *Shivers* (1994 to 2008) and the Contributing and Book reviews editor for *Starburst* magazine (1984 to 2001). He also edited the British Fantasy Society (BFS) newsletter from 1992 to 1995 and was chair of the BFS in 2010/2011. Further information at <http://howeswho.blogspot.co.uk/>

Sam Stone writes gothic, horror and fantasy fiction and is also the commissioning editor of Telos Publishing imprint, Telos Moonrise. Her first novel GABRIELE CACCINI (2007) won a silver award as best horror novel from US magazine *ForeWord*. Her second novel FUTILE FLAME was shortlisted for the August Derleth Award for best novel in the British Fantasy Awards and her third DEMON DANCE won the 2011 August Derleth award although she publicly returned this rather than be associated with controversy over voting that year. She has also won Best Short Fiction for her short story “Fool’s Gold”. These three novels are part of her *Vampire Gene* series (subsequent titles include HATEFUL HEART and SILENT SAND). The first novel GABRIELE CACCINI was republished as KILLING KISS). She has also written *The Kat Lightfoot Mysteries*, a steampunk series (ZOMBIES AT TIFFANY’S, KAT ON A HOT TIN AIRSHIP). The first novel in a new series JINX TOWN will be published in September this year. She has also written and published screenplays and short stories. Her editing credits include work for Telos and the British Fantasy Society. Further info at <http://sam-stone.blogspot.co.uk/iety>.

The meeting will take place in the conference room on the first floor of The Briar Rose Hotel, Bennetts Hill, off New Street.

The doors open at 7.30pm and the meeting will normally commence at 8.00pm so please arrive early, get your drinks from the bar on the ground floor, and be seated in plenty of time. The entrance fee for our January AGM is free and the August and December socials are ticket only events. All other meetings the entrance fee is £3.00 for members and £4 for non-members.

SUMMER MEAL 8th AUGUST – VERNON BROWN



As outlined in last month's newsletter the August meal will again be held at the Bull, Price Street, Birmingham, just round the corner from Aston University, although it's not a student haunt. It's a small old traditional pub with a separate dining area, good beer and good food. Pat and I have family reunions there every so often because it's ideal for small group get-togethers.

The pub has a website that is currently being reorganised although it does show photos, directions etc. But

I'll bring a menu to this month's meeting to show anyone interested.

A slight change to last month's information - I've been reminded that it is usual to take a £5 deposit so please give this to Pat at this month's (July) meeting when you book and she will give you full printed directions on how to get there. We'll be meeting from 7.30 to sit down at 8pm.

If you cannot attend the meeting please email Pat via the Group email address on the front cover of this newsletter but please only do so if you intend coming - a table for 12 has been booked and we usually have a full house so if you book and don't turn up it may well be that someone else would have come but couldn't get a place. In either case please reserve your seat(s) as soon as possible - there's only a month to go. VB

AND WHAT DID YOU THINK?

THE LETTER COLUMN OF 'BRUM GROUP NEWS

Anything to say about the Group, meetings or SF in general? Email your opinions or queries to me at goodwincd@yahoo.com

From Theresa Derwin

On 19th July at Edge Lit in Derby I am launching a couple of KnightWatch Press titles including POTATOES edited by Stewart Hotston, WORMS edited by Alex Davis and THE LAST DINER edited by me. All three titles are a combination of horror, fantasy or SF. POTATOES is a mix of genres whilst WORMS is a collection of horror stories and THE LAST DINER is an anthology about what goes wrong when you decide to eat at the scariest place imaginable. Each paperback will be £8.99 each or £2.99 per ebook. I'm offering a pre-order bulk discount of £15 for two paperbacks or £20 for all three paperbacks, £5 for two ebooks or £7 for all three ebooks.

To take advantage of this offer payment needs to be made via Paypal to theresa.derwin@yahoo.co.uk by 9th July with your address if expecting delivery, collection details if you're picking up at Edge Lit and your email address.

If you would like a signed copy let me know.

That's a whopping discount of over 25%. This pre-order cannot be done via Amazon or our website which is under construction.

NB On 19th July at Edge Lit my luscious locks will be shaved off in aid of the Breast Cancer Campaign. If you can help please go to the Just Giving website and search for Theresa Derwin. Thanks.

From Steve Green & Chrissie Harper

Rose of Eibon is a new Midlands-based publishing imprint specialising in horror and dark fantasy. Among its first projects are *Dark Matters*, a quarterly paperback magazine co-edited by Steve Green and Chrissie Harper, and *THE DISPOSSESSED AND OTHER WEIRD TALES*, a charity anthology co-created by and dedicated to the late Joel Lane (the BSFG's guest speaker in March 2002), raising money for the Terrence Higgins Trust. The latter has already attracted contributions from such leading writers as Thomas Ligotti, Ramsey Campbell, Nina Allen, Mark Morris, Nicholas Royle, Conrad Williams and Rosanne Rabinowitz.

To help underwrite its launch, Rose of Eibon ran a start-up campaign at Indiegogo, with special rewards for those who made a donation of at least £5 (a full list is available here: <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/rose-of-eibon-publishing-startup>). Although the deadline has now passed, the scheme is still running via PayPal; just e-mail Rose of Eibon direct at darkmattersmagazine@gmail.com Steve Green & Chrissie Harper

LOCUS AWARDS 2014

The winners of the 2014 Locus Awards were announced on the 28th June.

Science Fiction Novel: ABADDON'S GATE by James S A Corey (Orbit)

Fantasy Novel: THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE by Neil Gaiman (Headline Review)

First Novel: ANCILLARY JUSTICE by Ann Leckie (Orbit)

Young Adult Book: THE GIRL WHO SOARED OVER FAIRYLAND AND CUT THE MOON IN TWO by Catherynne M Valente (Feiwel and Friends)

Novella: "Six-Gun Snow White" by Catherynne M Valente (Subterranean)

Novellette: “The Sleeper and the Spindle” by Neil Gaiman (Rags and Bones)

Short Story: “The Road of Needles” by Caitlin R Kiernan (Once upon a Time: New Fairy Tales)

Anthology: OLD MARS edited by George R R Martin & Gardner Dozois (Bantam)

Collection: THE BEST OF CONNIE WILLIS by Connie Willis (Del Rey)

Non-Fiction: WONDERBOOK: THE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO CREATING IMAGINATIVE FICTION by Jeff VanderMeer (Abrams Image)

Art Book: SPECTRUM 20: THE BEST IN CONTEMPORARY FANTASTIC ART by Cathy Fenner & Arnie Fenner, eds. (Underwood)

Artist: Michael Whelan

Editor: Ellen Datlow

Magazine: Asimov’s

Publisher: Tor

DAVID GEMMELL AWARDS – JUNE 13TH

If you wondered where some of the Brum Group regulars were last meeting they were probably at The David Gemmell Awards for Heroic fantasy in London. Established in memory of the author David Gemmell, these awards are voted for online and thus reflect the taste of the reading public. The awards were attended by many from the fantasy field including writers, artists, publishers, agents and not forgetting fans and readers of fantasy fiction. The venue was the spectacular Magic Circle, a fascinating place with many memorabilia and props from great magicians including Houdini’s water cabinet and Tommy Cooper’s fez.



The Awards themselves are substantial pieces of craftsmanship. In particular, the Legend Award is a metal axe (based on Snaga, the weapon of Gemmell’s character, Druss). If the winner had to fly home they were going to have an interesting conversation at check-in! The Ravenheart Award is a new design this year (see photo) and is an 11” tall bust. The winner of that will need a substantially reinforced trophy shelf as it is rather heavy.

Following an excerpt from David Gemmell's WAYLANDER (the Pebble in the Moonlight) read by author James Barclay, there was an introduction by BSGF members and chairs of the Awards, Stan and Anne Nicholls. This was followed by an auction to raise funds. The DGLA is a Not-for-Profit organisation that relies on donations and sponsors. It is also helped by sales of the LEGENDS anthology (Newcon Press). The publication of a second LEGENDS anthology is scheduled for 2015. The formal part of the evening concluded with the presentation of the individual awards.



Ravenheart Award (for best cover art): Jason Chan for EMPEROR OF THORNS by Mark Lawrence

Morningstar Award (for best debut novel): PROMISE OF BLOOD by Brian McClellan

Legend Award (for best fantasy novel): EMPEROR OF THORNS by Mark Lawrence

BRITISH FANTASY AWARD SHORTLIST

The shortlists for the British Fantasy awards have been announced. The nominees for Best Fantasy Novel and Best Horror Novel are given below. Nominees in other categories are available at www.britishfantasysociety.org:

Best Fantasy Novel (the Robert Holdstock Award)

BETWEEN TWO THORNS by Emma Newman (Angry Robot)

BLOOD AND FEATHERS: REBELLION by Lou Morgan (Solaris)

THE GLASS REPUBLIC by Tom Pollock (Jo Fletcher Books)

THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE by Neil Gaiman (Headline)

A STRANGER IN OLONDRIA by Sofia Samatar (Small Beer Press)

Best Horror Novel (the August Derleth Award)

HOUSE OF SMALL SHADOWS by Adam Nevill (Pan)

MAYHEM by Sarah Pinborough (Jo Fletcher Books)

NOS4R2 by Joe Hill (Gollancz)

PATH OF NEEDLES by Alison Littlewood (Jo Fletcher Books)

THE SHINING GIRLS by Lauren Beukes (HarperCollins)

THE YEAR OF THE LADYBIRD by Graham Joyce (Gollancz)

URBAN FANTASY EVENING FEATURING AMANDA CARLSON AND BENEDICT JACKA.



On June 25th, Theresa Derwin and I were very fortunate to be among a small selected group invited to the offices of Little Brown (publishers of Orbit books) in London. The evening was to promote their Urban Fantasy range. I know this is not everyone in the group's cup of tea but many people (myself included) are fans of this subgenre where fantastical creatures and magic exist in an urban environment usually in a contemporary setting, although they can also be set in the past or future. There is also some overlap with steampunk. London in particular is very popular with UK authors (eg Ben Aaronovitch, Paul Cornell, Neil Gaiman etc).

The evening started with a look at Orbit's Urban Fantasy catalogue which has a strong line-up including very well-known authors such as Jim Butcher and Charles Stross plus others of who I was less aware but who look very interesting based on the synopses we were provided.

We then got the chance to meet two authors who write urban fantasy. These were UK author Benedict Jacka (whose *Alex Verus* series features a probability mage who lives in London) and visiting US author Amanda Carlson (her *Jessica McClain* series features a female werewolf). We had a reading from their first books (*FATED* by Benedict Jacka and *FULL BLOODED* by Amanda Carlson) and then had the chance to chat to them about their work and urban fantasy in general. In particular we identified that the sarcastic, humorous first person character was particularly suited to this type of fiction and one of the main attractions to the reader.



We had an amazing evening and were treated extremely well. As well as meeting the authors we got to meet some younger fans who are blogging about their reading and it was interesting to get their different

perspectives. At the end of the evening we were given a very generous collection of Orbit books, (including both fantasy and SF) which will be available for review at the next Brum Group meeting. *CG*

NEWS IN BRIEF



Author **Daniel Keyes** died on June 5th aged 86. He was most well-known for his poignant Hugo award-winning SF short story “Flowers for Algernon” - the diary of janitor Charlie Gordon whose IQ is raised artificially but later realises that the effect is not permanent. The story was later expanded into a novel, in which form it won the Nebula in 1967. It was later filmed as CHARLY starring Cliff Robertson. His subsequent novels concentrated more on psychiatric conditions including their role in criminal behaviour rather than SF **STRANGE BODIES** by Marcel Theroux has

won the **John W Campbell Memorial Award** for SF novel published in 2013. The winner of the **Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award for Short Fiction** published in 2013 was “In Joy, Knowing the Abyss” by Sarah Pinsker The winner of the **GUFF Award** to allow SF fans to travel between Australia and Europe has been announced. The winner is Gillian Polack The 2014 inductees into the **SF and Fantasy Hall of Fame** are book cover and music album artist **Frank Frazetta**, writer, animator and film director **Hayao Miyazaki** and founder of Studio Ghibli, the “Queen of Space Opera” author **Leigh Brackett**, SF filmmaker and director **Stanley Kubrick** and SF legend **Olaf Stapledon** The late fantasy author **Marion Z Bradley** has been accused of child abuse by her daughter. Bradley’s late husband had previously been jailed for child molestation Publishing company **Angry Robot** have announced that they are discontinuing their YA imprint Strange Chemistry The **Edinburgh International Book Festival** (9th to 25th August) will have **George R Martin** as one of its headline authors. Other SF/Fantasy authors appearing include Lauren Beukes, Darren Shan (YA horror), Mike Carey and Ken MacLeod, Patrick Ness, Charlie Fletcher and Jeff VanderMeer amongst others Brum Group member **Janet Edwards** has posted a free EARTH GIRL short story on her website (<http://janetedwards.com/free-stories/>) *CG*

NEW CINEMA FILM RELEASES

Listings should not be necessarily taken as recommendations. Release dates are subject to change. View at your own peril!

DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES - Release date July 17th. Sequel. Genetically evolved apes and humans battle for dominance of the Earth.

EARTH TO ECHO - Release date July 25th. Deciphering strange messages leads three boys to an alien needing help.

HERCULES - Release date July 25th. Dwayne Johnson as eponymous hero versus a tyrannical warlord.

THE PURGE: ANARCHY - Release date July 25th. A battle for survival after a young couple's car breaks down on Purge night (when all crime is legal).

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY - Release date August 1st. *Marvel* comic adaptation. Space opera. US astronaut teams up with misfit crew of aliens to escape a powerful villain and save the galaxy.

MOOD INDIGO - Release date August 1st. Surreal film. Wealthy inventor tries to cure his lover who has a flower growing in her lungs.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

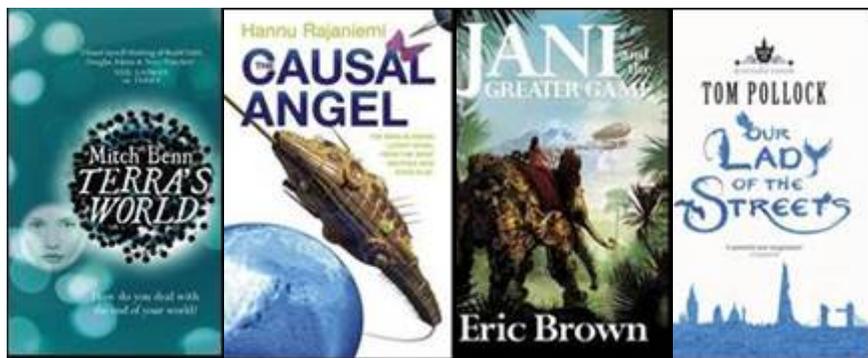


TOWER LORD (*Raven's Shadow 2*) by Anthony Ryan / Orbit / 624 pgs / £18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0356502441 / July 3rd. Fantasy. Two sworn enemies must cooperate against an invasion of their land.

RHESUS CHART (*Laundry Files 5*) by Charles Stross / Orbit / 368 pgs / £16.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0356502533 / July 3rd. Humour. The government's occult department deals with bankers turned into vampires.

HER SMOKE ROSE UP FOREVER (SF Masterworks) by James Tiptree Jr. / Gollancz / 544 pages / £9.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1473203242 / July 10th. SF. Anthology of Hugo and Nebula Award winning short fiction.

THE OUTSORCERER'S APPRENTICE by Tom Holt / Orbit / 400 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0356502540 / July 15th. Humour. The Wizard must cope with disgruntled employees and a clueless apprentice.



TERRA'S WORLD (Terra 2) by Mitch Benn / Gollancz / 288 pgs / £16.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0575132122 / July 17th. SF/Humour. Young girl, Terra is hiding on Earth from an alien bounty hunter.

THE CAUSAL ANGEL (Quantum Thief 3) by Hannu Rajaniemi / Gollancz / 304 pgs / £12.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0575088979 / July 17th. SF. Conclusion of tale of rogue De Flambeur, intelligent ship *Perhonen* and humanity across the future solar system.

JANI AND THE GREATER GAME by Eric Brown / Solaris / 416 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1781082041 / July 31st. SF/Steampunk. In colonial India, Janisha discovers a strange device and is pursued by various factions as it is the key to British technological superiority.

OUR LADY OF THE STREETS (The Skyscraper Throne 3) by Tom Pollock / Jo Fletcher Books / 448 pgs / £ 14.99 hardcover / ISBN 978-1780870144 / August 7th. In hidden London, the ruthless goddess has returned, the city sickens and Beth faces a dreadful dilemma.



BOOK REVIEWS



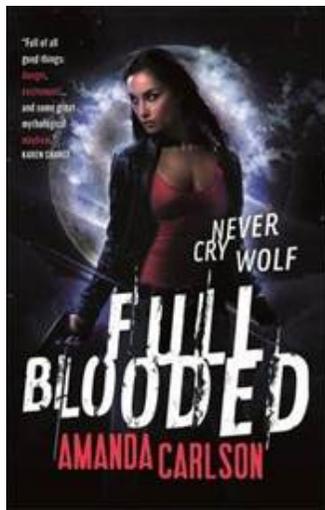
(REVIEWERS please note: - all reviews should be emailed direct to me at goodwinced@yahoo.com Deadline for each issue is 14 days prior to the date of the monthly meeting).

FULL BLOODED (*Jessica McClain 1*) by Amanda Carlson

Orbit / 322 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0356501264

Reviewed by Theresa Derwin

Jessica McClain is the only female werewolf in an all-male werewolf race. Except that Jessica has never changed - it's not supposed to happen. Yet one night she wakes up in body wrenching pain to find her body going through the change, so she tries to grab the serum left for her to halt the process by knocking her unconscious, the serum she wasn't meant to need. Through mind-to-mind connection, Jessica is able to communicate with her twin brother, Tyler and her Dad, which is quite handy considering she wakes up naked and injured and unsure where she is after her first change.



Her new found status as a full-blooded wolf is about to rock the supernatural status quo with major ramifications, particularly as her father Callum is Pack Alpha. She wakes up again after passing out to find herself back at the Compound she had moved out of seven years before. In the real world she had built a life as Molly Hannon, working with Nick as part of a detective business. The Compound has a number of 'Essentials'; humans who know about the supernatural community but keep it quiet: doctors, nurses, lawyers and the like. It's up to Callum to protect his daughter and keep her change a secret from the Pack. According to the Cain Myth, Jessica's change would bring the downfall of the Pack.

Carlson's debut novel is a rollicking read, fast-paced and immense fun. Her authorial voice, especially as wolf and woman is very strong, the whole piece having been written in first person, or what C E Murphy has referred to as "first person snark"; an accurate description. Carlson mixes more supernatural stuff into the novel, with Jessica's business partner Nick being a werefox and their secretary Marcy being a talented witch. The case

she returns to work on also involves an imp that's a little too friendly with the local females.

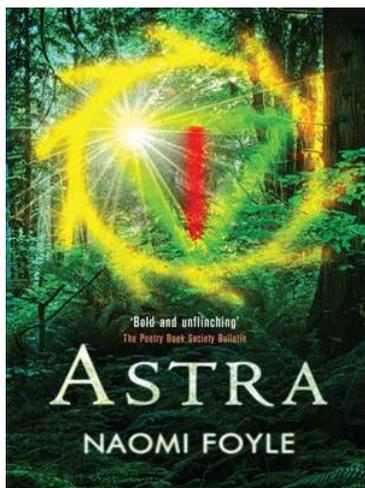
As Jessica struggles with her new status she finds her appetite and senses increased as well as her interior wolf battling her for control. It all makes for an interesting supernatural novel fraught with tension and laced with plenty of humour. A nice addition to the werewolf sub-genre of modern Urban Fantasy. TD

(Review copy kindly donated by Orbit)

***ASTRA (The Gaia Chronicles 1)* by Naomi Foyle**

Jo Fletcher Books / 379 pgs / £14.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1780876344

Reviewed by Carol Goodwin



ASTRA is a science fiction novel set in the near future. It is the story of a young girl growing up in what appears, at least initially, to be an ideal society. After a worldwide collapse of civilisation precipitated by a fuel crisis and flooding due to global warming, the society of Is-Land is formed by the remnants of various “hippy”/ “low impact” communes whose low reliance on conventional fossil-fuel based technologies meant they were among the first to recover. Their new society is built on a worship of Gaia with minimal reliance on technology. It is clear though that they do possess sophisticated technology with the use of genetically

engineered plants and animals and computer “tablettes”. The society structure is also complicated as everyone has three types of parent (although one person may be more than one). These categories are Birth, Code (the person who provided the DNA) and Shelter (the parent who raises the child). Astra is being raised jointly by adoptive “Shelter” parents, married couple Nimma and Klor who she lives with and Hokma, an emotionally remote scientist.

We first meet the eponymous Astra as a seven year old girl, with following sections when she is 11 and 17. The story throughout is told from her viewpoint but in third person. Naomi Foyle is very good at showing how Astra’s perspective and understanding changes as she matures and I found the developing character of Astra very convincing. In particular her contrasting relationships with her difficult Shelter mother, Nimma and her

more accepting Shelter father, Klor work very well. Initially like most of her peers, Astra dreams of defending Is-Land from wicked Non-Landers who want to infiltrate and destroy their sanctuary. This cohort of children are to be given a Security Shot to help them be better defenders. In a decision which will drastically affect her future the young Astra is persuaded by Hokma to fake having her injection as it will limit her intellect and her chance to fulfil her other dream of becoming a famous scientist.

In later sections we see the consequences of this decision as she becomes less like her peers and must constantly hide her differences. As this balancing act becomes harder (especially as she matures through adolescence to adulthood) we gradually uncover more of the controlling totalitarian nature of Is-Land society and that the portrayal of the outsider Non-Landers is far from accurate. There are some uncomfortable sections as we discover how society deals with non-conformists. I found them particularly effective as they have an Orwellian feel where they are justified as for the good of the individual or society.

The story is not fast-paced but progressively reveals more of the “utopian” society as something quite unpleasant. This subtle approach is one I very much liked but may not suit everybody. This is excellent Science Fiction and I heartily recommend it for anyone who likes their fiction thought-provoking and challenging. Its slower pace may not suit everyone especially if you prefer space opera/technology-heavy SF - more reminiscent of LeGuin than hard SF authors. It should also be noted that the Is-Lander society is very open about nudity and sexuality with children encouraged to know their bodies from an early age. Although this is not usually explicit it may make some readers uncomfortable. *CG*

(Review copy kindly donated by Jo Fletcher Books)

***PARASITE* by Mira Grant**

Orbit / 505pgs/ £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0356501925

Reviewed by Theresa Derwin

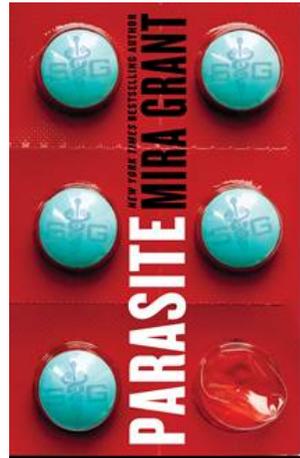
After a horrific car accident Sally Mitchell wakes up remembering nothing of who she was. Lucky to be alive, she has only survived because her Dad is high up on the SymboGen company ladder and arranged for her to have an Intestinal Bodyguard inserted before the accident; a tapeworm that enhances the human immune system and literally helped to save her life, but at the same time wiped away her old, previously spoilt personality. This has left her as a SymboGen guinea pig for six years, plagued by therapists and scientists prodding and poking her.

She's just starting to rebuild her life, gets on with her sister Joyce and has a cute boyfriend Nathan, who she loves. But just as she's coming to terms with her new life, people are starting to behave strangely. In the mall with her sister she spots a number of people randomly swarm towards each other with blank faces, victims of the apparent 'sleeping sickness'. And her parents seem to know something about this.

With all of that going on, and the stress of the investigations as well as relearning how to speak, read and react in a so called 'normal' way, Sally, now Sal, is having a hard time adjusting.

It's refreshing that in all of Mira/Seanan McGuire's books the regular protagonists reflect the multicultural and diverse world we live in. Mostly written in the first person, we experience the events through Sal's eyes, however, chapters are interspersed with medical texts and journals mapping the history of the tapeworm and the scientists involved. There's a shady government/conspiracy theory vibe to the novel and the science feels incredibly accurate and believable suggesting a thorough amount of research.

There are plenty of surprises throughout the novel and the writing is especially entertaining, the science made accessible to the reader. All in all a brilliant start to a brand new trilogy and one that has been nominated for a Hugo. If it wins, it will be well deserved. Simply a brilliant book. *TD*



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All details are correct to the best of our knowledge, we advise contacting organizers before travelling. Always enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope when writing to any of the contact addresses.

Any information about forthcoming SF/Fantasy/Horror events is always welcome - please send to Carol at goodwinced@yahoo.com

CARMILLA, Wolverhampton, 8th - 12th July. Play. Classic Gothic story of female vampire, published by Sheridan Le Fanu (25 years before DRACULA). Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. Tel: 01902 429212 or www.grandtheatre.co.uk. Tickets: £17.50 - 21.50.

OUT OF THIS WORLD FILM SEASON, 8th August -18th September, Birmingham. Season of films in the Outdoor arena at the MAC, Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QJ. Featuring ALIEN, BACK TO THE FUTURE, INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS and STAR TREK: THE MOTION PICTURE. Prices £10 per film. Events go ahead regardless of weather. Tel: 0121 446 3232 or email info@macarts.co.uk

GOLLANCZ MULTI-MEDIA SF/FANTASY FESTIVAL, 13th August, Online and London. Gollancz and Waterstones present genre fiction festival combining daytime digital author events and evening panels, signings, readings etc at Waterstones Piccadilly (from 6 to 9 pm) featuring various SF and Fantasy authors. Evening attendance cost £6 (£4 for Waterstones Card holders). Further details and booking at www.waterstones.com/events Tel: 0207 8512400. Digital events see www.gollancz.co.uk/gollanczfestival2014

CONVENTIONS

EDGE-LIT 3, 19th July, Derby. One day event at the Quad. Guests of Honour Joe Abercrombie and Charles Stross. Other speakers include Jaine Fenn, Janet Edwards and Freda Warrington. £25 from www.derbyquad.co.uk/special-event/edge-lit-3

LONCON 3 (WORLDCON 72), 14th - 18th August, London. Held at ExCel exhibition centre. Guests of Honour include Chris Foss, and Robin Hobb. £125 Adult membership. See www.loncon3.org

SHAMROKCON (EUROCON), 22nd - 24th August, Dublin. Guests include Hugo Award nominated Seanan McGuire, Andrzej Sapkowski (THE WITCHER also now a TV series and game) etc. Price is £35) at www.shamrokon.ie

FANTASYCON, 5th - 7th September, York. Guests of Honour are Kate Elliott, Toby Whithouse and Larry Rostant. Master of Ceremonies is Graham Joyce. Tickets £50 (£35 for British Fantasy Society members). Tickets and details at www.fantasycon2014.org

BRISTOLCON, 25th October, Bristol. Guests of Honour include Jasper Fforde, Jon Courtenay Grimwood and Emma Newman. At the Doubletree Hotel, Bristol. Tickets £20 www.bristolcon.org

NOVACON 44, 14th - 16th November, Nottingham. Guest of Honour: Kari Sperring and Science Guest: John Gribbin. Cost £45 (subject to review after Easter). Details at www.novacon.org.uk

DYSPROSIUM (EASTERCON), 3rd - 6th April, London. Guests of Honour are Jim Butcher, Seanan McGuire, Herr Doktor and Caroline Mullan. To be held at the Park Inn, Heathrow, London. Attending £60, Supporting £25. Details at www.dysprosium.org.uk (online registration not yet available).

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE BSFG

August 8th - **Summer Meal at the Bull**

September 12th - **Chris Morgan**

October 10th - Dr Who fan and lookalike **Richard Ashton**

November 7th - SF and fantasy author **Storm Constantine**

December 5th - **Christmas Social**

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ABOUT US... The **Birmingham Science Fiction Group** meets on the second Friday of each month. Membership is £16 per year per person (or £21 for two members living at the same address). This includes the 12 free issues of the Newsletter plus reduced entrance fee at each meeting. Cheques should be made payable to ‘The Birmingham Science Fiction Group’ and sent to our Membership Secretary, 10 Sylvan Avenue, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2PG