

BRUM GROUP NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

JANUARY 2015

ISSUE 520

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Annual General Meeting and Book Auction

***Friday 9th
January***



A Happy New Year to all our members from the committee. We hope that you enjoyed your Christmas and that

the New Year will be a good one.

January is once again the time for the Annual General Meeting followed by the Book Auction. The Annual General Meeting is a legal necessity. A new committee needs to be elected and is the time for you to voice your views on the Group and any changes you would like to be considered. Full details of the committee member roles and

February 13th - Annual SF Quiz

requirements were included in previous newsletters. To stand for a Committee post you must be a member of the group and ideally should have been a member for at least 12 months.

The AGM is usually completed very quickly and we can get on with the main event of the evening - **the Auction**. Rog will once again be trying to empty our wallets/purses with as little pain as possible. But we do need items to sell so please donate. All of the proceeds go to help the running of the Brum Group - without the money raised from auctions we would probably have to increase membership fees. So please bring a few items - books, magazines, fanzines, artwork, posters, DVD's, CD's etc. CG

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

EU VAT Rules force small businesses to close.

Juliet McKenna and **Cheryl Morgan** have been highlighting the disastrous new EU rules on VAT for digital products including ebooks. Intended to stop big businesses sheltering in low tax countries, the new law has vast unintended consequences for small businesses and individuals. It will also mean that books will cost more next year and your choices will be limited.

As of the 1st January, many small press and individual authors will be forced out of business. The new rules mean applying VAT on any sale to an EU country (even if only for 1 penny) at that country's rate (rather than the seller's rate) and of course work out what that rate is as it is different for every country. They also have to record two independent confirmations of the buyer's geographical address (PayPal provides only one) which is just not possible for most people. In addition this data must be kept for 10 years creating a huge security and administrative nightmare. There is no minimum level (unlike the UK which allowed £85,000 before VAT registration was required). Most people only became aware of this in November. The EU/British government initial response was that the third party sellers eg Amazon

etc should work it out for you. Unfortunately this ignores the fact that a marketplace may not exist, if it does it charges the author/seller up to 75% of the sale price and many of them are saying they have no responsibility/obligation to help provide the data/software. Negotiations are ongoing but many small presses which nurture emerging authors will go out of business. Many others who are unaware of the change will now find themselves facing fines. Also obtaining back catalogue, small stories etc from individual authors (which can be the extra income to allow an author to keep writing) will become impossible. To add to the madness the rules will be extended to physical products in 2016. The new rules also mean that sellers outside the EU are expected to pay VAT to the EU. Large American sites are already making changes to prevent sales to EU residents to avoid this complication further restricting your choice. If you are concerned up to date details can be found below. CG

www.julietmckenna.com

www.digitalmicrobusinessactiongroup.wordpress.com

EARLY MARTIAN LITERATURE (from November talk by Theresa Derwin)

GREAT STONE OF SARDIS (1897) by Frank Richard Stockton

THE MARTIAN (1897) by George Du Maurier

A HONEYMOON IN SPACE (1901) by George Chetwynd Griffith

LIEUTENANT GULLIVAR JONES: HIS VACATION (also known as GULLIVAR OF MARS) (1905)

MARS AND ITS CANALS (1906) by Percival Lowell

(All the above are available free on the Project Gutenberg website)

The *Barsoom* Series (starting with A PRINCESS OF MARS (1917) -

Early volumes are available via Gutenberg,

INTO THE SUN AND OTHER STORIES (SCIENCE FICTION IN OLD SAN FRANCISCO VOL 2 (1980) by Robert Duncan Milne

NB a Collection of stories originally written between 1880's to 1890's.

STOWAWAY TO MARS by John Beynon (John Wyndham (1935).

These latter two are not available via Gutenberg

NEW CINEMA FILM RELEASES

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

INTO THE WOODS - Release date January 9th. Fantasy. A witch makes a cursed couple retrieve magical items from fairy tales in order to reverse the family curse.

EX MACHINA - Release date January 23rd. SF. A young programmer must evaluate the human qualities of a female A.I (Artificial Intelligence).

KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE - Release date January 29th. Secret spy organisation recruits young upstart just as twisted technological genius threatens the world. Comic book adaptation.

BIG HERO 6 - Release date January 30th. Animation. A large inflatable robot and child prodigy team up with friends to form a band of heroes.

JUPITER ASCENDING - Release date February 6th. Human woman discovers she is heir to an alien empire and must fight assassins to inherit and save the Earth. *CG*

NEWS IN BRIEF (apologies - brief due to illness and holidays)

Congratulations to **Janet Edwards** on the nomination of **EARTH STAR** as a Kirkus Best Teen Book of 2014. Previously **EARTH GIRL** was nominated in 2013 Former Brum Group member **Noel Chidwick** (co-editor in 1977 of the BSFG's only fanzine, *Meta*) plans to launch a new science fiction magazine, *Shoreline of Infinity* based in Scotland. Further details will be posted shortly at www.shorelineofinfinity.com, and it's hoped the first issue will appear in May/June. Meanwhile, his sf-influenced folk group Painted Ocean has released its first CD, Stone Owl on the Shore. *CG*



FORTHCOMING BOOKS

(NB Prices given are Recommended Retail Price and may be available at cheaper prices)



THE PROVIDENCE OF FIRE (*Chronicle of the Unhewn 2*) by **Brian Staveley** / Tor / 400 pgs / £18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0230770430 / January 15th. Fantasy. The conspiracy against three royal siblings deepens and the kingdom is threatened on many fronts.

THE MIME ORDER (*The Bone Season 2*) by **Samantha Shannon** / Bloomsbury / 528 pgs / £12.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1408857397 / January 27th. Fantasy. Heroine Paige tries to unite the clairvoyant gangs of Scion city against the Rephaim threat.

DARK INTELLIGENCE (*Transformation 1*) by **Neal Asher** / Tor / 400 pgs / £18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0230750722 / January 29th. SF. Resurrected after 100 years, Thorvald Spear seeks vengeance against the AI who betrayed him.

TAMARUQ (*Osiris Project 3*) by **E.J. Swift** / Del Rey / 432 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0091953102 / January 29th. SF. With the lost city of Osiris revealed, revolutionary Adelaide must fight both the oppressive Osiris government and covetous mainland factions.



THE BOY WHO WEPT BLOOD (Erebus 2) by Den Patrick / Gollancz / 416 pgs / £20 hardback / ISBN 978-1473211520 / January 29th. Fantasy. In Renaissance-like Landfall, swordsman Dino struggles to protect Queen Anea as she tries to bring democracy to the realm.

ROOK SONG (The Gaia Chronicles 2) by Naomi Foyle / Jo Fletcher Books / 496 pgs / £16.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1782069195 / February 5th. Dystopian SF. Exiled Astra works in a toxic refugee camp whilst trying to find her father and avenge the death of her “Shelter” mother, Hokma,

CANNONBRIDGE by Jonathan Barnes / Solaris / 208 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1781082966 / February 12th. SF. A 21st century professor discovers that 19th century genius and friend of the famous, Cannonbridge should not exist.

HALF THE WORLD (Shattered Sea 2) by Joe Abercrombie / Harper Voyager / 496 pgs / £12.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0007550234 / February 12th. Fantasy. Named a murderer, Thorn tries to avenge her dead father.

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

GARETH POWELL Signing, 22nd January, Birmingham. The author will be signing copies of **ACK-ACK MACAQUE** at Forbidden Planet from 6 - 7pm. 38 Priory Queensway, B4 7LA

SFSF SOCIAL, 24th January, Sheffield. Readings and Q&A session with Adrian Tchaikovsky and Jo Thomas. Free at Eten Café, York Street, S1 2ER (www.eten-sheffield.co.uk) from 4pm. Book giveaway and bar.

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET, 26th - 31st January, Birmingham. Humorous Rock musical based on the SF film classic. New Alexandra Theatre. Tickets £12.90 - £33.40 + £4 booking fee. Tel: 0844 871 3011 or www.atgtickets.com/shows/return-to-the-forbidden-planet/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham/

SAMANTHA SHANNON Book Signing, 5th February, Birmingham. The author will be discussing and signing **THE MIME ORDER** at Waterstones High Street at 7:30pm. Tickets £3 (redeemable against novel) in store/Tel: 0121 633 4353

THE CALL OF CTHULU, 6th - 7th February, Birmingham. One man theatre adaptation of HP Lovecraft classic. Old Joint Stock Theatre, 8pm. (4 Temple Row West, B2 5NY). Tickets £10 at 0121 2000946 or www.oldjointstock.co.uk/whats-on



BOOK REVIEWS



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

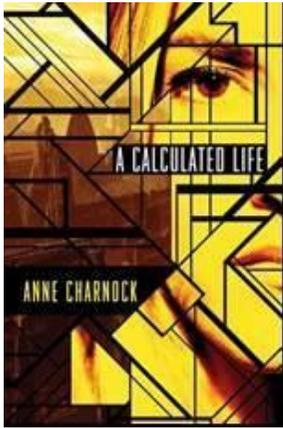
A CALCULATED LIFE by Anne Charnock

47 North / 208 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1477849514

Reviewed by Carol Goodwin

This SF novel is set in the near future. Super-intelligent Jayna works for a big corporation sifting through vast amounts of data to predict future trends. Jayna is hardly ever wrong and the company has made large investment profits following her guidance. However there is something different about Jayna, which the reader only slowly discovers and thus she struggles to comprehend her fellow workers. When her forecasts

start to go wrong she believes the data accessible through the company is too limited. She tries to gain a better knowledge of people and society around to help but this leads her into dangers and uncovers hidden unpleasant aspects of a society which had previously seemed benign and utopian.



I found this book difficult to get into at first, mainly because we are given little information at first about the society and Jayna. However it repaid perseverance and I found I thoroughly enjoyed the incremental, slow accumulation of details which fitted perfectly with Jayna’s pursuit of knowledge and emotional development. Although very intelligent, Jayna’s experience is very limited and she is socially awkward. This makes it hard to find her sympathetic at first but as she slowly builds information and begins to question society and her place in it she becomes a fuller and more interesting character. The book looks at the nature of what it is to be human and how much “genetic engineering” should be for the benefit of the individual or the state. I also liked that a lot of people in the society, especially the privileged, do not see the problems and are quite comfortable with the status quo as this seemed realistic.

This book is very well-written and constructed and is worthy of far more attention. Anne Charnock is a very successful journalist and foreign correspondent with articles published in *The Guardian*, *New Scientist* and the *International Herald Tribune* amongst others. This experience shows in the quality of this literary SF. Others obviously agree as it was nominated for the Philip K Dick and Kitschies Awards in 2013. It is not the type of science fiction which dwells on a lot of technical details so is possibly not for the hard SF fans. That said the development from today to the future in this book seems very believable.

I am not always a fan of literary SF but this book repaid persistence and was of a very high quality. Its slower pace is not for everyone but fit with the main character and her journey. As good SF books should do it speculates on the effects of future developments on humanity and gets you thinking.

CG

(Review copy kindly donated by Anne Charnock)

***DEADLY CURIOSITIES* by Gail Z Martin**

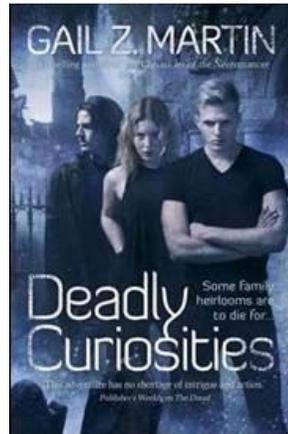
Solaris / 365 pgs / £3 E-book (£7.99 paperback) / ISBN 978-1781082324

Reviewed by Theresa Derwin

Cassidy Kincaide is owner of “Trifles and Folly” an auction and antiques shop in haunted Charleston, South Carolina. Behind the veneer of buying and selling antiques is her real job; getting supernatural objects off the market and tucked away safely. It's the perfect job for Cassidy, because she's not just a history buff, she's a psychometric who can read the emotions in objects and hear voices or see images. Teag also works at the shop with Cassidy and has his own powerful magic, often playing bodyguard to Cassidy. There's also silent partner and vampire Sorren (over 600 years old and a member of the Alliance) who deals with the supernatural item to neutralise it. And Sorren is worried, because amidst the everyday work of haunted opera glasses and other miscellanea, something big, and bad is coming.

“Gardenia Landing B&B” is also having problems with some haunted items so Cassidy is invited for a short stay to investigate. The city of Charleston is rife with a bloody history of slavery and piracy, so there's plenty to occupy Cassidy on the supernatural scale. In the theatre, viewing the world through the haunted opera glasses, we get to see interesting snippets of history as Cassidy is thrown into flashbacks. And as the story progresses, Cassidy's flashbacks are used to good effect to build up the tension and the mystery behind the haunted objects.

I enjoyed this book from the off. Apart from the fact it's Urban Fantasy, which I love, Martin has a strong authorial voice and will be known to fans of SFF. Cassidy is a strong, vibrant character and her visions are seamless and engaging. Add to that that every object has its own inherent history and it makes for an exciting concoction. The narrative is laced with a wry sense of humour despite the gruesome nature of some of the artefacts and some of the death scenes (this is not for the faint hearted). Martin has also obviously done her research when it comes to the artefacts which imbue the novel with a terrific sense of atmosphere. The magic



used in the book varies from supernatural, to psychic to Vodoun making for an eclectic mix. It is clear that Martin has created an intriguing world and characters that would make for a great series, akin to the Jim Butcher *Dresden Files*. This book will definitely appeal to fans of that series as well as the *Sookie Stackhouse* books.

All in all a solid and enjoyable addition to the genre by a strong author. TD

(Ebook Review copy kindly donated by Solaris)

Addendum

VANITIES (A Deadly Curiosities Adventure Book 1) by Gail Z Martin
Dreamspinner / 30 pgs / £0.99 Ebook only / ISBN Not applicable

Following on from Martin's very enjoyable first adventure comes a new adventure narrated by vampire Sorren, which starts with the tantalising line, "I was dead when I first saw Antwerp. The year was 1565."

This short novella finds Sorren arriving in Antwerp with his vampire maker Alard, after being a petty thief in Bruges. Now, here he is, entering Antwerp a much improved thief and an immortal, ready for one of their biggest jobs. From the docks, Alard and Sorren proceed to an antiques and curios shop "Vanities", meeting mortal manager Carel. Sorren is to steal a brooch, but as with the previous objects and artefacts in the original novel, all antiquities have a power, a supernatural resonance and as such, the brooch is dangerous.

Although on the short side, this is a great introduction into the history of the Alliance and Sorren himself. There's adventure, bloodshed, humour and poignancy. These short adventures and the debut novel itself make me want to read more from this series. TD

WAR DOGS: ARES RISING by Greg Bear

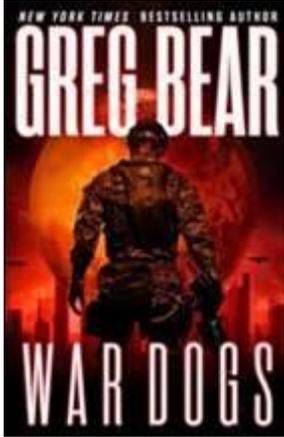
Gollancz / 291 pgs / £16.99 Trade paperback / ISBN 978-0575100992

Reviewed by Dave Hardy.

First, a few words of explanation. At the November meeting I was surprised to see TWO science fiction books for review; for months there has been only fantasy, and any SF was taken before I saw it! So I grabbed both of them. The first one I started to read was ON THE STEEL BREEZE by Alastair Reynolds. I had no idea that it was the second in a series, or trilogy. It doesn't say so, or even suggest this anywhere on the covers. So I kept coming across things that I didn't understand. As a result I am handing it back, in the hope that someone else has read BLUE REMEMBERED EARTH, the first in the series.

The other book I took was WAR DOGS by Greg Bear. Again, there is no indication that this is anything but a standalone novel, but it turns out that it is the first in a trilogy. Still, at least it is the first, so I read it, and perhaps I'll be lucky enough to get the second . . .

On a future Earth, an alien race known as the Gurus has appeared, and is virtually controlling the human race by bringing gifts.



They landed in the Yemini desert and made contact with a group of camel herders. From there they went on to hack into telecoms and sat links, raised money by setting up anonymous trading accounts, then published online a series of puzzles which whet the appetite of the most curious and intelligent. Within these were lurking 'Easter Eggs' - puzzles which led logically to brilliant mathematical and scientific insights. At this point the Gurus revealed themselves, through a specially trained group of intermediaries. Few people ever saw them, but soon they had made themselves indispensable. They came

in peace - of course - but then they revealed the fly in the ointment: they were being pursued by deadly enemies, from sun to sun, world to world. And they needed our help.

These hostile aliens had already started to establish a beachhead in our own Solar System, but not on Earth - on Mars. Humans were already living there, so the task of defeating what were known as the Antagonists, or Antags, fell to the Skyrines, ie. Space Marines. The story is taken up by one of these, Master Sergeant Michael Venn. The Skyrines travel to Mars in space frames, protected by Cosmoline. The frames carry 'sticks' holding squads of Skyrines, which are dropped onto Mars from orbit. They make a bad landing, and Venn's group is separated from the rest of their platoon. They receive information and data via their 'angels', but the Antags keep bringing down their orbiting satellites and generally messing up communications. Then they drop the head of a comet onto Mars, almost obliterating the Skyrines ...

The rest of the story is concerned with their efforts to link up with other Skyrines, stay alive, and to shelter in and hold on to a strange geological formation (which may be an ancient alien ship?) known as 'the Drifter', which seems to take the shape of a giant buried figure.

There is a unit of female special ops who seem to be working to a different set of order to the Skyrynes, a mysterious girl called Teal who belongs to a group of original colonists known as Muskies who live on Mars and almost consider themselves as Martians; and the overwhelming Antags. Many times it seems that they must surely die, especially when the Antags attack on the ground, but somehow most of them survive.

This is not an easy read, as the text is full of ‘Skyryne slang’, which is also of course US-based, so one often has to work out what is meant. At intervals the term ‘SNKRAZ’ appears between paragraphs. I checked to see if it is explained, but couldn’t find anything. So I put a note on Greg’s Facebook page, and he replied to the effect of “Military jargon – think SNAFU.” I’ll leave you to work that one out! I’m not a big fan of military SF, but this book rewards the effort of reading it, and I look forward to its sequels.

DAH

(Review copy kindly donated by Gollancz)

A VISION OF FIRE - BOOK ONE OF THE EARTHEND SAGA

by Gillian Anderson and Jeff Rovin

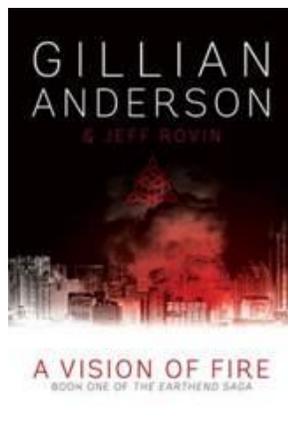
Simon & Schuster / 292 pgs / £12.99

hardback / ISBN 978-1471137709

Reviewed by Michael Jones

Gillian Anderson will of course always be known for her role in *The X-Files* (yes, that Gillian Anderson!), but she has since moved on to become a quite highly regarded stage and screen actress. In collaboration with established writer Jeff Rovin she now makes what the publishers describe as her “thrilling science fiction debut” with the first volume in a Saga of as-yet unspecified length. In point of fact, it may well be that Rovin has provided the majority of the writing while Anderson's contribution is largely confined to providing her supposedly prestigious name to be put on the cover. (See *Ansible* #328.)

It tells the story of how child psychologist Caitlin O'Hara is called in when the teenage daughter of India's ambassador to the United Nations becomes severely disturbed after her father survives an assassination attempt. O'Hara discovers that other cases of disturbed



teenagers have occurred in such unlikely places as Iran and Haiti, cases which appear at first glance to be different although certain points of similarity are to be found. Eventually a connection emerges in the form of a kind of possession by a spirit force seeking escape from a fiery cataclysm and O'Hara also becomes affected. This volume ends with her having discovered something of the nature of this mysterious influence which seems to arise from a civilisation of the remote past in the Antarctic, but a full understanding will, obviously, not emerge until it is explained in the later volume(s).

Meanwhile, a highly secret and very powerful Group hidden within something called the Global Explorer's Club is pursuing its own agenda and clearly knows already a lot more of what is involved than O'Hara has yet discovered.

This is all a lot less thrilling than they would have us believe. The writing is pedestrian and the overall style and structure of the book are strongly reminiscent of a mainstream novel where the general lack of originality might be less noticeable. The characters spend a lot of time just talking and thinking about things instead of actually doing anything and trips to Haiti and Iran are described in unnecessary detail which contributes to the sense that it has all been padded out beyond the length the story is naturally capable of supporting. Learning more of what the shadowy Group are seeking to achieve might have made it more interesting or even exciting, but again that may have to await later opportunities for revelation.

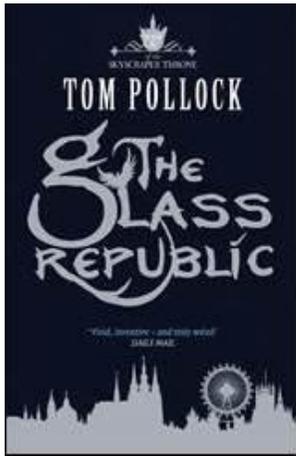
There is perhaps some scope for subsequent volumes in *The Earthend Saga* to redeem the shortcomings of this one, but the signs are not hopeful.

MJ

(Review copy kindly donated by Simon & Schuster)

***THE GLASS REPUBLIC (Skyscraper Throne 2)* by Tom Pollock**
Jo Fletcher Books / 448 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1780870137
Reviewed by Carol Goodwin

THE GLASS REPUBLIC is the second in the *Skyscraper Throne* series. The first book THE CITY'S SON was reviewed in Newsletter 518 (November 2014). In that book, teenage Beth meets the son (named Fil) of Mater Viae, the missing Queen of supernatural London. She helps Fil to defeat the Crane King who was threatening London and free her friend, Parva who had been captured by the Wire Mistress, General of the Crane King's army.



In this sequel, we take a step back and concentrate on the injured Parva who has been left scarred and mutilated. In many ways I find Parva (nicknamed Pen) a more interesting character. She is quieter and less confident than Beth and struggles to re-integrate back into normal life at school. Without Beth as her defender, and with her self-confidence even lower because of her scarred face, she is left alone to face the bullies who now taunt her even more.

However the magic still touches her life. In the previous novel, we were introduced to the Mirror World. If you step between two facing mirrors, creating an infinity of reflections then you generate a mirror doppelganger who exists in the Mirror World (called London under Glass) behind the mirrors. Inadvertently this happens and Pen's mirror image becomes her new friend and solace, conversing at mirrors until she goes missing and the reflected room shows a pool of blood and a bloody handprint. With little to keep her in this world, Pen makes a bargain with the mysterious alchemists, the Chemical Synod to allow her to cross over to London under Glass to try and rescue her reflection. On the other side she finds a world where her scars make her beautiful and a major celebrity. Everyone assumes she is her mirror twin who is being used as a pawn by the ruling Mirrostocracy. Befriending a young worker, a steeple Jill called Espel, she begins to uncover the truth behind her twin's disappearance and the brutal and repressive Mirrostocracy. This climaxes with the revealing of the dreadful secret which keeps the ruling class in power.

As I said of *THE CITY'S SON*, Tom Pollock is an author full of ideas and imagination. He is excellent at worldbuilding and inventing creatures which do not rely on old tropes and fairy tales. If I had any criticism of *THE CITY'S SON* it was almost too full of ideas. In this book I liked the tighter focus on Pen and her new friendship with Espel. It was a bold step to shift the focus away from Beth and Fil but it works well. That said the strange world of London under Glass and its strange denizens again shows his talent for worldbuilding but it is the growth and increasing independence of Pen which I particularly liked. The author is clearly improving his craft and his characters have

increased depth whilst still retaining the pace and action of a good story. Also the occasional viewpoint shift which niggled me in the first book is now gone. This is in my view a better novel than the first (which I thoroughly enjoyed). The characters and the themes (particularly learning to value yourself and the superficial judgement of others based on physical appearance) are likely to appeal particularly to a young adult market but also to a wider market including fans of urban fantasy. *CG (Review copy kindly donated by Jo Fletcher Books)*

CONVENTIONS

PICOCON 32, 14th - 15th February 2015, Imperial College, London. Guest of Honour Cory Doctorow. Guests of Honour tba. Cost £10. Info: www.icsf.org.uk/picocon.

REDEMPTION '15, 20th - 22nd February 2015, Coventry. At Britannia Hotel. Guest of Honour: Miltos Yerolemou (others tbc). Tickets £70 at www.smof.com/redemption

SCI-FI WEEKENDER, 19th - 22nd March, Hafan Y Mor, North Wales. Commercial multi-media convention. Various prices depending on level of access/accommodation. See www.scifiweekender.com

DYSPROSIUM (EASTERCON), 3rd - 6th April 2015, London. Guests of Honour are Jim Butcher, Seanan McGuire, Herr Doktor and Caroline Mullan. To be held at the Park Inn, Heathrow, London. Attending £70, Supporting £25. Details at www.dysprosium.org.uk

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE BSFG

February 13th - **Quiz**

March 13th - **tbc**

April 10th - Mathematician and writer **Ian Stewart**

May 8th - **tbc**

June 12th - SF author **Stephanie Sautler**

July 10th - **tbc**

August 14th - **Summer Meal**

September 11th - **tbc**

October 9th - **tbc**

November 6th - Note change from last month's newsletter
December 4th - **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