

# BRUM GROUP NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

## BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

OCTOBER 2015

ISSUE 529

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## ***Justina Robson***

### ***9th October***

Justina Robson is an SF writer who has been nominated for many awards. She will be known to many of you as she was guest of honour at Novacon in 2009.

Her first novel **SILVER SCREEN** (2000) was shortlisted for the Arthur C Clarke and BSFA Awards. Her second and third novels (**MAPPA MUNDI**

and **NATURAL HISTORY**) also received further Clarke and BSFA award nominations and **NATURAL HISTORY** came second in the John W Campbell Award for new writers. This third novel and the



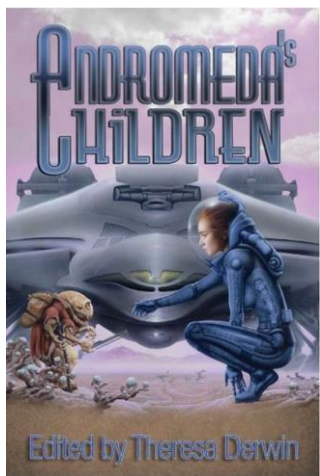
**November 6th** - SF and Fantasy author, podcaster and audiobook narrator **Emma Newman**.

subsequent novel, **LIVING NEXT DOOR TO THE GOD OF LOVE** were both nominated for the Philip K Dick Award.

She is probably most well-known for her *Quantum Gravity* series set 10 years after a quantum bomb causes our dimension to intermingle with other realms including faerie, demonia and death. They feature Lila Black “Half-robot, all attitude” who works for Earth’s secret service.

Her latest novel, **GLORIOUS ANGELS** was published in March this year. It is set in a world with both magic and science that is ruled by powerful empresses. The novel follows a number of characters and the complicated politics as the empire of Grimshard goes to war with an unknown enemy. Further details can be found at her website <http://justinarobson.co.uk/> CG

### ***ANDROMEDA’S CHILDREN – Book Launch***



Several members of BSFG are involved in a new SF anthology called **ANDROMEDA’S CHILDREN** which is available from Amazon in both Kindle and paperback format or, better still, at the launch.

The launch will take place at the end of the October meeting. There will be wine and nibbles and authors **Pauline E Dungate** and **Sean Chatterton** will be present to sign and read for five minutes each, with editor **Theresa Derwin** and publisher **Adrian Middleton**, of Fringeworks Press to introduce the book. 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*

## ***HALLOWEEN THEMED EVENTS AROUND BIRMINGHAM***

There appear to be quite a few forthcoming horror-themed events in the Midlands which are obviously due to Halloween. As there are so many I have decided to group them together rather than include them in the normal forthcoming events section.

- **SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET**, 29th October - 7th November at Blue Orange Theatre, Great Hampton Street, Jewellery Quarter. Play starts at 7:30 pm. Tickets £12.50. Box Office 0121 212 2643 or at [www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk](http://www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk)
- **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (1925)**, 31st October at the Mac Centre, Birmingham. With a live score, 7:30pm. Price £8. [www.macbirmingham.co.uk](http://www.macbirmingham.co.uk) or 0121 446 3232.
- **HALLOWEEN SILENT MOVIE SPECIAL: THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (1925)**, 31st October at Birmingham Town Hall. Screening of the 1925 classic with live organ accompaniment, 7:30pm. £15 plus online transaction fee. Book at Town Hall/Symphony Hall Box Office (0121 780 4949) or [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)
- **FRIGHT NIGHT CLASSICS**, 31st October at Birmingham Symphony Hall. The CBSO plays classical and film music with a spine-tingling theme. 7:30pm. £14.50 - £39.50 plus online transaction fee. Book at Town Hall/Symphony Hall Box Office (0121 780 4949) or [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)
- **ALIENS: THE MOVIE**, 31st October at National Space Centre, Leicester. Late night screening of ALIENS plus movie props exhibition. Tel: 0116 261 0261 or [www.spacecentre.co.uk](http://www.spacecentre.co.uk)



- **SOUTHCART SCAREFEST, 31st October, Walsall.** A day of Horror-themed author readings and fun, free food and drink. Southcart Books, 20 Lower Hall Lane, Walsall. WS1 1RL. CG

## ***FORTHCOMING BOOKS***

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



***ALWAYS COMING HOME (SF Masterworks)*** by Ursula K Le Guin / Gollancz / 608 pgs / £9.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1473205802 / October 8th. SF. The stories and histories of the mysterious Kesh.

***SHADOWS OF SELF*** by Brandon Sanderson / Gollancz / 384 pgs / £18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1473208216 / October 15th. Fantasy set in the world of Mistborn.

***MADE TO KILL*** by Adam Christopher / Titan / 288 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1783296866 / November 3rd. Ray, the last robot is a detective in Hollywood. SF/Chandleresque mix.

***THE ARK (Children of a Dead Earth 1)*** by Patrick Tomlinson / Angry Robot / ? pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0857664846 /

November 3rd. SF. On a vast generation ship, a madman threatens to turn the ship into a tomb.



***DARK SKY (Keiko 2)*** by Mike Brooks / Del Rey / 400 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0091956653 / November 5th. SF. The trip to a mining planet was supposed to be easy for the crew of the *Keiko*!

***EUROPE AT MIDNIGHT (Europe 2)*** by Dave Hutchinson / Solaris / 384 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1781083987 / November 5th. Alternate History. Europe is crumbling after a flu pandemic and the UK intelligence service is preparing for war with another universe.

***UNEXPECTED RAIN (The Dome 1)*** by Jason LaPier / Harper Voyager / 400 pgs / £13.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0008120719 / November 5th. SF. In a domed city, a lowly airlock operator fights a charge of mass homicide.

***ROSEMARY AND RUE (October Daye 1)*** by Seanan McGuire / Corsair / 368 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1472120076 / November 5th. Fantasy. Toby Daye is drawn back into the world of Faerie that she previously rejected. CG

### ***NEWS IN BRIEF ...***

NASA has found evidence that liquid water flows on present day Mars. Darkish streaks on some steep slopes which appear when temperatures are above -23C are believed to be briny water (containing various salts that lower its freezing point compared to

fresh water) .... Fan artist **D West** has died. He won a Nova Award eleven times for Best Fan Artist and also a Nova Award for Best Fan Writer in 1987. He was also nominated for Hugo Awards (Best Fan Writer (1987) and Best Fan Artist (1999) .... Congratulations to UK publisher **Abaddon** who is now 10 years old .... Horror author **Stephen King** has been awarded the National Medal of Arts. The medal was presented to him by Barack Obama .... Fantasy author **Patrick Rothfuss** organised a Twitter campaign to raise funds for Syria which raised over \$200,000. CG

### ***NEW CINEMA FILM RELEASES***

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

***CRIMSON PEAK*** - Release date October 16th. Gothic Horror. Young woman faces peril in a haunted house. Director Guillermo del Toro and starring Tom Hiddleston.

***THE LOBSTER*** - Release date October 16th. SF. Single people have 45 days to find love or be transformed into beasts!

***PAN*** - Release date October 16th. Origin story of Peter Pan starring Hugh Jackman as Captain Hook.

***THE LAST WITCH HUNTER*** - Release date October 23rd. The last witch hunter (Vin Diesel) defends humanity from horrifying witches.

***PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION*** - Release date October 23rd. Strange events plague a family who move into a new home.

***SCOUTS GUIDE TO THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE*** - Release date November 6th. Three scouts attempt to save their town from a zombie outbreak. CG

## ***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 [goodwincd@yahoo.com](mailto:goodwincd@yahoo.com)*

**CBSO - STAR WARS MUSIC, 16th October, Birmingham.** A selection of music from all six *Star Wars* films at the Symphony Hall. 7:30 pm. £12.50 - £47 plus online transaction fee. Limited availability. Book at Town Hall/Symphony Hall Box Office (0121 780 4949) or [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

**AN EVENING WITH JOE HILL, 22nd October, Birmingham.** Horror writer Joe Hill will be answering questions and signing books. Waterstones New Street from 7pm. Tickets £3 Tel: 0121 631 4333

**BRANDON SANDERSON IN CONVERSATION WITH BRADLEY BEAULIEU & LEIGH BARDUGO, 22nd October, Nottingham.** Three leading fantasy authors talk about their new books. Waterstones, Nottingham (1/5 Bridlesmith Gate, NG1 2GR) from 7 pm. Tickets £3 Tel: 0115 947 0069

**MAGIC AND MAYHEM WITH LEIGH BARDUGO, 25th October, Birmingham.** Fantasy author Leigh Bardugo will be talking about her new book *SIX OF CROWS*. Waterstones New Street from 3pm. Tickets £3 Tel: 0121 631 4333

**JODOROWSKY'S DUNE, 26th October at Electric Cinema, Birmingham.** Documentary of the unfinished film which involved Orson Welles, H R Giger and Pink Floyd. 3:30pm. £8.40 - £10.20. [www.theelectric.co.uk](http://www.theelectric.co.uk) or 0121 643 7879

**A CLOCKWORK ORANGE**, 28th - 31st October, **Birmingham**. Theatre production at the Old Joint Stock at 8pm. £10 at [www.oldjointstock.co.uk](http://www.oldjointstock.co.uk) or 0121 200 0946.

**AN EVENING WITH DAVID MOODY AND WAYNE SIMMONS**, 30th October, **Birmingham**. Horror authors will be answering questions and signing books including Wayne Simmons' new book **VOODOO CHILD** at Waterstones New Street from 7pm. Tel: 0121 631 4333 CG

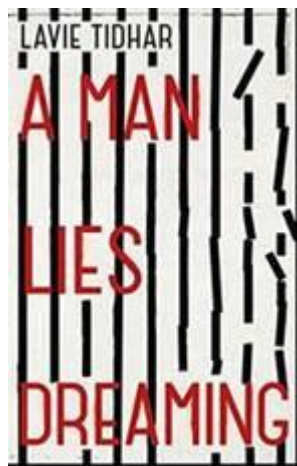
📖📖📖📖 **BOOK REVIEWS** 📖📖📖📖

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

*A MAN LIES DREAMING* by Lavie Tidhar  
Hodder & Stoughton / 277 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-444762945

Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.

When a book is nominated for an award, it is worth looking at, even if only to find out why others think it is exceptional. Admittedly, no-one will ever agree what is the best book of the year. This is as it should be, since if we all liked the same thing, life would become boring as there would be no dissention, no discussions and no debates and however a prize winner is decided, there will always be the voices that declare the wrong decision has been made. So, what has made this book float to the surface for consideration for a 2015 BFS award?



The start of the novel encapsulates the seedy PI scenario beloved of US crime writers of pulp fiction, such as Dashiell Hammett. This down at heel investigator lives in London in 1939. It soon becomes clear that this is an alternative 1939. Hitler did not become the chancellor of Germany and we are not on the verge of World War II. In fact, Communist Russia has invaded Germany and the fascists have



joined the Jews in Exodus, many ending up in England. This PI goes by the name of Wolf, but it is soon clear that the once potential dictator has sunk to following adulterous husbands and finding missing people. Then a hated (by him) Jewish woman turns up willing to pay over the odds for him to find her sister. People smuggling is not a new phenomenon. Jewish families paid large sums to be smuggled out of Germany as the Communists despise them as much as the Fascists do.

If this was just a novel about Wolf's investigation, then it would merely be a well-paced action thriller. It isn't. There is much more to it.

Many of us, at some time or another have created stories in our heads. Children do it all the time in play. Many grow out of it as work and responsibility take over. Authors don't. Only by imagining what characters are doing and how they will react in particular situations can the story take shape. Scenes are plotted mentally, long before they appear on the page.

In the 1939 more familiar to the reader from history books or TV documentaries, Shomer is incarcerated in a Concentration Camp. Before this he had been the writer of pulp detective stories, now he is just another Jew. At night, when others sleep, he creates stories in his head. In one, Hitler didn't rise to power but fled to London along with his henchmen. Familiar names such as Hess, Goebbels and Goering lurk in this new society which is watching the rise of Oswald Moseley, the potential next Prime Minister. It is elements like this that remind the reader of the works of Philip K. Dick, especially *THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE*, where in an alternative world scenario, the Nazis overran the world and an author is writing a story in which Hitler was defeated.

To call this a delightful book, would do it a disservice. None of Shomer's imagined characters are likeable. He has all kinds of misfortunes befall them, especially Wolf. At the start, a reader might wonder why these men who tried to exterminate Jews, have been given a relatively easy exile compared to the life which Shomer and his fellows are experiencing. Shomer, though, has a very devious fate awaiting Wolf. What is totally unnecessary, though, are the end notes which make the book appear to be a primer for school children.

This is a book that fully deserves to be on an awards shortlist.  
*(Review copy kindly donated by Hodder)*

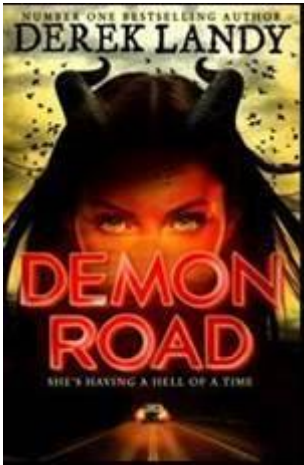
*PM*

**DEMON ROAD** by Derek Landy

Harper Collins / 512 pgs / £ 14.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0008140816

Reviewed by Theresa Derwin

I'm aware of Derek Landy from the *Skullduggery Pleasant* books, which I thoroughly enjoyed, so when I heard about DEMON ROAD, I knew



I just had to give it a go. Especially when some of the reviews compare it to my favourite TV show, *Supernatural*.

And the book starts with a bang; "Twelve hours before Amber Lamont's parents tried to kill her, she was sitting between them in the principal's office ..."

She's been called in by Mrs Cobb, because over the last month she has been involved in three altercations, nothing like her normal behaviour. It's clear from the start that Amber is a strong, resilient character and as the quote says, "from the mouths of babes" - Amber's logic and honesty in the face of adversity is honourable. Of course, the adversity isn't what you think - it isn't the threat from Mrs Cobb that's the issue, it's the calm way in which her parents react to Mrs Cobb and decide to 'punish' the principal.

Amber's parents are odd, to say the least. Of course everything starts to make sense when Amber finds herself on the run, and on a hellish road trip on the Demon Road.

As always, Landy's sense of humour shines through the narrative. On this demonic road trip we have the guy with the mysterious and dangerous background (Milo) Glen, the Irish youth exploring America, and Amber. It is through Glen that most of the humour comes through, giving Landy a chance to share his Irish heritage. As for the car the group are travelling in, I can see why the publishers have compared this to *Supernatural*, as Milo's car has the same amount of personality as Dean's '*Baby*' from that series. It's a serious car for a serious dude!

Despite the humour there are also some dark and grim veins running through this book, which add to the overall enjoyment of the novel, from dark characters, to settings, to all manner of creatures, this is immense fun. There's a section of the book, in the town Cascade a

Falls, that reads very much like a classic Stephen King novel, but I refuse to say which one because of spoilers.

As well as the aforementioned comedy that is rife through the book, there's also a great deal of poignancy and exploration of what exactly family is and how important family can be. And the end of the adventure is a helluva cliffhanger that means we know Amber has more adventures to come.

*Skullduggery* was good, but with **DEMON ROAD**, Landy has outdone himself. A hellishly awesome book. TD

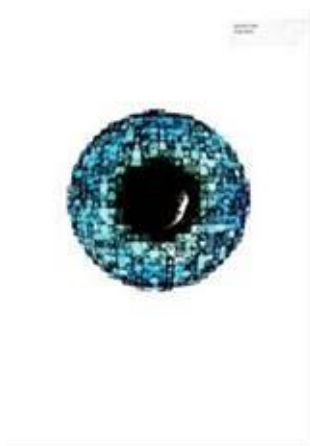
### ***INVERT-10N* by Rod Rees**

**Alchemy Press / 219 pgs / £10.99 paperback / ISBN: 978-0957348950**

**Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.**

It is always good to see an author who is prepared to experiment, and to do it with relative success. So many *avant garde* novels fail at the first hurdle, which is to entertain the reader at the same time as playing with words, concepts and formats. One of the best in recent years is **THE RAW SHARK TEXTS** by Steven Hall.

The background to the story in **INVERT-10N** is fifteen years on from now and considering the current refugee status in Europe, scarily prophetic. Certain towns such as Blackpool and Scarborough have been given over to migrants or Gees. These have been fenced off from the rest of the country. UK citizens can go in, Gees cannot leave. Although life in the enclaves is tough, they are free from the constant surveillance the rest of the country has to put up with. Political correctness has gone mad. Just swearing or dressing inappropriately can earn demerits or bennies (Benign Index Score). Too many and you get punished. So to let your hair down, you visit the enclaves where surveillance is banned.



The two main characters are Jennifer Moreau and Sebastian Davenport. They are total opposites but are both keeping a journal. The former is the singer in a band - Jenni-Fur and the Joy Poppers. Jenni-Fur performs in the enclaves where she can dress provocatively and “diss” the government in the lyrics of her songs. She is a kind of

futuristic punk. In her day-job, she is a journalist. Sebastian works for the government on the National Protection Agency. Jenni-Fur writes her journal on an old fashioned typewriter because there is no way that it can be hacked and her privacy violated. Sebastian uses conventional methods, such as a computer for his. Hers is full of politically incorrect comments and slang, his is written in proper English.

The event that takes them both to Scarborough is when Ivan Nitko, a Russian deportee, wins the World Stone Skimming Championship. Not remarkable in itself but the question of cheating is raised. Both Jenni-Fur and Sebastian are sent to investigate. Ivan is quite open. He won with Invent-10n. The device generates power using only water. This is almost free energy. Ivan, a recluse, appoints Jenni-Fur as his agent and publicist. Sebastian is instructed to get examples of the device so that government labs can dissect and reproduce them. Ivan is very happy for them to try. Ivan will supply as many units as are required for political concessions but he has to activate all units. All sides see an advantage and are willing to give concessions.

To separate the two opposing accounts of events, the journals are presented in different type faces, as if they were produced in the ways suggested. The extracts are interspersed with other items - security transcripts, news reports, propaganda, history texts and other items which together provide a snapshot of the future Rees has envisioned. Some of these enhance the book, others are over-wordy and boring. To have impact there should perhaps have been less of them. The other problem is that Jenni-Fur's journal is highly spiced with slang and although this is meant to give street-cred to the writing, it is rather overwhelming, especially at the start.

This book is very mixed in its success. Some readers will be enthralled, others irritated by it. The vision of the future is bleak but indicative of the thinking of some sections of the population. Above all, this book is a brave attempt at being different and, like Jenni-Fur, Rees does not want to follow the herd. *PM*

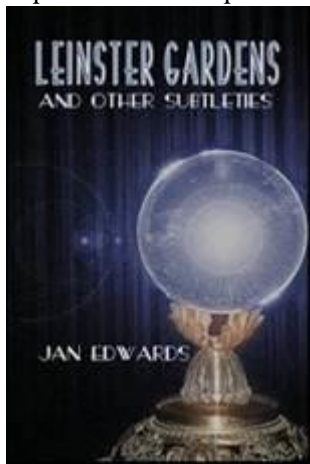
**LEINSTER GARDENS AND OTHER SUBTLETIES** by Jan Edwards

Alchemy Press / 137 pgs / £6.99 paperback / ISBN: 978-0992980948

Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.

The problem with reading a book of ghost stories is that you are always on the look-out for the ghost. It is harder to surprise the reader but a

skilled writer can do it especially if they make use of the full use of range of ghosts that appear in literature. Many Victorian writers liked the idea of the vengeful ghost, the innocent who suffers at the hands of the wicked and wants justice. Other ghosts don't realise they are dead and don't know that they have to move on, while others are somehow trapped. Experiences that might be interpreted as ghosts may merely be a replay of events with no spirit involved or a lost spirit from another dimension may not understand the havoc they are causing. There are probably as many interpretations of the phenomena labelled ghosts as there are apparitions recorded. The challenge is to make the supernatural unexpected rather than unexplained.



In this volume of fourteen ghost stories, Jan Edwards explores the nature of the ghostly event and finds ways of reinterpreting it. Many of these stories have their roots in folklore and urban myth; many reportings of ghostly sightings have already entered into the mythology of the haunted place. The title story, “Concerning The Events In Leinster Gardens” has the authenticity of the 1930s in both language and attitudes. It also draws on the scams that were able to catch out the unwary. Archie buys a ticket to a masked ball in good faith.

From the moment of his arrival in Leinster Gardens, the reader is aware that nothing is quite what it seems. Gullible Archie is not so fortunate. The challenge is to spot all the tropes that Edwards is playing with.

Whereas, the house itself in Leinster Gardens can be regarded as the ghost, “The Waiting” would be regarded as more traditional with a house being haunted. It is the approach that makes it different, cutting between past and present.

A good way of solving the ‘which is the ghost’ problem is a bit of misdirection. Titles well-chosen can provide it as in “Nanna Barrows” a story narrated by a young girl, now an invalid after having recovered from diphtheria.

“April Love” gives us a choice of possible ghosts. Some, often weak stories, don't reveal that the narrator is a ghost until the very end, leaving the reader feeling cheated. This doesn't happen here as the

narrative is third person but seen from the points of view of April and her two suitors. It is very carefully plotted to keep the reader guessing.

By default, ghost stories have an element of the past within them. Often it is a contemporary figure interacting with a spectre that has their origin in history. In most of Edwards' stories, the setting for the events is also historical. "The Ballad Of Lucy Lightfoot" is an exception because it crosses boundaries. Lucy has returned to the place of her birth on the Isle of Wight to finish what started nearly two hundred years previously. The story manages to combine paganism, folklore, time travel and immortality yet still contains ghosts - though this time they are much harder to spot. Because of this, and its longer length it is my favourite in this collection.

"Orbyting" is very different and a complete contrast to the stories on either side of it. It has a very modern high tech, SF feel to it. Kat is part of a team of ghost hunters. When she returns to the office to retrieve forgotten keys she gets locked in. On screen, she is hunting a ghost but is it also hunting her?

Two stories here are very much of the traditional type. In fact, the idea of "R For Roberta" has been used before. It is an elderly man at the end of his life who is remembering the time in the war when the plane he should have been on didn't return from its war-time mission. While in "Wade's Run" two lost women are taken to a hostel after an accident by a helpful motorist, after he runs them down. Like "R For Roberta", "Redhill Residential" has its roots in WWII when many airmen failed to return. Again it is the past impinging on the present, but this is a much more unusual and subtle story. "Valkenswaard" is another war-time ghost story but where death is violent and loss is both dreaded and expected the frequency of ghostly events is intensified. In this story, though, the apparition is closer to the one who experiences it. It could be regarded as a spirit who doesn't yet know that the body is dead, or a spirit determined to keep a promise no matter what.

Most ghosts are perceived to have the same appearance as when they died. Some, who believe in a happy afterlife, imagine their loved ones at the peak of their Earthly fitness, so when the lover dies young, the partner living to ripe old age will be rejuvenated when they meet again. There are obvious flaws on this arrangement but that is no reason to think that a spirit is identical to the body they left with all the traumas of injury or sickness. In "The Clinic" this is something Sarah gets to consider when her younger sister dies.

Young men are always ready to laugh at the tall tales of their elders. Whether they are ready to believe them or not doesn't stop them daring each other, especially after a few beers, which is why in "The Eve Watch" the two youths celebrating their last night of freedom before being called up, are lurking in the churchyard. According to Jem's Granfer, watching there for three consecutive years will grant a vision of those about to die. Here, we have an example of a predictive ghost, a messenger from the spirit world where the future is known.

The final two stories both deal with transformations, but in very different ways. In "Otterburn" there is a question as to whether there is a ghost here, a transformation or even a death. There is certainly a disappearance. The skill of the writing allows the reader to make their own decisions as to what has taken place on the river bank. With "The Black Hound Of Newgate", there is no doubt that sorcery has taken place. In folklore there are many tales of ghostly black dogs roaming the countryside, often portending bad luck for whoever sees it. This one haunts Newgate Gaol. It is often postulated that we all have an animal inside us and that our human form is merely a veneer. The question this story asks is whether both parts of a soul die at the same time, or can one form become a ghost leaving the alter ego having a material presence. After a riot in the gaol, one man may have the chance to find out.

This book can be read simply as a collection of ghost stories, but on another level it explores the variety of ghostly phenomena and asks the reader to wonder why we are so fascinated by them. Many of these stories are set in the past and Jan Edwards is very good at evoking an earlier era in a minimum of words. It is perhaps a volume to be dipped in to rather than reading straight through. *PM*

### ***CONVENTIONS***

**FANTASYCON, 23rd - 25th October, Nottingham.** Guests of Honour are John Connolly, Jo Fletcher and Brandon Sanderson with Master of Ceremonies Juliet E McKenna. East Midlands Conference Centre & Orchard Hotel. Tickets £75 (non-members of BFS) from <http://fantasycon2015.org/>.

**NOVACON 45, 13th - 15th November, Nottingham.** Guests of Honour are Anne and Stan Nicholls. The Park Inn, Nottingham. Tickets £45. Details at [www.novacon.org.uk](http://www.novacon.org.uk)

**SLEDGE-LIT, 21st November, Derby.** Literary SF/Fantasy festival. Guests of Honour Adam Roberts, Robert Shearman & Alison Moore. Tickets £25 from 01332 290606 or [www.derbyquad.co.uk/special-event/sledge-lit](http://www.derbyquad.co.uk/special-event/sledge-lit)

### ***FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE BSFG***

November 6th – author **Emma Newman**  
December 4th – **Christmas Social**  
January 8th – **AGM and Book Auction**  
February 12th – **Annual Quiz**  
March 11th – SF author **Christopher Priest**  
April 8th – SF/Fantasy author **Jacey Bedford**

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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