

BRUM GROUP NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

DECEMBER 2016

ISSUE 543

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THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

FRIDAY 2nd December

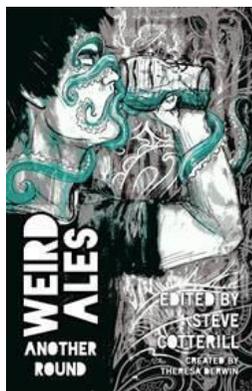
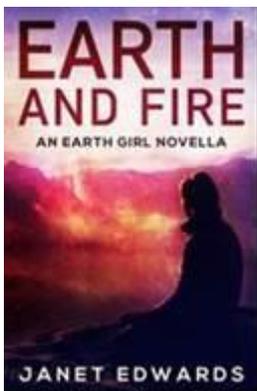
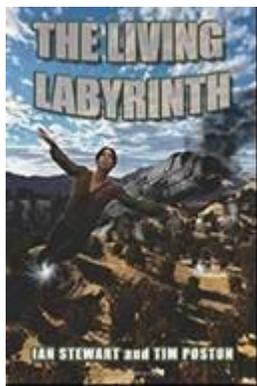


The Christmas Social will be held at The Selly Park Tavern, 592 Pershore Road, Selly Oak from 7 till 11pm. The postcode is B29 7HQ for anyone travelling by car. By bus, from the centre of Birmingham take a 45 or 47 bus from outside Boots, opposite New Street Station's old entrance on Smallbrook Queensway, or from near Boots in High Street.

January 13th - AGM and book auction. Please donate your books - all proceeds go to support the Brum SF Group.

NB Bus stops are changing so check the destination sign carefully. Ask for The Selly Park Tavern - it is about a 15-minute ride. The Selly Park Tavern is on the left a few stops past the Edgbaston Cricket Ground and the stop after the Nature Centre. Remember, the Skittle Alley is behind the main pub. Walk down the side of the Tavern into the car park and it is on your right.

MEMBERS NEWS



Professor Ian Stewart, writing with Tim Poston has published a new SF novel, *THE LIVING LABRYINTH*. A group of trainees on a training mission end up stranded in a very strange place. CreateSpace / 330 pgs / £11.99 paperback or £2.99 e-book / ISBN 978-1535298421

Janet Edwards has issued a paperback version of her *Earth Girl* novella, *EARTH AND FIRE*. CreateSpace / 152 pgs / £4.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1537181240

Theresa Derwin's small press company, Quantum Corsets is publishing **WEIRD ALES: ANOTHER ROUND** edited by Steve Cotterill. This is a collection of thirteen "chilling tales of fright and delight" and "a heady brew of fear and fantasy". Quantum Corsets / 176 pgs / £9.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1540303400 *CG*

WORLD FANTASY AWARD WINNERS

The World Fantasy Awards winners were announced at the World Fantasy Convention held in Columbus, Ohio from October 27th to 30th.

Novel: THE CHIMES by Anna Smaill (Sceptre)

Long Fiction: THE UNLICENSED MAGICIANS by Kelly Barnhill (PS Publishing)

Short Fiction: “Hungry Daughters of Starving Mothers” by Alyssa Wong (*Nightmare* magazine)

Anthology: SHE WALKS IN SHADOWS edited by Silvia Moreno-Garcia and Paula R Stiles (Innsmouth Free Press)

Author Collection: BONE SWANS by CSE Cooney (Mythic Delirium Books)

Artist: Galen Dara

Special Award Professional: Stephen Jones for THE ART OF HORROR (Applause Theatre Book & Cinema Book Publishers)

Special Award Non-Professional: John O’Neill for BLACK GATE: ADVENTURES IN FANTASY LITERATURE

Lifetime Achievement Winners: David G Hartwell and Andrzej Sapkowski

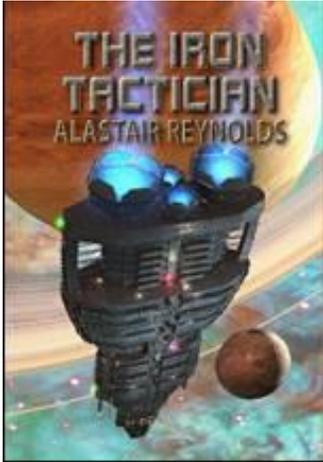
NEWS IN BRIEF



Author **Sherri S Tepper**, has died. She wrote many SF, fantasy and horror novels, often with a feminist or ecological theme. She won Locus, Hugo, Mythopoeic, and Campbell Memorial Awards and was also nominated for Clarke, Tiptree and World Fantasy Awards. Some of her most well-known works include THE GATE TO WOMEN’S COUNTRY, GRASS, and BEAUTY. She was awarded a World Fantasy Life Achievement Award in 2015 Actor **Don Marshall** has died

at the age of 80. He starred in Irwin Allen’s *Land of the Giant* TV series, as the first officer, Dan Erikson. He was one of the first black actors to have a starring role on US network TV. Other genre appearances included THE THING WITH TWO HEADS film (1972) and in the *Star Trek* original series episode, “The Galileo Seven” where a crashed shuttle is attacked by furry aliens with spears Actor **Robert Vaughn** passed away on November 11th. He appeared in many films and TV programmes, perhaps most famously as Napoleon Solo in *The Man from UNCLE* and in THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN western. His SF/Fantasy roles included

appearances in SUPERMAN 3 and BATTLE BEYOND THE STARS The **European Science Fiction Society Awards** were announced at the 38th Eurocon in Barcelona at the beginning of November. Herbert W Franke (from Austria) was named European Grand Master and the Best Author was Tom Crosshill (Latvia). Full details of all winners are at <https://esfs.info/2016/11/06/esfs-awards-2016/> **Penguin Vintage Classics** are bringing out new paperback editions of **H G Wells** classic SF novels,



THE TIME MACHINE, THE WAR OF THE WORLDS, THE ISLAND OF DOCTOR MOREAU and **THE INVISIBLE MAN** in January. Orion are also issuing Wells' works in January, in their **Gollancz SF Masterworks series**. In addition to the above works they are also publishing **THE FIRST MEN IN THE MOON, THE FOOD OF THE GODS** The first in a series of four new SF novellas from NewCon Press, **THE IRON TACTICIAN** by **Alastair Reynolds** will be available from 20th December (£6.99 paperback or £14.99 signed hardback. Order from

<http://newconpress.co.uk/> . Following novellas will be by **Simon Morden, Anne Charnock** and **Neil Williamson** **Analog** and **Asimov's** magazines have announced that from January, 2017, they will move to a bi-monthly schedule rather than the current ten issues. CG

NEW CINEMA FILM RELEASES

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

ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY - Release date December 15th. SF. The story of how the rebels steal the plans for the original Death Star.

PASSENGERS - Release date December 21st. SF. A malfunction on a spaceship means that two out of the thousands of sleeping colonists are awakened 90 years early.



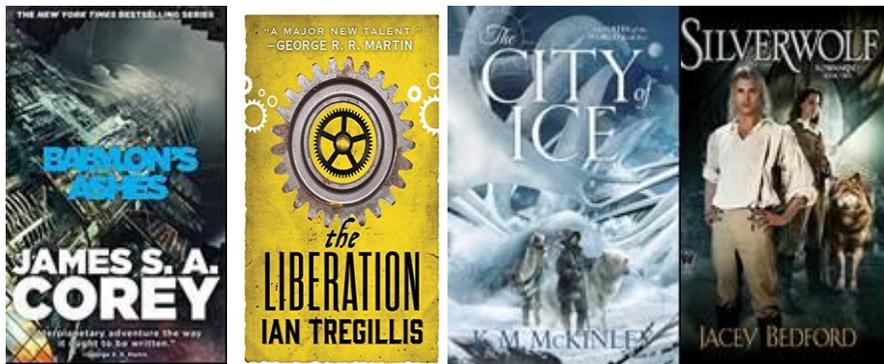
MONSTER TRUCKS - Release date December 26th. A teenager befriends an otherworldly creature which acts as a supercharged engine in his hand-built truck.

A MONSTER CALLS - Release date January 1st. Fantasy. A boy copes with his single mother's terminal illness with the help of a tree monster.

ASSASSIN'S CREED - Release date January 1st. Fantasy. Callum discovers he is a descendant of the secret Assassins society. Videogame tie-in.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

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



BABYLON'S ASHES (Expanse 6) by James S A Corey / Orbit / 544 pgs / £20 hardback / ISBN 978-0356504261 / December 8th. SF. Having crippled Earth, the Free Navy target the defenceless colony ships. The *Rocinante* crew race them to the heart of the gate network.

THE LIBERATION (Alchemy Wars 3) by Ian Tregillis / Orbit / 464 pgs / £8.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0356502342 / December 8th. SF. Built to serve humankind, the mechanical men are awakening and breaking their bonds.

CITY OF ICE (Iron Ship 2) by K M McKinley / Solaris / 400 pgs / £6.50 paperback / ISBN 978-1781084861 / December 27th. A race to reach the City of Ice and uncover its ancient secrets.

SILVERWOLF (Rowankind 2) by Jacey Bedford / Daw Books / 432 pgs / £6.50 paperback / ISBN 978-0756411916 / January 3rd. Fantasy. In an

alternative 1800's, the magical Rowankind have been freed but now must find their place amongst the turmoil of the Industrial Revolution.



THE HEART OF WHAT WAS LOST (An Osten Ard story) by Tad Williams / Hodder & Stoughton / 144 pgs / £14.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1473636634 / January 3rd. Fantasy. Defeated Norns, trapped in an ancient fortress, fight to defend a powerful magical object.

REMNANTS OF TRUST (Central Corps 2) by Elizabeth Bonesteel / Harper Voyager / 528 pgs / £9.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0008137838 / January 12th. SF. The key to uncovering the identity of a saboteur lies in soldier Elena Shaw's past.

UNDER A WATCHFUL EYE by Adam Nevill / Macmillan / 400 pgs / £12.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1509820405 / January 12th. Supernatural thriller. Seb Logan is being watched but he doesn't know by whom.

DEFENDER (The Voices 1) by G X Todd / Headline / 464 pgs / £12.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1472233080 / January 12th. Mankind's biggest threat is the strange voices inside their heads. Debut novel by local author. CG



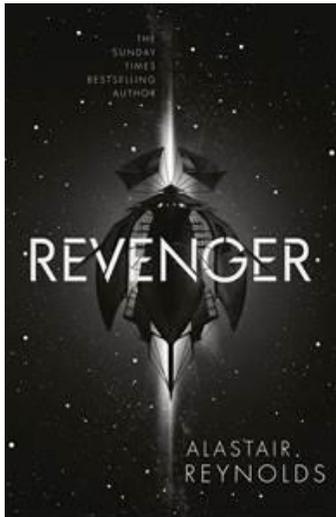
BOOK REVIEWS



(**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)

REVENGER by Alastair Reynolds
Gollancz / 376 pgs / £18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0575090538
Reviewed by David A. Hardy

I am told that this is a Young Adult (YA) novel, but as so often before I can't find any information to confirm this. However, the main characters are two young girls, only one of which is onstage for most of the book, and there is no sex or bad language (but plenty of violence!), so I suppose this is probably the case. (It is interesting that the author chooses to have a female lead, but I have noticed that Stephen Baxter has also done so in recent years, so possibly this is some sort of nod at political correctness? Whatever, in this case it works well.) The publisher's blurb states that it is 'perfect for fans of *Firefly*, Peter F. Hamilton and *Star Wars*'. I'm sure Peter can speak for himself, and I have never seen much of *Firefly*, but I really can't see any similarity at all to *Star Wars*, apart from a charismatic



but evil leader - in this case also female and known as Bosa Sennen. Universally feared, Bosa is effectively a pirate and seems to have no redeeming features, lurking in her stealth-protected, lightsail-powered ship, the *Nightjammer* while others raid 'baubles'; tiny worlds with a 'swallow' (presumably a black hole) at their heart to provide gravity, for valuable alien artifacts, relics and technologies. She and her crew then swarm over the hapless ship, killing anyone who gets in their way, and make off with their plunder.

The two girls are Adrana and Arafura Ness, the latter, later known simply as Fura, being the younger and the main character. They lead boring, upper-class lives and crave adventure - which they find in spades when, hoping to save their family from bankruptcy, they run away from home with their robot 'nurse', Paladin, and join the crew of Captain Pol Rackamore's ship, the *Monetta's Mourn*. Communication in space, or 'The Empty' as it is known, is either by 'squawk', the equivalent of radio, or via 'skulls', again of alien origin and containing flickering lights, which are sometimes able to contact the skulls on other ships. It takes a special talent to 'read the bones', but both girls find that they have this, so are employed in this capacity by Captain Rackamore. Despite initial hostility, Fura befriends Prozor, who is the bauble-reader onboard, and she features strongly in later chapters.

The universe of *REVENGER* is a strange and unfamiliar one. There are fifty million worlds in the Congregation, but 'a shifting, shimmering purple twilight was all that remained of the Old Sun's

energies'. Make of that what you will. Far, far in the future, our galaxy has passed through waves of alien conquest, or 'Occupations', in which empires have risen and fallen, but humanity still survives amongst the rubble and ruins of ancient civilisations. Amongst these are the baubles, and most humans live in the hope of striking a really valuable hoard which will make their fortunes, despite the considerable risks of raiding a bauble, which are surrounded by layers of protection and are only 'open' for a specific period of time before closing again, trapping anyone left inside.

Having successfully done this with one, the *Monetta's Mourn* is boarded and raided by Bosa Sennen, who mercilessly kills the captain and many crew, and captures Adrana to become her own bone-reader. Fura hides away and escapes, promptly swearing eternal revenge upon Bosa. From this point on, everything in the book changes. From being a rollicking adventure it takes on a darker aspect, with Fura transformed from a sweet teenager to a hard-hearted avenging angel who will let nothing stop her self-appointed crusade. There are many surprises along the way, during which ambiguity creeps in; nothing is as clear-cut as it once seemed and even Bosa Sennen may not be who she originally appeared to be . . .

The author has to some extent developed a language that has evolved, along with everything else. This I felt was perhaps the least successful aspect of the novel. For instance, he uses 'lungstuff' for air and 'squint-time' for sleep. But given that apart from this the characters seem to use pretty standard English, I was not convinced that these small changes were necessary. Obviously to change the language too much could become tedious and confusing, and I suppose these do help to suggest a future environment, but I'm not sure about them. However, this is a minor criticism, and overall, YA or not, this is an exciting and often gripping read, and up to Reynold's usual standard. *DAH*

(Review copy kindly donated by Gollancz)

***THE HIDDEN PEOPLE* by Alison Littlewood**

Jo Fletcher Books / 384 pgs / £14.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1848669901

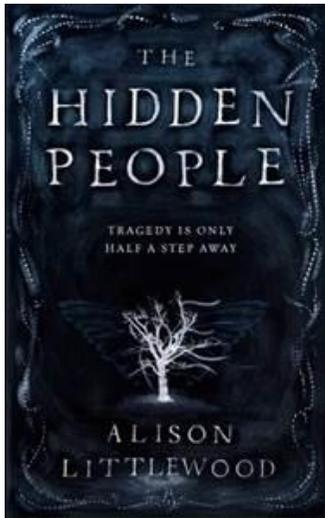
Reviewed by Carol Goodwin

We like to think we live in a rational world, but irrational beliefs still lie close to the surface. Animal shelters that can't re-home black cats as people consider them "unlucky" and the recent hysterical reaction to "scary clowns" are only a couple of examples. The horrific consequences of one such belief is the central theme of this novel.

In the middle of the 19th century, a young man leaves behind his comfortable life in the city to see to the affairs of his pretty young cousin. She has been killed in a dreadful way by her husband who apparently

believed she was a fairy changeling. (This central incident and the inspiration for the novel is based upon a real event). Feeling that his family have neglected his poorer relation, and with an unrecognised romantic fixation with her, the protagonist wants to understand and uncover the events and reasons which led to her death. When he arrives in the small rural village where she lived, he finds an almost universal belief in the existence of changelings, the Fairy folk and their interference in the lives of people who attract their attention.

When he moves into her “unlucky” cottage, halfway up the fairy hill, he finds himself drawn into this miasma of superstition. What seems easy to believe in the city, bounded by iron railways and modern machines is much harder to hold onto in the “endless summer” of the village. When he is joined by his young, newly pregnant wife, the stage is set for another tragedy as he also struggles to understand her apparently “changed” behaviour in this new environment.



This is a wonderfully atmospheric novel. There is an excellent attention to detail in this book. The careful consideration that has been paid to the vocabulary and style of the prose, so that it is appropriate to the Victorian setting, yet still being eminently readable is exceptional. There was an added verisimilitude to me in that many of the old superstitions were reminiscent of those some of my older relatives held – eg not wearing green because it was the fairies’ colour, or not walking through a fairy ring. The contrast between the new rational, industrial world of the city and the older, unchanged

and superstitious countryside is well done without being heavy-handed. The author keeps the narrator, and the reader reeling (like the Fairy dancing road in the book) between whether to believe the superstitious or the more mundane and rational explanations of his cousin’s death. As he digs deeper into village life and the circumstances surrounding his cousin’s death, the story builds to a climax, and the true cleverness of this story becomes more apparent. The reader becomes more and more intrigued as to who the actual hidden people are? Do the fairies exist or does the belief both engender and conceal more human motives and wickedness?

When I started this novel, I expected a fairly straightforward dark fantasy but the book has far more depth to it than that. I loved the difficult

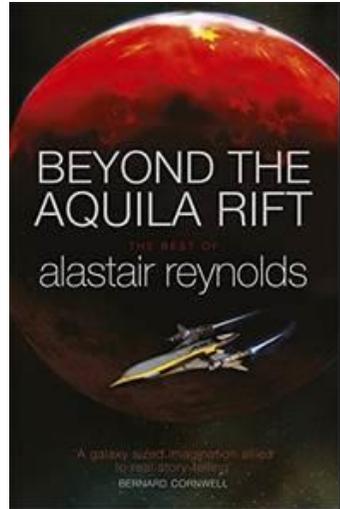
balancing act that the author credibly maintains throughout the book and the complexities of character in the narrator and his wife in particular. It is not a gruesome horror book, apart from one somewhat graphic but justifiable scene at the beginning so would suit many who like intelligent, well-written fiction with some fantasy elements. CG

(Review copy kindly donated by Jo Fletcher Books)

***BEYOND THE AQUILA RIFT* by Alastair Reynolds**
Gollancz / 779 pgs / £18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1473219861
Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.

As this volume is billed as the Best of Alastair Reynolds, the expectation is that all the stories are good. In fact, they are excellent, and they are all science fiction.

Any writer of hard SF has a problem - how to get characters out of the solar system. In the old days, the most popular method was the 'bullshit' drive. Forget the physics, forget the technology, just put the spaceship into gear and go. While ramping up the warp factor might be fine for *Star Trek*, fiction writers these days try to think the problem through. Sometimes they stay with the physics we currently understand, and stick to sub-light mechanisms, or explore other ways of getting from place to place. In these stories, Reynolds has explored a number of techniques.



In many of Reynold's novels, humanity has expanded out from the solar system and has divided into factions. Most use some kind of technology to increase their abilities but the Ultras have gone to extremes often becoming more machine than human. The Conjoiners have used technology to become almost a hive mind. In this universe, lighthuggers are the space ships of choice. They can travel at near the speed of light but never faster. They are powered by C(onjoiner)-drives. 'Great Wall Of Mars' takes the REVELATION SPACE time-line back to when the Conjoiners were feared and quarantined on Mars. The Great Wall was designed as a terraforming agent with a breathable atmosphere within it. The Conjoiners keep trying to escape and Nevil Clavain is sent to give them a final warning - if they try again, the Conjoiners will be wiped out. Those who have read the novels will know that this doesn't happen. In 'Weather' the title character is a Conjoiner separated from the rest of her

nest. She is rescued from a pirate ship. It is through her that we learn some of the secrets of the C-drive.

Two other stories are set in the same universe, using the same ship technology, though that is a minor part events. 'Diamond Dogs' involves a group persuaded that their skills are what is needed to conquer a strange artefact on a distant planet. The spire consists of a vast series of rooms through which you can only pass by solving a mathematical or spacial problem. Failure to do so results in death. 'The Last Log Of The Lachrimosa' takes the crew to a distant planet in search of salvage or alien artefacts - anything that can be made to turn a profit.

Any system that has an origin on Earth, tends to accept the concept that FTL is not possible. In 'Thousandth Night', the people who gather to share experiences at a reunion have each been travelling the universe for two hundred thousand years. They are actually all splinters of the same personality and the occasion is to merge experiences. Then Purslane realises that Burdock has related false memories as they suggest that he and Champion were in the same place at the same time. This story is set against the same background as Reynolds' novel HOUSE OF SUNS.

The idea of the ramscoop to power space ships is a relatively well known one, with the engine gathering interstellar dust and thrusting it out the other end as a propulsion system. In 'The Star Surgeon's Apprentice' Peter, the narrator, is desperate to get off station and takes a berth on the ramscoop, *Iron Lady* as apprentice to the surgeon. He is the only true human, as most of the crew are mechanically enhanced or are lobots, criminals whose independent function has been removed. Unfortunately for Peter, he finds it is a case of out of the frying pan and into the fire as he has signed on to the most notorious pirate ship in the sector.

Where the plot of the story needs FTL travel between star systems, the methods rely on discovered alien technology. The aliens themselves have long disappeared but the technology still works. In 'Minla's Flowers', relatively small ships can travel the Waynet which acts like a fast-moving current between places. When Merlin finds himself thrown out of the Waynet, he heads for a nearby planet to affect repairs. Minla is a small girl when he arrives but when he discovers that the planet has only seventy years before a branch of the Waynet bisects and destroys the sun, he offers just enough technology to enable Minla's people to develop the means to escape.

'Beyond The Aquila Rift' also uses alien technology. This time it is a network of Apertures. These are important when something goes wrong, and *The Blue Goose* ends up somewhere it isn't meant to be, and so far off the main network that there may be a problem getting back. 'Fury' uses

another, unexplained, method designated skip-space. The details are unnecessary as the story is about the bodyguard of the Emperor of the Radiant Commonwealth. He travels long distances between stars in order to discover the person behind the assassination attempt on the Emperor and at the same time discovers his origins. Although 'Zima Blue' is set against the background of a different universe, it is also an origin story. This time it is the artist, Zima, who tells a reporter of his search for his origins as he embarks on his final piece of conceptual art.

Of the remaining seven stories, all are far future science fiction of the highest calibre and although some of them would need space travel to get the protagonists to the place where the story takes place, it is largely irrelevant to the plot. Although many authors use different means to travel long distances in space, it is unusual to have so many explored in one volume.

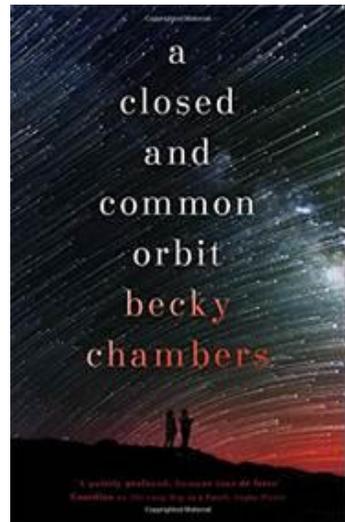
Those who know Reynolds' work will be delighted with this volume, any who don't will find this a good place to begin exploring. *PM* (Review copy kindly donated by Gollancz)

A CLOSED AND COMMON ORBIT (Wayfarers 2) by Becky Chambers

**Hodder and Stoughton / 384 pgs / £14.99
hardback / ISBN 978-1473621442**

Reviewed by Carol Goodwin

This is a sequel to the 2016 Clarke Award-nominated *THE LONG WAY TO A SMALL, ANGRY PLANET* (reviewed in March 2016 newsletter #534). The original novel was a fun space opera which followed the mixed human and alien crew of the *Wayfarer* on a long voyage to build a new hyperspace tunnel. It was full of both different alien species and personalities, all trying to live harmoniously in a galactic civilisation. Its major strengths were the detailed construction of the differing alien races and cultures and the many diverse, interesting characters. *A CLOSED AND COMMON ORBIT* is set in the same universe but wisely in my opinion, chooses to move on from the crew of the *Wayfarer*. Instead it concentrates on two characters who, although appearing in the first book, were more minor characters.



The story starts with the artificial intelligence, Sidra awakening in a synthetic body designed to pass as human. In her previous existence, she was a ship's AI, her sole purpose monitoring and caring for a ship's crew. Unfortunately, and unintentionally, during the transfer process, her personality was reset to the factory standard so she is totally unprepared for her new life and must rapidly learn and adapt to her new situation. This is further complicated as the galactic civilisation does not allow AI's to exist independently and if her existence is revealed, she will be destroyed. However, Sidra is not alone. She is sheltered and guided by Pepper, one of the engineers who helped in the transfer process, who as we gradually learn knows quite a bit herself about starting over in a completely new world.

The title of *A CLOSED AND COMMON ORBIT* refers to two astronomical concepts. A closed orbit is an orbit that repeatedly returns to the same starting point. The common orbit of the title refers to two bodies sharing the same orbit. These are an elegant description of the structure and narrative of this story. It alternates between two stories, that of Sidra and also of Jane 23, a child slave who escapes from her enforced labour. As the reader swings between the two narratives, we see the parallels and common themes of their lives which eventually converge together.

This book is more reflective and focused than the previous novel, which might not suit everyone, especially those who may be disappointed that their favourite, more flamboyant characters are absent. However, I personally like that the author has the courage to produce something different rather than taking the perhaps safer option of sticking with the same characters and situation.

Despite this change, the writing still has many of the strengths of the original. The characters, whether alien, human or AI are credible and not clichéd. Again, whilst there is an enjoyable and interesting plot the novel is not solely focused upon action but also upon the value of caring and supportive inter-personal relationships as well. The author also retains the ability to craft characters that the reader deeply cares about, not only Pepper and Sidra, but the alien Tak and the AI, Owl among them. It subtly promotes the message that the best societies are those which value and respect all sapients equally whatever their differences. This second novel clearly shows a writer who is growing in confidence and ability from an already impressive debut. This is very good, stylish and character-driven SF with emotional depth from an author not content to rest on her laurels but to dare something different.

CG

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All details are correct to the best of our knowledge, we advise contacting organizers before travelling. Any information about forthcoming SF/Fantasy/Horror events is always welcome - please send to Carol at goodwincd@yahoo.com

NOTE: Waterstones Birmingham have kindly agreed to a 50% discount on any of their events for Brum Group members. Just tell them you are a member when booking your place.

TIM PEAKE'S PHOTOS FROM SPACE, 23rd September - 31st December, Birmingham. Exhibition of photos taken whilst aboard the ISS. At Thinktank, Millennium Point. No Booking required, Thinktank entry fee applies (£13)

CHRISTMAS CRACKER PARTY, 3rd December, Birmingham. Quantum Corsets (owned by BSFG member **Theresa Derwin**) is holding a combined Christmas Party and book launch of Kyle Turton's **INFECTED**, a Lucifer/Zombie novella (Price £5.99, pre-order £5). Drinks, nibbles and wine at Briar Rose, 3 - 6pm. RSVP to Theresa or leave message at website www.terror-tree.co.uk

YULEMOOT, 3rd December, Birmingham. Christmas gathering of the Tolkien Society (www.tolkiensociety.org/events/yulemoot-2016) at The Old Contemptibles, 176 Edmund Street, B8 2HB. Free Entry - 5pm till late.

LORD OF THE RINGS films, 9th - 11th December, Birmingham. Electric Cinema screening of all three *Lord of the Rings* films on three consecutive nights £8.70 per film. Concession price (£5.90) if booking all three films. www.theelectric.co.uk or 0121 643 7879



DEFENDER LAUNCH WITH G X TODD, 12th January, Birmingham. Local Author will be discussing her debut novel, **DEFENDER** - likened to Stephen King & Clive Barker. Waterstones High Street 7:30 pm. Free. Booking: 0121 631 4353, or call instore.

CONVENTIONS

(Thanks to Dave Lally for information on 2017 London exhibits)

WINDOWS ON OTHER WORLDS, October - January, Dronfield. Exhibition of SF art by Alex Storer at Art 4 Restore Gallery, The Forge, Church Street, Dronfield, Derbyshire S18 1QX. Tues-Sat 10am - 5pm

BIRMINGHAM HORROR CON, 4th February, Birmingham. At Edgbaston Stadium. Guests include Caroline Munro, David Moody, Adam Millard, Adam Nevill. Prices £8-10. <http://horrorfan.co.uk>

ROBOTS: 500 years of Humanoid Robots, 8th February - 3rd September. Major exhibition at the Science Museum, London. £15 at www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/

REDEMPTION '17, 24th - 26th February 2017, Sheffield. At Royal Victoria Hotel. Guest of Honour: Dr Lynette Nusbacher, Steve Lycett (others tbc). Tickets £70 at <http://redemptioncon.org.uk>

SCI-FI WEEKENDER, 30th March - 2nd April, Hafan Y Mor, North Wales. Commercial multi-media convention. Various prices depending on level of access/accommodation. See www.scifiweekender.com

INNOMINATE (EASTERCON), 14th - 17th April, Birmingham. Guests of Honour are Pat Cadigan, Judith Clute and Colin Harris. At the Hilton Metropole, NEC, Birmingham. Membership £60 (will rise in New Year) at www.eastercon2017.uk/home

INTO THE UNKNOWN: A JOURNEY THROUGH SCIENCE FICTION, 2nd June - 1st September, London. Major exhibition at the Barbican Centre. Includes original manuscripts by Jules Verne and others, music, film and art. Details to follow at www.barbican.org.uk/

NOVACON 47, 10th - 12th November, Nottingham. Guest of Honour is Adrian Tchaikovsky. The Park Inn, Nottingham. Tickets £48. Details at www.novacon.org.uk



FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE BSFG

January 13th - **AGM**

February 10th - **Quiz**

March 10th - Space scientist, writer and SF Fan, **Gerry Webb**

April 7th - SF writer **Dave Hutchinson**

May 12th - SF/Fantasy writer **Adrian Tchaikovsky**

June 9th - tbc

July 14th - tbc

August 11th - **Summer Social**

September 8th - tbc

October 13th - **Andy Sawyer**, from the SF Foundation

November 3rd -

December 1st - Christmas social (date subject to change)

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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