

# BRUM GROUP NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

## BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

FEBRUARY 2017

ISSUE 545

HONORARY PRESIDENT: BRIAN W ALDISS, OBE

COMMITTEE: VERNON BROWN (CHAIRMAN); PAT BROWN (TREASURER);  
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## ANNUAL SF QUIZ

*February 10th*



It's time for the annual quiz again. This is held in February due to the potential bad weather and the risk of speakers (and members) being unable to get to Birmingham city centre. The quiz is a fun pub-quiz style event with several teams competing

for honours and prizes.

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

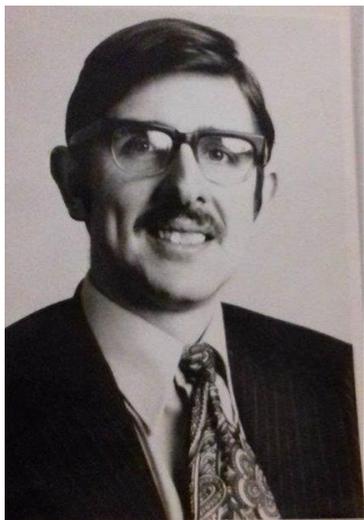
This year the questions have been set by Theresa Derwin and Dave Corby. I understand that questions could cover many aspects of SF and Fantasy, not just literature (although that will most definitely be included) so everyone has a chance of winning. The questions should hopefully be a mixture of easy, medium and a few (hopefully only a few!) hard ones to separate out the teams. Teams will be organised on the night (by lots) to encourage mixing and to give everyone a better chance!

So, if you haven't already, start revising – a great excuse for reading and watching more SF (and Fantasy!). 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 for members and £4 for non-members.*

## **PETER WESTON**



*by Vernon Brown*

Peter Weston, a fan at the heart of fandom for many years, passed away on January 5th after a long battle against cancer.

Although he was active in fandom from the day that he found it and has won a number of awards and nominations, including four Novas, he was particularly active in the early 1970s with fandom in Birmingham. In fact, so much went on that for a time there was a fannish in-joke that “Birmingham is the centre of the Universe”. As this is

the time that I knew Peter well and will be of interest to readers I'll concentrate on it.

I first met Peter when he came to one of the first meetings of the University of Aston Science Fiction Group in late 1967. As the Group was my first encounter with fandom I was awed by this chap who seemed to know everyone and everything to do with SF; I only recently discovered that he had only been in fandom for four years. But that was Peter, if he decided to do something he threw himself into the job.

He'd throw other people into the job as well, he could be very persuasive, and he soon had the ASFG spending evenings collating and stapling his fanzine "Speculation" in one of my teaching labs with long clean benches ideal for the task. Which led to him triggering the Group to organise the first Novacon. Several of us had attended our first convention, the 1969 Eastercon, a well-organised and enjoyable event, then shortly afterwards a one day con in Leeds "organised" by a local fantasy group who had booked a meeting room and left it up to attendees to do everything else. There were no other UK cons and for weeks we chatted about organising one ourselves but did nothing about it. Then during a collation evening, Peter's voice cut across the conversation suggesting that we either do it or forget it. Thus galvanised, we formed a committee and, with Peter's advice and encouragement, in 1971 the first Novacon was born.

The bit now firmly between his teeth, in early 1970 Peter was organising the first of three annual Sercon one-day "Speculation" conferences which were to draw a number of Midlands fans into fandom. But at Eastercon that year he threw himself into another job. The con was considered pretty poor by everyone, the nadir of Eastercons; on the spot Peter and Rog Peyton decided to bid for the 1971 con. And a little later a persuasive voice over the phone invited me to be on yet another committee. Under his chairmanship Eastercon 22 was a success and the cons are still going strong against a lot of competition.

Not content with all this Peter decided that Birmingham needed a fan group and, roping in Rog and me, launched the

Birmingham Science Fiction Group in 1971. This was the third (possibly the fourth) in a series of fangroups beginning in 1949, each lasting a few years and meeting in pubs and members' homes. He devised a Constitution etc based on those of the Young Conservatives, and with formal meetings and hired rooms the Group is still going strong.

Having married Eileen and begun a family, Peter remained a BSFG committee member for several years before becoming chairman of Seacon 79, the 1979 Worldcon and the largest convention that the UK had ever seen with over 3000 attendees. Despite buying out and then running his firm in 1983 he continued his fannish activities, returning to be BSFG chairman for a while in the mid-eighties.

Although remaining friends, he and I began to go our separate ways in the late eighties so I don't know much about his fannish activities after that time, although they can be found on the internet and elsewhere. But they were there and he will be missed by many.

Peter's cremation took place on January 23rd and was attended by a large number of mourners, of whom a large percentage were from fandom. The official headcount was 171 but several guesstimates gave about 200, either way it was a sizeable number. *VB*

### ***PETE WESTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP***

An anonymous donor has set up a scholarship, the **Pete Weston Memorial Scholarship** to attend Conrunner, the convention about organising conventions. The convention is in Nottingham on the 10th to 12th February. The scholarship will include convention membership and two night's accommodation. Anyone may apply by contacting Steve Cooper on Facebook. Precedence will be given to people attending their first Conrunner event. *CG*

### ***VICKY STOCK***

***by Pat Brown***

Vicky joined the BSFG about 2000, I believe as a result of a recruitment drive at Birmingham University; she was active and

enthusiastic right from the start and quickly took a role on the committee as secretary and membership secretary. I became the treasurer in 2002 and can't recall a time when Vicky wasn't on the committee. I do remember though that about that time she helped us, with Tim's (her husband) aid, set up and register the website domain names. Back in those days that was something very bewildering to us!



She quickly set up a very well organised membership list, liaising closely with me as Treasurer over renewal monies, updating signing in sheets etc. Despite being very tired and under the weather due to her treatment when she became ill she always remembered to send me the information that I needed on time.

As secretary Vicky was brilliant at keeping accurate minutes and devised an excellent format to suit the committee's needs and keep us all on track. She also seemed to have access to a wide number of SF and fantasy authors which was invaluable in our search for speakers to BSFG meetings.

Vicky continued to be active in maintaining the membership lists, providing me with the information that I needed and arranging speakers even very recently when she was clearly very poorly. She never gave in to her illness. The simple act of reading her Facebook page illustrated how she enjoyed life to the full. I will miss her hugely; she was my backbone regarding membership and the treasurer's task, she was a lovely friend and will be greatly missed by us all. *PB*

### ***REMEMBERING VICKY STOCK by Theresa Derwin***

Vicky Stock, Membership Secretary of BSFG (Birmingham SF Group) passed away quietly on Wed 11th January 2017. For

years, she had fought the battle against cancer, and ‘fought’ is the right word, because Vicky was a fighter. Despite bad days, illness and exhaustion, Vicky took time to support many important fundraisers for Breast Cancer research, gave me advice during a difficult time and my own scare, and volunteered at St Mary’s Hospice. At the same time, she worked for the BSFG continuing her role and sharing news and creating events on Facebook and Twitter. Vicky was relentless, but so much more than that; funny, warm, generous, committed and, probably not known by many, a talented writer.

A couple of years ago, I released a book to fundraise for Breast Cancer Campaign, a charity Vicky and I both agreed on. Written in her own words, here is the foreword that Vicky wrote for HER DARK VOICE.

“The human body is an amazing thing. It can do the most amazingly brilliant stuff which you never imagined it could achieve. Childbirth, for instance. Or the way our brains work. The



Photograph courtesy of Birmingham Mail

way everything interconnects. Our DNA ... But what happens if, again rather miraculously, a cell gets an idea in its head that it wants to be immortal: it starts reproducing, again and again and again. Starts to take over the cells and tissue next to it. First, we know about it is a lump or

change or pain ... miraculous, in a somewhat darker way with a much darker outcome. For that immortality will eventually take over our mortal body and kill I t...

... Cancer. The darkest time of my short life so far. Plunged at the tender age of 30 into a battle with breast cancer, involving several surgeries removing and reconstructing, chemo-

and radio-therapy, 12 months of the wonder-drug Herceptin, anticipating several years of a hormone drug ... and then 18 months after diagnosis, plunged into that world all over again when I was diagnosed with my second breast cancer.

Like a lot of other cancer patients, I have felt the strong urge to give something back, to get something positive out of this horrendous time, and for me this meant volunteering and fundraising. I started this just after diagnosis and my initial surgeries; and once my treatment finished in 2012 bar the ongoing hormone drugs and reconstructive work, I continued my work with charity fundraising. I have also been trained in delivering breast awareness sessions and have started a support group for younger people going through cancer, linking up with a national charity with the same aims.

There is a lot of need for support and someone to talk to at all stages of the treatment journey but particularly the point at the end of treatment is when quite often people seek out others who have experienced what they have gone through. A willing, empathetic ear to listen, understand at that time when everyone assumes you are ok and back to 'normal' - whatever that is. The various charities out there offer this to our starving souls desperate to recover but not knowing quite how. People feel themselves drawn to different charities. Some offer a helpline with professionals/peer support from people who have experienced the same cancer; or 'buddies' who will phone or visit to offer practical/emotional support; or online forums where you can vent your frustrations with others in a safe, monitored, anonymous arena.

Other survivors find themselves drawn to charities focusing on the treatments, research, science to try and find that miraculous cure, or stop it happening in the first place. Cancer can often be beaten back, putting the patient 'in remission' or as near cured as possible, but over you will always hang the threat of metastases. The word no cancer patient ever wants to hear. This means the initially mapped out care plan hasn't worked. The speedy referrals, the mastectomy, the months of awful treatment

and side effects, even the wonder drugs – it has none of it actually worked. The cancer has spread. Suddenly it is all very different. Now it is a case of how long can they keep you alive. A lot of current research is trying to find a ‘cure’ for this currently incurable spread which once started, can never be permanently halted. At the moment. But who knows in the future what these amazing scientists will discover?”

Please consider Vicky’s words, remember her, and help with the various cancer charities that are out there. Or visit a patient, or spread the word. Knowledge is power. Vicky, you will be greatly missed.

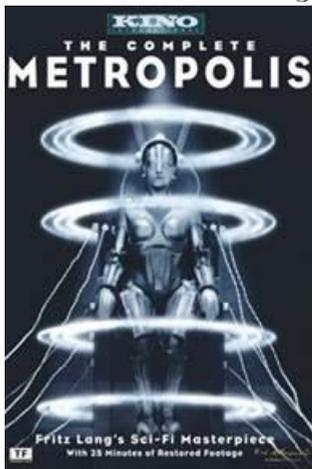
*TD*

### **AGM BOOK AUCTION – UPDATE**

The Book Auction in January raised over £160. As agreed at the meeting, the proceeds will be given to cancer charities in memory of Peter Weston and Vicky Stock. The money will be split equally and donated to St Mary’s Hospice Birmingham (Vicky) and St Giles Hospice (Peter).

### **METROPOLIS - NINETY YEARS ON by Vernon Brown**

In 1927 Fritz Lang’s silent SF masterpiece “Metropolis” premiered in Berlin. This was probably the only time that it was seen in its entirety, approximately 150 minutes of visually astonishing film, until 2010. Because of financial problems the film’s producers gave the distributors *carte blanche* with the way that they distributed it; regrettably they immediately cut out great chunks, about a quarter, to “suit the American taste”. This completely ruined the story line and all versions until recently have been recombinations of the remaining film.



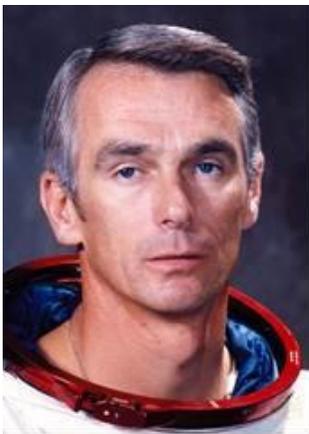
But in 2008 a more or less complete version of the original film, much degraded, was discovered in a small museum in Buenos Aires. Months of patient restoration followed until what is almost undoubtedly the original version was finally assembled in 2010.

Pat and I went to see this restored version at the Electric Cinema in Station Street later that year. The film was well worth the £12 each that it cost us – we had the expensive sofa seats. An excellent production that held our attention, and that of the rest of the sell-out audience, for the full 150 minutes. I know that it's available on DVD but it has to be seen on the large screen to be appreciated at its best.

The Electric Cinema is showing *Metropolis* again on Tuesday 21 February, not quite on its 90th birthday of January 10th. It's quite a small cinema with 80 cinema type seats and 11 sofas for two or more people. Sofas can be booked online (we've got ours) but not the cinema type so get there early to be sure of a seat. There are two things to remember when you go, the English sub-titles are only shown for a few seconds so sit far enough back that you can see the whole screen easily, and don't drink before the film, there's no interval.

*VB*

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



Astronaut **Eugene 'Gene' Cernan** died at the age of 82. He was one of only three people to go the Moon twice. As Commander of the Apollo 17 mission, he was the last man to leave the lunar surface. He had retired from NASA in 1976, going into private business and TV appearances, but remained passionate about human exploration of space .... **Hilary Bailey**, UK author and editor passed away in January. She wrote about 15 SF and Fantasy stories in her earlier career, before switching to mainly

mainstream novels with occasional SF elements such as **A STRANGER TO HERSELF** and **FRANKENSTEIN'S BRIDE**. She was married to Michael Moorcock until 1978, and was joint editor (with Charles Platt) of the *New Worlds* anthologies from 1974 to 1975 .... **Sir John Hurt** has died, aged 77 after suffering from pancreatic cancer. Twice nominated for an Oscar for his roles in **THE ELEPHANT MAN** and **MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**, he was equally at home in mainstream and genre roles, as well as an accomplished stage actor. His genre appearances included **ALIEN** (where he played the infected crewman, Kane), as Winston Smith in 1984, **HELLBOY**, **INDIANA JONES AND THE CRYSTAL SKULL**, **V FOR VENDETTA**, **IMMORTALS**, the *Harry Potter* series, as the War Doctor in *Dr Who* and as the eponymous Storyteller in Jim Henson's TV series. He also did voice work such as the Dragon in BBC's *Merlin*, and General Woundwort and Hazel in **WATERSHIP DOWN** .... The author of **THE EXORCIST**, **William Peter Blatty** died on January 12th. He also adapted his novel into the film screenplay, for which he won an Oscar. He also wrote and directed **EXORCIST III**. He was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Horror Writers Association in 1998 .... **Karen Lord** (author of **REDEMPTION IN INDIGO**, **THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS** and **THE GALAXY GAME**) will be the Toastmistress for the 75th Worldcon, to be held in Helsinki from 9th to 13th August .... The Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA) have awarded the Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award posthumously to **Peggy Rae Sapienza**. This is given to people who have had "a significant impact on the science fiction or fantasy landscape" .... Voting to name the new Worldcon YA Award is open to everyone until March 15th. A shortlist of 6 names (Anansi, Lodestar, Ourobouros, Spellcaster, Tesseract and Worldcon) were chosen from an initial 460 different suggestions. Voting is available online at website, <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPJlnD7hXaVI7Q5vntFW3OpEp2PqF6QhqGu2VmP71JR3Fn9Q/viewform>. The final name will then be selected by the award committee based

upon the votes received .... Congratulations to BSFG member, **Theresa Derwin** whose work appeared on the Bram Stoker Reading List (based upon recommendations by Horror Writers Association members). This was in two categories; for “Muse” in the story section and for WOLF in the Collection section. Unfortunately, she did not make it through to the shortlist .... BSFG member **Mike Chinn** has a new collection out in February, RADIX OMNIUM MALUM (Parallel Universe publications) .... Ian Whates is to publish the final collection of **Dave Langford’s** SFX magazine articles as a collection in his Steel Quill Books imprint. There will also be cover and internal art by Andy Watt .... AMC have announced a series on the **history of Science Fiction** to be created by director **James Cameron**. The show will consider both written and filmed SF and the Science Fiction Museum in Seattle will act as consultants .... *Strange Horizons* (online SF magazine) is the new host for **Geoff Ryman’s** ongoing project, 100 Writers of African SFF. The first two issues were published by Tor (USA) last year .... **Andy Weir**, author of THE MARTIAN has created a pilot TV programme, MISSION CONTROL. The setting is NASA and will concentrate on the flight controllers and the astronauts on a space station .... Since President Trump’s senior advisor announced that the administration was issuing “alternative facts”, sales of **George Orwell’s 1984** have jumped to Number 1 on Amazon USA .... **Tim Peake’s** Soyuz capsule (TMA-19M) is to go on display at the Science Museum in London. In a related announcement, the European Science Agency Director said that another mission was “foreseen” for Major Peake in the next set of ESA manned missions, somewhere between 2019 to 2024. CG

### ***SCIENCE FICTION HALL OF FAME***

To celebrate the twentieth year of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame, this year 24 members will be inducted. These have been divided into “Creators” and “Properties”. Some were selected by popular vote, while others were chosen by the panel of judges.

### Creators

Douglas Adams  
Margaret Atwood  
Keith David  
Guillermo del Toro  
Terry Gilliam  
Jim Henson  
Jack Kirby  
Madeleine L'Engle

C S Lewis  
H P Lovecraft  
Leonard Nimoy  
George Orwell  
Sir Terry Pratchett  
Rumiko Takahashi  
John Williams

### Properties

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY  
BLADE RUNNER  
*Dungeons and Dragons*  
MYST  
THE MATRIX

THE PRINCESS BRIDE  
*Star Trek*  
*Wonder Woman*  
*The X-Files*

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

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

***THE SPACE BETWEEN US*** - Release date February 10th. The first human born on Mars travels to Earth for the first time.

***HIDDEN FIGURES*** - Release date February 17th. A team of African-American women provide the mathematical data for NASA's early space missions (based on a true story).

***A CURE FOR WELLNESS*** - Release date February 24th. Horror. A young executive suspects that a remote spa's miraculous treatments are not what they seem.

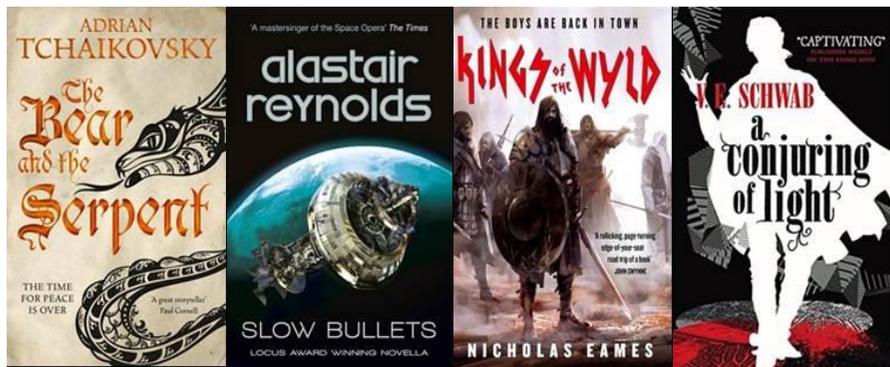
***LOGAN*** - Release date March 1st. In the near future, Wolverine must help a young mutant escape from her pursuers.

***KONG: SKULL ISLAND*** - Release date March 10th. Fantasy/Horror. Explorers and soldiers land on an uncharted island.

***THE LOVE WITCH*** - Release date March 10th. Horror. A modern witch uses magic to get men to fall in love with her.

## **FORTHCOMING BOOKS**

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



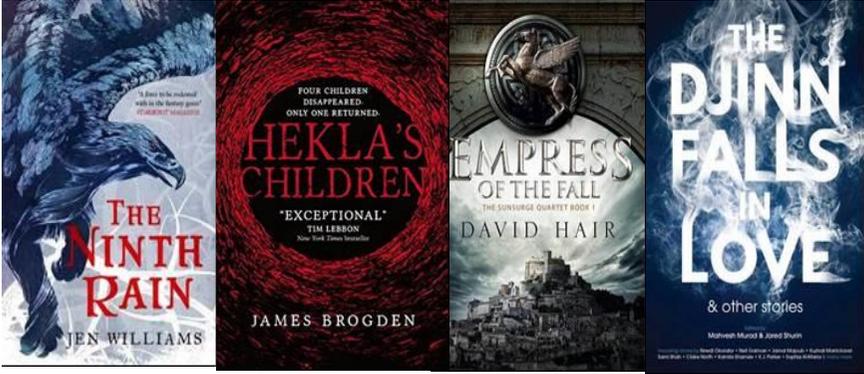
***THE BEAR AND THE SERPENT*** (*Echoes of the Fall 2*) by Adrian Tchaikovsky / Macmillan / 464 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1509830220 / February 9th. Fantasy. In a world of shapeshifting tribes, Maniye travels south to help Prince Tecuman fight for his throne.

***SLOW BULLETS*** by Alastair Reynolds / Gollancz / 288 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1473218437 / February 8th. SF. Trapped on a prison ship, where memories are embedded into bullets, Scur struggles to survive and make senses of an unrecognisable world.

***KINGS OF THE WYLD*** by Nicholas Eames / Orbit / 528 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0356509020 / February 23rd. Humorous Fantasy. An aging group of mercenaries embark on a last mission to save the daughter of one of them.

***A CONJURING OF LIGHT*** (*A Darker Shade of Magic*) by V E Schwab / Titan Books / 336 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-

1785652448 / February 21st. Kell, who can travel between alternative Londons, must choose between competing loyalties.



***THE NINTH RAIN*** by Jen Williams / Headline / 544 pgs / £14.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1472235176 / February 23rd. Fantasy. A penniless prince, an eccentric explorer and a fugitive witch try to escape from the collapsing Eboran empire.

***HEKLA'S CHILDREN*** by James Brogden / Titan Books / 400 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1785654381 / March 7th. Fantasy/Horror. A missing student returning after ten years and a Bronze Age body herald the return of a terrible evil.

***EMPRESS OF THE FALL*** by David Hair / Jo Fletcher Books / 704 pgs / £30 hardback / ISBN 978-1784291013 / March 9th. Fantasy. With the Emperor dead and his rivals scrambling for power, the Empire is also threatened by a hidden group intent on destroying civilisation.

***THE DJINN FALLS IN LOVE and Other Stories*** edited by Mahvesh Murad & Jared Shurin / Solaris Books / 384 pgs / £10.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1781084168 / March 9th. Fantasy. Anthology with the theme of djinns (genies) including stories by Neil Gaiman, Nnedi Okorafor, Claire North, KJ Parker, EJ Swift etc.

CG



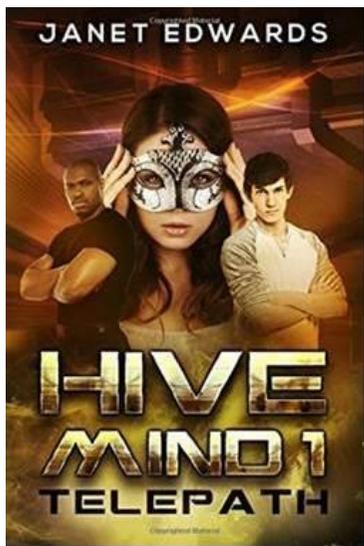
# BOOK REVIEWS



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

**TELEPATH** (*Hive Mind 1*) by Janet Edwards,  
CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform / 348 pgs / Kindle  
edition £3.99, £8.99 trade paperback / ISBN 978-1537088020

Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.



There is now a new kind of author - the hybrid. These are writers who have been published by mainstream publishers but have later decided, for various reasons, to self-publish. Storm Constantine was one of the first, wanting to get her earlier books back into print before going on to develop the independent publishing house of Immanion Press. Brum Group member, Janet Edwards has joined this select band. After the success of her *Earth Girl* trilogy, she had a following wanting to know where they could get hold of the

next book. Publishing schedules of the major publishers tend to put out only one book per author per year. Janet didn't want her fans to wait that long, especially as she is a prolific writer, so decided to produce the next books herself. While some authors need the input of various editors and agents to make sure a high quality is maintained, it is pleasing to discover that Janet doesn't. **TELEPATH** has the same excellent production qualities as the *Earth Girl* trilogy.

Janet writes very effectively for Young Adults, properly embracing the sub-genre and placing her characters in peril, keeping the action going throughout. **TELEPATH** has a number

of parallels with the *Earth Girl* trilogy. Both are set in far future societies and each has an eighteen-year old female protagonist who finds herself in a situation where she is an outsider having to prove her worth. In TELEPATH, the human population of Earth is gathered into huge, largely underground, complexes known as Hives. Each of these is as self-contained as a country. The Hives trade with each other and may be suspicious of each other's motives. As in EARTH GIRL, much of the teen age years of the young people are spent learning independence and living in areas that largely exclude adults.

Amber, the protagonist of TELEPATH, and Jarra, the protagonist of EARTH GIRL, each begin the narrative reaching a point where their lives will change for ever. For Jarra, it is choosing the university course that will shape her adult career. For Amber, it is the series of tests that make up Lottery in the year she is eighteen. From the results of these she will be assigned a job for life, one that she is suited for and will enjoy, and will have the information she needs to carry it out imprinted on her brain. She will be very unlikely to ever meet her teenage companions again. Amber, though, turns out to have a very rare quality. She is a true telepath. As such, and only one of five in her Hive, she must be protected at all costs as she is the one who effectively will keep order. She will be able to find and track criminals so that they can be apprehended and dealt with by the Enforcers.

Amber discovers that she has a vast area, including a park, that is part of her quarters but that she has to share it with a team of Enforcers that act as her bodyguards, as well as medics, tacticians, cooks, cleaners. And she has to learn to control her new-found abilities. She has to be able to pick out from amongst the myriads, the criminal mind and direct her team to find them. She has to be able to shut out the unwanted thoughts of the others around her.

From her Lottery testing, Amber's elite enforcers have been selected to conform to the profile she would be attracted to. Since she won't be allowed to freely socialise, any partners would have to be found amongst those in her coterie and a telepath's

desires are paramount in keeping her happy. Thus, amongst the group is Forge, the friend from her teenage years that she was obsessed with, though he was never a boyfriend. Now she finds herself more attracted to Lucas, her tactical team leader because his mind fizzles with energy. When they attend a situation when a three-year old goes missing, incidents from her childhood begin to make more sense and an unexpected threat is exposed.

In this novel, Amber has to cope not only with the dramatic change in status that the Lottery's rite of passage throws at her and the awakening of her own physical needs, but an imminent danger to her and her Hive.

Janet has done a good job juggling the need to write something different from her first trilogy while also keeping the elements that have attracted her fan base. Anyone who enjoyed the *Earth Girl* trilogy will love this. Like Jarra, Amber dances across the page with all the hopes and neuroses of any eighteen-year old. A good job well done.

*(Review copy kindly donated by Janet Edwards)*

### ***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 [goodwinced@yahoo.com](mailto:goodwinced@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.

**WONDERLAND, 6th - 11th February, Birmingham.** Musical version of ALICE IN WONDERLAND. New Alexandra Theatre, [www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham](http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham). £21.40 - £46.40 + £4 transaction fee

**VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE 2, 11th February, Walsall.** Southcart bookshop holds an anti-valentine horror extravaganza

with Authors, Readings, Food etc. Southcart Books, 20- 21 Lower Hall Lane, WS1 1RL from 11:30am - 4:30pm.

**WELCOME TO CARAVAL WITH STEPHANIE GARBER, 23rd February, Birmingham.** Author discusses and signs new fantasy novel. Waterstones High Street 6:30 pm. £3 redeemable against book. Booking: 0121 631 4353, or call instore.

**METROPOLIS screening, 21st February, Birmingham.** Electric Cinema screening. £9.50 or £11.50 sofa seat. [www.theelectric.co.uk](http://www.theelectric.co.uk) or 0121 643 7879

**STAR WARS: ROGUE ONE CHARITY SCREENING, 25th February, Birmingham.** Charity showings with the 501st Garrison (Stormtroopers etc cosplayers) at The Mockingbird, The Custard Factory. £5.95 Showings at 2, 5 and 8pm. Book: 0121 224 7456 or Facebook.

**AN EVENING WITH ANDRZEJ SAPKOWSKI, 17th March, Birmingham.** Gemmell Award winner and author of *The Witcher* series will be discussing his new novel, *LADY OF THE LAKE*. Waterstones 6 pm. Free but booking required at 0121 631 4353, or call instore

## ***CONVENTIONS***

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

**PICOCON 34, 18th February, London.** At Imperial College Union. Guests include Jaine Fenn, Paul McAuley, Al Robertson and Justina Robson. Prices £12. [www.union.ic.ac.uk/scc/icsf/picocon/](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/scc/icsf/picocon/)

**ROBOTS: 500 years of Humanoid Robots, 8th February - 3rd September.** Major exhibition at the Science Museum, London. £15 at [www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/](http://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](http://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 £70 at [www.eastercon2017.uk/home](http://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 at [www.barbican.org.uk/](http://www.barbican.org.uk/)

**EDGE-LIT 6, 15th July, Derby.** Literary SF/Fantasy festival. Guests of Honour Joanne Harris and Stephen Baxter. Tickets £30 at [www.derbyquad.co.uk/film/edge-lit-6.aspx](http://www.derbyquad.co.uk/film/edge-lit-6.aspx)

**NINE WORLDS GEEKFEST, 4th - 6th August, London.** Multi-media con with strong literature strand. Tickets £99 at <https://nineworlds.co.uk/>

**SFW IN THE CITY, 7th - 8th October, Sheffield.** Sci-Fi Weekender spin-off multi-media convention. O2 Academy. Various prices depending on level of access/accommodation. [www.sfwinthecity.com/](http://www.sfwinthecity.com/)

**BRISTOLCON, 28th October, Bristol.** Guests of Honour Jonathan Howard and Jen Williams. Doubletree Hotel. £20. Details at [www.bristolcon.org](http://www.bristolcon.org)

**NOVACON 47, 10th - 12th November, Nottingham.** Guest of Honour is Adrian Tchaikovsky. The Park Inn, Nottingham. Tickets £48. Details at [www.novacon.org.uk](http://www.novacon.org.uk)

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

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 - SF/Fantasy writer **Aliette de Bodard**  
July 14th - literary agent **John Jarrold**  
August 11th - **Summer Social**  
September 8th - astronomical artist **Jackie Burns**  
October 13th - **Andy Sawyer**, from the SF Foundation  
November 3rd - SF author **Peter F Hamilton**  
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. Details of how to join/pay can be obtained at a meeting or by email to [bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk)