

# BRUM GROUP NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

## BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

AUGUST 2018

ISSUE 563

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## *Summer Social Meal* *August 10th*

As usual, there is no meeting at the Briar Rose in August as it is the Summer Social meal. As with last year this will be at the Black Eagle venue. The meal is booked for 7:45 pm.

As a reminder for those of you attending, the address is The Black Eagle, 16 Factory Road, Hockley, B18 5JU.

If you are travelling by car, the following directions may be helpful. Opposite Villa Road, where it meets the junction of Soho Hill and Soho Road, is St Michaels Road. Go down

September 14th - Frankenstein 200th Anniversary celebration. Short film from 1910 followed by talk on the novel's place in SF history by academic Steve Cotterill.

it then up the other side, now Factory Road. The Black Eagle is a little way up on the right; it's set back, don't overshoot it.

If travelling by bus, catch the No 74 around the corner from the Square Peg in Old Square, Birmingham and ask for the stop before Villa Road, just before the Sikh Temple. About five minutes out of town the road goes downhill then past a flyover It then goes up the other side of the valley - at the top is a bus stop - you want the stop after this. When you alight walk a little further on to St Michaels Road, turn left then as by car above.

The venue can also be reached by Metro. Catch the Metro in Upper Bull Street, Birmingham. Pay on the Metro itself and ask for Benson Road, Soho. There's also a stop notification board in the carriage. At the exit go right down Benson Road to the Black Eagle.

### ***DAVID GEMMELL AWARDS***

The 2018 David Gemmell Awards for Fantasy were presented at Edge Lit in Derby on the 14th July.

**Ravenheart Award (for best cover art):** Richard Anderson for **KINGS OF THE WYLD** by Nicholas Eames (Orbit)

**Morningstar Award (for best debut novel):** **KINGS OF THE WYLD** by Nicholas Eames (Orbit)

**Legend Award (for best fantasy novel):** **ASSASSIN'S FATE** by Robin Hobb (Harper Voyager)

### ***BRITISH FANTASY AWARDS SHORTLIST***

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

**Best Fantasy Novel (the Robert Holdstock Award)**

**AGE OF ASSASSINS** by R J Barker (Orbit)

**THE NINTH RAIN** by Jen Williams (Headline)

**THE COURT OF BROKEN KNIVES** by Anna Smith Spark (HarperVoyager)

**UNDER THE PENDULUM SUN** by Jeannette Ng (Angry Robot)

### **Best Horror Novel (the August Derleth Award)**

THE CROW GARDEN by Alison Littlewood (Jo Fletcher Books)

BEHIND HER EYES by Sarah Pinborough (Harper Collins)

THE BOY ON THE BRIDGE by M R Carey (Orbit)

THE CHANGELING by Victor LaValle (Canongate)

RELICS by Tim Lebbon (Titan Books)

### ***WORLD FANTASY AWARDS SHORTLIST***

The shortlists for the World Fantasy awards have been published. The nominees for Best Novel are given below. The winners will be announced at World Fantasy Con on November 2nd - 5th:

THE CITY OF BRASS by S A Chakraborty (HarperVoyager)

KA: DAR OAKLEY IN THE RUIN OF YMIR by John Crowley (Saga)

THE STRANGE CASE OF THE ALCHEMIST'S DAUGHTER by Theodora Goss (Saga)

SPOONBENDERS by Daryl Gregory (Riverun UK)

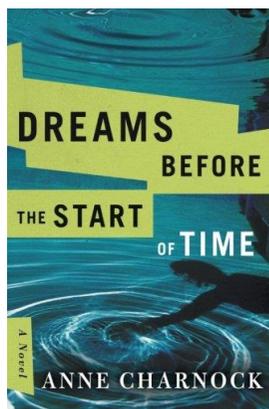
THE CHANGELING by Victor LaValle (Spiegel & Grau)

JADE CITY by Fonda Lee (Orbit)

### ***ARTHUR C CLARKE AWARD***

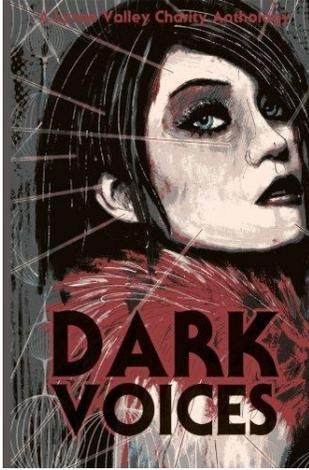
The winner of the 32nd Arthur C Clarke Award has been announced as DREAMS BEFORE THE START OF TIME by Anne Charnock (47 North). The award was held at Foyles bookshop in London. The winner received a cheque for £2018.

The novel looks at the impact of changing reproductive technology on both society and individuals. The novel consists of separate short vignettes each from the viewpoint of different but connected individuals across five generations. It explores how the meaning and nature of pregnancy, childhood and family will change as new scientific methods affect both biology and culture in profound ways.



*CG*

***EDGE LIT CONVENTION & DARK VOICES 2 by Theresa Derwin (edited and abridged by Carol Goodwin)***



Well, it's been a long time coming, but DARK VOICES, my charity anthology in support of Breast Cancer awareness was launched at Edge-Lit SFF convention in Derby on 14th July. The book is dedicated to BSGF committee member, the late **Vicky Stock**. Vicky passed away on the 11th January 2017. As some of you are aware, 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 our BSGF group, 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. When I published the HER DARK VOICE anthology in 2014 to raise money for Breast Cancer, Vicky wrote an honest and impassioned introduction to that anthology and sold copies wherever she went.



At Edge Lit 7 we had a packed room of people eager to hear readings from the various stories in the book, (published by Lycan Valley Publications). I was joined at the launch by a bunch of wonderful and talented writers included in the anthology; Charlotte Bond, Lisa Childs (editorial team), Penny Jones, Reen Jones, Keris McDonald, Hayley Orgill and not least BSGF members **Pauline Morgan (writing as Pauline E Dugate)** and **Anne Nicholls** (picture 1). It was a great, lively, fun event. Plenty of wine was quaffed

and lots of names taken for the book's release, as well as a few quid to add to the charity pot. There was literally standing room only. The inimitable **Chris Morgan** (Picture 2) was also persuaded to act as auctioneer and helped to boost the coffers.

As for Edge Lit, awesome as always. It was great to meet Paul Tremblay, whose books I'm devouring, to attend the Great British Horror Launch, some really informative panels on ghosts, etc plus a great agent workshop led by Anna Smith Sparks.



My thanks, however go to Paul Kane and Steve Shaw, who helped me nail another bucket list moment (Hey, get your mind out of the gutter). As a massive Clive Barker fan, I got to meet Simon Bamford (**HELLRAISER/NIGHTBREED**), great guy, and have a selfie with him and Paul.

Edge Lit is also home to the anarchic Edge Lit Raffle, with some great book-based prizes and to the **David Gemmell Awards** for heroic fantasy, organised by BSFG members, authors **Stan and Anne Nicholls**. This was the 10th anniversary of the Awards which unlike some are determined purely by public vote, and the theatre was packed for the announcements. With the main award being an axe, these have to be one of the coolest awards to win (Details of the winners are given above).

So, a great day was had by many. But, the piece de resistance? StokerConUK is coming to Scarborough - sorry, Scarborough - in 2020. And you can thank the Dynamic Duo of HWA (Horror Writers Association), Marie O'Regan and her partner in crime Paul Kane.

And no, I didn't win the raffle again. I blame the evil Pixie!!

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

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

**CHRISTOPHER ROBIN** - Release date August 17th. A grown-up Christopher Robin meets up with his childhood toys again.

**LUIS & THE ALIENS** - Release date August 24th. Animation. An 11-year-old boy befriends three aliens who crash land into his house.

**SLENDER MAN** - Release date August 24th. Horror. Urban legend of a tall thin figure linked to the haunting and disappearance of children.

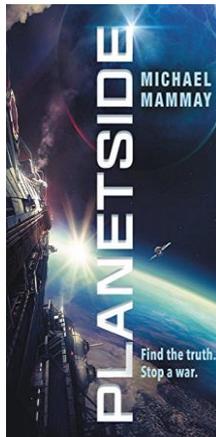
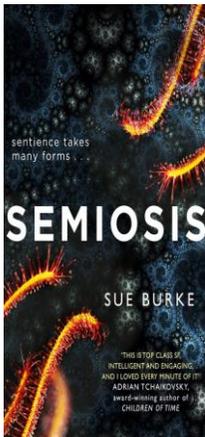
**THE HAPPYTIME MURDERS** - Release date August 31st. An ex-police puppet (!) investigates the killings of puppets from an '80's children's show. Directed by Brian Henson.

**THE NUN** - Release date September 7th. Horror. A priest and a young postulant nun must confront a demonic nun.

**THE PREDATOR** - Release date September 13th. SF. A small group fight to protect humanity from the returning deadly alien Predators. *CG*

## **FORTHCOMING BOOKS**

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

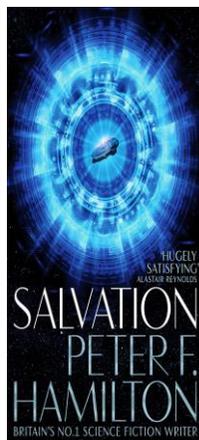
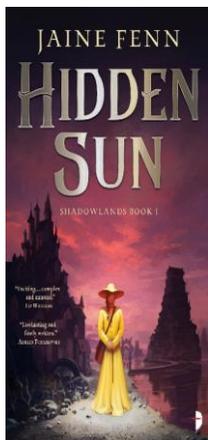
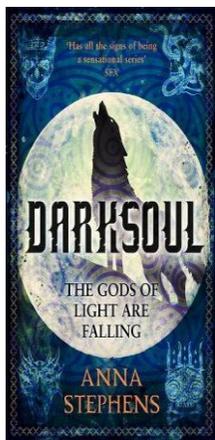


**SEMIOSIS** by Sue Burke / Harper Voyager / 336 pgs / £9.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0008300777 / August 9th. SF. Human colonists must find how to co-exist and communicate with intelligent plants.

***PLANETSIDE*** by Michael Mammay / Harper Voyager / 384 pgs / £6.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0062694669 / August 9th. SF. When a high councillor's son goes missing from a military base, the semi-retired Colonel who investigates uncovers a deadly conspiracy.

***RESTORATION (Verity Fassbinder 3)*** by Angela Slatter / Jo Fletcher Books / 400 pgs / £16.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1784294380 / August 9th. Urban Fantasy. Forced to work for a psychotic fallen angel, Verity must discover why decades-old bodies are now re-appearing.

***FOUNDRYSIDE*** by Robert Jackson Bennett / Jo Fletcher Books / 512 pgs / £14.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1786487865 / August 23rd. In a city where magic can make inanimate objects sentient, a thief finds herself on the run with an artefact that could kill thousands.



***DARKSOUL (Godblind 2)*** by Anna Stephens / Harper Voyager / 400 pgs / £14.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0008215941 / August 23rd. The veil that kept the Red Gods at bay is in tatters, and only the besieged city of Rilporin stands in their way.

***BLOODY ROSE (The Band 2)*** by Nicholas Eames / Orbit / 544 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0356509044 / August 30th. A bored barmaid joins a world-famous band of mercenaries as their bard.

***HIDDEN SUN (Shadowlands 1)*** by Jaine Fenn / Angry Robot / 400 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0857668011 / September 4th. SF. Rhia, a noblewoman with an unbecoming interest in science, joins the

search party for her missing brother who are heading into the mysterious “skyland”.

***SALVATION (Salvation Sequence 1)*** by **Peter F Hamilton** / Macmillan / 544 pgs / £20 hardback / ISBN 978-1447281313 / September 6th. SF. An alien shipwreck’s cargo may lead to humanity’s extinction. *CG*

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



The original episodes of **QUATERMASS AND THE PIT** (1967) as shown on TV are now available to view on BBC Radio Iplayer .... The winners of the **European Science Fiction Awards** have been announced. Gérard Seymour is **European Grand Master**. Other interesting awards are Anna Starobinets

(Best Author), **THE HOUSE OF BINDING THORNS** (Best Work of Fiction) by former guest, **Aliette de Bodard**, and **VALERIAN AND THE CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANETS** (Best Dramatic Presentation). More details at <https://esfs.info/> .... There has been a lot of controversy about **WorldCon 76** communication & programming, including Hugo finalists being told they would not be on the programme, as they would not be “familiar” to the convention audience, and people of colour and/or LGBTQ being made to feel unwelcome. After some ill-advised and upsetting emails, the convention has withdrawn the provisional programming and attempted to solve the problems by inviting author **Mary Robinette Kowal**, who successfully ran Nebula Award programming, to review and “fix” the issues where possible .... The European Space Agency (ESA) have announced the discovery of **liquid water on Mars**, a lake about 12 miles across, located under the south polar ice cap .... An **Asian SF Association** has been founded. It held its first meeting in July and **Liu Cixin** (SF author of **THE THREE BODY PROBLEM**) has been named as the first President. Their website is <http://asiansfsociety.org> and the first Asiacon will be in Chengdu in 2019 .... US-based *Forbes* magazine had to quickly withdraw a controversial article which said that Amazon should replace local libraries to save taxpayers money! *CG*



## BOOK REVIEWS

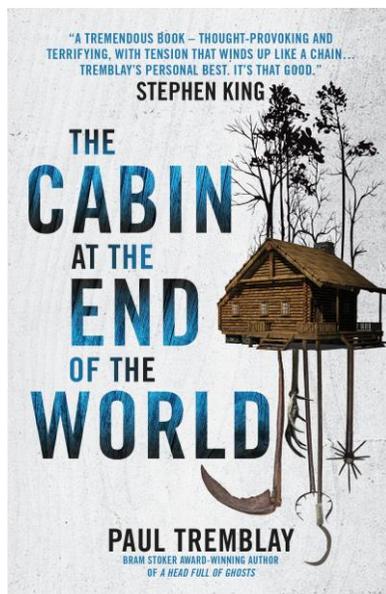


(**REVIEWERS** please note: - all reviews should be emailed direct to me at [goodwincd@yahoo.com](mailto:goodwincd@yahoo.com) Deadline for each issue is 14 days prior to the date of the monthly meeting)

***THE CABIN AT THE END OF THE WORLD*** by Paul Tremblay  
Titan Books / 319 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1785657825

Reviewed by Theresa Derwin

Award winning author Paul Tremblay's latest novel, narrated by multi points-of-view, starts with Wen, a young Chinese girl, seven years old, about to turn eight, who has been adopted whilst very young by Daddy Andrew and Daddy Eric. We find out early that she has gone through multiple surgeries to repair a cleft lip and is conscious of her own smile. Whilst her Daddies are relaxing on the back porch of their cabin in New Hampshire close to a lake, Wen is playing a favourite game of chasing and catching grasshoppers. Her game is interrupted by a man in his mid-twenties, Leonard, who is big, burly



and tall, but doesn't speak like most adults. Intentionally or not, I was reminded of Lenny in *OF MICE AND MEN*. Though Leonard does not have the learning difficulties or challenges of that character, his voice, his words, his mannerisms are distinctly off kilter. She's wary of him, but even more so when he says he needs to talk to her daddies because she is vitally important to the future. It isn't long before Wen is ensconced in the Cabin with her Dads, and Leonard, Redmond, Sabrina and Adriane are attempting to break into the home to start the most awful 'game' of 'Would You Rather?' than the reader will ever have encountered. Andrew and Eric are given a choice they must make, whilst held hostage by these four people- in a perverse reimagining of the 'home invasion' subgenre of horror. And I refuse to say any more about the plot elements. Spoilers Darling!

Lyrical, funny, and horrific in parts, this novel is a masterclass in writing horror, and the heart of horror; shock and awe. I gasped at least four times in genuine shock, or realisation as the jigsaw pieces clicked together. I also really liked the realistic relationship between two gay men, the natural inclusion of diverse characters and settings, and the switch between viewpoints. And the ending, which I won't talk about, was - satisfying. A magnificent piece of horror, which I'm sure will be read by millions and studied in schools and colleges across the globe. If it doesn't win this year's flurry of genre awards, I'll be very surprised. *TD*

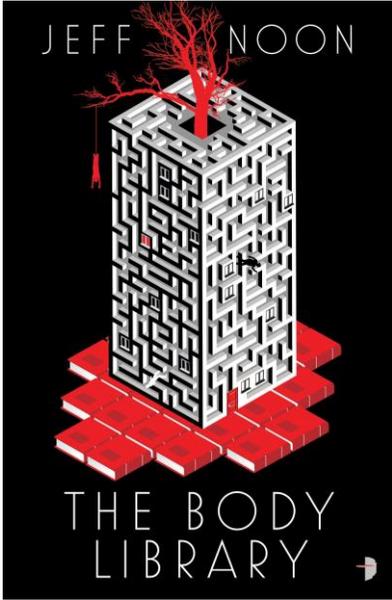
***THE BODY LIBRARY (Nyquist Mysteries 2)* by Jeff Noon**  
**Angry Robot / 384 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0857666734**  
**Reviewed by Carol Goodwin**

When I reviewed the first book featuring private eye, John Nyquist (A MAN OF SHADOWS) in March this year (#558) I stated that I was looking forward immensely to reading this sequel and thankfully, it is just as enjoyable and intricate as its predecessor.

The first novel saw Nyquist trying to find a missing girl in the strange neon-lit city of Dayzone where day and night exist permanently next to each other, time is distorted and strange things happen in the unplanned border region of Dusk. In *THE BODY LIBRARY* Nyquist has moved to the city of Storyville. This is another strange city, one obsessed with story and narrative and where the boundaries between fiction and real life quickly become blurred. This is a city where everyone wants to tell and listen to stories. It is a city with a vast bureaucracy of "Narrative Officers" who watch and where necessary change people's lives to fit what has been decided is the main narrative of the city's progress.

Hired to follow a man, Nyquist enters the mysterious Melville tower block. Attacked by his quarry, he wakes to find a dead body next to him. Disoriented and confused, he is unsure of the reality of the strange people and events that then occur as he tries to flee the building. All he remembers clearly is a missing woman called Zelda, and that everything is linked to the strange book, the eponymous *The Body Library*. Constructed from cutting and pasting other novels together to form a new text, its pages appear to have psychotropic properties and the ink can infect people with a progressive, fatal illness which manifests as words appearing under their skin. Finding himself infected, Nyquist must race against time to unravel the mystery and menace of the book.

Yet again, Jeff Noon shows his amazing imagination and wonderful



writing skill. He plays with prose and structure and yet still achieves a rare balancing act of managing to also have a strong narrative and characters, although the reader does have to pay attention and work to follow what is happen. Like the tower in the book, the narrative unfolds more in a labyrinthine manner than a straight path but is more enjoyable because of this. This is not my usual type of reading but I love it; the puzzling out of what is happening, the weird but fascinating worldbuilding, and the sheer enjoyable “intoxication” of all the extraordinary ideas and images such as “alphabugs” (each bearing a single letter) and all the literary

allusions including buildings/districts eg Woolf Housing Estate, Kafka Court etc. I have deliberately not given more detail of the characters or the plot, as a substantial part of the pleasure of reading this book is the gratification of unravelling and connecting disparate events. This is a book that does not fit easily into any particular classification but should definitely be winning awards.

CG

*Review copy kindly donated by Angry Robot*

***OF SAND & MALICE MADE* by Bradley Beaulieu**

**Gollancz / 228 pgs / £12.99 hardcover / ISBN 978-1473218451**

**Reviewed by Pauline Morgan**

When an author writes a number of novels set in the same fantasy world, involving some of the same characters but which don't actually follow on from each other, it is difficult to assess them from the perspective of continuity. Bradley Beaulieu's first novel set in this world was **TWELVE KINGS**. It is set in and around the city of Sharakhai which is in the Great Shangazi Desert. Fortunately, there is a river running through the city, though there doesn't seem to be much cultivation to supply the people with food. Presumably, the sand ships bring those in from elsewhere. One of the principal characters in

TWELVE KINGS is Çeda. OF SAND AND MALICE is a book that makes her the central character. It is only reading the publicity material that reveals that this book is set before TWELVE KINGS. Therein lies one of the problems of continuity. Anyone who has read the novel will already have a fair idea of who she is and her skills. She is a pit fighter, very young and very good. What most readers would want from a prequel is more about her origins and how she managed to get as good as she is. They would like to see some of her early bouts that brought her the fame she clearly has. That is not here. She appears here as a fully-fledged fighter.

This book consists of three parts which are almost self-contained stories but are treated as a short novel. As the book opens, Çeda appears to be working as a courier for Osman. Unfortunately, the package is stolen. Although this is a test of her integrity, she suddenly finds herself embroiled in situation not of her making. Kadir is one of Osman's clients and is employed by a very rich lady, Rümayesh who has taken an interest in Çeda for the stories she can tell. Rümayesh however intends to use a moth known as irindai to extract them. Fortunately, for Çeda she has some unexpected allies in the form of two brothers from the Kundhunes desert tribes. Rümayesh, though, is an ehrekh, a kind of demon that is almost indestructible. The second part sees Çeda trying to find a way of killing the demon. It doesn't go quite as planned and the third part sees her trying again.

The three parts work neatly together to form a whole story arc. Each is a stand-alone story in its own right but each needs the preceding one to give context. What I doubt is calling this a prequel as it doesn't do much to explain Çeda's origins and, I suspect, most of the information about the society is already extant in TWELVE KINGS. Having said that, many readers who enjoy a novel will happily accept any story set in the world the author has generated. *PM*



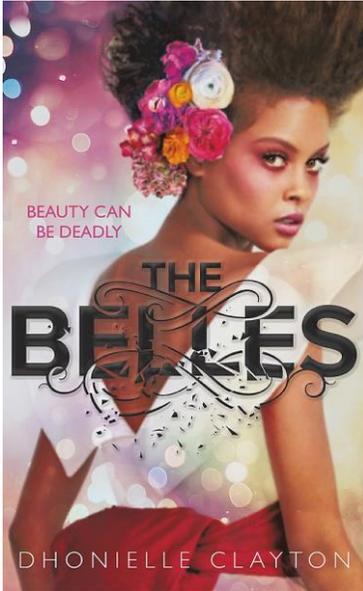
*Review copy kindly donated by Gollancz*

**THE BELLES** by Dhonielle Clayton

Gollancz / 448 pgs / £11.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1473223967

Reviewed by Carol Goodwin

Given the cover of this book I was in two minds as to whether I would like it or not. On the one hand, it is very “pink” and soft focus, which



made me worry whether it was heading too much into “chick-lit” territory (a term which I detest). However, it also had a person of colour on the cover, which is still quite progressive even to this day. Not knowing quite what to expect, I actually loved this book and whizzed through it in one session as I really got hooked into the story and wanting to know what happened.

Orleans is a city where status is determined by beauty and appearance. Everyone is born grey-skinned and viewed as ugly, apart from the mysterious Belles. They are naturally “beautiful” and what is more, they have the magic to change other people’s appearance, at least temporarily. They are raised and managed by the DuBarry family, who regulate access to their services and also market Belle-sanctioned beauty products and cosmetics. As each new generation of Belles matures, they are sent to various “tea houses” where they will work at transforming the rich courtiers and merchants. These placements are determined in a grand spectacle, the Beauté Carnaval, where the Belles compete to show their abilities with the winner becoming the new “favourite” who will serve the Queen and her court at the royal Palace.

Camille is one of the newest Belles – she is ambitious but naïve. As she starts to treat the members of the royal court she discovers that her transformative powers have a negative side, both in the effect on herself but also in the pain the transformations cause her clients. Whilst the Queen tries to regulate and limit these procedures, the callous and selfish heir apparent Princess Sabine will clearly ruthlessly exploit the

Belles' abilities if she succeeds to the throne. Initially flattered and indulged, Camille tries at first to please the vain and cruel Princess Sabine. As she and her sister Belles start to discover more about the cost to themselves and to society as a whole of the use of their abilities, Camille comes to realise that the Princess is a monster who cannot be allowed to take the throne. As the Queen's health starts to fail, Camille must try to find a way to escape from the control of the royal court and to learn more about the Belles' unexplained abilities and origins.

What makes this well-paced and enjoyable YA fantasy really stand out is in its exploration of the many problems associated with modern-day society's obsession with youth and physical "beauty". From the constant pressure to emulate so-called "celebrities" and the extremes that people will go to in order to achieve so-called perfection through to the mental health effects on those who can't meet impossible and arbitrary standards. Although there is a lot that can be read into the metaphors of the story, the touch is light and not heavy-handed and the story works well on its own merits. The story builds to an exciting climax but there is clearly much still to be resolved in future books. A great debut and it will be interesting to see how the author develops and improves in future books. CG

*Review copy kindly donated by Gollancz*

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

**AN EVENING AT ESCAFELD, 18th August, Sheffield.** Sheffield SF & F Writers Group hosts an evening of readings, talks and raffle with authors **Alison Littlewood & Marie O'Regan**. £3 at Old Queen's Head Pub, 40 Pond Hill Road, Sheffield, S1 2BG. Info at [www.ssffwg.wordpress.com](http://www.ssffwg.wordpress.com) or email [ssffwg1@gmail.com](mailto:ssffwg1@gmail.com)

**DARKSOUL LAUNCH, 23rd August, Birmingham.** Our July guest ANNA STEPHENS is launching her new novel DARKSOUL. Waterstones 6:30 pm. Free but booking advised. At 0121 631 4353 or instore.

**AN EVENING WITH J R R TOLKIEN ILLUSTRATOR, ALAN LEE** 29th August, Birmingham. Alan Lee, illustrator of iconic artwork in Tolkien's Middle Earth series, talks about his work and new book **THE FALL OF GONDOLIN**. Hosted by Waterstones at The Studio, 7 Cannon Street, B2 5EP 7:30 pm. £5. [www.waterstones.com/events/](http://www.waterstones.com/events/)

**PETER F HAMILTON & STEPHEN BAXTER SIGNING**, 5th September, Birmingham. SF authors will be signing their latest novels, **SALVATION & XEELEE: REDEMPTION**. Waterstones 12 noon. Queue on the day.

**ANNA STPEHENS, STEPHEN ARYAN & G X TODD**, 5th September, Birmingham. Three local SFF authors chat and sign books. Forbidden Planet, 74 Bull Street, B4 6AD, 5 - 6 pm. Free.

### ***CONVENTIONS and EXHIBITIONS***

**ASTERIX IN BRITAIN; THE LIFE AND WORK OF RENÉ GOSCINNY**, 10th May - 30th September, London. Exhibition of artwork, photos etc of the co-creator of Asterix the Gaul. Jewish Museum, 129-131 Albert Street, NW1 7NB. £8.50 [www.jewishmuseum.org.uk](http://www.jewishmuseum.org.uk)

**NINE WORLDS GEEKFEST**, 10th - 12th August, London. Multi-media con with strong literature strand. Tickets £119 at <https://nineworlds.co.uk/>

**BRISTOLCON**, 27th October, Bristol. Guests of Honour Joanne Hall & Dave Hutchinson. Doubletree Hotel. £25. Details at [www.bristolcon.org](http://www.bristolcon.org)

**FANTASYCON**, 19th - 21st October, Chester. The Queen Hotel. GoH Adrian Tchaikovsky & Claire North. Tickets £61.50 + £36 Awards Banquet [www.hwsevents.co.uk/shop-2](http://www.hwsevents.co.uk/shop-2)

**NOVACON 48**, 9th - 11th November, Nottingham. Guest of Honour is Chris Beckett. The Park Inn, Nottingham. Tickets £52. Details at [www.novacon.org.uk](http://www.novacon.org.uk)

**TOLKIEN 2019**, 7th - 11th August 2019, Birmingham. 50th Year Anniversary of Tolkien Society, MacDonald Burlington Hotel (New Street). £95 [www.tolkiensociety.org](http://www.tolkiensociety.org)

**WORLDCON 2019, 15th - 19th August 2019, Dublin.** Guests of Honour Ian McDonald, Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Steve Jackson, Diane Duane, Ginjer Buchanan and Bill & Mary Burns. Convention Centre. 180 Euros. <https://dublin2019.com/>

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

**September 14th** - 200th anniversary celebration of **Mary Shelley & FRANKENSTEIN**. Film and speaker, academic **Steve Cotterill**

**October 12th** - Comics writer & editor, **David Leach**

**November 16th** - Astrophysicist & NASA Kepler mission leader, **Professor Bill Chaplin**

**December 7th** - Christmas social

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