

The Obdurate Eye #39

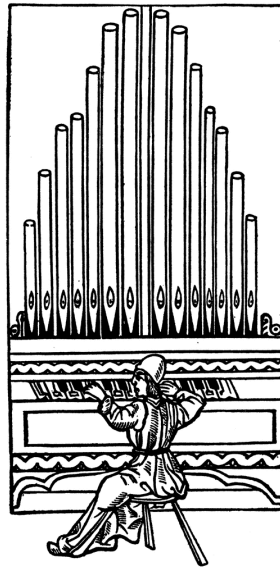
May 2024

A personalzine from Garth Spencer



“Every beauty ought to have a drake or two ...”

THE OBDURATE EYE #39, May 2024, a personalzine from Garth Spencer, 6960 Doman Street, Vancouver, BC CANADA V5S 3H7, Email garth.van.spencer@gmail.com or hrothgarweems@gmail.com . Garth acknowledges that he does this on the unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəy^{əm}, səlilwətəl, and skwxwú7mesh peoples.



The organ of no clique or party

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Closer I Get to Fine..... | 1 |
| Letters..... | 2 |
| The Other Fanzine Repositories (Which I Haven't Followed Up On Yet) | 9 |
| News-Like Substances (Writers, Markets, Awards) | 12 |
| Just As I Thought! | 19 |
| Fanzines Not Dead, Many Here..... | 21 |
| Nieuw Bokks Relesed | 22 |

Art Credits

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Alan White (“KURB YER PETZ”) | cover |
| Jose Sanchez (“Shadow Figure”) | p. 1 |
| Clipart (media mashup)..... | p. 2 |
| Facebook memes | pp. 8, 20, 28 |

Check out the flyers/application forms attached at the end of this fanzine!

Closer I Get to Fine

With this issue of *The Obdurate Eye* I am mailing out Paul Bushell's *Mini-SF-Con Plan*, which is a draft meant for all of us to discuss. I am interested in his proposal for a small fannish con, but one that circulates around Canada, because it would be a good place for a Canadian Unity Fan Fund delegate to go.

(One factor that delays the next CUFF race is that the nomination and voting schedule depends on the date of a convention that will host the CUFF delegate, and I have not received replies from any of the convention committees to which I have written. Three times. Maybe I have to try yet again.)

There are a number of arguments to make about this convention proposal – both for and against – but I will leave that for the letter column in future *Obdurate Eyes*, not to mention the next CUFF newsletter. We may, in fact, have enough material to gather into a special section.



Jose on “Shadow Figure”:

“A number of religions, legends, and belief systems describe supernatural entities such as shades of the underworld. A shadow person (also known as a shadow figure or black mass) is the perception of a patch of shadow as a living species, humanoid figure, sometimes interpreted as the presence of a spirit or other entity by believers in the paranormal. Here we have the ‘ringmasters’ variation of the shadow people, known as the ‘Hat men’ and are theorized to be in a type of higher ranking order among their kind.” – Jose Sanchez



Letters

Adrian K., April 5, 2024

This is my first letter of comment/commentary, so please forgive any mistakes in protocol. I guess I come from the punk side of zines (I've submitted to *Hexarc* and *The Mystery Pond* most recently). I asked if anyone knew any community-focused fanzines. Somebody linked me to *fanac.org*, which is how I found your zine. I've been enjoying reading the past issues.

((Thank you for your letter! It's about time I learned something about punk zines, and also about comics fandom. I haven't known where to make contact, locally. You found fanac.org, which is not a bad place at all to get some awareness of SF fandom. Another good website is eFanzines.com, which is where I archive my fanzine, and mailings of eAPA [the APA that I edit].))

I'm 25 years old and I'm currently most active in the X-Men fandom. The X-Men are mutants fighting "for a world that hates and fears them." We take that premise and tell each other stories about finding power in our identities... as X-Men™. We talk about community building... for X-Men™. We talk about pride and liberation... X-Men™.

My friends and I, we're playing in a world owned entirely by a for-profit corporation. We're putting so much work into our analyses, worldbuilding, and storytelling – but it's all in service to Marvel, which frankly doesn't care at all about us. It's disheartening because there are so many creative people here. I ask people to show me their original characters, and they tell me all about their original superhero universes and the powers and characters they've created. It's fun to be part of this fandom, but I wish we had met as part of the broader science fiction fandom instead.

((Sometimes I wonder whether it's better to explore the possibilities in an existing story universe - such as the X-Men universe, the Marvel universe, or for that matter the Star Trek universe - or better to start your own. Granted, that would take a certain amount of worldbuilding, not unlike many role-playing games, and any two or more creators would have to practice a lot of cooperation!))

((In fact it used to be customary for written SF stories to be set in a new story universe of its own ... at least, if you ignore the serialized stories in pulp adventure magazines, in comics or radio shows, or [eventually] TV and movies. I seem to recall reading that the Buckaroo Banzai movie was the result of several people writing fanfiction based on a nonexistent show in their own, original story universe. Not that I could prove it now. [Granted, Buckaroo Banzai obviously borrowed a lot of tropes from serials like Doc Savage, but I think you see the principle.]

((Curious things have been happening to fandom, with the result that there are really several separate fandoms. Here in Canada there may be little communication between the fans of anime, comics, the several kinds of gaming, or the fandoms for different media franchises. It has come to the point where any other interest or event is described as "literary," and I have to explain what "fannish fandom" is, or rather, what it was.))

Lyn McConchie, April 7, 2024

Re your comments at the start of *The Obdurate Eye* #38.

I've had 50 published books from professional publishers. (Plus 2 more accepted and out shortly.) From TOR and Warner down. I have NEVER gone over a book from end to the beginning, or, in fact, from any direction. I have an idea, I snatch as it passes, sit down next day and start writing.

The Key of the Keplian eventuated with a brief dream in 1994. That was no more than a single scene that allowed me only enough time to see and remember. I woke up, scribbled down the dream, and started writing next day. My other fiction books were from similar events. I like it that way and sufficient editors seem happy to accept them.

I like writing, I enjoy seeing a book emerge from brain and fingers, and once that ceases (or I become too weary) I'll quit.

Oh, and thank you for the list of White Dwarf books. Next weekend when I have more time, I'll go through that and pick out a few, then start buying.

((There are even yet more new releases listed in this issue!))

John Bartley, April 7, 2024

Re a few of your comments in the latest Stipple-Apa mailing:

(Re OE #38, p. 1) *“The Canadian division of Greyhound recently went out of business. Passenger rail service in Canada, as I think we all know by now, has all but disappeared. It appears that intercity highways, and railways generally, badly need maintenance, to say nothing of upgrading. Meanwhile, Canadian medical services are put to the expense of providing airplane transportation to provide medical care for northern residents. Is it possible that establishing modern, electric rail lines would be a cost saving?”*

<<https://www.hoover.org/research/little-engine-couldnt-californias-high-speed-rail-costs-rise-200-million-mile>> shows the cost of modern, electric rail lines is 200 million per mile. What would that cost be in Canada?

Greyhound Canada failed because of heavy subsidies to airlines and airports.

<<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/greyhound-canada-1.6025276>>

IMHO, it would be far easier for provinces to contract with an operator of self-propelled electric or biodiesel-fueled trainsets over existing rails while building or renovating stations, or to use electric or biodiesel buses over existing roads with municipally operated stations. There should be an economics prof at Simon Fraser [University] who could have his class spitball an estimate of the subsidies required to restore bus or trainset service, and that's the next step.

((There should be, yes.))

(Re OE #38, p. 5) *“We keep hearing increasingly about people with serious ADHD, dyslexia, or autism-range conditions. We have already seen a lot of prosthetic technology developed for the deaf, the blind, the people who lost limbs. Can we expect the development of mental prostheses for cognitive deficits, whether they be pharmaceutical, therapeutic programs, or surgical implants? Will psychopathy and sociopathy become treatable, and will treatment become compulsory?”*

The Guardian <<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2024/apr/08/patric-gagne-sociopath-fighting-urges>> interviewed a diagnosed sociopath who regularly overcomes her antisocial urges. My uppity opinion is AI will soon be able to serve to help other folks with those urges, using nothing more than a pocket computer (as AI systems, aka LLMs, already fit into a desktop or laptop

<<https://www.infoworld.com/article/3705035/5-easy-ways-to-run-an-llm-locally.html>>) and smart glasses will be the angel-on-the-shoulder needed to provide guidance to folks who need such guidance.

((Man oh man. When will I ever come up with an original idea?))

Mark Nelson, Wollongong, Australia, April 15, 2024

(on *Obdurate Eye* #37)

When I moved to Australia in 2000 I came for a three-year position. Then in 2003 I settled here for the term of my natural life. I was sometimes asked in the earlier days if I'd experienced any culture shock moving to Australia. The questioner was invariably

disappointed by my answer, not really. Australia shares much common history and culture with the UK, and I'd visited two or three times before moving here.

((Culture shock in Canada must be a subtle thing for First World visitors, but it happens. It must be a lot less subtle for people coming from Latin American, Muslim, or East Asian countries.))

The only example of cultural shock that comes to mind, even after almost twenty-five years, is having to complete my own tax return. (*) In the UK I did not need to do that. In Australia I had to do it. On the plus side, I could claim some work-related expenses as tax deductions. On the negative side, the tax book that the Australian Tax Office provided for simple returns was a massive tome. Matters are simplified now that the Australian Tax Office has moved to web-based submission of tax forms, as much of the form is now automatically pre-filled. In the days of the paper form it took me a couple of hours to diligently work my way through the tax code book, even though most of it could be ignored as it did not apply to me.

Every year I scratched my head and pondered whether I should pay someone to complete my return. Comparing the cost of paying an accountant to complete my simple return versus the nominal cost of my time completing my return it seemed a cost-effective decision to pay an accountant to do it. But who makes sensible decisions, especially when it comes to saving some money?

((I am resigned to getting someone else to do my tax returns. There is always a point where I don't follow the logic and tend to put the wrong numbers in the wrong squares.))

I can tell you what I know about home repairs and property maintenance: zero. Anything I've needed to know I've learnt from YouTube videos, and then forgotten. However, I live in a strata complex. This means that maintenance of the outside walls, the guttering, the roofing, the outside of our garage door, is the duty of the strata committee. As the strata unit was new when we bought it, there have been minimal repairs inside.

Like you, I do not own a car. In my case, I've never learned how to drive. When I was single my friends used to kid me that an essential quality I should look for in potential dates is that they should have their own car... as it happens my wife can drive and owns a car, though she bought it about six years after we started going out; about four years after we were married.

You asked what we should know "about repairing and maintaining appliances," I wasn't sure what you had in mind when you used the word "appliances." Though I suspect that in my case it's nothing.

((House appliances, specifically. More generally, I have always had this itch to discover what my parents called "common sense" knowledge and skills, without ever bothering to define it. Now, I have about decided this search is a fool's errand – what one generation or subculture calls common sense is a mix of practical knowledge and folk nonsense that another generation or subculture neither knows nor needs.))

Writing a will is something that my wife and I have been putting off for years. Now that we are parents it is perhaps acquiring a greater urgency.

((Now writing a will is practical and necessary. And continues to be.))

The vast majority of my fanzine collection, somewhere between 4000-5000 issues, went into the municipal tip when I moved to Australia as I was unable to find anyone who wanted to take them off my hands. (Perhaps 4000 of those issues were postal diplomacy fanzines). It didn't occur to me at the time to contact the British Library. The hardcopy fanzine collection that I've built up since moving to Australia is much smaller. Partly because I've greatly reduced my involvement with fanzines and partly because there are so very few fanzines being distributed as hardcopy. I'm not sure what will happen to them when I die. I have thought about it and in theory the answer is that I'll dispose of them before I die, but that's easier said than done. I did have some small component of my fanzine collection shipped out when I settled here permanently, as well as what I consider to be fannish treasures. For example, I have a copy of *Fancyyclopedia II*. It would be a shame if that was destroyed, but in thirty years time, will anyone want it?

Your comment about raising 2.5 children and being 67 struck a chord in my memory. This was a news item sometime in the 1990s, before I moved to Australia. An Australian man was in the news for becoming a dad... at the age of 97 (it might have been 98). Compared to 97 you're a spring chicken. So, if it's your dream to raise 2.5 children don't give up the dream! And if you start soon you'll be able to hang around for much more of your children's life's than the guy could who had a child at 97. (He'd also had children approximately seventy years previously, so he wasn't a first-time dad.)

((I don't have dreams; I got it into my head that I wasn't allowed. I was just contemplating how slowly and painfully it took me to work out the surprisingly obvious.))

The article I mentioned in my previous loc was discussing will disputes in England.

PS (*) Australians' talking about wearing thongs to the beach was a little bit too much information, thank you very much. At least until I learnt that the Australian thong is not the British thong. What's a thong to a Canadian?

((THONG [n] (A): a skimpy bathing suit that may be fine on a shapely young lass, but is utterly inappropriate on an overweight middle-aged man; (B): the nonexistent barbarian sword-swinging hero that all men are supposed to measure themselves against, unconsciously. There ought to be Thong the Barbarian comics and TV shows and fantasy movies. In the meantime, David Langford's British newszine Ansible features "Thog's Masterclass," examples of egregious prose style crimes from selected SF sources. Thog the Barbarian ... calls for explanation.))

(on *Obdurate Eye* #38)

A continuing thread over numerous issues is your difficulty in finding a Canadian convention interested in hosting a CUFF delegate. When that has been fixed, do you anticipate any difficulty in attracting any candidates?

((Yes.))

I've recently learnt, via an editor of an Australian postal diplomacy fanzine, that there is a Lovecraft apa, which is run out of Wollongong! I will see if I can persuade Brendan to send you details for *The New Blue Moon*.

((And contact Heath Row at kalel@well.com. He will produce The New Blue Moon Directory.))

It was interesting to see the 2024 FAAn Award Results from a Canadian perspective. Congratulations on producing the top ranked Canadian perzine! I've downloaded a few issues of *Dark Toys*, with the intention of writing a loc. But never quite found the time. Perhaps I'll give the most recent issue a look? I find that writing an APA zine every month, one for ANZAPA and one for N'APA, leaves little spare time for writing locs. What little spare time there is has to be split between postal diplomacy and SF fanzines.

If you told me last year that I would vote in the 2024 FAAn Awards I would have laughed. I would have laughed, after I had looked up to see what they were. The idea of voting would have seemed preposterous, it's only something that fabulously fannish fans do.

((There are no "fabulously fannish" fans. We are, most of us, white-haired overweight average people, feeling like teenagers who look in the mirror and wonder what just happened to us.))

So, why did I vote? I'll tell you what didn't happen. My fannish fairy godmother didn't wave her wand and make me believe that I was fabulously fannish. What happened was more mundane. In January 2024, after returning from our summer holidays, I looked at eFanzines.com to see which fanzines had been uploaded since my last look. Downloading *The Incomplete Register*, I was shocked to see that I received six of the genzines listed – being a member of N3F will do that – and nine of the perzines.

I see that I voted for two genzines, five perzines, five fan-writers, and one letter hack. I didn't vote for fanzine cover or fan artists. I suppose for Letterhack, you could vote for the people whose letters you look most forward to reading, or the people whose name you see most often in letter columns.

((That sounds about right.))

PS I did vote for *The Obdurate Eye* in the Best Perzine category and yourself in the Best Fanwriter category.

((Neat!))

PPS I will make more of an effort to read and loc *Dark Toys*.

((Taral will appreciate that.))

Back in those long ago days when I was active in postal diplomacy fandom, Canadian fanzines seemed to be cut from a different cloth to American zines. I'm not sure that I could put my finger on what the differences were. It was a long time ago. But taking a punt I'd say that Canadian zines exuded a greater sense of fun and community and related to this they tended to be less po-faced.

((Not knowing postal diplomacy fandom at all, I can infer nothing from this.))

Do you think there's any perceivable difference between US and Canadian SF fanzines?

((No.))

Lloyd Penney, April 23, 2024

Many thanks for *The Obdurate Eye* 38. I sure do like José Sanchez's artwork. Are these the Belgians you often write about? More once I get to the next paragraph...

I had forgotten Brad Schenck's Pulp-O-Mizer page! I may have a use for it in the near future... I must come to visit your "Across the Fandomension" page, and see what shenanigans you're up to. CUFF might be a dead duck at this point, and would work only if there were conventions someone might want to go to. You've hinted at a con or two who might want to participate in all this. I wonder if the CUFF cash should be put into a bank account to be held in trust until interest re-emerges.

((I am tending toward this decision.))

I sympathize with Perry Middlemiss. Both Murray Moore and I would like to be rid of our fanzine collections, and I am doing some research, as I say in my loc. We are still working on an Ad Astra revival, but time is at a premium almost as always, and the potential costs of such a project are prohibitive.

We have a busy and expensive year planned, as we expect this will be our last year of con travelling. It will be, unless Montréal is successful in their bid for the 2027

It's a little known fact that tuxedo cats' coats were not the result of selective breeding by humans, but evolved to help them thrive in their native habitat: the black tie gala. Camouflaged in their formal wear, they feed on a diet of cocktail shrimp, caviar, and canapés.



Worldcon. We must get some pre-supporting memberships very soon. Just checked, the basic level is \$30.

The rest of my loc...the CRA seized my return this year again, so money is tight once again. I get the feeling they will keep doing this for the next six or seven years until my debt is fully paid.

((How does the CRA "seize your return"??))

So much on my mind right now, and a little difficult to put what's in mind onto paper. Maybe I didn't get enough coffee this morning, my caffeine powers didn't activate. Thank you for this issue, and see you again soon.

We also heard from: Perry Middlemiss

The Other Fanzine Repositories (Which I Haven't Followed Up On Yet)

(Note: most of these underlined library titles are hypertext links. -GS)

In Canada specifically

(may be just punk/alt zines rather than fanzines)

[Anchor Archive Zine Library, Halifax, Nova Scotia](#)

[Arrow Archive, Hamilton, Ontario](#)

[Bibliograph, Montréal, Québec](#)

Bilingual (Français/English)

[Calgary Zine Library, Zine Tree Collective, Calgary, Alberta](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/Calgary-Zine-Library-182123315208461/>

[Ontario College of Art & Design, Toronto, Ontario](#)

The OCAD U Zine Library is an ever-growing collection of self-published and handmade publications located in the Learning Zone at OCAD University. The collection was created to inspire, educate and entertain, to encourage collaboration between OCAD U students and to open up the world of zines for readers and creators everywhere!

[Pride Library, London, Ontario](#)

Part of the Queer Graphica Collection at the University of Western Ontario

[Sheridan College Library, Oakville, Ontario](#)

[Soviet Samizdat Periodicals, University of Toronto, Ontario](#)

Soviet Samizdat Periodicals is a database of information about editions of classic Soviet samizdat, 1956-1986.

[Toronto Zine Library, Toronto, Ontario](#)

The Toronto Zine Library is run by a collective of zine readers, zine makers and librarians who are looking to make zines more accessible in Toronto. We believe that zines are still an important medium of communication, and that they should be cherished, protected, and promoted.

[U of Alberta Libraries \(UAL\)](#)

“... system includes Chester Cuthbert's SF & F collection and a “collection of Western Canadian zines, which exists in boxes in the UAL's offsite storage facility.” <https://www.library.ualberta.ca/permalink/opac/8562907/WUAARCHIVE>

(Per Randy Reichardt, email, June 23, 2023)

Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver, British Columbia

XPACE, Toronto, Ontario

Xpace Cultural Centre is a not-for-profit artist-run centre dedicated to providing emerging and student artists, designers, curators and writers with opportunities to showcase their work.

U Texas list:

Austin Fanzine Project - Austin

Independent library and archive. Catalog of holdings will be available by the end of 2016, as well as information on where and when you can visit the collection, starting in the spring of 2017. (per University of Texas Libraries Web page, "Notable Zine Collections": <https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/c.php?g=576544&p=3977261>)

Austin Public Libraries - Austin

Housed with the Magazines and Newspapers section of the Faulk Central Branch. Focus is on local Austin or Texas zines

Sherwood Forest Zine Library - Austin

Independent media library focusing on zines and DIY culture. Membership is free and members are allowed to check out zines or hang out during library hours to browse through the collection, read, or work on their own zines.

Texas A&M University - College Station

Zines created by Texans, Southwesterners or other Southerners and/or concern Texas, the Southwest and the South; zines created by minorities across Texas, the Southwest or the South; zines created by TAMU students or former students; and concerned with printing and/or designed as print art objects.

Collections around the United States:

Barnard College Library - New York City

Collection of zines written by women (cis- and transgender) with an emphasis on zines by women of color. Zines on feminism and femme identity by people of all genders. The zines are personal and political publications on activism, anarchism, body image, third wave feminism, gender, parenting, queer community, riot grrrl, sexual assault, trans experience, and other topics.

Bowling Green State University - Bowling Green

Has a large collection of fanzines devoted to popular music and a nice library guide listing many different resources

Duke University Libraries - Durham, NC

Collection of zines created by women, girls, and women-identified people begun by Sarah Dyer with over 1,000 zines. Dyer collected zines for her Action Girl Newsletter, a

networking publication for women's comics and zines. The collection has expanded to over 4,000 zines, with a majority dating from 1990-2005. Around 2,600 of these are recorded in this searchable database.

George A. Smathers Library, University of Florida - Gainesville

Rare Collection of zines of Cuban social and political issues (Ernesto Chavez Collection).

Minneapolis Community & Technical College - Minneapolis

Collection includes alternative press, including self-published zines from around the world to support the interests of a nontraditional community

New York Public Library - New York City

Housed in the DeWitt Wallace Periodical Room at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building with current periodicals and requested in Room 100. Search by title or these subjects: zines, fanzines, underground press and little magazines. The site lists some of the titles in the Collection

Papercut Zine - Somerville, MA

Lending library in all zine genres. Run by volunteer librarians. Hosts zine making events and zine release parties.

Queer Zine Archive Project - Milwaukee

"Launched in November 2003 in an effort to preserve queer zines and make them available to other queers, researchers, historians, punks, and anyone else who has an interest DIY publishing and underground queer communities."

Schlesinger Library, Harvard University - Cambridge

Strong collection of feminist zines in a library that is dedicated to the history of women in America. Content varies, but many focus on political discussions and contemporary feminist struggles.

Simmons College Library - Boston

Nice library guide to zine resources. A collection of social justice zines among others.

Temple University Libraries - Philadelphia

Great website listing resources for making your own zine, books and articles about zines, important zine collections and so forth

Zine Archive and Publishing Project

Founded in 1996 as part of Hugo House, a non-profit community writing center in Seattle, this is a Zine library with a growing archive of over 30,000 self-published material from around the world.

Zine and Amateur Press Collections at the University of Iowa

Special Collections at the University of Iowa is making a concerted effort to collect zines in all formats in order to preserve these materials and make them accessible to wider popular and research audiences. Zines are windows that provide glimpses into

fascinating and often-under documented social worlds, worlds that we believe deserve to have their voices rescued from obscurity.

University of Iowa Libraries Special Collections includes Science Fiction and Popular Culture Collections. The Curator is Peter Balestrieri, at peter-balestrieri@uiowa.edu, 319-335-5922. (Giving him a list of your fanzines is a step toward preserving them; Murray Moore's experience was that if he wanted some or all of them, the Curator would then ask for their weight, and issue a postage-paid label for a box for UPS to pick up.)

(Murray Moore, July 23, 2021)

News-Like Substances (Writers, Markets, Awards)

Robert Sawyer Rides Again!

“My 25th novel, *The Downloaded*, is now available for pre-order in both print and ebook editions, and I'll be touring across Canada starting next month to promote its release.

“Here are my May 2024 book-launch events: all are free and open to everyone, and books will be for sale (or bring your own copies and get them signed):

“Calgary Public Library Central Branch, 800 3rd Street SE, Calgary Alberta, Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

“Audreys Books, 10702 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

“Hirut Cafe and Restaurant, 2050 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Saturday, May 11, 2024, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

“Kitchener Public Library Central Branch, 85 Queen Street North, Kitchener, Ontario, Monday, May 13, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

“Word on the Lake Writers' Festival, Shuswap, British Columbia, 17-19 May 2024

“McNally Robinson Grant Park, 1120 Grant Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

“Later this year, I'll be doing events in: Brampton, Ontario; River John, Nova Scotia; Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; Calgary; Atlanta; Eden Mills, Ontario; Brookings, South Dakota; Toronto; Niagara Falls, New York; and Ottawa.

“All the details are here: <https://sfwriter.com/lnappear.htm>

“Pre-ordering *The Downloaded: The Downloaded* comes out on Tuesday, May 7, but you can pre-order both the print and ebook editions now (and it helps me a lot if you do pre-order!):

“EBOOK:

“Amazon Kindle:

“Canada: <https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B0CWZG9N8X>
“US: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CWZG9N8X>
“UK: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0CWZG9N8X>
“Australia: <https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B0CWZG9N8X>
“Kobo:
“Canada: <https://www.kobo.com/ca/en/ebook/the-downloaded>
“US: <https://www.kobo.com/us/en/ebook/the-downloaded>
“UK: <https://www.kobo.com/gb/en/ebook/the-downloaded>
“Australia: <https://www.kobo.com/au/en/ebook/the-downloaded>
“Nook (Barnes & Noble US):
“<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/1144253120?ean=2940179560111>
“And other ebook vendors worldwide!
“**PRINT:**
“Autographed copies directly from me!
“From my website: <https://sfwriter.com/autograp.htm>
“My eBay Store: <https://www.ebay.ca/itm/386886929824>
“My book-tour partners (plus Bakka, the store I used to work at):
“Audrey's (Edmonton): <https://www.audreys.ca/item/GeBfxovSNkrszFBvOpLgyA>
“McNally Robinson (Winnipeg and
Saskatoon): <https://www.mcnallyrobinson.com/9781989398999/robert-j-sawyer/downloaded?bInBKM=1>
“Owl's Nest Books
(Calgary): <https://www.owlsnestbooks.com/item/GeBfxovSNkrszFBvOpLgyA>
“Bakka-Phoenix
(Toronto): <https://bakkaphoenixbooks.com/item/GeBfxovSNkrszFBvOpLgyA>
“Print edition from Amazon:
“Canada: <https://www.amazon.ca/r/dp/1989398995>
“US: <https://www.amazon.com/r/dp/1989398995>
“Print edition from Barnes & Noble (US):
“<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-downloaded-robert-j-sawyer/1144253120>
“Print edition from Indigo and Chapters (Canada):
“<https://www.indigo.ca/en-ca/the-downloaded/9781989398999.html>
“Or ask your local bookstore to order *The Downloaded* by Robert J. Sawyer; the ISBN is 978-1-989398-99-9.”

“Thanks, everyone! “Hope wins out in this triumph of a postapocalyptic tale from Hugo and Nebula award winner Sawyer. Sci-fi fans will eat this up.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review, denoting a book of exceptional merit)”

(Robert J. Sawyer, April 18, 2024)

Amazing Stories vs. NBC

“Last week (Apr. 22-26) I was informed by NBC representatives that I would have a communication from them regarding my missing payments on Tuesday (April 30) of this week.

“That email was in response to a query I sent to them regarding this non-payment issue.

“In the email, I stated that in the past, the only way(s) in which it seemed that I was able to get any action out of them was to go public with the issue.

“Twice previously I had to engage in such actions in order to get breaches of the contract cured through renegotiation.

“Major Hollywood personalities and production entities were embarrassed, upset and angered at the time by my accurate and truthful statements.

“Tuesday has come and gone with nary a whisper.

“I (and by extension, *Amazing Stories*) have been owed contractually negotiated fees since October of 2020.

“Read that date carefully. Later this year, non-payment will have gone on for FOUR years.

“While the funds owing are not great by Hollywood standards, they are great by *Amazing Stories*' standards and affect its ability to pay authors and artists and others appropriate amounts. The absence of those funds has also negatively affected *Amazing*'s ability to promote and market its offerings as well.

“I informed NBC representatives that if I did not hear back from them (with progress) when they had promised to do so, I would be launching a crowd funding campaign to see if we could raise the missing dollars elsewhere.

“I also informed them that, out of necessity, that crowd funding effort would have to explain the entire history of my dealings with NBC (since 2015).

“Not included in my email to NBC representatives was my additional intention to encourage NBC to voluntarily give up the rights I licensed to them.

“When the contract was in breach (and NBC notified of termination - a notice that they also did not respond to until after I had gone public) I contacted several production studios with the idea of licensing them to do a show under that name.

“Several responded in the affirmative, even to the point of discussing a production partnership, in which *Amazing Stories* would have production credit and direct creative input into the show (after I pitched them the idea that I would be seeking Science Fiction authors with script writing experience to create episodes, as well as to

script existing classics of the genre), but that they could not move forward until the "legal encumbrances" had been settled.

"The point being that, if free, the name could be used to (attempt) to produce a television show that would have great respect for the genre, would involve contemporary authors with proven story telling and script writing chops, would have ties to the magazine version and, obviously, the greater public footprint that a television show would bring.

"(Some may be familiar with the radio shows 'Dimension X' and 'X Minus 1,' where episodes were based on short stories drawn from the magazines of the era. This is what we believe we could do with television.)

"I will be forwarding a copy of this FB post to my contacts at NBC (again, who promised response by yesterday which was not forthcoming) and will begin putting together the crowd funding effort that I hope my friends and fellow fans here and elsewhere will support, either by contributing or helping to spread the word.

"That effort will be seeking funds to support the legal action of terminating the licensing agreement.

"Initial filings in pursuit of that goal are expected to cost approximately 15 to 20k. Some or all of those funds may be recoverable, depending upon a legal ruling.

"AGAIN. It is important for this statement to gain wide distribution if it going to have the desired effect. The crowd funding campaign will include additional details and suggestions as to how folks can help advance this effort, but starting here on FB will give it a boost."

(Steve Davidson, *Amazing Stories*, Facebook, May 1, 2024)

"The **Aurora Awards 2024** voting ballot is now on the CSFFA website! See

<https://www.csffa.ca/awards-information/current-ballot/>

June 8 to July 13, 2024 is the Aurora Awards voting period, when members can vote for the creators and works shortlisted during the nomination period.

Purchasing a CSFFA membership will close on July 6 at 23:59 EDT.

August 10th will be the online Aurora Awards ceremony, when the winning creators and works are revealed.

(www.csffa.ca &
(Kalin Stacey, April 25, 2024)

The 2024 Aurora nominees are:

For Best Novel -

Bad Cree, Jessica Johns, HarperCollins Canada

The Marigold, Andrew F. Sullivan, ECW Press

Moon of the Turning Leaves, Waubgeshig Rice, Random House Canada

Silver Nitrate, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Del Rey

The Valkyrie, Kate Heartfield, HarperVoyager

For Best Young Adult Novel -

The Crystal Key: The Dream Rider Saga, Book 2, Douglas Smith, Spiral Path Books
Flower and Thorn, Rati Mehrotra, Wednesday Books
Funeral Songs for Dying Girls, Cherie Dimaline, Tundra Books
The Grimmer, Naben Ruthnum, ECW Press
The Stars of Mount Quixx, S.M. Beiko, ECW Press

For Best Novelette/Novella -

Green Fuse Burning, Tiffany Morris, Stelliform Press
I AM AI, Ai Jiang, Shortwave Media
“The Most Strongest Obeah Woman of the World”, Nalo Hopkinson,
Out There Screaming: An Anthology of New Black Horror, Random House
Pluralities, Avi Silver, Atthis Arts
Untethered Sky, Fonda Lee, Tordotcom

For Best Short Story -

“At Every Door A Ghost”, Premee Mohamed, *Communications Breakdown*, MIT Press
“The Dust Bowl Café”, Justin Dill, *Augur Magazine*, Issue 6.1
“If I Should Fall Behind”, Douglas Smith, *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*,
Sept/Oct Issue
“Once Upon a Time at The Oakmont”, P.A. Cornell, *Fantasy Magazine*, Issue 96
“Sink Your Sorrows to the Sea”, Chandra Fisher, *Saltwater Sorrows*, Tyche Books

For Best Graphic Novel/Comic -

Atana and the Firebird, Vivian Zhou, HarperCollins
A Call to Cthulhu, Norm Konyu, Titan Nova
Carson of Venus, Ronn Sutton (artist), Martin Powell (writer), and Maggie Lopez
(colourist), webcomic
Cosmic Detective, Jeff Lemire and Matt Kindt, art by David Rubin, Image Comics
It Never Rains, Kari Maaren, webcomic
The Secret of the Ravens, written and illustrated by Joanna Cacao, with lettering by
Kyla Aiko, Clarion Books
Wychood, Ally Rom Colthoff, webcomic

For Best Poem/Song -

“As a, I want to, so I can”, Kelley Tai, *Heartlines Spec*, Issue 2, Spring/Summer 2023
“Awakening”, Tiffany Morris, *Nightmare Magazine*, Issue 134
“Lying Flat”, Lynne Sargent, *Strange Horizons*, Issue 9 October 2023
“predictive text”, Dominik Parisien, *Augur*, Issue 6.1
“Scarecrow”, David Shultz, *Polar Starlight*, Issue 9
“A Siren’s Call, A Banshee’s Wail, A Grandmother’s Dream”, Ai Jiang, *Uncanny
Magazine*, Issue Fifty Four

For Best Related Work -

GAME ON!, Stephen Kotowych & Tony Pi, editors, Zombies Need Brains LLC
No One Will Come Back for Us and Other Stories, Premee Mohamed, Undertow Publications

On Spec Magazine, Diane L. Walton, Managing Editor, The Copper Pig Writers' Society
Skin Thief: Stories, Suzan Palumbo, Neon Hemlock Press
Year's For Best Canadian Fantasy and Science Fiction: Volume One, Stephen Kotowych, editor, Ansible Press

For Best Cover Art/Interior Illustration -

Augur Magazine, Issue 6.1, cover art, Lorna Antoniazzi
Endless Library – Fantasy, interior art, Marco Marin,
Year's For Best Canadian Fantasy and Science Fiction: Volume One, Ansible Press
Green Fuse Burning, cover art, Chief Lady Bird, Stelliform Press
The Machines That Make Us, cover art, Brent Nichols, Tyche Books
The Passion of Ivan Rodriguez, cover art, Kayla Kowalyk, Tyche Books
Tales & Feathers Magazine, Issue 1, cover art, Jade Zhang

For Best Fan Writing and Publication -

Maria's Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Short Fiction Roundup, Maria Haskins
Polar Borealis Magazine, Issues: 24, 25, 26, and 27, edited by R. Graeme Cameron
Polar Starlight Magazine, Issues: 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, edited by Rhea E. Rose
The Travelling TARDIS, Jennifer Desmarais, JenEric Designs
Young People Read Old SFF, edited by James Davis Nicoll, online

For Best Fan Related Work -

ephemera Reading Series, KT Bryski and Jen R. Albert, co-chairs, online
Scintillation 4, Jo Walton and René Walling, co-chairs, Montreal
Sip & Read / Sip & Social @ Librairie Saga Bookstore, Mathieu Lauzon-Dicso, bookstore owner
When Words Collide, Randy McCharles, chair, Calgary
The Worldshapers Podcast, Edward Willett, online

(Aurora Awards 2024 ballot)

The CSFFA Annual General Meeting will take place on June 1. Members vote on the administration of the Association. Voting on AGM motions will take place in advance, from May 18 to May 30.

www.csffa.ca

“N3F Laureate nominations are complete. Nominees:

Best Fan Writer: Heath Row, Joseph T. Major, Guy Lillian III
Best Fan Editor: Joseph T. Major, Guy Lillian III, Janice L. Newman
Best Fan Web Site: galacticjourney.org/
Best Non-N3F Fan Publication: *Alexiad*, *Spartacus*
Best N3F Fanzine: *Tightbeam*, *Ionisphere*, *N3F Review of Books*
Best Novel:

The Demon's Design by Christopher Nuttall
Good to the Last Drop by Declan Finn
The Innocent Sleep by Seanan McGuire
Our Share of Night by Marianna Enriquez
Promises Stronger Than Darkness by Charlie Jane Anders
To Spy a Star by Jonathan Nevair
Best Shorter Work or Anthology – *Starlite Pulp* #3
Simultaneous Times, vol. 3, ed. J.-P. Garnier
Best Editor: Lida Quillen (Twilight Times Books);
Chris Kennedy (Chris Kennedy Publishing)
Jean-Paul L. Garnier (Space Cowboy Books)
Best History of SF Work: 2023 First Fandom
Annual “First Fandom Conversations”
Best None of the Above:
Best example of how not to run fan awards: The 2023 Hugo Awards
Best Podcast: SFF Addicts (Adrian M. Gibson and M. J. Kuhn)
Best SF reviewer: Tina S. Beier (Sound & Fury Book Review)
“Nominations are closed. We hit six novels, not five, but one round of voting appears to be adequate, to be distributed with the June issue.”

(*The National Fantasy Fan* #83:4, April 2024)

“**The Kaymar Award** is given in April each year, because the N3F was organized in the month of April. The Award is given for work for the club, and can be awarded only once. The Award is a memorial to K. Martin Carlson (1904-1986), who originated and maintained it for 25 years. He went by the name of Kaymar. This year the nominee is Tiffanie Gray, who has contributed so much excellent art to N3F fanzines.”

(*The National Fantasy Fan* #83:4, April 2024)

The Older Writers \$1000 Grant is calling for submissions between May 1st and May 31st, 2024. This enterprise of the Speculative Literature Foundation is open to writers at least fifty years of age at the time of application, who are early-career professional writers working on speculative literature. The grant is \$1,000 USD.

Submission requirements include a cover letter, including a short (500 to 1000 word) autobiographical statement, and a speculative writing sample, which may be 10 pages of poetry, 10 pages of drama, or 5,000 words of fiction, or creative nonfiction. An excerpt from a longer work can also be sent, with a one-page synopsis.) For more information, see bit.ly/olderwritersgrant.

The Speculative Literature Foundation, launched in January 2004, helps promote literary quality in speculative fiction by awarding annual grants to writers, and by serving as a hub of useful information for speculative fiction readers, writers, editors and publishers. For more information, see <https://speculativeliterature.org>.

(Facebook, April 27, 2024)

The 2024 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest is now open until December 2024. Complete submission guidelines should be available from contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com.

(The National Fantasy Fan #83:4, April 2024)

“Don’t eat the rich! You wouldn’t BELIEVE what’s in them!!”

(Hermann Reuch, the Old Goat with a Thousand Young)

Just As I Thought!

“The Politics of Performance”

by Den Valdron

There was a CBC journalist who got cancer. Being a journalist, of course, she got into cancer researching various aspects of the issue.

One of the things she found was hypocrisy. The major anti-cancer and cancer care charities were all predominantly funded by chemical companies and their ilk. As a result, all of these charities, in their cancer fighting, emphasized personal responsibility - stop smoking, don't drink, exercise, eat healthy, etc.

But provably, the leading causes of cancer are industrial chemical contamination. You can literally draw maps of cancer, and maps of industrial development, and the two line up perfectly.

A lot of their proscriptions for avoiding cancer had no effect at all. It was just moral nostrums, placing the burden on individuals to live healthy lives.

Yes, cigarettes and tobacco are carcinogenic, so yes, its a good thing to avoid that - it really will kill you. But even there, tobacco companies fought a major rearguard action for decades and decades against that, and spent giant amounts of money... including on these same charities, which eventually suggested you stop smoking, but continued to emphasize clean living.

The truth is that they were compromised. They were lying and misleading you.

They were selling you on your own personal virtue and morality, and while you were feeling good about yourself, you were also being subtly encouraged to blame cancer victims for their bad habits. And worst of all, you were diverted and discouraged from dealing with the real issues and real causes of cancer.

The politics of personal virtue is often a trap created, so we can feel good about ourselves, and think the problem is solved. It's so we can feel virtuous and look down on others. And most importantly, its designed to keep us from thinking about or looking at the big picture.

F*ck the politics of personal virtue.

I have a personal stake in this. I grew up next to a pulp and paper mill, and chemical plant, and coal fired generating station. I grew up in a heavily contaminated environment.

And almost every member of my family - both parents, three grandparents, several aunts and uncles, cousins, have died of cancer.

My parents both came down with cancer when they were only seven years older than I am now. That might be how long I've got.

I remember when my father was dying in the Hospital in the big city, one of the Doctors casually remarked that they saw an extraordinary number of cancer cases from my home town.

Then he shrugged and dismissed it as a coincidence. I wanted to punch him.

My home town has been a cancer hotspot for fifty years. But probably a coincidence? We are encouraged to think coincidence. We are discouraged from looking too close, asking questions. Money is paid to Cancer charities to change the subject and divert your attention.

I'm just waiting for some random cell in my body to go tick tock and go rogue.

Meanwhile, idiots go 'at least you don't smoke, and you exercise, and you eat relatively healthily.'

Because IT HAS TO BE ABOUT THE POLITICS OF PERSONAL VIRTUE.

To hell with that noise! I reject it! Push ups and Broccoli are useless.

For fifty years, people in my home town, my family members, have been murdered by industrial contamination. Everyone's getting shot by invisible chemical bullets, randomly setting off chain reactions in the unlucky. And it doesn't matter a goddamn bit whether you go to church, or smoke cigarettes, or you do push ups, or eat broccoli. My father never smoke, never drank, and it still got him.

What mattered was some stray contaminant that seeped into the tissues and laid there like a ticking bomb, until one day it made a cell go bad, and then many cells, and you're eaten up alive by Lovecraftian horror.

Personal virtue is often not about raising consciousness, it is about putting us to sleep. Unctuous personal virtue is about deep hypocrisy, the powers that be wrecking our lives, while they persuade us that the answer is clean living, push ups, performative gestures and personal scolding.

Together we can foil AI

Add random, incomprehensible text to the occasional post, tweet, or blog, or even an entire post of gibberish with just enough real words in it to make things interesting

Go back to that long-abandoned blog or tumblr and do the same. Fill it with nonsense

Fanzines Not Dead, Many Here

Just for comparison to my usual locs to zines received, here are the kind of reviews I might have done instead. Notice how these capsule descriptions eliminate any sense of the look or attractions of zines. I have so much to learn.

Christian New Age Quarterly 26:2+, winter 2024. Catherine Groves ed., P.O. Box 276, Clifton, NJ 07015-0276, U.S.A. email info@christianneuage.com. “Our intent is to foster communication between Christians and New Agers.”

Pablo Lennis #436, March 2024. John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, IN 47904, U.S.A. Irregular SF fictionzine. Avail. for \$2/issue or trade.

Eldritch Science, April 2024. George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609, U.S.A., phillies@4liberty.net. National Fantasy Fan Federation fictionzine.

Tightbeam #355, April 2024. Editors: George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609, U.S.A., phillies@4liberty.net, and Jon Swartz, judgeswartz@gmail.com. Quasi-monthly National Fantasy Fan Federation newsletter/genzine.

Opuntia #569, Good Friday, April 2024. Published by Dale Speirs (Calgary, Alberta), opuntia57@hotmail.com. Personalzine/genzine, including scientific abstracts as well as reviews.

The Zine Dump #59, March 2024. The “ whenever-I-get-around-to-it survey of science fictional fanzines by Guy H. Lillian III of 1390 Holly Ave., Merritt Island FL 32952, U.S.A. GHLIII@yahoo.com.”

This Here #73, from Nic Farey, Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142, U.S.A., or email fareynic@gmail.com. Perzine with Corflu/FAAn Award news, TV reviews, and many letters.

Films Fantastic #18, April 2024. Editor Jason P. Hunt, c/o 48 Hancock Hill Dr., Worcester, MA 10609, U.S.A. The journal of the National Fantasy Fan Federation Film Bureau. Email jphunt@scifi4me.com.

Space Cowboy's Accretion #7, March 2024. the monthly activity of the Space Cowboy Bookstore and other things that have occurred in the geek life of author / editor Jean-Paul L. Garnier 61871 29 Palms Hwy. Joshua Tree, CA 92252, U.S.A., spacecowboybooks@gmail.com , <https://spacecowboybooks.com>.

The National Fantasy Fan #83:4, April 2024. Editors, TNFF George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net; Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com. Monthly newszine of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

Perryscope 43, April 2024, is an issue of a personalzine published mostly monthly by Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3122. E: perry@middlemiss.org.

The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono, April 2024, ed. Professor George Phillis, D.Sc., 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609, U.S.A., phillies@4liberty.net

Fiction Reviews:

- 2 ... *A Cowboy in Modernopoli* by Tim the Idahoan, Review by Pat Patterson
- 2 ... *Athenaeum, Inc.* by Dan Kemp, Review by Pat Patterson
- 4 ... *Blood Red Tide* by Chuck Dixon, Review by Declan Finn
- 6 ... *Born Under Mars* by John Brunner, Review by J-P. Garnier
- 6 ... *Escaping Infinity* by Richard Paolinelli, Review by Declan Finn
- 8 ... *In Death's Shadow* by Kal Spriggs, Review by Declan Finn
- 11 ... *The Lost War* by Karl Gallagher, Review by Declan Finn
- 13 ... *Out of the Silent Planet* by C.S. Lewis, Review by J.-P. Garnier
- 13 ... *Penance* by Paula Richey, Review by Declan Finn
- 15 ... *Postcards from Foolz #4*, Review by Pat Patterson
- 17 ... *Project Eclipse* by Robert Tillsley, Review by Michael Gallagher
- 19 ... *The Raven, the Elf, and Rachel* by L. Jagi Lamplighter, Review by Declan Finn
- 21 ... *The Return* by William S. Frisbee, Review by Jim McCoy
- 23 ... *Saints of Malta* edited by D. LawDog, Review by Pat Patterson
- 24 ... *Storms of Victory* by Andre Norton and P.M. Griffin, Review by Caroline Furlong
- 26 ... *Sword Summer* by Katie Cross & Derek Alan Siddoway, Review by JR Handley
- 31 ... *That Was Now, This is Then* by Michael Z. Williamson, Review by Jim McCoy
- 32 ... *Torchship* by Karl Gallagher, Review by Declan Finn
- 34 ... *Twisted Tropes*, Review by Pat Patterson
- 35 ... *Wild Souls – A Werewolf Anthology* by Julie Frost, Review by Caroline Furlong
- 37 ... *The Women's War* by Jenna Glass, Review by Chris Nuttall

Literary Criticism:

- 39 ... "Why Boys Don't Read (Enough)": Literary Criticism by Chris Nuttall

Prose Bono:

- 41 ... "Awash in Emotion" by Cedar Sanderson; on emotions, the endocrine system, and writing

"You are more beautiful than a bouquet of fossils."

(Surrealist Compliment Generator, August 2022)

Nieuw Bokks Relesed

news from White Dwarf and Dead Write Books

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Abbreviations: hc = hardcover, tp = trade (oversized) paperback, [UK ed] = British publication, [CDN ed] = Canadian publication. Default is US publication. Please note that this listing is not exhaustive; we have many more (several hundred more) titles coming during this period.

May 2024 New Fantasy and Science Fiction Releases

Akers, Tim. THE ECCENTRICS. [KNIGHT WATCH #3]. Baen, 25.00 tp.
Armstrong, Kelley. DISTURBING THE DEAD. [RIP THROUGH TIME #3]. Minotaur, 24.99 tp.
Asher, Neal. WAR BODIES. Tor UK, 21.99 tp.
Barron, Natania. QUEEN OF NONE. [THE QUEENS OF FATE #1]. Solaris, 22.99 tp.
Beagle, Peter S. I'M AFRAID YOU'VE GOT DRAGONS. Saga, 35.99 hc.
Black, Holly. HOW THE KING OF ELFHAME LEARNED TO HATE STORIES. [FOLK OF THE AIR]. Little, Brown, 16.99 tp.
Bonansinga, Jay. THE SHADOW SOCIETY. [STAN LEE'S THE DEVIL'S QUINTET #2]. Tor, 25.99 tp.
Bradley, Kaliane. THE MINISTRY OF TIME. Avid Reader, 34.00 hc.
Broadbent, Carissa. THE SERPENT & THE WINGS OF NIGHT. [THE CROWNS OF NYAXIA #1]. Bramble, 26.99 tp.
Broaddus, Maurice. BREATH OF OBLIVION. [ASTRA BLACK #2]. Tor, 40.99 hc.
Burges, Audrey. A HOUSE LIKE AN ACCORDION. Ace, 24.95 tp.
Buzzati, Dino. THE SINGULARITY. NYRB Classics, 22.95 tp.
Caldecott, Andrew. MOMENTICON. Mobius, 19.99 tp.
Campbell, Jack. IN OUR STARS. [THE DOOMED EARTH #1]. Ace, 37.99 hc.
Chandrasekera, Vajra. THE SAINT OF BRIGHT DOORS. Tor.com, 24.99 tp.
Clarke, Cassandra Rose. HALO: MERIDIAN DIVIDE. Gallery, 17.99 tp.
Corland, Mai. FIVE BROKEN BLADES. Red Tower, 39.99 hc (Standard), 43.99 (Deluxe limited) hc.
De Castell, Sebastien. MALEVOLENT SEVEN. Mobius, 19.99 tp.
Dimitri, Francesco. THE DARK SIDE OF THE SKY. Titan, 22.95 tp.
Evans, Erin M. RUNESCAPE: THE GIFT OF GUTHIX. Titan, 22.99 tp.
Ford, John M.. WEB OF ANGELS. Tor, 26.99 tp.
Green, Simon R. HYDE & SEEK. [JEKYLL & HYDE INC. #2]. Baen, 37.00 hc.
Hairston, Andrea. ARCHANGELS OF FUNK. Tor.com, 39.99 hc.
Han, Jimin. THE APOLOGY. Back Bay, 24.99 tp.
Hanrahan, Gareth. THE SWORD UNBOUND. [LANDS OF THE FIRSTBORN #2]. Orbit, 25.99 tp.
Henry, Christina. THE HOUSE THAT HORROR BUILT. Berkley, 24.95 tp.
Huang, S. L. THE WATER OUTLAWS. Tor.com, 24.99 tp.
Jane, Emily. ON EARTH AS IT IS ON TELEVISION. Hyperion Avenue, 23.99 tp.
King, Stephen. YOU LIKE IT DARKER: STORIES. Scribner, 39.99 hc.
Kitasei, Yume. THE DEEP SKY. Flatiron, 24.99 tp.
Lackey, Mercedes. GRYPHON IN LIGHT. [VALDEMAR KELVREN'S SAGA #1]. DAW, 24.95 tp.
Lam, L. R. EMBERCLAW. [DRAGON SCALES #2]. DAW, 37.99 hc.
Leckie, Ann. TRANSLATION STATE. Orbit, 25.99 tp.
Lee, Hana. ROAD TO RUIN. [MAGEBIKE COURIER #1]. Saga, 25.99 tp.
Logan, James. THE SILVERBLOOD PROMISE. [LAST LEGACY #1]. Tor, 26.99 tp.

Manibo, Victor. ESCAPE VELOCITY. Erewhon, 37.99 hc.
 McGill, C. E. OUR HIDEOUS PROGENY. Perennial, 23.99 tp.
 McNamara, Luna. PSYCHE AND EROS. Morrow, 23.99 tp.
 Monroe-Cassel, Chelsea. THE OFFICIAL GAME OF THRONES COOKBOOK: RECIPES FROM KING'S LANDING TO THE DOTHRAKI SEA. Worlds, 48.00 hc.
 Mulford, A. K. THE AMETHYST KINGDOM. [THE FIVE CROWNS OF OKRITH #5]. Voyager, 23.99 tp.
 O'Keefe, Megan E. THE BOUND WORLDS. [THE DEVOURED WORLDS #3]. Orbit, 25.99 tp.
 Okungbowa, Suyi Davies. LOST ARK DREAMING. Tor.com, 26.99 hc.
 Paolini, Christopher. FRACTAL NOISE. [FRACTALVERSE #2]. Tor, 24.99 tp.
 Pheby, Alex. MALARKOI. [CITIES OF THE WEFT #2]. Tor, 26.99 tp.
 Ringo, John. BEYOND THE RANGES. Baen, 37.00 hc.
 Rollins, James. TIDES OF FIRE. [SIGMA FORCE #17]. Morrow, 13.99 pb.
 Roth, Veronica. WHEN AMONG CROWS. Tor, 26.99 hc.
 Salvatore, R. A. LOLTH'S WARRIOR. [DRIZZT THE WAY OF THE DROW #3]. Voyager, 24.99 tp.
 Shah, Bina. THE MONSOON WAR. Delphinium, 23.99 tp.
 Shields, Sydney J. THE HONEY WITCH. Redhook, 24.99 tp.
 Stephens, Anna. THE DARK FEATHER [THE SONGS OF THE DROWNED #3]. Voyager, 25.99 tp.
 Thorne, Rebecca. CAN'T SPELL TREASON WITHOUT TEA. [TOMES & TEA #1]. Bramble, 26.99 tp.
 Turton, Stuart. THE LAST MURDER AT THE END OF THE WORLD. Harper Canada, 25.99 tp.
 Vo, Nghi. THE BRIDES OF HIGH HILL. [SINGING HILLS #5]. Tor.com, 26.99 hc.
 Ward, Dayton. PLIABLE TRUTHS. [STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION]. Pocket, 25.99 tp.
 Wees, Alyssa. NOCTURNE. Del Rey, 24.95 tp.
 Wexler, Django. HOW TO BECOME THE DARK LORD AND DIE TRYING. Orbit, 25.99 tp.
 Wood, Aubrey. BANG BANG BODHISATTVA. Solaris, 22.99 tp.

Dead Write Books NEW RELEASES APRIL - MAY 2024
April 2024 New Mystery and Crime Fiction Releases

Abrams, Stacey. ROGUE JUSTICE. [AVERY KEENE #2]. Vintage, 23.00 tp.
 Ardai, Charles. DEATH COMES TOO LATE. Hard Case Crime, 22.99 tp.
 Baldacci, David. A CALAMITY OF SOULS. Grand Central, 39.00 hc.
 Bannalec, Jean-Luc. THE BODY BY THE SEA. [BRITTANY MYSTERY #8]. Minotaur, 24.00 tp.
 Barry, Sebastian. OLD GOD'S TIME. Penguin, 24.95 tp.
 Bentley, Don. FORGOTTEN WAR. [MATT DRAKE NOVEL #4]. Berkley, 14.99 pb.
 Berry, I. S. THE PEACOCK AND THE SPARROW. Atria, 24.99 tp.
 Bishop, D. V. RITUAL OF FIRE. [CESARE ALDO #3]. Pan, 19.99 tp.
 Black, Cara. MURDER AT LA VILLETTE. [AIMEE LEDUC #21]. Soho Crime, 36.95 hc.
 Blacke, Olivia. RHYTHM AND CLUES. [THE RECORD SHOP MYSTERIES #3]. St. Martin's, 12.99 pb.
 Brown, Rita Mae. HISS & TELL. [MRS. MURPHY #31]. Bantam, 24.95 tp.

Brownlow, John. AGENT SEVENTEEN. [AGENT SEVENTEEN #1]. Hanover Square, 12.99 pb.

Brownlow, John. ASSASSIN EIGHTEEN. Hanover Square, 23.99 tp.

Bruen, Ken. GALWAY CONFIDENTIAL. [JACK TAYLOR]. Mysterious, 35.95 hc.

Burrows, Steve. A NYE OF PHEASANTS. [BIRDER MURDER #8]. Point Blank, 19.99 tp.

Carlsson, Christoffer. UNDER THE STORM. Hogarth, 25.99 tp.

Cartmel, Andrew. NOISE FLOOR. [THE VINYL DETECTIVE #7]. Titan, 22.99 tp.

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-Ahrvid Engholm

2024 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals—but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 ½" x 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2024.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine *Eldritch Science*; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.
11. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2025. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2024. Good luck!

Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.

Title of story (for identification): Author's name and address: Author's email address:

I have read the above rules for the 2024 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature/Date: _____

Mail to: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email abontides@gmail.com