

# REVENANT #2

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Revenant #2, July 2000 produced for SFPA mailing #215 by Sheila Strickland.  
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It's a rush job this time around. The deadline was creeping up on me when I realized I had some mailing comments, but nothing else; and I had to stop to clean house for my sister's visit. She lives in Toronto, so I see her only about once a year. She and her daughter came here for a few days, now they're in New Orleans with my brother and his family. I'll get to see them once more before they go back. We had too little time this year. I'll try to get to Toronto next year.

I went into work late Thursday and discovered the new Harry Potter book had come in for me. The only chance I've had to read it was lunch break Thursday. With the chapter I read in Newsweek, I'm up to page 100. A good read, so far.

I'm really looking forward to Chicon. I haven't been to a World Con since 1993. I went to the World Cons in Chicago in 1982 and 1991 and enjoyed both of them. I plan to have a good time. World Cons always have so much going on that I could go to panels all day, which I don't. Too much else---art show, dealer's room, displays, visiting with people I see only at World Cons. Plus, I want to do some sight-seeing this year.

At first I thought I might take the train up. One way from Hammond, LA to Chicago on the City of New Orleans was listed at \$87, which sounded much better than the \$300+ round trip flying out of Baton Rouge. I started wondering if I really wanted to spend all day traveling, then discovered I could get a flight out of New Orleans for less than \$200. For that, I'll drive the hour and a half to the New Orleans airport. (It would have been an hour drive to Hammond. No passenger trains go through Baton Rouge.)

I have a double reserved in my name at the Hyatt. I have one person who may be sharing, but if anyone needs a place, let me know, and we'll see what we can work out.

I've seen more movies this summer than I normally see all year (all of two) and I have at least two more to see. It's unusual that I want to see any of the summer block busters, but so far I've seen "Fantasia 2000"---great fun and definitely not just for kids; plus "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle"--same reaction. I was impressed at how closely the "new " Bullwinkle's voice matched the old one. Jason Alexander did a fine job as Boris, though Natasha seemed to be a little more in the background than she was in the original cartoon. I always thought Natasha was smarter than Boris, but in the movie, he comes across as the doer and initiator, while she seems to be more the loyal assistant. Good movie, though. I loved the narrator sitting around his house narrating as his mother cooked and cleaned. I have yet to see "Chicken Run" and "X-Men". The reviewer in the local paper didn't think much of "X-Men"; calling it "juvenile and spiritless"; but from what I've seen of it, it should be worth a look. I used to read "X-Men" years ago when Nightcrawler was a member and quit reading about the time he left. So much angst was beginning to get to me!

## Mailing comments

**COOL, if Obsolete, TOYS:** What a neat toy to play with! I can see why you want to keep it. My computer and printer make it easy to produce a serviceable zine, but your toy makes something pretty. Plus there's a certain cachet to a "hands on" produced article.

**The New Port News:** We could be related if your grandmother came from Georgia. My great-great grandfather was born in Hancock County (we think), Georgia. He went to Pike County, Mississippi as a young man, where my great grandfather was born. He in turn moved a little south to Tangipahoa Parish where my grandfather and father were born. Of course, there are a lot of Stricklands around, but it seems likely we are at least distantly related.

You commented to Jeff about not knowing where to vote. Do they change your voting location from one election to the next? My polling station stayed in the same place for years, it only changed when I moved and changed precincts. They even list it on my voter registration card along with all the district numbers..

You comment to Janet on not understanding piercings: I got my ears pierced about the time I finished college because I wanted to wear earrings and clip earrings were too painful. You may not think there are many nerve endings in an ear lobe, but try squeezing them for a few hours and you will know pain! With pierced ears, I can wear earrings all day and not even know whether or not I have any on until I touch them or see them in a mirror. I never thought of it as "disfigurement". On the other hand I can't see getting a tattoo, which also comes under the heading of art with risks for infection and disfigurement. To each his or her own, I suppose!

**This is Not a Minazine:** Congratulations on the Hugo Nomination! I've seen issues of Mimosa over the years and it's always been a fine zine.

Playing classical music to pass the time on a long trip sounds like a good way to eat up the miles. And I like the idea of measuring distances by works. "Yeah, that trip to my in-laws used to take the whole of Beethoven's Ninth. But since they opened the new stretch of highway, we're pulling into the driveway just before they get to the 'Hymn to Joy.'" I don't do much long distance driving, myself, but when I do, I like to listen to recorded books. On the trip to AggieCon, I listened to a reading of Terry Pratchett's book Moving Pictures. It made the dull drive a lot more entertaining. Our library system has a good selection of them and a wide variety of titles. They've become very popular with patrons who have long commutes, or jobs that require hands and eyes, but little thought.

**Frequent Flyer:** Glad to hear you didn't have serious trouble with the Love Bug Virus. The public access computer at the library have internet access, but e-mail is not allowed---probably for reasons having to do with viruses. The state library had some trouble, but as far as I know, the city-parish library system was unaffected.

The "Tour of the Art Show" at Parthecon sounds like a wonderful concept--I don't remember seeing it at any cons I've attended. I can look at a painting and say "I like it" or "I don't like it", but it would be nice to hear an expert explain why a certain piece strikes

you as just right or why it just looks wrong. Did you go to the DSC panel in Birmingham where Michael Bishop read and discussed poems? It was like hearing a good literature teacher share his passion for words and infect the listener with his love for poetry. It helped me to realize that poetry can lie flat on the paper, but come alive when read.

Lucky you for getting to see Randy Newman! I've enjoyed his music for years. If you were amused by the hub-bub over his song "Short People", you should listen to "Good Old Boys", one of his early albums. Some very funny, deeply ironical work on that.

**IT MAY BE BETTER...** ( and no, I'm not typing the whole thing!): Your library closed during maintenance? Last summer, our library got new carpeting. We wondered beforehand how long we'd be closed--the answer was not at all. The library has two rooms---first they moved all the easily movable furniture (not including book cases, thank goodness) out of the front room where we have the circulation desk and into the children's room. We spent a day or so back there; then they reversed the process and we started working in the room with the new carpet. And I started coughing from the fumes. There were small fans running, but without windows that open and only one door, the fumes were winning. So, for several days, I would come to work for an hour or so, then have to leave because I couldn't stop coughing. I coughed, I wheezed, I couldn't breathe! Once I got away from the fumes, I was fine, so I never did go to the doctor; but it made me want to never, never be around new carpeting again.

**Guilty Pleasures:** I hope Howard's mother is adjusting to living in the nursing home. I know it must be hard on her to give up all those items that were part of her life. When I moved about a year ago, I had to leave a lot that I didn't need and didn't have room for, but they were things I was used to having around and that I miss. Yes, memories are more important than things, but sometimes the memories are tied to the things. At least, it's that way with me, which makes it hard to get rid of some of that excess stuff I still have.

**Home With the Armadillo:** Gorgeous bacover--a Chinese dragon?

You say wood floors are better than carpet---how about the noise level? Or do area or scatter rugs keep it down as well? This house has carpet in the bedrooms and living rooms, but I think wood floors would be prettier, as well as easier to keep clean as you point out. I'm afraid it would be a major pain/expense to change now. Before I moved in would have been the time, but I had even less money then than I have now.

Love the cartoons. The cat with paws in the woman's hair must be related to one of mine. He likes to lie with his face in my ear and knead his paws in my hair while I'm trying to go to sleep.

**Cross-Train at the Office:** Neat little Rush type rift on Guiliani and his cancer. But wouldn't it be easier to spot the truths instead of the lies? I liked Al Franken's book about him---Rush Limbaugh is a Big, Fat Liar. Franken dislikes him even more than I do; but doesn't take the tack of assuming he's an idiot. Franken contends that he knows exactly what he does and that a villain who smiles and smiles is even worse than one who scowls.

**Spiritus Mundi:** Congratulations on the Hugo nomination! I'm impressed; two nominees in the same apa. What a pretty certificate; I hope the original is framed and on your wall by now? I'll have to be sure to be at the Hugo Awards ceremony now that I have two nominees to root for.

Sympathy on the death of your landlady who sounds as if she was an extraordinary lady. I hope her son is able to get it together and run the place properly. I know looking for a new place would be a pain.

And how's the job situation? Here's hoping you can stay in the area.

Lastly, sympathy again on your grandmother's death. I pretty much missed out on the grandparent experience, but I know it must have been nice to have that unconditional love you said she had for you. Her faith and message will have to live on in you.

**Trivial Pursuits:** How long does your DUFF administrationship last? Does it end this World Con or the next? I probably used to know all about TAFF and DUFF, but the details have evaporated from my brain over the years. Did I see the results of the election on rec.arts.sf.fandom, or is that another misremembering?.

You say you don't understand why the Dursleys hang onto Harry Potter. Could be they insist on "doing their duty". That as much as they hate and fear him, they won't let him leave because they think it would make them look bad. Absurd, of course, but look at the people who have children they neglect, but don't want the child welfare "poking their nose into their business". On a purely storytelling level, there has to be some sort of conflict. Harry may be the golden boy at school, but he's got to put up with petty narrow-mindedness just the same as anyone else. His gifts are so much greater and his reputation so exalted that you need the Dursleys to be really, really rotten for a better contrast. I need to go back and read the books; especially as I'm on the list at the library for the new one.

In your comments to Jeff you recommend [The Victorian Internet](#). You're the second person I've heard to do so and it does sound interesting. I'll add it to my list which keeps growing and growing and growing...I'd make better headway on it if I didn't keep re-reading stuff.

**Offline Reader:** Matt Leger said to say, "Hi." He lives in New York now, but remembers you from back when he was in Washington. I knew him before that when he was living in Baton Rouge and then New Orleans. I hadn't heard of him in years until I saw a posting by him in rec.music.filk last year. He was hanging out in alt.callahans a while back bemoaning the fact of missing Mardi Gras. I posted to say hi and was a little surprised he remembered me. Just recently we were trading e-mails on rooming at Chicon, and I mentioned I'd ask in SFPA. Matt asked what that was, I explained what it was and how I got involved--your invitation in rec.arts.sf.fandom, and he said, "Oh, I know him." All of which probably proves that you can't play "Six Degrees of Separation" in fandom as everybody knows everyone else a lot closer! Two Degrees of Separation, anyone?

**Derogatory Reference:** Sorry to hear of the broken bone, but glad to see it seemed to heal well. And it's good you had two helpful people to get you through it.



I've seen Suzette Haden Elgin's books on Verbal Self-Defense, but haven't yet read any of them. Sounds like I should give one a try, though. Yet another one for the list.

**Twygdrasil and Treehouse Gazette:** You say "while Kingsley tells us a lot, he left me wanting more." A good thing for an author, yes? Spark your interest in a subject so you'll go out and learn more. Or maybe a good teacher.

My sympathies to Heidi and her illness. I know some of what she's going through. My chemo was relatively easy, but still no picnic.

In the story of Elian I noted the man who said, "Little boys who are six years old don't lie..." Since when? Of course six year olds know how to lie. Poor child, being made into a boy saint by the Cuban Americans and a boy hero of the fight against the evil oppressing United States by the Cubans. What sort of bizarre PR stories are going to come out of Cuba now that he's back about his time here?

**Passages:** I'm impressed that we were able to do a whole page in the car. I'd get sick after one paragraph---and I'm not pregnant. Boy and girl! Have you started picking out names? The NYC trip must have been fun. I've never been there; keep saying I want to go, but haven't actually planned one out. It's probably the money issue stopping me---I think the only vacations I go on are to cons or visiting relatives.

**Avatar Press:** Nice looking web page you have. Not too cluttered and all the info easy to get at.

That was a good article on sword fighting you included. Did it pull in any new people for classes? Anyone come in and say, "I read about you in the paper"?

**Peter, Pan & Merry:** So, no one wanted to be President. That must mean it's one of those jobs with a lot of responsibility but not a large amount of prestige or power. Unlike the U.S. Presidency which has huge amounts of power. Your mini-vacaation sounded like a good one---not doing too much or overplanned.

**Three Dinguses...:** Thanks to whoever took the pictures to go in the zine; I know some people, but it's always nice to have faces to go along with the names. All those intent expressions as they pounded out their missives. A stuffed kitty hawk? I want one!

**The Marsh Creek Gazette:** The hang gliding report make like sound like incredible fun. For me it would be interspaced with abject terror. I'm not afraid of heights in that I can stand on a very high observation platform and look down and it doesn't bother me. The idea of hanging suspended in the air, with nothing between me and the ground, though, does get to me. Gorgeous photos.

**The Sphere:** Hope the Cartoonopedia situation has cleared up by now. Maybe your

publisher got whacked by Life. Is the web site still up? I tried looking at it, but it didn't come up.

**Tennessee Trash:** Sorry to hear the hotel problems didn't get solved. I suppose at this point you could either hope Diane leaves for another job or another hotel is built/becomes available in the area.

You did well with your coaching if the team lost only three games in twelve. I wonder if those parents who criticized your coaching are going to show up next season to help? They probably won't, of course, sad to say.

I hope you like your Saturn. Mine is six years old with 63,000 miles and doing well. The easy buying experience is one of the things that attracted me to Saturns. I'm hopeless at negotiating, so it's nice to know what the price is without having to play games.

Enjoyed the DSC report. It sounds like it was a fun con. Although I wouldn't find sharing the room with spiders to be very entertaining.

So your cats are good at Hurt and Offended, too. If I go off for a day or more; when I come home, no cats are to be seen. In an hour or so, they'll stroll into the room with the attitude of, "Oh, it's you. You're back. I've been busy, of course, so I didn't really notice. So, what's for dinner?"

**Oblio:** Very neat cover. I was a space fan back in the late 60's and 70's. A photo like that would have been a treasure for me.

I pretty much agree with you on the Elian situation. I would have liked to have seen it resolved another way than the agents storming in as that gave the Miami relative and allies an opportunity to look like the victims. I don't know how they could have done much more, though, since the relatives weren't willing to compromise.

Great headlines. My favorite was the one about Cardinal O'Connor delivering hominy...must have been a Meals on Wheels program!

**YNGVI IS A LOUSE:** Congratulations on the Rebel! (Congratulations seem to be a running theme in this mailing.) I love the beach, too, even though I can't spend much time if it's sunny. I don't do well with sun and glare.

I think I've seen the Mark Twain as detective books at the library. I passed them up mostly because there was another book or two out around that time with the "famous person as detective" idea. I had been reading too many mysteries at that point, too; and was pretty much burned out. Maybe I can get back to them.

There are indeed a lot of individual group interested in gun rights, but the NRA certainly qualifies as an organization with a good propaganda machine,

I enjoyed Charlotte's movie reviews. Topsy Turvy is one I wanted to see, but missed while it was in the theatres. I'll have to catch it and The Straight Story on video. I hope Charlotte doesn't find the other version of Pirates of Penzance too staid. They really cranked up the energy level on the Ronstadt/Kline version; especially with Kevin Kline doing his "Douglas Fairbanks after three pots of espresso" imitation. (It was fun to see Kline play Douglas Fairbanks for real in "Chaplin.")

**mikey doesn't work here anymore:** Nice reviews---made me want to read the books and listen to the music.

My first introduction to Arthur Ransome was in a book that came out about 1960--How the Heather Looks. In it, an American family travelled to England to visit literary landscapes, mostly from children's books that they loved. They met Arthur Ransome and were impressed.

Glad to hear you made it to Jazz Fest despite the car trouble. Hope you have a smoother time of it next year.

**A Modest (Constitutional) Proposal:** Hmm, sounds pretty good to me.

Okay, so it's short one this time. Next time, I'll try to have a Chicon report. Maybe I can backtrack and tell all about the horrors of a summer reading program at the library. Or I can tell all about the horrors of coping with school reports. Parent: "I need all the books you have on Italy." Us: "How long does the report need to be?" Parent: "One page." Then there's: "I need a book on who invented the ironing board." That was a real question, though they may not have asked for a book. We found out who did---Sarah Boone, in case you're interested, but we've never found a book on the lady.

See you next time, if not in Chicago!