

Those multiple points of connection—and favorites—indicate the show’s position of preference in popular culture, and Tennant said he’s consistently surprised by how Doctor Who fandom and awareness has spread internationally—despite its British beginnings. “Doctor Who is part of the cultural furniture in the UK,” he said. “It’s something that’s uniquely British, that Britain is proud of, and that the British are fascinated by.”

Now, when Tennant is recognized in public, he can determine how much a fan of the show the person is based on what they say to him. “If someone says, ‘Allons-y!’ chances are they’re a fan,” he said. Most people say something like, “Where’s your Tardis?” or “Aren’t you going to fix that with your sonic screwdriver?”

There might be one thing that all fans can agree on. Perhaps—as Tennant quipped—Doctor Who Day, Nov. 23 (which marks the airing of the first episode, “An Unearthly Child”) should be a national holiday. Regardless of what nation—or planet—you call home.

Note: For a more in-depth synopsis of the episodes screened, visit [https://tardis.fandom.com/wiki/The_End_of_Time_\(TV_story\)](https://tardis.fandom.com/wiki/The_End_of_Time_(TV_story)). To see additional Doctor Who episodes screened by Fathom, go to https://tardis.fandom.com/wiki/Fathom_Events. And if you’d like to learn about upcoming Fathom screenings, check out <https://www.fathomevents.com/search?q=doctor+who>. The episodes are also available on DVD: <https://amzn.to/2KuSITj>.

The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance on Netflix

Review by Jim McCoy



(I would never do this before a book review, but I doubt that the people at Netflix would mind, so here goes: I'm geeked. I get Kacey Ezell's newsletter and I see that she is nearing completion on the third novel in the Minds of Men series. I reviewed the first two here at Jimbo's. Write faster Kacey! I need to feed my habit! Oh, and you heard it here first! Well, unless you get the newsletter and you've checked it already, in which case I got scooped. *SIGH* The life of a blogger is a hard one.)

So one day, I received a tip from a friend of mine named Tom. He stated that I should watch and review The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance for my blog. He was right. This is a damn good series.

I was vaguely aware of the existence of the comic before I heard from him (Meaning that I had walked past it in my LCS) but I had never really read it. My bad.

So yeah, The Dark Crystal is pretty awesome. I mean, it's got all the neat stuff that I look for. It's got characters that I care about, either hoping they'll succeed or wanting to see them get the tail-kicking they so desperately deserve. It's got a plot that moves and entertains. The special effects are over the moon awesome. And guess what? It's got something that reminds me of the greatest video game of all time. (YMMV)

That's right folks. If you can look at the Skeksis and not immediately think Arakkoa then you've never played World of Warcraft. I mean, the look, the mannerisms, the voices, it was scary. I felt like I was watching the Skeksis in Skettis. Or maybe like I was running Skyreach looking

for ah uhh... Dark Crystal? Yeah, I know. That wasn't even a real pun. Yes, I know there is a special place in Hell for people who pun. I'll save you a spot.

Anyway...

This is the type of show that you don't watch when you have to leave the house. It kept me riveted. The show writers all deserve raises. I would watch an episode or two and then go to work or off to church and find myself wondering what would happen next. It's that good.

I find myself thinking of both a particularly bloody and horrifying event in history and also Harry Turtledove's portrayal of it while watching this. I don't know if the story was lifted straight off the pages of the comic or if it was written fresh for the show, but I'm willing to get that whoever wrote the scripts for *The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance* has read some history. The details aren't even close to what actually happened and that's okay because it's fantasy fiction and doesn't need to match up. As a matter of fact, it's probably better that way. It was really grisly in real life.

I can't do this review and not mention the puppets/muppets/whatever they're called. They were terrifical. I really want to know how you get that much emotion out of a face that doesn't move. Even Keanu Reeves has never managed that. So kudos to the people who made the Muppets and the people who controlled the Muppet strings (or however that works.) Saying I was impressed would be a serious understatement.

I can't say enough about the sets that were used to produce this series. I'm not sure if they were actually fabricated or if it was all just CGI, but it was gorgeous. Everything from the Sanctum Sanctorum of the Skeksis to some of the outdoor scenes were amazing. There was even one setting that reminded me somewhat of Yoda's home on Dagobah. The look of *The Dark Crystal* itself was amazing. Seriously, someone deserves a pat on the back. I haven't watched the Emmys since..uhh..

Well, maybe once because I went to a party since there was a cute girl there. Then again, that might have been the Oscars because I don't really watch those either.

As I was saying...

This thing deserves some type of award for special effects and maybe scenery if that's a thing. We all know it won't win best show because it's something geeky and enjoyable, but I'm thinking it might win a couple of other categories. I'd be happy, anyway. Well, that's assuming I heard about it. One of you will let me know, right?

Speaking of categories...

I'd love to see *The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance* get Best Science Fiction or Fantasy TV Series from the Dragon Awards this year. I mean, I'm kind of bitter toward the Dragon Awards because I thought David Weber deserved Best SF Novel instead of Best Mil SF Novel but then again I'm happy because Brad Torgersen got it because *A Star Wheeled Sky* was a great book and he's a great author. And I'm willing to forgive the Dragon Awards voters for getting this one simultaneously right and wrong because they're pretty amazeballs. Okay, so my feelings on

the matter are somewhat complicated. Just vote for the show and I'll feel somewhat vindicated. Maybe we can get Casey Ezell a win this year instead of just a nomination, too. Assuming that the new book is as good as the first two were, anyway. No pressure.

(And yes, that was a horrible run-on sentence. I left it in because confusion. Don't you love me?)

The characters in this thing rocked too. The Skeksis were evilly evil with evil tendencies. Like, I hated those guys. Seriously. I'd love a chance to run their emperor through. The Chamberlain was a stinker too. I'd stand in line for a chance to slap that guy. The Gelflings, on the other hand, were my people. All was not well for them, but when push came to shove they banded together to do the thing. There were some Gelflings who wouldn't cooperate because people are people and the writers did a good job with that but overall I loved these guys.

Deet in particular was my kind of character. She knew how to take a licking and keep on ticking. That girl has spunk. Seriously, as a descendant of the McCoy/Hatfield feud, I love a person who is too stubborn to admit that they're beaten. She stayed upbeat through it all. She pushed hard to get through it. She found a way to do what needed to be done. She... Is she busy later?

Nevermind, fictional character. I do that sometimes.

For real though, if you have Netflix and you're a geek you have no excuse. It's not like you'd have to pay extra for the content. It's ten one-hour episodes so, while you probably won't have time to binge it all in one sitting (Lord knows I didn't) you don't have to. It's original content and it just came out at the end of August so it's not like it's going anywhere. You've probably binged something much longer. So take your time, make your popcorn and hie thee off to Netflix to witness some awesome. You'll thank me when you're done. Even if >redacted< never got to >redacted< with his >redacted<.

Graphic Novels

Bane: Conquest Review by Declan Finn

As a rule, I avoid comic books. I find most of them overpriced and under quality. The last time I went out of my way to collect comics it was J Michael Straczynski's run on Amazing Spider Man. (No, I don't blame him for One More Day.) Right now, there is so much political crap going on in comics, or so much poor writing (See: Batman's wedding) that you can't drag me to a comic book with a ten foot pole.

But recently, I found myself making an exception. For Chuck Dixon, creator of my favorite comic book villain -- Bane. Commonly known as a comic book antagonist for Batman, Bane has been largely ill-treated in Bat-media. I find him more interesting than Batman, and more likable than the majority of Bat villains. While many of them are tragic figures (not Riddler, Joker, Catwoman and Penguin, they're arrogant, evil, and larcenous, in that order), Bane is one of the few I genuinely like. When first introduced, he was intelligence, efficient, and not half as crazy



as most of the rest of the Gotham crowd. And he had a plan executed so well, I want to see DC writers try to pull it off again to see how they can Mary Sue Batman out of it this time.

In short, he's a villain who plays chess and speaks Latin.

Once again, DC was smart enough to get Chuck Dixon back to once more write Bane. And this time, they allowed Bane to be the main character. (I was largely happy with Forever Evil ... then they dropped the ball in the endgame.)

This is Bane: Conquest.

In the dark waters off the coast of Gotham City, a mysterious crew of smugglers has made a deadly mistake--they tried to bring weapons of mass destruction into Bane's city!

After tracing the illicit arms back to their source, Bane and his henchmen uncover a criminal conspiracy that seems to span the entire globe and encompass every illegal activity under the sun.

But if there really is a secret empire behind all of the world's crime, Bane should--nay, must--be the one running it. And no one--not assassin cults, super-hackers, Catwoman or Batman himself--is going to stand in his way!

Twenty-five years after bringing Bane to life in Batman: Knightfall, creators Chuck Dixon and Graham Nolan reunite to tell the most epic tale yet of one of Batman's most dangerous foes! Collects issues #1-12.

This one puts Bane up against a worldwide criminal organization called Kobra ... If you're having flashbacks to GI Joe, please don't. They're not into the world domination business. But they do amount to the biggest crime family in existence.

The execution is everything I've missed about the character, and about comic books, for quite sometime. The character is smart yet vicious. The action and the odds are over-the-top. There are cameos from terrorists and space aliens. Every frame is on point. Nothing here is gratuitous. The story arc ends with an action sequence that's one part The Magnificent Seven, The Dirty Dozen, and Where Eagles Dare.

This is comic books at their best. Where else are you going to have a close quarters combat duel with a mech on one end... and an unarmed man on the other?

By the end of the issue, you get to see why Bane is the best Batman "villain." It's a moment that comes after the shooting is over and all the scheming is done. It's moments like this where I think Bane should get his own series, as long as Chuck Dixon writes it and everyone in upper management leaves him alone.

Sercon

Poul Anderson Bio-Bibliography

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian



Poul Anderson was born on November 25, 1926, in Bristol, Pennsylvania, of Scandinavian parents. Shortly after his birth, his father, Anton Anderson, an engineer, moved the family to Texas -- where they lived for over ten years. Following Anton Anderson's death, his widow took their children to Denmark.

The family returned to the United States after the outbreak of World War II, settling eventually on a Minnesota farm. The story of Anderson's later novel, *Three Hearts and Three Lions*, before the fantasy part begins, is set in the Denmark which Poul Anderson personally experienced.

While he was an undergraduate at The University of Minnesota, encouraged by his roommate, Gordon R. Dickson, Anderson wrote some SF stories and submitted them to John W. Campbell at *Astounding Science Fiction*. Two were soon published: "Tomorrow's Children" by Anderson and F. N. Waldrop in the March, 1947 issue; and a sequel, "Chain of Logic" by Anderson alone, in the July, 1947 issue.

He earned his B.A. in physics, with honors, but made no serious attempt to work as a physicist; instead he became a free-lance writer after his graduation in 1948, and placed his third story, "Genius," in the December, 1948 issue of *Astounding*.

While finding no purely academic application, Anderson's knowledge of physics is evident in the great care he gave to details of scientific backgrounds – one of the defining characteristics of his writing style.

Representative SF Books

Brain Wave (1954)
 Star Ways (1956)
 Earthman's Burden (1957)
 The Enemy Stars (1959)
 Virgin Planet (1959)
 The Golden Slave (1960)
 The High Crusade (1960)
 Rogue Sword (1960)
 Twilight World (1961)
 After Doomsday (1962)

The Makeshift Rocket (1962)
Shield (1963)
Three Worlds to Conquer (1964)
The Corridors of Time (1965)
The Star Fox (1965)
The Fox, the Dog, and the Griffin (1966)
World Without Stars (1966)
The Horn of Time (1968)
Tau Zero (1970)
Operation Chaos (1971)
The Byworlder (1971)
The Dancer from Atlantis (1972)
There Will Be Time (1973)
Hrolf Kraki's Saga (1973)
The Worlds of Poul Anderson (1974)
Fire Time (1974)
Inheritors of the Earth (1974)
 [with Gordon Eklund]
Homeward and Beyond (1975)
The Winter of the World (1976)
Two Worlds (1978)
The Avatar (1978)
The Demon of Scatterry (1979)
 [with Mildred Downey Broxon]
The Merman's Children (1979)
The Devil's Game (1980)
Winners (1981)
Fantasy (1981)
Conquests (1981)
Maurai and Kith (1982)
The Gods Laughed (1982)
New America (1982)
Orion Shall Rise (1983)
Cold Victory: Grassy Knoll (1985)
No Truce with Kings (1986)
The Boat of a Million Years (1989)
Alight in the Void (1991)
Inconstant Star (1991)
Starfarers (1998) Operation Luna (1999)
Genesis (2000)
Mother of Kings (2001)
For Love and Glory (2003)
 [published posthumously]

Marriage and Family

Anderson married Karen Kruse in 1953 and moved with her to the San Francisco Bay area. Their daughter Astrid (who married SF author Greg Bear in 1983) was born in 1954. The Andersons made their home in Orinda, California. Over the years Poul gave many readings at “The Other Change of Hobbit” bookstore in Berkeley, and his widow later donated his typewriter and desk to the store.

Awards/Honors/Recognitions

1959 -- Detention
 1968 -- Forry Award
 1970 -- Minicon 3
 1971 -- DeepSouthCon 9
 1972 -- Mythcon III
 1972-1973 -- President of SFWA
 1973 -- Balticon 7
 1974 -- MileHiCon 6
 1976 -- Boskone 13, Rivercon II, Sampo Award
 1977 -- Minicon 12, ConFusion 14, Octocon 1
 1978 -- Westercon, LepreCon 4, Lifetime Achievement Gandalf Award
 1979 -- Balticon 13, Norcon 3, Scancon '79
 1980 -- AggieCon XI
 1981 -- ConQuesT 2
 1982 -- Loscon 9, ICON 7, Skylark Award
 1983 -- X-Con 7, Roc*Kon 8, Outre-vention
 1984 -- ConClave X, Earthcon 4
 1985 -- Con-Version II
 1987 -- Xanadu IV
 1988 -- Tropicon VII, I-Con VII
 1989 -- Life, the Universe, & Everything 7
 1990 -- Minnesota Fantasy Award
 1992 -- Norwescon XV
 1993 -- 1993 World Fantasy Convention, Silvercon 2, SFRA Conference
 1995 -- MileHiCon 27, Windycon XXII, Lunacon 38
 1997 -- ConClave XXII
 1998 -- SFWA Grand Master Award
 2000 -- CopperCon 20, Baycon 2000 (Special Guest), SF Hall of Fame
 2001 -- Special Prometheus Award for Lifetime Achievement
 2003 -- Filk Hall of Fame

He was nominated for and won an astonishing number of Hugo Awards for his fiction, and many other awards as well. In a 1985 interview, fellow SF author Chad Oliver, discussing other genre writers, said: “The guy that amazes me is Poul Anderson. He is so prolific, and the quality is so high, and he has been doing it for so long. Amazing.”

In 1965 SF author Algris Budrys said that Anderson “has for some time been science fiction's best storyteller.” He was a founding member of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) in 1966 and of the Swordsmen and Sorcerers’ Guild of America (SAGA), also in the mid-1960s.

The latter was a loose-knit group of heroic fantasy authors led by Lin Carter, originally eight in number, with entry by credentials as a fantasy writer alone. Anderson was the sixth President of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, taking office in 1972.

Robert Heinlein dedicated his 1985 novel *The Cat Who Walks Through Walls* to Anderson (and other members of the Citizens' Advisory Council on National Space Policy). The Science Fiction Writers of America made Anderson its sixteenth SFWA Grand Master in 1998, and the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame inducted him in 2000 -- its fifth class of two deceased and two living writers.

Anderson was Guest of Honor at Detention, the 1959 Worldcon. The April, 1971 issue of *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* (F&SF) was a special Poul Anderson issue.

He used the pseudonyms of A. A. Craig, Michael Karageorge, and Winston P. Sanders, and published a fanzine *Smorgasbord*.

Some Concluding Comments

In a review of *The Enemy Stars* in the May, 1959 F&SF, Damon Knight wrote of Anderson: "But at his best he is poetically penetrating: in one swift image he can show you the heart of a character, or spread a landscape before your eyes."

SF author/critic James Blish wrote in 1987: "The sense of tragedy is . . . extremely rare in science fiction. To Poul Anderson it is a living entity."

Anderson himself once wrote: "Science fiction sings of wonders and possibilities revealed to us by our quest for knowledge. This is not the only thing science fiction does, of course, or even what it mostly does, but I do submit that it is something no other literary form ever really gets into."

Anderson died of cancer on July 31, 2001, after a month in the hospital.

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Currey, L. W. *Science Fiction and Fantasy Authors*. Boston, MA: G. K. Hall, 1979.

Hall, Hal W. *The Work of Chad Oliver*. San Bernardino, CA: Borgo Press, 1989.

Smith, Curtis C. (ed.). *Twentieth Century Science Fiction Writers*. NY: St. Martin's Press, 1981.

Tuck, Donald H. *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy, Volume 1: Who's Who, A-L*. Chicago, IL: Advent, 1974.

Note: In addition to the above works, various Internet sites were consulted.

Food of Famous Authors

Eat This While You Read That: Jeff Duntemann By Cedar Sanderson



The beauty and the challenge of ETWYRT is that I never know what I'll get when I ask an author for a dish. At this point I've made everything from nostalgic dishes that reminded expatriates of home, to dishes that were taken from the pages of an author's book. Some of the dishes have been a challenge, others were a joy to make and consume – sometimes both those things in one. When Jeff Duntemann told me what he wanted me to do for his book and a meal, my only fear was that I wouldn't be able to find the wine he recommended.

Any meal that begins with a whole skillet full of sauteed mushrooms and onions is okay with the First Reader.

For the book to pair with preparing and eating this meal, Jeff recommends his short story collection, *Cold Hands*, which I agree is an excellent choice. It doesn't take long to prepare this meal, so you wouldn't have time to get into his novel of an artificial intelligence sharing a human body

by coursing through the man's veins. And while you are eating this, you don't want to be so distracted you don't taste the food. But when you're replete afterwards, then you will want the stories. Click on the cover to pick up the book, and then continue with the cooking!

Then I ran into a little snag. Well, in terms of river navigation it was a whole bunch of snags and finally I found a bridge instead to make it work. Jeff had suggested that I do this meal on the grill, in it's entirety, which was a wonderful idea. Except...

I live in Ohio, and it's December. It's not snowing out, but it is rather cold and damp. I can deal with cold and damp – I have grilled with feet (multiple) of snow on the ground. But...

By the time I'm making dinner these days, it's dark outside. Not only that, but we haven't got an outside light in the backyard. No, honey, I don't think I want to try food photography by the light of a clip-on repair lamp. New plan...

This summer, we'll try the meal again and do it Jeff's way. Tonight, I did it my way. The First Reader was in full agreement with me, he's ready any time to eat this again.

What, you are now wondering, did the author ask me to make? Filet Mignon with grilled mushrooms, onions, and sweet peppers. Paired with a bottle of Menage a Trois wine.

Brought inside, this is less a recipe and more a technique.

In a cast iron skillet, melt about 2 tbsp bacon grease. Saute mushrooms and onions in this until onions are translucent. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Remove to a bowl and keep warm.

In a small non-stick saucepan, put a dollop of bacon grease or butter. Pour about a tablespoon of mustard seeds into that and heat gently over med-low heat until they start popping. Dump about 2 finely chopped shallots in with them. When shallots are translucent, put in 2 tbsp of good seedy mustard (not, for heaven's sakes, the neon-yellow stuff) and slowly whisk in about a cup of heavy cream.

In the same skillet you fried the mushrooms in, wiped out quickly with a paper towel, put another tablespoon of grease. Bring up to med-high heat, until the grease just begins to smoke. Lay your little steaks in carefully, the grease will spatter. Leave them alone. Don't touch them for about 2-3 minutes depending on thickness.

Keep stirring the cream sauce. It will boil and start to thicken. Season to taste with salt.

At the 3 minute (if not earlier) mark, turn the steaks. Again, don't mess with them. That lovely sear crust needs contact with the pan to form.

Remove from skillet and put on a plate to allow to rest for about 5 minutes. Really, this needs to happen. I like my meat fairly rare (ok, left to my own devices I like it blue, but I don't usually feed that to other people), but even I allow it to rest and finish cooking and the proteins to unwind a bit.

Serve.

Eat, drink the nice merlot and bask in the feeling good food gives you, that sense of contentment and well being that keeps you warm while you read Jeff's spine-tingling tales from the deep cold of space.

The First Reader's comment was that the sauce was very good, and it was positively sinful for me to put it on that steak. The meat didn't need it. If I make a lesser steak, he says, we'll do the sauce. But when I make this on the grill, there is to be nothing but naked meat on his fork. I can live with that.

I will note that I didn't buy filet mignon. What I bought (and on sale, to boot) was a chunk of



beef tenderloin, which I then butchered into steaks. It was an order of magnitude cheaper, and for those who don't know: filet mignon = tenderloin = backstrap which is what I grew up calling it. Any way you name it, this is a tender, flavorful cut of meat and the simpler you are in preparation, the better it is.

Look, I don't want the cow to moo when I cut my steak, but this was perfectly done for me. Carnivore's delight.



Sorceress's Sanctuary
by Angela K. Scott