



Lambda Sci-Fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044



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The LSF Book Discussion Group

If you're interested in lively discussions of F&SF books (with an emphasis on elements of interest to the LGBT community), we invite you to join the LSF Book Discussion Group. Each month, we conduct fascinating roundtable discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

The LSF Book Discussion Group generally meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW - for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369. The next meeting will be held on April 22nd.

Here are the details on the next several discussion meetings:

April 22nd - *Bonshaker*, by Cherie Priest; moderator: Krista.

May 20th (NOTE: For May only, it's changed to 3rd Thursday!) - *Ash*, by Malinda Lo; moderator: Rob.

June 24th (back to the 4th Thursday) - *Ooku*, Volume 1, by Fumi Yoshinaga; moderator: Greg. (NOTE: This is *ismanga*; and it's a Tiptree Award winner for 2010.)

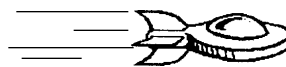
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Gaylaxicon 2011 in Atlanta!

info passed along by Carl



The Gaylactic Network Board has approved a bid to hold Gaylaxicon 2011 in Atlanta. The convention will be hosted by the newest affiliate of the Network: "Outworlders, Inc. - An Affiliate of the Gaylactic Network." (The concomm will consist of many of the same folks who ran Gaylaxicon 2007 in Atlanta.)

Outworlders plans to hold Gaylaxicon 2011 in conjunction with Outlantacon, a local event that they have been hosting for a couple of years now. Outlantacon also has a "focus on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender content in science fiction, fantasy, horror, and gaming." Their Gaylaxicon bid states: "It is expected that the combined Gaylaxicon-Outlantacon 2011 will have a similar feel to previous years, but with a few extras."



The dates for Gaylaxicon 2011 will be April 29 - May 1. The exact hotel site has not yet been finalized. This May (2010), Outlantacon is using the Holiday Inn Select-Perimeter "and will be making a decision whether to stay with that hotel [for Gaylaxicon 2011] depending on how things go this year and the contract offered."

For more information on Outlantacon, go to:

www.Outlantacon.org

We'll keep you updated on more details about Gaylaxicon 2011 as they become available. (I'm sure we'll hear more about it at Gaylaxicon this year in Montreal.)

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All that nonfiction can do
is answer questions.
It's fiction's business
to ask them.

-- Richard Hughes --

quoted in
*If Ignorance Is Bliss, Why Aren't There
More Happy People?*
- John Lloyd & John Mitchinson -
(Harmony Books, 2008)

April LSF Meeting

The next LSF meeting will be held on the **Sunday, April 11th**. The meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St. NW, #413), near Dupont Circle. The business meeting will begin (as usual) at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM.

Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there!

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WHAT'S INSIDE? Minutes of the March 14th LSF Meeting (pg. 2); *Bachelain and Korbal Broach* (book review - pg. 2); **Matt Smith (the New Doctor Who) on the Cover of *Gay Times*** (pg. 3); **About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians** (pg. 4); **Con Calendar** (pg. 4)

**Minutes of the
March 14th LSF Meeting**
taken by Scott

Business Portion of the Meeting

Participation in Baltimore Pride costs \$100, while DC Youth Pride has a fee of \$60. There was no vote to pursue either Pride event.

Rob noted that the paperwork for DC Pride is due in April. As in previous years, Rob and Peter volunteered to host a video/gaming party (and the June LSF meeting) at their home on the day of the Pride Parade (Saturday); and on Sunday LSF will again host a both at the Pride Day Celebration – our 20th!!

Carl asked about the status of Gaylaxicon 2010 in Montreal. The website doesn't appear to have been updated, but there is a Facebook account with info on the hotel registration. Carl announced that the newest Gaylactic Affiliate (Outworlders, Atlanta) has put a bid in for Gaylaxicon 2011 in Atlanta.

Barrett advised that he continues to send LSF info to *Metro Weekly* and *DC Agenda*.

Social Portion of the Meeting

Rob reported that a good crowd of people attended yesterday's gaming party including one new person.

Carl said he enjoyed the new Alice in Wonderland movie – especially the Red Queen and the White Queen, who are both crazy. He noted that, at the end of the movie, Alice was going to expand her late father's trade business into China and that in the 1860's, many British merchants made their fortune in the Chinese opium trade. So is Alice becoming a drug lord?

David discovered the MMOGRP, centered upon anthropomorphic characters called Earth Eternal. "Vast 3D world in a browser. No humans, no elves, no dwarves." He also described Chat Roulette, where guys alone in their bedrooms embarrass themselves on camera in front of strangers.

Peter provided a report about the Gallifrey (*Dr. Who* stuff) convention he attended in California. Some news:



Sarah Jane Adventures has been renewed for two more seasons. April 2nd is the date that the new *Doctor Who* season premieres in the UK. A 13-part *Torchwood* series has been renewed. At the convention, Bob Baker discussed 26 half-hour episodes of a series about K-9 ("the toaster with a tail"), with the title character ostensibly being CGI. Also, a preview of the new *Doctor Who* was shown at Wonder Con, which is a smaller version of ComicCon. Peter eagerly advised that Vincent Van Gogh will be a featured historical character this season of *Doctor Who*.

Rob noted that Joss Whedon will be directing an episode of *Glee*, starring Neal Patrick Harris.

The TV series *Being Human* – about a vampire, a werewolf and a ghost living under the same roof – has ended its second season.

Rob chuckled as he reported that this week's *Big Bang Theory* featured a *Lord of the Rings* ring.

Upcoming LSF events: video party at Theresa's on March 27; book discussion of Samuel Delaney's *Aye, and Gomorrah* on March 25; and an April 22, book discussion of Cherie Priest's *Boneshaker*.

Some books that Rob has just read – Stephen King's *Under the Dome* (a dome appears over a small Maine town, cutting them off from the rest of the world) and Libba Bray's *Going Bovine* (a YA book about mad cow disease being hallucinogenic).

HBO has approved a show based upon George RR Martin's "Song of Ice and Fire" books. Filming and casting is now underway.

Clash of the Titans opens in the next few weeks. Will it be a scene-by-scene CGI remake of the original?

**Bauchelain and
Korbal Broach**
(Tor, 2009)

reviewed by Carl



One day, as I was browsing through the F&SF section at a local Barnes & Noble, the title of a small-format hardback – *The Lees of Laughter's End* (Night Shade Books, 2009) – happened to catch my eye. I decided I'd like to buy the book after randomly glancing through only a few passages. And then I noticed, close by, a larger trade paperback entitled *Bauchelain and Korbal Broach: Three Short Novels of the Malazan Empire* – which included *The Lees of Laughter's End* as one of the "three short novels." Sold!

In fact, the "three short novels" contained in this volume – all of which recount the adventures (or mis-adventures) of the title characters – have been previously published: *Blood Follows* (2002), *The Healthy Dead* (2004), and *The Lees of Laughter's End* (2007). And now they're all nicely collected in one place. (The fact that this volume is also labeled as "Volume One" would seem to indicate that fans can look forward to at least one more collection of stories featuring Bauchelain and Korbal Broach.)

Seems as how Steven Erikson and Ian Esslemont co-created the "Malazan" world back in the early 1980s as a setting for an RPG – but it ended up serving as the basis for a number of very popular novels by either or both authors. Prior to this, I'd never read any of the

(continued on page 3)

Bauchlain and Korbal Broach

continued from page 2

‘Malazan’ books by Erikson or Esslemont. But if the short novels contained in *Bauchelain and Korbal Broach* exemplify the quality of the other ‘Malazan’ novels, then I think I’ll just have to give more of ‘em a read!

The background of the ‘Malazan’ world is fascinating, detailed, and wondrous strange. I suppose this should come as no surprise, as both Erikson and Esslemont are trained archaeologists and Erikson is additionally an anthropologist. But don’t expect massive expository lumps or meticulous appendices and atlases and glossaries to lay it all out for you – this fantasy world is tantalizingly revealed (when necessary and appropriate) as the story goes along. It’s similar to what I remember when reading Jack Vance’s ‘Dying Earth’ stories. The tone of these tales also reminds me of vintage Vance: witty, ironic, often tongue-in-cheek, sometimes almost silly. Here’s a particularly jolly excerpt from *The Lees of Laughter’s End*:

Wizards delegate. One could always tell the wizards who did by the way they sat around in their towers day and night concocting evil schemes of world domination. Somebody else was scrubbing out the bedpan. Wizards who didn’t delegate never had the time to think up a black age of tyranny, much less execute what was necessary to achieve it. Dishes piled up and so did laundry.

In fact, I’ve read comments to the effect that Erikson likes to play around with, and overturn, the conventions of Fantasy. One glance at the three major characters in these stories is all the confirmation you’ll need. Bauchelain is urbane and business-like – a former mercenary soldier who gave all that up to become a sorcerer and alchemist. (He’s possibly also a necromancer, but don’t expect him to confirm that.) His partner-in-crime (quite literally), Korbal Broach, is a eunuch and unabashedly a necromancer; he’s also completely a-moral and freakin’ nuts. Or, if you prefer to be

polite, he’s singularly concerned with his own pursuits, to the exclusion of the needs, wants, or rights of anyone else. (And there’s a locked trunk full of amorphous protoplasm – horribly alive – to exemplify just how arcane those ‘pursuits’ are.) Rounding out the jolly little threesome is Emancipor Reese (aka ‘Mancy the Luckless’). Reese has, shall we say, a remarkably unfortunate employment record – all of his former employers are dead (many of them under less-than-pleasant circumstances). Reese was never actually the *cause* of any of these deaths, but still... His latest employer having recently died, Reese (spurred by thoughts of his nagging wife and brood of bothersome children) hires on as a manservant for Bauchelain and Korbal Broach. It’s hardly any wonder that he spends much of his time either drunk or drugged or trying to get that way. (Not exactly the Fellowship of the Ring, is it?)

The storylines of the three short novels are an absolute delight: sometimes gruesome, sometimes slapstick, sometimes a combination of both.

Blood Follows tells the story of how Emancipor Reese comes to work for Bauchelain and Korbal Broach. A supernatural killer is stalking the streets of the city of Lamentable Moll and dispatching people in very grisly ways – and, naturally, Emancipor Reese’s latest employer (now his *former* employer) is the most recent victim. Enter two mysterious strangers (Bauchelain and Korbal Broach). They’re just passing through town on their way to who-knows-where – and they’ve posted a note (a sorcerously-tainted note) in the marketplace: ‘‘Manservant required. Full time. Travel involved. Wage to be negotiated depending on experience. Call at Sorrowman’s Hostel.’’ Meanwhile, Sergeant Guld, stalwart officer of the law in Lamentable Moll, is following the bloody trail in hopes of solving the string of gruesome murders. Could these two itinerant mages be mixed up in this somehow? (Well, maybe...)

In *The Lees of Laughter’s End*, mages and manservant have swiftly left Lamentable Moll behind and headed for the high seas. Unfortunately, they’re the

only passengers on a ship that would appear to be both cursed and crewed by a hapless bunch of salty sea-dogs (who, trust me, often make The Skipper and Gilligan look like master mariners). There are also pirates, undead liches, and a monstrous god-thing from the depths to contend with. Oh, and Korbal Broach’s protoplasmic monstrosity has escaped its trunk and is oozing about the ship in search of prey. (Ah, there’s nothing like a nice sea voyage to soothe your frazzled nerves!)

Finally, in *The Healthy Dead*, our ‘‘heroes’’ find themselves in the city of Quaint, where ‘‘goodness’’ and ‘‘wellness’’ aren’t just laudatory goals – they’re required by law and enforced by a mad theocrat and his army of overzealous paladins. What better place for such stalwart, upright exemplars as Bauchelain, Korbal Broach, and Emancipor Reese to visit? (And where else might their subversive wives be more needed?) This is the most picaresque and satirical of the three stories. Erikson apparently had a lot of fun grinding this particular axe. Why else would he preface the story with the following note? ‘‘Warning to lifestyle fascists everywhere. Don’t read this or you’ll go blind.’’

As I said, I had a lot of fun reading this book, and I’m really looking forward to ‘‘Volume Two.’’ $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$



Matt Smith
(the new Doctor Who)
on the cover of Gay Times
(Thanks for the heads-up, Peter!)

**** INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS ****

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (LSF) is an organization for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered (GLBT) people, and their friends who are interested in science fiction, fantasy, horror and related genres in all forms (SF/F/H). LSF's primary goals are to have fun, to provide a community, and to:

- promote SF/F/H, with particular attention to materials of interest to GLBT people and their friends;
- provide forums for GLBT people and their friends to share their interest in SF/F/H;
- promote the presence of GLBT elements within SF/F/H and within fandom; and
- promote SF/F/H within the GLBT community.

Annual membership fees are \$10, for which you will receive an e-mailed this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. (Hard copies of the newsletter cost an additional \$15 per year.) Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. But the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Sunday, April 11th**, at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St. NW, #413), near Dupont Circle. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. Hope to see you there!

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians is an affiliate of **the Gaylactic Network**, an international organization for gay people and their friends who are interested in science-fiction and fantasy.



Con Calendar

by Carl



May 28-31, 2010 **BALTICON 44**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Author GoH: Tanya Huff; Artist GoH: Howard Taylor; 2009 Compton Crook Award Winner: Paul Melko; 2010 Compton Crook Award Winner: TBA. Membership: \$48 until 2/28/2010; \$53 from 3/1/2010 until 4/30/2010; \$60 after 4/30/2010 and at the door. Registration: registration@balticon.org
Website: www.balticon.org E-mail: balticoninfo@balticon.org

July 8-11, 2010 **READERCON 32**. Burlington Marriott (Burlington, MA). Guests of Honor: Nalo Hopkinson & Charles Stross. "The conference on imaginative literature." Membership: \$55 thru 6/19. Make checks payable to "Readercon" and send to: Readercon, PO Box 65, Watertown, MA 02472
Website: www.readercon.org

August 5-8, 2010 **ReCONSTRUCTION** (NASFiC 2010). Raleigh Convention Center; Raleigh Marriott City Center; Sheraton Raleigh Hotel (Raleigh, NC). GoH: Eric Flint; AGoH: Brad Foster. Membership: currently \$95 (will go up!). Make checks payable to "ReConStruction" and send to: ReConStruction, PO Box 31706, Raleigh, NC 27622
Website: www.reconstructionsf.org

October 22-24, 2010 **CAPCLAVE 2010**. Hilton Hotel & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville, MD). Guests of Honor: Connie Willis, Ann Vandermeer, Jeff Vandermeer. Membership: \$45 until 6/30; \$55 from 7/1 to 9/30; \$60 from 10/1 to 10/17. Make checks payable to "Capclave 2010" and send to: Capclave 2010, PO Box 53, Ashton, MD 20861. On-line registration also available.
Website: www.capclave.org For information: info@capclave.org

October 29-31, 2010 **GAYLAXICON 2010**. Marriott Chateau Champlain (Montreal, QC, Canada). More details as they become available. Website: www.gaylaxicon2010.org

Aug. 17-21, 2011 **RENOVATION** (69th World Science Fiction Convention). Reno-Sparks Convention Center (Reno, Nevada). Guests of Honor: Ellen Asher, Charles N. Brown, Tim Powers, Boris Vallejo. Membership: \$140 until 4.30/2010.
Website: www.renovationsf.org Membership queries: memberships@renovationsf.org

