



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044
(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 280 – July 2013

E-MAIL: info@lambdascifi.org

WEBSITE: www.lambdascifi.org

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 round-table discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

The LSF Book Discussion Group usually 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 book discussion will be held on **July 25th**.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

July 25 - *Red Shirts*, by John Scalzi; moderator: Josh.

Aug. 22 - *The Glassmaker's Daughter*, by V.A. Briceland; moderator: Tod.

Sept. 26 - *11/23/63*, by Stephen King; moderator: Keith.

Oct. 24 - *The Summer Prince*, by Alaya Dawn Johnson; moderator: Claire.

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Richard Matheson
1926 - 2013

Richard Matheson, one of the masters of F/SF/H, passed away on June 23rd.

He was a prolific author and screenwriter. His first short story – “Born of Man and Woman” – was published in the third issue (Summer 1950) of *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*. His first anthology of work was published in 1954. Six of his novels have been adapted for the screen: *I Am Legend*; *The Shrinking Man*; *Hell House*; *What Dreams May Come*; *Bid Time Return* (filmed as *Somewhere in Time*); and *Stir of Echoes*. In fact, *I Am Legend* (1954) was adapted for the screen *three* times: *The Last Man on Earth* (1964); *The Omega Man* (1971); and *I Am Legend* (2007).

Matheson wrote screenplays for a number of TV shows, including Westerns like *Cheyenne*, *Have Gun—Will Travel*, and *Lawman*. He wrote more than a dozen episodes for *The Twilight Zone*, including the famous “Nightmare at 20,000 Feet”. And he wrote the popular *Star Trek* episode “The Enemy Within.” Matheson wrote teleplays for *The Night Stalker* and *The Night Strangler*, the introductory TV movies for the series *Kolchak: The Night Stalker*. During the early 1960s, Matheson adapted 5 Edgar Allan Poe stories for Roger Corman’s “Poe” series: *The House of Usher*, *The Pit and the Pendulum*, *Tales of Terror*, and *The Raven*.

Over the course of his long career, Matheson won: two World Fantasy Awards (*Bid Time Return*, 1975; and *Richard Matheson: Collected Stories*, 1989); the World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement (1984); the Bram Stoker Award for Lifetime Achievement (1991); and induction into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame (2010). He died just days before he was due to receive the Visionary Award at the 39th Saturn Awards ceremony. As a tribute, the ceremony was dedicated to him and the award was presented posthumously.

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July LSF Meeting

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, July 14th**. The meeting will once again be held at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM and the social meeting at 2:00 PM. Please also bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. Hope to see you there!

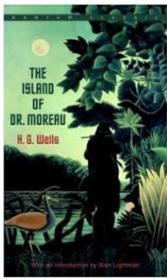
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The Legacy of Dr. Moreau
reviews by Carl

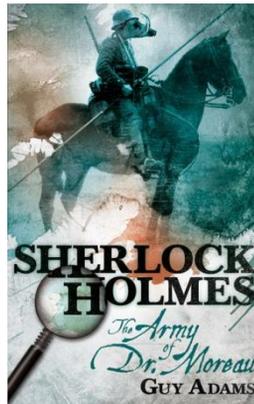
The Island of Dr. Moreau, by H.G. Wells, has certainly left its mark on the world of F&SF since its first publication in 1896 – to the point that even people who haven’t read it are probably quite aware of the general outline of the story.

Many folks learned about Dr. Moreau and his Beast People via the various film versions of the novel. One of the earliest is *The Island of Lost Souls* (1932) – starring Charles Laughton and Bela Lugosi – a pretty darn good film. Then there was *The Island of Dr. Moreau* (1977) – starring Burt Lancaster and Michael York – not so good, but not abysmal. And I almost hesitate to mention the 1996 film of the same name – starring Marlon Brando, Val Kilmer, Dave Thewlis, and Ron Perlman – definitely not a cinematic triumph by any stretch of the imagination, and I’m pretty sure Brando didn’t consider it his finest work. (I certainly don’t.)

Beyond these films, however, the *concepts* that Wells explores in his 1896 novel have permeated the field of F&SF, showing up in any one of a number of places. In such far-future SF stories as “The Ballad of Lost C’Mell” (1962), Cordwainer Smith (one of my favorite authors) presents his own sympathetic “underpeople”: animals that have been modified into human form and intelligence to fulfill servile roles for their human masters. In Marvel Comics, there’s The High Evolutionary (a superscience geneticist) and his “New Men” (aka “the Knights of Wundagore”) – first appearing in *The Mighty Thor* in 1966 and popping up in various storylines throughout the Marvel Universe since then. And in the 1990s, Andrew Swann wrote several SF detective novels – collectively known as “the Moreau series” – wherein

“moreau” is a generic term for animal-human hybrids created as soldiers by a number of 21st Century governments. (These stories also feature “franks” – derived from “Frankenstein” – genetically-engineered humans.) And last (and possibly least) there’s the George Pal film *Atlantis: The Lost Continent* (1961) – one of my “guilty pleasures.” It features an un-named villain (called “Surgeon” in imdb.com) who runs “the House of Fear” (a riff on *Moreau*’s “House of Pain”) and uses surgery, drugs, and hypnotism to turn hapless prisoners into mindless animal-human hybrids.

But it’s not actually my intention to review the cinematic retellings of the Wells story or to trace its influence throughout F&SF. Instead, I want to briefly tell you about a couple of new novels that take over where the original Wells novel left off and *extend* the story of Dr. Moreau and his creations.



Sherlock Holmes: The Army of Dr. Moreau
by Guy Adams
(Titan Books, 2012)

Titan Books has issued about a dozen new (or reprinted) novels that add to the “Holmes legend” originally created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the late 19th Century. Many of the Titan publications involve The Great Detective with various F&SF adventures. This one combines Sherlock Holmes with Dr. Moreau.

It’s been 11 years since Edward Prendick’s adventures with Dr. Moreau and his Beast People (as recounted in *The Island of Dr. Moreau*).

Suddenly, bodies are turning up in the streets of London, horribly mauled by what appear to be the talons, fangs, and tusks of huge animals. Then Sherlock’s brother Mycroft shows up at Baker Street. He wants Sherlock (and Dr. Watson, of course) to investigate these savage murders. He also explains that Dr. Moreau had been assigned to create super-soldiers for the British Empire by “the Department” (the shadowy agency with which Mycroft is deeply involved). So, was Prendick’s narrative in error? Is Dr. Moreau still alive? Are his Beast People now loose in Britain? The game’s afoot!!

(continued on page 3)



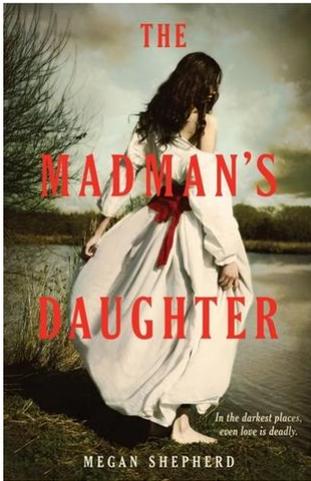
“He’s dead, Jim.”
First use of the phrase:
“The Enemy Within”
Star Trek (1966)
by Richard Matheson

quoted in *Science Fiction Quotations*
edited by Gary Westfahl
(Yale University Press, 2005)



The Legacy of Dr. Moreau

continued from page 2



The Madman's Daughter
by Megan Shepherd
(HarperCollins, 2013)

This YA novel fooled me. When I bought *The Madman's Daughter*, I figured it might be a “prequel” or “sequel” to *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, with Shepherd telling the story of what happened either *before* or *after* the events in the Wells novel. But when I got to Chapter 9, it became quite obvious that it's an *alternate version* of the Wells novel, with a number of fascinating changes.

The story opens about 6 years after Dr. Moreau fled from England under a cloud of scandal, abandoning his wife and daughter. Mrs. Moreau died some years previously, and Juliet is now a teenaged scrubwoman at King's College of Medical Research, London (where her father had once been a distinguished member of the faculty). Through a series of coincidences worthy of Charles Dickens, Juliet runs into Montgomery, the young servant who had disappeared along with Dr. Moreau. (No, it's not what you think. In Victorian times, a gentleman simply *can't* go anywhere without a servant.) Juliet learns from Montgomery that her father is still alive and continuing his mysterious physiological research on a small Pacific island and that Montgomery has become Dr. Moreau's assistant. Montgomery also explains that he – accompanied by his weird-looking servant Balthazar –

has been in London on a resupply mission and is getting ready to return to the island. The next night at work, Juliet violently fends off the unwanted sexual advances of smarmy old Dr. Hastings and is – of course – fired, thus facing the likelihood of life on the London streets as a prostitute. (I'm still amazed at what's being included in YA novels nowadays. We've certainly come a long way from the Heinlein “juveniles.”) Suffice it to say that Juliet talks Montgomery into taking her along on his return to Dr. Moreau's island. So, off on a long voyage they go, in a decrepit old ship with a drunken captain, a crew of ne'er-do-wells, and a collection of frightened animals.

Yo ho, me hearties!

It's in the previously-mentioned Chapter 9 that they rescue Edward Prince, a castaway in an open boat suffering from exposure; and Montgomery uses his scanty medical supplies to nurse Prince back from the brink. And right about then is when I clicked on the fact that this is *neither* a prequel *nor* a sequel to *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. You see, in the Wells version, Montgomery is returning to Moreau's island on a decrepit old ship when they rescue a castaway named “Edward Prendick” (the narrator of the Wells novel). “OK,” says I to myself, “I get it...”

The author's changes to the basic Wells story are fascinating. First, of course, is the existence of Juliet Moreau, the title character. (In the Wells novel, we have no indication that Dr. Moreau was ever married, let alone that he had a daughter.) Instead of being the drunken middle-aged assistant portrayed by Wells, Montgomery has become an 18-year-old hunky former family servant. (I guess we've just gotta have a “love interest” for Juliet.) And the castaway Edward Prince (Wells's “Edward Prendick”) has also become a handsome young man – so that we can have a “love triangle,” with Montgomery and Edward competing for Juliet's affections.

Even the physical description of Dr. Moreau has changed. Wells describes Moreau as “a powerfully-built man” who is “white-haired, broad shouldered.” But here's his description

now: “He was gaunt, as though all the excess muscle and fat from his youth had been spent and what remained was only the hardened core...” and his hair “flew wild and grey like a swarm of wasps about his head.”

Put it all together, and I couldn't help but notice a new pattern emerging. *The Madman's Daughter* starts to look very much like a combination of Wells's *The Island of Dr. Moreau* and Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. (If you're not up on your Shakespeare, try thinking of the classic SF film *Forbidden Planet*.) Dr. Moreau has become an analog for Prospero (the exiled Duke and magician); Juliet is Prospero's daughter Miranda; Montgomery is a substitute for Prospero's supernatural servant Ariel; and Edward is the analog for Ferdinand (the castaway prince in *Tempest*). At first, I decided that Moreau's Beast Men must be sort of a “multiple-Caliban” (“the monster” in *Tempest*) – but, as I read on, I discovered that Shepherd has cleverly provided a different Caliban-substitute. (I won't explain it here – too much of a spoiler.)

There are some other Shakespearean tie-ins. Shepherd has Dr. Moreau name all his Beast Men after Shakespearean characters. For example, M'ling (Wells's version of the humanoid dog-bear who is Montgomery's servant) has become “Balthazar” – other Beast Men have names like Puck, Caesar, and Cymbeline. And, just to nail the comparison home, one scene even shows Edward Prince reading a copy of *The Tempest* from Dr. Moreau's small library.

I found the final scene a bit on the disappointing side. (Again, it would be too much of a spoiler to explain it here.) But, despite that, I found Shepherd's *The Madman's Daughter* to be a mostly enjoyable and fascinating read – a tad on the “Gothic romance” side (because of the love triangle), but still enjoyable. You also might want to read (or, as in my case, re-read) *The Island of Dr. Moreau* for purposes of comparison.

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* * 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 copy of 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. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, **July 14th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. 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



July 5-8, 2013 **THE NORTH AMERICAN DISCWORLD CONVENTION 2013**. "The Turtle Moved!" Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel (Baltimore, MD). Guest of Honor: Sir Terry Pratchett (health permitting) & Rob Wilkins (Terry's personal asst.). Membership: \$111. On-line registration.
Website: www.nadwcon.org Info: info@nadwcon.org

Oct. 11-13, 2013 **CAPCLAVE 2013**. Hilton Washington DC North (Gaithersburg, MD). Guest of Honor George R.R. Martin; Editor GoH: Sharyn November; Artist GoH: Steve Stiles. Membership: \$55 June - July; \$60 August - September; \$70 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave" and send to: Capclave 2013 Registration, c/o Sam Scheiner, 1518 North Edison St., Arlington, VA 22205-2638. On-line registration also available at Capclave.org.
Website: Capclave.org Info: info@capclave.org Twitter: twitter.com/capclave

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, 2013 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL 36**. (A very LGBT-friendly convention.) Crowne Plaza Baltimore (Timonium, MD). GoH and Artist GoH: TBA; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$50 thru 11/1; \$55 thereafter and at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907
Website: www.darkovercon.org

Aug. 14-18, 2014 **LONCON 3: The 72nd World Science Fiction Convention**. (London, UK). Guests: Iain Banks, John Clute, Robin Hobb. Membership (currently): \$170 (ages 26+); \$110 (ages 16-25) - prices will go UP. Make checks payable to "Loncon3" and send to: London in 2014, #110, 530 Showers Drive, Ste. 7, Mountain View, CA 94040
Website: www.Loncon3.org Info: info@Loncon3.org

July 3-6, 2014 (tentative dates) **GAYLAXICON 2014**. Hotel TBD (Boston, MA). "When the stars are right over Boston!" Membership: \$50 thru 8/31/2013. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society" and send to: GSFS c/o Registration, PO Box 425662, Cambridge, MA 02142

Info: Questions2014@Gaylaxicon.org

On-line Registration: Registration2014@Gaylaxicon.org