



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044
(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 297 - December 2014

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 December 4th.

Here are the details for the next four book discussions:

Dec. 4 (1st Thurs., combined Nov./Dec. discussion) - *Blindness*, by Jose Saramago (moderator: Walter).

Jan. 22, 2015 - *Children of Kings: A Darkover Novel*, by Marion Zimmer Bradley & Debra J. Ross (moderator: Randy).



New Year's Eve Gaming Party

announced by Peter & Rob

Celebrate New Year's Eve with LSF at Rob and Peter's home. Here are the details on how to join the fun!

Date: Wed., Dec. 31, 2014

Time: The doors will open at 3:00 PM. The potluck dinner and gaming will begin in the 3:30 PM-to-4:00 PM range. We'll toast in the New Year with champagne, sparkling wine, and/or sparkling cider.

Feb. 26, 2015 - *Through the Woods* (a graphic novel), by Emily Carroll (moderator: Claire).

March 26, 2015 - *One-Eyed Jack*, by Elizabeth Bear (moderator: Carl).

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Where: Rob & Peter's home: 1425 "S" St NW, Washington, DC

Directions:

<http://lambdascifi.org/club/PeterRob.html>

Warning: Street parking is almost impossible to find on the weekends and holidays. Take Metro if you can. The paid lot on the SW corner of 14th & "S" Streets NW costs whatever the attendants can get away with. Fixed-price parking at the Reeves Center Parking Garage, on the north side of "U" Street west of 14th St NW.

Bring: Your favorite table game or two (cards, board, etc.). It's a potluck meal, so bring something to eat: appetizers (veggies, chips, etc.), main course item (enough to serve at least 4-5 people), dessert, and/or non-alcoholic drinks (both regular and diet). For the New Year's toast, it's OK to bring some sparkling wine or cider (champagne, if you're feeling generous). The hosts request that no one drink alcohol during the party other than at midnight.

For more information, call 202-810-4678 or send e-mail to:

PeterPKnapp@gmail.com

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<<<<< December LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 14th**. The meeting will 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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What's Inside?

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Brief Minutes of the November LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

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[Ed. Note: This was a combined LSF meeting and Gaming Party. Everyone apparently had lots of fun!]

During the Business portion of the meeting, LSF members voted to approve the resolution to stop paying for the LSF post office box.

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“We wish you a Merry Christmas...
we wish you a Merry Christmas...
we wish you a Merry Christmas...
and a Happy New Year!



Here comes 2015!

Anthologies, Ho! Part 3

a review by Carl

Yes, I’ve been reading rather a lot of anthologies lately. As I said, maybe it’s the siren call of that stack of unread, fascinating-looking anthologies. At any rate, finishing up the series with this final review...

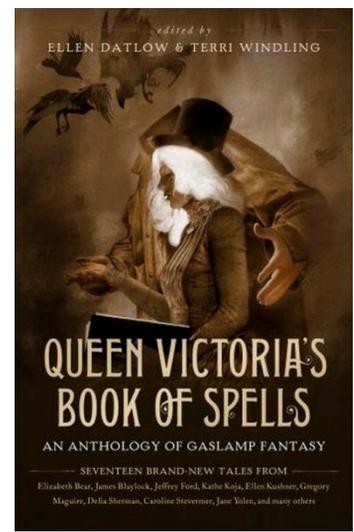
*Queen Victoria’s Book of Spells:
An Anthology of Gaslamp Fantasy*
edited by

Ellen Datlow & Terri Windling
(Tor Books, 2013)

This anthology of 18 all-new stories includes some really big-name contributors, including: Delia Sherman, Maureen McHugh, Kathe Koja, Elizabeth Bear, James Blaylock, Jeffrey Ford, Ellen Kushner, Gregory Maguire, and Tanith Lee. Wow.

But what is “gaslamp fantasy”? It’s defined in this anthology’s Preface as “stories set in a magical version of nineteenth-century England.” So how is that different from Steampunk? According to the Preface (again), Steampunk is “only one form of the diverse range of fiction that falls under the Gaslamp Fantasy label”. The stories in this anthology owe more to Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, and Anthony Trollope than they do to Jules Verne or H.G. Wells. There’s less “mechanical whiz-bang” and action-adventure to these stories and rather more magic or dark fantasy.

The stories in *Book of Spells* include a wide range of styles and tones. Perhaps my favorite is “Phosphorus” by Veronica Schanoes. Yes, it’s a magical tale that explores the lengths to which love will go; but it’s also a hard-hitting and gritty exploration of the horrific effects of phosphorus poisoning actually suffered by the young women and girls (primarily Irish) who worked in English match factories during the Victorian Age. In contrast, another of my favorites is “The Vital Importance of the Superficial” by Ellen Kushner and Caroline Stevermer – a delightful comedy of



manners written as an exchange of letters between Austen-esque dilettantes embroiled in a magical mystery. Tanith Lee’s “Their Monstrous Minds” is the story that most closely approaches Steampunk, with a Frankenstein-like mad scientist who experiences a number of unanticipated problems with his Creation.

A couple of these stories also include LGBT content – two more of my favorites in this anthology. In “Queen Victoria’s Book of Spells” (by Delia Sherman), a modern-day young woman attempts to “de-code” the spells hidden by a young Victoria in one of her diaries. At one point in her first-person narrative, the young researcher reveals her sexual preferences while thinking about unwanted advances made to her by her male supervisor: “I’ve never seen the point of limiting myself to one gender when it comes to lovers. I do, however, limit myself to people I actually fancy.” And then there’s Kathe Koja’s “La Reine d’Enfer”: a story of love between two men in the Victorian London theatre scene, combined with a tale of magical revenge.

Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling are renowned for the quality of the anthologies they assemble; and *Queen Victoria’s Book of Spells* is no exception.

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Bent CON 2014

NOVEMBER 7TH - 9TH, 2014

LOS ANGELES BURBANK MARRIOTT CONVENTION CENTER
2500 N. HOLLYWOOD WAY • BURBANK, CALIFORNIA



As you've probably already heard, in 2015 LSF will host Gaylaxicon at Bent-Con, a five-year-old West Coast LGBTQ ("and friends") convention. So I planned a trip out to Burbank this year to scope out the scene. Richard Mandrachio came down from San Francisco for a couple of days, too; and we both had an a lotta fun at Bent-Con.

To get there, all you need to do is fly into Burbank's Bob Hope Airport (BUR), which is literally across the street from the con hotel. The hotel shuttle continuously circulates back-and-forth all day long – and all you need to do is wait in the outdoor bus pick-up area for about 10-15 minutes. If you fly into Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), you'll need to get SuperShuttle or something similar to get out to Burbank (about \$30 one way). When you're at the hotel, finding something inexpensive – and delicious! – to eat is no problem. There's a small mall just across the street with several decent chain restaurants and half a dozen nice local joints: Italian, Japanese, Greek, fish. (Richard and I made sure to eat at all of the local restaurants – they're all quite good.)

Bent-Con 2014 featured lots of interesting gay-themed panels and presentations. I didn't attend anywhere near even half of them. I think my absolute favorite was "Wonder Woman: The Kink in the Golden Lasso": a brilliant presentation by Boston Blake about WW, her creator, and how the character has changed down the decades. I also attended a fascinating presentation on *Star Trek: Axanar*, the new indy series that's being developed. It's about the human-Klingon war and is set between *Enterprise* and the original TV series – featuring Richard Hatch as the Kingon commander-in-chief and Gary Graham reprising his role as Vulcan Ambassador Soval. You can check out their incredible 20-minute intro film

Prelude to Axanar on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1W18IV8uhA>

I even got a couple of autographs. I chatted for a while with Gary Graham (who also played "Det. Sikes" in the *Alien Nation* TV series) and got him to autograph his book about acting. (It's actually very well written.) Then I talked with Wesley Eure – you might remember him as the hunky young "Will" in the old *Land of the Lost* TV series – I bought an autographed picture and told him how I had *such* a crush on him in his *LotL* days. (And, trust me, he's still a good-looking guy some 40 years later!)



Wesley Eure



Gary Graham

There was small-but-nice art show that included works by Joe Phillips and Patrick Fillion (among others) – and even a few original Tom of Finland sketches. (BTW, Patrick Fillion is a really nice, friendly guy!) There was a film track showing dozens of LGBTQ-themed movies and short subjects, including the "world premiere" of Steven Vasquez's soft-porn *Angels with Tethered Wings*. There was also a nice-sized dealers' room, with a very good variety of stuff on sale (art, books, costumes, jewelry, games, etc.) – yes, I bought a bunch'a books (all small press – and I've been delighted with the quality of the ones I purchased). One booth even featured some of the comics created by Bent-Con President/Founder Sean Z Maker. (You might have met him at Gaylaxicon 2007 in Atlanta.)



Sean Z
Maker

And costumes, costumes everywhere!!! LOTS of nice spandex-clad bodies to gawk at (male, female, and some I'm not so sure of) – hall costumes, posing sessions, a masquerade, stage routines – there was even a Sleestak designed as a surprise for Wesley Eure – as well as hunky mermen and mermaids at the "Atlantean Pool Party" at Noon on Saturday.



All in all, Bent-Con 2014 was an absolute delight; and I'm looking forward to having the Gaylaxians "add to the mix" in 2015.

If you want to find out more details about Bent-Con 2014, please check out their website (link on page 4 of this newsletter). And if you're interested in helping out with Gaylaxicon programming at Bent-Con 2015, please contact Peter, Rob, or Carl.



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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, **December 14th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC.** 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



February 13-15, 2015 **FARPOINT 22**. North Baltimore Plaza Hotel (Timonium, MD). Guests: Colin Ferguson ("Jack Carter" from *Eureka*), Tim Russ ("Tuvok"), Marc Okrand, Timothy Zahn (author), and more. Membership: \$80 weekend rate (daily rates available).
Website: www.FarpointCon.com

May 22-25, 2015 **BALTICON 49**. Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). GoH: Jo Walton; Artist GoH: Ruth Sanderson. Membership: \$55 until 2/28/2015; \$60 from 3/1 thru 4/15; \$65 thereafter. On-line registration thru the convention website.
Website: <http://www.balticon.org/>

May 29-31, 2015 **AWESOME CON 2015**. Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington, DC). Guests include: Michael Rosenblum ("Lex Luthor", *Smallville*), David Yost (the blue Power Ranger), James Marsters ("Spike", *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*). Weekend membership: \$70 until 1/1/2015; \$75 after that (daily rates available). On-line registration thru the convention website. Website: <http://www.awesome-con.com/washington-dc/>

June 19-21, 2015 **CAPITAL CON DC 2015**. "A new science fiction/fantasy convention for the Washington DC area." Washington Court Hotel on Capitol Hill (Washington DC). Media GoH: Doug Jones ("Abe Sapien" in *Hellboy* and *Hellboy 2*). Author GoH: Sherrilyn Kenyon. Artist GoH: Ruth Sanderson. More info as it becomes available.
Website: <http://www.capitalcon.org/>

Nov. 6-8, 2015 **BENT-CON/GAYLAXICON 2015**. Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel and Convention Center (Burbank, CA). Membership: \$60 weekend rate. More info as it becomes available.
Website: <http://bent-con.org/>

