



Lambda Sci-Fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044



(202) 232-3141 - Issue #252 - March 2011

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 roundtable 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 meeting will be held on March 24th.

Here are the details for the next couple of book discussions:

March 24th - *Galileo's Dream*, by Kim Stanley Robinson; moderator: Claire.

April 28th - *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms*, by N.K. Jemisin; moderator: Jamaki.

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March LSF Meeting and Gaming Party announced by Peter

The date and date and location of the March LSF meeting has changed and is going to be coupled with a gaming party. Rob and I will be hosting a short LSF meeting immediately followed by a gaming party. Here are the details:

What:
LSF March Meeting and Gaming Party

When:
Saturday, March 12th; 2:00 PM to ??

Where:
Rob and Peter's House at 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Directions at:
<http://lambdascifi.org/lsf/club/PeterRob.html>



What to Bring: Bring board and card games, as well as snacks and non-alcoholic drinks to share. We'll order pizza for dinner. Bring \$7 if you want to join in the pizza order.

For more information, please call Peter and Rob at 202-483-6369 or e-mail Peter at:

Peter.P.Knapp@gmail.com

or e-mail Rob at:

RobGatesDC@gmail.com

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March LSF Meeting *** Change of Date & Place ***

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 12th**. The meeting will be held at Rob and Peter's house (1425 "S" Street NW), near Dupont Circle. A short business meeting will be held, **starting at 2:00 PM, followed immediately by a gaming party**. Please see the party announcement elsewhere on this page. See you there!

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**lambda Sci-Fi:
DC Area Gaylaxians
turns 21 this year!!!
Congratulations!!**

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Minutes of the February 13th LSF Meetings (pg. 2); To John Connolly...And Beyond! (book review - pg. 2); In Praise of "Planet Stories" (series review - pg. 3); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians and Con Calendar (pg. 4)

**Minutes of the
February 13th
LSF Meeting**
taken by Scott

It was decided that the next LSF meeting (March 2011) will be a little different than usual – it will be a combined meeting with a gaming party. It will be held on Saturday, March 12th, at the home of Rob and Peter.

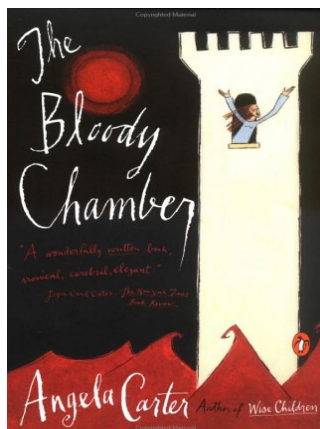
John Connolly's *Book of Lost Things* will be discussed at the Feb. 24 LSF book discussion meeting (at the home of Rob and Peter). The March book will be Kim Stanley Robinson's *Galileo's Dream*. David confessed his current gaming addiction: deck-building *Dominion*. It was mentioned that Dick Cheney had cited the *Angry Bird* game during an interview. (Did that increase sales?) Some LSF members will be attending the May Gaylaxicon 2011 in Atlanta. And David and Greg are attending Gallifrey (*Dr. Who* convention) in LA next week.

NBC has dropped its request for new episodes of *The Cape*, from 13 to 10. The US version of *Being Human* is apparently more-or-less-similar to the UK version; it appears that the plotline of the US version is being front-loaded. PBS aired a special program on Watson, the IBM computer that competed against humans on *Jeopardy*. *Torchwood* is now being filmed, with Bill Pullman added to the cast and with the plot of "nobody dies."

Channing Tatum, who serves well as good eye-candy, stars in the new film *The Eagle* (based on the old Rosemary Sutcliff YA novel, *The Eagle of the Ninth*). Melinda Lo is coming out with a YA prequel to *Ash*. In the Marvel Comics world, Johnny Storm (aka the Human Torch of the Fantastic Four) has died; he has been replaced in "F4" by Spiderman. The Sy Fy Channel is remaking *Alien Nation*. Have we all not seen variations of the current *Battle for Los Angeles* movie?

Carl praised a set of "Star Trek Fan Collective" DVD's he'd purchased. This set ("Alternate Realities") features all the *Star Trek*, *DS9*, and *Enterprise* "mirror universe" episodes (as well as various other "alternate lives" stories). Other "Fan Collective" DVD set themes include: Borg, Time Travel, Q, Captain's Log, etc.

**To John Connolly
... and Beyond!**



The Bloody Chamber
by Angela Carter
(Penguin Books, 1993)

As you know, the subject of the February LSF Book Discussion Group was John Connolly's *The Book of Lost Things*. Well, *The Book of Lost Things* draws heavily on traditional fairy tales for its characters and plot elements. The current trade paperback even includes a rather long Appendix in which Connolly talks about the originals from which he drew his motifs (Perrault, the Brothers Grimm, etc.). He also lauds the works of the late Angela Carter, who was well-known for her sexy, lyrical retellings of traditional fairy tales. I first read Carter's collection of stories,

The Bloody Chamber, about 10-15 years ago. I rather enjoyed them and figured I'd like to read 'em over again.

As it turned out, memory served me well this time. *The Bloody Chamber* is an entertaining read throughout. Originally published in 1979/1980, it's a collection of 10 short stories: all of them dark, sensual, witty, stylish reformulations of various fairy tales and legends. They almost always contain a feminist angle; and they frequently explore "unconventional" sexuality (although not specifically GLBT). There are stories about Bluebeard ("The Bloody Chamber"), Beauty and the Beast ("The Courtship of Mr. Lyon" and "The Tiger's Bride"), Puss-in-Boots (in a story of the same name), fairies ("The Erl-King"), Snow White ("The Snow Child"), vampires ("The Lady of the House of Love"), Red Riding Hood ("The Werewolf" and "The Company of Wolves"), and feral children ("Wolf-Alice").

Oh, and if the story title "The Company of Wolves" seems familiar to you, you're probably remembering the 1984 fantasy-horror film of the same name (Shepperton Studios, directed by Neil Jordan). In fact, Carter wrote the screenplay, based on her short story.

If you get a chance, check out *The Bloody Chamber*. I think you'll find it a fast and enjoyable read!

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The trailer for *Atlas Shrugged* looks wretched. Carl liked the first season of the new BBC series *Sherlock*. Hopefully there will be further seasons. Not everyone was pleased at the use of the Reset Button at the end of the current *Dr. Who* season with the Doctor, Amy Pond and Rory. It was noted that the new *Tron* movie did not get nominated for an Oscar visual effects award. The new *Battlestar Galactica: Blood & Fire* will supposedly feel more like *Galactica* than *Caprica*.

Lots of superhero movies to look for: Green Lantern (with hottie Ryan Reynolds), Thor, *X-Men First Class*, what else?

Carrie Fisher's one-woman show is coming to the Hippodrome in Baltimore. The *New Voyages* folks (fan-created *Star Trek* series) will be producing new episodes soon. The fan-created *Browncoats: Redemption* video got panned – Jim will

bring it to a future LSF video party.

During discussion, Rob differentiated between the "Weird West" and "steampunk" F&SF sub-genres. Then Jim talked about Babbage's difference engine (the actual device upon which *The Difference Engine*, the ground-breaking steampunk novel by William Gibson & Bruce Sterling, is based).

There is mounting interest in JJ Abram's *Super 8* alien invasion (??) movie.

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**In Praise of
“Planet Stories”**
short review by Carl

Long-time fen frequently bewail the loss of “the good old stuff” – the works of favorite classic F&SF authors that are getting harder and harder to find, including those exceptional works of short fiction that first saw light of day during the Pulp Era. Until recently, most of this stuff could only be found (if at all) in out-of-the-way used bookstores and occasionally in the dealers rooms of sci-fi conventions. Well, weep no more, my friends! Here comes “The Planet Stories Library” to the rescue!

A little history: The original *Planet Stories* was a pulp SF magazine published by Fiction House between 1939 and 1955. Almost every story that appeared in this magazine could be described as either “space opera” (blazing space battles, bug-eyed monsters, stalwart heroes, beautiful native princesses, and such) or “planetary adventures” (sort of like an H. Rider Haggard novel – or an “Indiana Jones” adventure – set on an alien planet). A list of contributors includes some of the greats of the F&SF genre: Leigh Brackett, Ray Bradbury (early stories from the *Martian Chronicles* sequence), Clifford Simak, James Blish, Fredric Brown, Damon Knight, and Philip K. Dick (including his very first sale, “Beyond Lies the Wub”). The cover artwork was often “typical Pulp fare,” with scantily-clad women or alien princesses on almost every cover. Interior B&W line artwork was frequently high-quality, including the work of such artists as Frank Paul, Hannes Bok, and Alexander Leydenfrost.

And now comes Paizo Publishing LLC (paizo.com). In 2007, Paizo (a gaming-related company) began publishing books in its “Planet Stories Library” – six new releases each year. Here’s how they put it:

Strap on your jet pack and set out for unforgettable interplanetary adventure with Planet Stories®, Paizo Publishing’s exciting science fiction and fantasy fiction imprint!...each Planet stories volume has been chosen with the interests of fantasy and science fiction enthusiasts



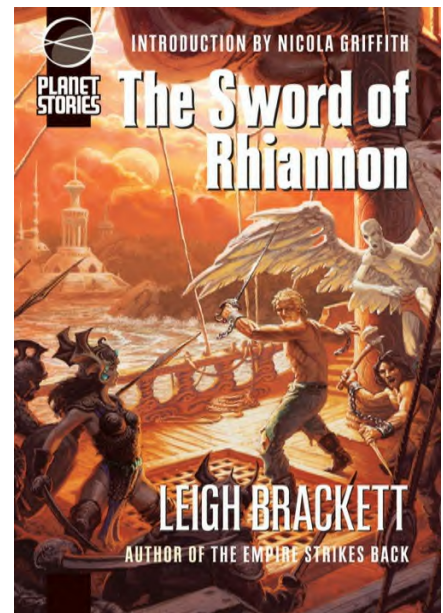
and gamers in mind...classic stories that easily stand the test of time.

And I, for one, am *extremely* pleased with a number of their products. There’s A. Merritt’s classic fantasy novel *The Ship of Ishtar*; and several books featuring the works of Henry Kuttner: *The Dark World* (a swords-and-sorcery classic); *Robots Have No Tails* (a first time collection of all five “Gallegher” humorous SF stories); and *Elak of Atlantis* (again, 19230s swords-and-sorcery, collecting all 4 “Elak” stories and both “Prince Raynor” stories). I absolutely treasure their publication of *Who Fears the Devil?*, which collects (again, for the first time) all of Manly Wade Wellman’s “Silver John” short fiction (dark fantasy set in the Appalachians). And then there are the women authors – OMG! – two of the absolute Greats of classic F&SF. They’ve published 2 books of C.L. Moore stories:

Black God’s Kiss (dark fantasy in medieval France – all 6 adventures of the swordswoman “Jirel of Joiry”); and *Northwest of Earth* (first-time collection of all 13 “Northwest Smith” planetary adventure stories, including the classic “Shambleau”). And there’s a slew of classic planetary adventure novels by one of my all-time favorite authors, the one and only Leigh Brackett: *The Sword of Rhiannon*, *The Secret of Sinharat*, *The Ginger Star*, *The Hounds of Skaith*, and *The Reavers of Skaith*. Wow!!

They’ve also published long-out-of-print works by such authors as Otis Adalbert Kline, Michael Moorcock, Robert Silverberg, Robert E. Howard, and others. “Three cheers for Paizo’s Planet Stories Library!” says I. “Long may they keep publishing!”

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Progress is the tension between the notion of perfection and the notion that striving, not finding, is important.

– George Zebrowski, *Macrolife* (1979) –

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

****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. However, the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 12th**, at Peter and Rob's home (1425 "S" St., NW), near Dupont Circle. The meeting will **begin at 2:00 PM**, followed by a gaming party!! Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. (For more details, see the announcement on page 1 of this newsletter.) 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

April 8-10, 2011 **RAVENCON 2011**. Holiday Inn Kroger Center (Richmond, VA). Author GoH: John Ringo; Artist GoH: Kurt Miller. Membership: \$35 from 1/1/2011 to 4/1/2011; \$40 at the door (daily rates available). Download registration forms from their website; make checks payable to "Ravencon" and send to: Ravencon PO Box 36420, Richmond, VA 23235. Website: www.ravencon.com

May 13-15, 2011 **GAYLAXICON 2011** (held in conjunction with OutlantaCon 2011). Holiday Inn Select Atlanta-Perimeter (Dunwoody, GA). Special Media Guests: Amber Benson & Melissa Carter; Artist GoH: Steve Scott. Membership: \$45 thru 1/31/2011 (purchased on-line thru their website). Website: www.outlantacon.org Information: info@outlantacon.org

May 27-30, 2011 **BALTICON 45**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Baltimore, MD). GoH: Ben Bova; Artist GoH: Vincent DiFate; Special GoH: Steve Geppi. Membership: \$55 until 4/30/2011; \$60 after that and at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 45" and send to: Balticon 45 Registration, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. (Registration forms available on-line.) Website: www.balticon.org Information: balticoninfo@balticon.org

May 27-29, 2011 **TIMEGATE** ("The Home of Doctor Who and Stargate Fandom in Atlanta!"). Holiday Inn Select (Atlanta, GA). Guests Sophie Aldred ("Ace," from the era of the 7th Doctor); Ben Aaronovitch (Dr. Who script writer); Melissa Scott (author); and more. Membership: \$35 to 5/1/2011; \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "TimeGate" and send to: TimeGate, PO Box 500565, Atlanta, GA 31150. Or purchase membership on-line at: www.timegatecon.org/memb/htm Website: www.timegatecon.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: currently \$160 (will go up!). Website: www.renovationsf.org Membership queries: memberships@renovationsf.org

Oct. 14-16, 2011 **CAPCLAVE 2011**. Hilton Washington DC/North Gaithersburg (Gaithersburg, MD). Guests of Honor: Carrie Vaughn & Catherynne Valente. Membership: \$45 thru June; \$55 July thru September; \$60 thereafter. Make checks payable to "Capclave" and send to: Capclave 2011, PO Box 53, Ashton, MD 20861. Register online at: www.capclave.org Website: www.capclave.org Info at: info@capclave.org

