



# lambda Sci-fi DC Area Gaylaxians



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(202) 232-3141 - Issue #265 - April 2012

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## 2011 Tiptree Award

info passed  
along by Carl

The winner of the 2011 James Tiptree Jr. Award is *Redwood and Wildfire* (Aqueduct Press, 2011) by Andrea Hairston. According to the Tiptree website (www.tiptree.org) the novel was “a favorite of the jurors from the moment they read it.”

Description: “This vivid and emotionally satisfying novel encompasses the life of Redwood, a hoodoo woman, as she migrates from rural Georgia to Chicago at the turn of the 20th century. While Redwood’s romance with Aidan Wildfire is central to the novel, female friendship is also a major theme, without deferring to the romance. Hairston incorporates romantic love into a constellation, rather than portraying it as a solo shining star... [The characters] struggle with external and internal forces around questions of gender roles, love, identity, and sexuality.”

In addition to selecting the winner, the jury chose a Tiptree Award Honor List (which is often used by readers as a recommended reading list for the rest of the year). The 2011 Honor List is:

Libba Bray, *Beauty Queens* (Scholastic Press, 2011)

L. Timmel Duchamp, “The Nones of Quintilus” (*Never at Home*, Aqueduct Press, 2011)



Andrea Hairston

Kameron Hurley, *God’s War* (Night Shade Books, 2011)

Gwyneth Jones, *The Universe of Things* (Aqueduct Press, 2011)

Alice Sola Kim, “The Other Graces” (*Asimov’s Science Fiction*, July 2010)

Sandra McDonald, “Seven Sexy Cowboy Robots” (*Strange Horizons*, 2010.10.04)

Maureen McHugh, “After the Apocalypse” (*After the Apocalypse*, Small Beer Press, 2011)

Delia Sherman, *The Freedom Maze* (Big Mouth House, 2011)

Kim Westwood, *The Courier’s New Bicycle* (Harper Voyager Australia, 2011)

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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 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 **April 26th**.

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

**April 26** - *Order 66*, by Karen Traviss; moderator: Alex.

**May 24** - *Batwoman: Elegy*, a graphic novel, by Greg Rucka; moderator: Teresa.

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## March LSF Meeting

The next LSF meeting will be held on Sunday, **April 8th**. 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 will begin at 2:00 PM.** Please also bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there!

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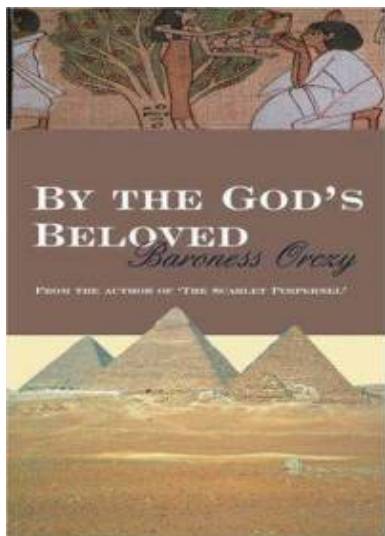
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**By the Gods Beloved**  
**by Baroness Orczy**  
**(House of Stratus, 2008)**  
reviewed by Carl

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One of the staples of Victorian adventure fiction was the “lost race/civilization story.” It was a time when huge areas of South America, Africa, and Asia were still considered *terra incognita* – and novelists could populate these as-yet-unexplored lands with hidden civilizations and lost races galore for their heroes and heroines to discover and have adventures in. Some of the most famous of these adventures were, of course, *King Solomon’s Mines* (1885) and *She* (1887) by H. Rider Haggard and “The Man Who Would be King” by Rudyard Kipling.

Stories of the discovery of lost races and civilizations were still quite popular during the Pulp Era. During his long literary career, Edgar Rice Burroughs had his character Tarzan of the Apes (starting in 1912) run across quite a few throughout various parts of Africa; the most famous was the fabulous Opar, apparently a lost colony of Atlantis populated with a degenerate race and ruled by the (typically) beautiful Queen (and high priestess) La. Even Robert Howard’s Conan the Barbarian ran across lost races and cities (as in, for example, the 1936 story “Red Nails”). “Lost race/civilization” stories also went into space, thinly disguised as the F&SF sub-genre of “planetary adventures,” in which gritty heroes and heroines discover lost cities and races

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**Minutes of the March 2012**  
**LSF Meeting**  
taken by Scott

Rob verified that LSF will have a table at the Capital Pride festivities again this year. The official Pride Day information has not yet been sent out.

Peter and Theresa like both like the HBO *Game of Thrones* series, which is based upon George R.R. Martin’s “Song of Ice and Fire” novels. There are presently five novels in the series, with 2 to 3 more forthcoming. Trailers for Season 2 of *Game of Thrones* are currently being shown.

The film version of *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter* (based on the novel by Seth Grahame-Smith) will be released in December. It was noted that the Disney movie *John Carter* is fun but 100% mindless (as compared with the abysmal, direct-to-video *Princess of Mars* – starring Traci Lords and Antonio Sabato Jr. – which was produced by Asylum, maker of crap movies).

Rob is looking forward to the upcoming *Hunger Games* and *Avengers* movies. And Carl passed around an article from *AARP Magazine* describing how senior citizens are enjoying YA novels (including *The Hunger Games*).

David described how the plot of the TV Series *Ghost Writer* worked. He also described the *Sleep No More* immersive theater production in NYC as “MacBeth meets a haunted house.”

Rob reported that the 2011 Tiptree Award has been announced: Andrea Hairston’s novel *Redwood and Wildfire*.

The play *Book of Mormon*, which includes many genre elements, is coming to DC in 2013.

in the desolate Out Back of other worlds. Arguably the best examples of these stories were written by Leigh Brackett (particularly her stories set on Mars) and C.L. Moore – although you can certainly find examples among Edgar Rice Burroughs’s “John Carter of Mars” stories and Otis Adelbert Kline’s similar Mars stories.

Turning to the silver screen, in the 1933 RKO film *King Kong*, Carl Denham and crew discover the degenerate remains of an unknown civilization on Skull Island,

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Peter and David had oodles of fun at Gallifrey, the *Dr. Who* convention in Los Angeles. Peter passed around a copy of the Gaylaxicon2012 brochure being distributed at Gallifrey. Peter reported that Amy and Rory are being ditched on *Doctor Who*.

Rob is looking forward to seeing *Dial H* (written by China Mieville), part of DC Comics’ “New 52, Second Wave”.

The current season end of the AMC series *The Walking Dead* will begin soon. David advised that the producers of NBC’s *Awake* series (about a cop living in two parallel realities) is \* not \* a genre show. It was also noted that the two competing psychiatrists (one in each “reality”) are both played by LGBT actors: BD Wong and Cherry Jones. John Barrowman (aka *Torchwood*’s “Captain Jack”) has joined the cast of the upcoming ABC series *Gilded Lilies*.

Peter and Rob are enjoying the new season of the UK version of *Being Human*, which is set in a dystopian future. On a related topic, Carl led a short discussion of the cultural dichotomy of vampires vs. werewolves: upper-class vampires vs. lower-class werewolves.

No tears are being shed that the Fox series *Terra Nova* has been cancelled. Benedict Cumberbatch (who plays Sherlock Holmes in the BBC series *Sherlock*) will play the villain in the next *Star Trek* movie. *Mirror Mirror*, a light-hearted film based on the Snow White fairytale, starring Julia Roberts) will be released soon.

And cheesecake was consumed by meeting attendees in celebration of LSF’s 22nd anniversary! ΛΨΦ

as well as dinosaurs and “The Eighth Wonder of the World.” And in that same year, the concept of Shangri-La was introduced to the world via the James Hilton novel *Lost Horizon*, with its portrayal of a paradise-like land hidden deep in the fastnesses of the Himalayas. (The novel was turned into a movie in 1937 – starring Ronald Coleman and Jane Wyatt, directed by Frank Capra.) It’s interesting to note that *Lost Horizon* was so popular that a

(continued on page 3)



## By the Gods Beloved

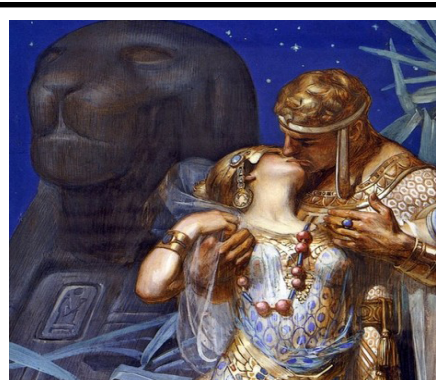
continued from page 2

few years later it was issued as the world's first "mass market paperback" (Pocket Books #1, 1939).

So, where am I going with all this? Glad you asked. I was amazed to learn that Baroness Orczy (1865-1947) had also written a "lost race/civilization" novel: *By the Gods Beloved* (1905). Oh, wait... possibly you've never heard of Baroness Orczy? Well, maybe this will spark your memory: Baroness Orczy is most famous for her creation of one of the greatest of literary swashbucklers, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (also first published in 1905). How's that?

At any rate, as soon as I ran across a description of Orczy's *By the Gods Beloved*, I figured I had to pick up a copy through Amazon.com.

*By the Gods Beloved* follows a pretty standard format for "lost race/civilization stories." Two hale and hearty English chaps with an interest in archaeology discover and decipher a mysterious parchment written by an ancient Greco-Egyptian priest (based on a centuries-old legend the priest had researched). The information in the parchment seems to solve one of the great mysteries of Egyptology: what happened to the people of the earliest Egyptian society (the builders of the pyramids and the Sphinx) when the Old Kingdom collapsed at the end of the Sixth Dynasty (about 2100 BC) and Egypt fell into a century-long "dark age"? The parchment indicates that—lock, stock, and barrel—they headed off westward into the inhospitable Libyan Desert and re-established their civilization in an inaccessible hidden valley somewhere due west from Wadi Halfa. So, off go our two friends—privations and adventures ensue—and, after a couple of chapters full of many hardships, they eventually gain access to the inaccessible valley and find themselves in Kamt, a surviving fragment of ancient Egyptian civilization. Well, maybe... Orczy's descriptions of the beauties of the lost valley get rather purple-prosy at times; and I suspect her descriptions owe as much to Victorian "Orientalist fantasies" as they do to any real understanding of Egyptian art, society, and



architecture. But, hey, it's a fantasy adventure; live with it! Our heroes make a rather spectacular entrance during a public ceremony in the Temple of Ra and pass themselves off as semi-divine emissaries (the "Beloved of the Gods"). Many more adventures ensue.

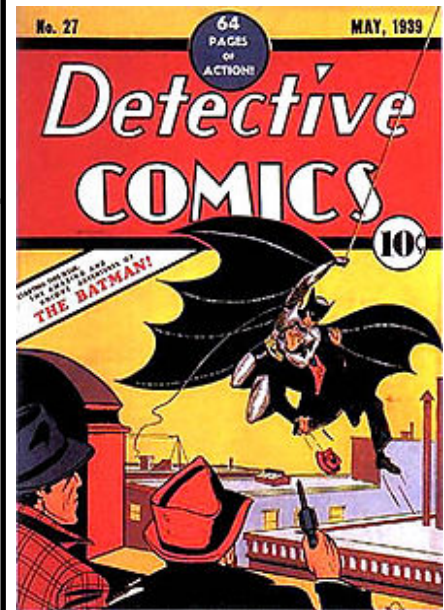
The cast of characters is fairly standard, too. Our heroes, Hugh Tankerville ("Old Girlie") and Mark (the narrator—"Old Chap") are stereotypical products of the English public school system: Hugh the more studious one and Mark the more athletic one. The Egyptian characters are also fairly stereotypical. There's the young, dying Pharaoh and his beautiful, ambitious mother Queen Maat-kha, who serves as Regent of Kamt and will do anything to hold on to power. There's Ur-tasen, the High Priest of Ra—also ambitious, with many devious plots to gain more power for himself. And then there's the young and lovely Princess Neit-akrit—the center of everybody's jealousies and political machinations. Inexplicably, Neit-akrit is the only blonde-and-blue-eyed person in a valley full of Egyptians, which (of course) "explains" how she is able to mysteriously enslave all men with her beauty. I think you can guess where this is going.

Oh, and in case you hadn't guessed, *Beloved of the Gods* does indeed display a noticeable leavening of the racist beliefs so prevalent throughout Victorian adventure literature. It is, after all, a product of its times; and Baroness Orczy was a popular novelist, not a social progressive. *Beloved of the Gods* is fun; it's light reading; and, if you're a fan of "lost race/civilization" literature, it's an unexpectedly delightful alternative to the better-known Haggard/Kipling/Burroughs fare.

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## Save Those Comic Books!!

info passed along by  
Wayne # 1 & Carl  
(from Associated Press)



I'm sure you've heard plenty of stories about old comic book collections being sold for huge amounts of money. Well, here's another one...

In February of this year, the comic book collection of the late Billy Wright was sold by Heritage Auctions (New York) for \$3.5 million. Wright died in 1994; and, while cleaning out his widow's home following her death in 2011, relatives found 345 comic books that had been collected by Wright.

The top bid—about \$523,000—went for Issue # 27 of Detective Comics (May 1939), featuring the debut of "the Batman." That's one heckuva increase in value for something that originally cost only one thin dime. (All it had to do was survive for about 73 years!) Λ Ψ Φ



**\*\*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. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, **April 8th, 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



April 13-15, 2012 **RAVENCON 2012**. Holiday Inn Select Koger Center (Chesterfield, VA). GoH: Glen Cook; Artist GoH: Matthew Steward. Membership: \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "Ravencon" and send to: RavenCon, PO Box 36420, Richmond, VA 23235. More info online at: <http://www.ravencon.com>

Register on-line at: <http://ravencon.com/registrationPAYPAL.php>

May 25-28, 2012 **BALTICON 46**. Marriott Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). GoH: Jody Lynn Nye, Artist GoH: Jim Odbert, Scientist GoH: William D. Phillips (Nobel Prize in Physics 1997). Membership: \$55 to 4/30/2012, \$62 at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon" and send to: Balticon 46 Registration, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686.

Website: [www.balticon.org](http://www.balticon.org)

Registration form at: [www.balticon.org/bconreg.html](http://www.balticon.org/bconreg.html)

Aug. 3-5, 2012 **SHORE LEAVE 34**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: TBA. Membership: \$80 pre-registration for the weekend (daily rates available). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send to: Shore Leave 34, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809. Website: <http://www.shore-leave.com> E-mail: [information@shore-leave.com](mailto:information@shore-leave.com)

Aug. 30 - Sept. 3, 2012 **CHICON 7** (70th World Science Fiction Convention). Hyatt Regency Chicago (Chicago, IL). Guests of Honor: Mike Resnick (author), Rowena Morrill (artist), John Scalzi (toastmaster), Story Musgrave (astronaut). Membership: \$195 until 03/31/2012. (Will go up after that!) Make checks payable to "Chicon 7" and send to: Chicon 7, PO Box 13, Skokie, IL 60076. (You can also register on-line.) Website: [www.chicon7.org](http://www.chicon7.org) Info: [info@chicon.org](mailto:info@chicon.org)

Oct. 5-7, 2012 **GAYLAXICON 2012**. Doubletree Hotel Minneapolis-Park Place (Minneapolis, MN). Guests: Gary Russell (writer/producer), Wendy Pini (*Elfquest*), Lyda Morehouse (author), Kyell Gold (furry author). Membership: \$70. Register on-line (via Eventbrite). Website: [www.gaylaxicon2012.org](http://www.gaylaxicon2012.org)

Nov. 23-25, 2012 **DARKOVERCON GRAND COUNCIL 35**. (A very LGBT-friendly convention.) Crowne Plaza Baltimore (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: Nalo Hopkinson; Artist GoH: Samantha Press; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$50 until 11/1/2012; \$55 after 11/1 & 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](http://www.darkovercon.org) Info at: [jaelle@darkovercon.org](mailto:jaelle@darkovercon.org)

