



lambda Sci-fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044

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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 book discussion will be held on **October 25th**.

Here are the details for the book discussions for the next few months:

October 25 - *Rule 34*, by Charles Stross; moderator: Dan.

December 6 (NOTE: As usual, this is our combined November/December discussion.) - *The Book of Tongues*, by Gemma Files; moderator: Rob.

January 24, 2013 (returning to the "4th Thursday" schedule) - *Cloud Atlas*, by David Mitchell; moderator: Todd.

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2012 Hugo Awards

info passed along by Carl

The Hugos Awards are presented at Worldcon each year to honor the best F&SF works and achievements of the previous year. They are named after Hugo Gernsback, founder (1926) of the pioneering science fiction magazine *Amazing Stories* and known as "The Father of Science Fiction."

The 2012 Hugo Awards were presented at Worldcon/Chicon 7 on the evening of September 2nd. Here are a few of this year's winners:

Best Novel

Among Others by Jo Walton (Tor)

Best Novella

"The Man Who Bridged the Mist" by Kij Johnson (*Asimov's*)

Best Novelette

"Six Months, Three Days" by Charlie Jane Anders (Tor.com)

Best Short Story

"The Paper Menagerie" by Ken Liu (*The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*)

Best Related Work

The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction, Third Edition edited by John Clute, David Langford, Peter Nicholls, and Graham Sleight (Gollancz)

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form

Game of Thrones (Season 1) created by David Benioff & D.B. Weiss; written by David Benioff, D.B. Weiss, Bryan Cogman, Jane Espenson, and George R.R. Martin (HBO)

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form

Doctor Who, "The Doctor's Wife", written by Neil Gaiman (BBC Wales)

John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer

E. Lily Yu

For a complete list of nominees and winners, go to:

www.thehugoawards.org



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The 2012 Hugo Award

October LSF Meeting

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

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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“Kaor, LSFers!”

a couple of short reviews by Carl



In case you aren't familiar with the term “kaor”, it's the typical greeting on Barsoom, the version of Mars created about 100 years ago by Edgar Rice Burroughs (aka ERB).

With all the hoo-hah surrounding the recent release of Disney-Pixar's not-so-blockbusting “blockbuster” *John Carter*, I decided to re-read the original Burroughs novels. After all, it's been over 40 years since I first read *A Princess of Mars* and its sequels (in the Ballantine editions). I figured I'd see how I like them forty-some years later and find out just how badly Disney-Pixar played around with the plot details (the noble efforts of screenwriters Mark Andrews and Michael Chabon notwithstanding).

There must be about a dozen new editions of the Mars novels on the shelves of my local Barnes & Noble (as well as three or four graphic novels), all calculated to ride the coat-tails of the Disney-Pixar release; but I knew I still had copies buried somewhere in my cluttered library. And – lo and behold! – I discovered that I owned not one but *two* volumes entitled *Under the Moons of Mars*. Better and better!

Under the Moons of Mars
by Edgar Rice Burroughs
(Univ. of Nebraska Press/
Bison Books, 2003)

This is an omnibus collection of the three original Martian novels written by Edgar Rice Burroughs: *A Princess of Mars* (1912), *The Gods of Mars* (1914), and *The Warlord of Mars* (1918). The volume's title is based on the *original* publication title of *A Princess of Mars*, which was serialized as “Under the Moons of Mars”

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Minutes of the September 9th LSF Meeting taken by Scott

There was discussion about *Iron Sky* and Nazis on the moon. Lots of references to other movies, too.

Teresa said that HBO will be showing the following features: *Hobgoblin*, *American Gods*, *Missionary*. And she spoke unenthusiastically about the new “Bourne” movie.

Dr. Who discussions: The new dinosaurs-in-space episode was stupid. Clara: is she an ancestor? Oswin is a beautiful companion. The first episode was better than the second episode. Rumor has it that the next Doctor might be a female.

David described his visit to the Smithsonian American Art Museum exhibit on video games, including exhibits on Mario Brothers, Pacman, and Pitfall.

New TVshow discussions: *Revolution*: the science does not seem consistent. On *Once Upon A Time*, the characters now recall their Storyland histories. Is there hope for *666 Park Avenue*, a demon-based building in New York City?

Movie news: *Avatar II* has a tentative release date of 2015. *Retribution* (yet another “Resident Evil” movie) is coming out. The *Judge Dredd* remake looks promising. *Frankenweenie*: how can this former “short” be a full length movie? How can David Mitchell's novel *Cloud Atlas* be made into a movie? Oh Lord – *They Live* is being remade. (The infamous alien-revealing glasses might be omitted in the remake.)

Rob announced some of this year's Hugo nominees. The winners will be announced at WorldCon in Chicago. The list includes *Game of Thrones* (Sea-

in *All-Story Magazine*, beginning in the February 1912 issue.

The general plot of *A Princess of Mars* is pretty much as I remember it: Civil War veteran John Carter is prospecting in Arizona in 1866. When his partner is killed by marauding Apaches, Carter is trapped in a mysterious cave, is knocked out by

Sidewise Awards for Alternate History



2012 Sidewise Awards info passed along by Carl

The Sidewise Awards for Alternate History are presented annually to honor the best allohistorical (alternate history and parallel reality fiction) genre publications of the year. The award takes its name from Murray Leinster's 1934 short story “Sidewise in Time.”

The first awards were announced in 1996 and honored works from 1995. The current winners were announced at Worldcon/Chicon 7 August 31st.

The winner of for Best Long-Form Alternate History is *Wake Up and Dream*, by Ian R. MacLeod (PS Publishing, 2011).

The winner for Best Short-Form Alternate History is “Paradise Is a Walled Garden”, by Lisa Goldstein (*Asimov's*, August 2011).

For a complete list of nominees and winners, go to:

www.uchronia.net/sidewise ΛΨΦ

son I), *Doctor Who's* “The Doctor's Wife,” *Community's* “Remedial Chaos Theory,” and *Fables Volume 15: Rose Red* (graphic novel).

A number of LSF members will be attending GaylaxiCon in Minneapolis in October.

Joss Whedon has been green-lighted for a *Shield* TV series.

Peter distributed the latest issue of *Parsec*, the newsletter of the Pittsburgh sci-fi group.

It was noted that the SPX Comics Expo is being held in Bethesda next week.

Rob mentioned that the September LSF Book Discussion Group will be discussing *Beyond Binary*, edited by Brit Mandelo—and the October book is Charles Stross's *Rule 34*. ΛΨΦ

some kind of gas, and wakes up on Mars. Adventures ensue! If you've seen Disney-Pixar's *John Carter*, then you've got a pretty good idea what's in *A Princess of Mars*: giant, six-limbed, tusked green men of Mars; “the incomparable Dejah Thoris”;

(continued on page 3)

“Kaor, LSFers!”

continued from page 2

flying machines and flashing swords; dry sea bottoms and a dying world; the all-important Atmosphere Plant; perils and adventures galore.

I don’t know what possessed Disney-Pixar (or Andrews/Chabon, as the case might be) to develop that whole subplot about the shape-shifting Tharns who are secretly plotting behind the scenes and using their mysterious amulets to regularly travel back-and-forth between Mars and Earth – Burroughs certainly never wrote that. The Tharns aren’t introduced until the *second* book, *Gods of Mars*. They’re both a hidden race and a secretive cult that literally feed off the superstitions of the rest of the Martian civilizations. Yes, they’re mustache-twirling Bad Guys – but they’re not endowed with the super-science powers shown in the Disney-Pixar film.

The first three Mars novels comprise a nice, single narrative – with cliffhangers between the first, second, and third novels. (Hey! Burroughs was no dope!) *Warlord of Mars* brings John Carter’s personal story to a satisfying “top of the world,” “happily ever after” conclusion.

OK, yes, I admit it... it seems to me that *A Princess of Mars* and its sequels show their age. The writing is so-so, sometimes stilted, and pretty typical of the Pulp Era; the racism is pervasive and surprisingly blatant; the coincidences and nick-of-time rescues strain credulity; and the characters are predictably two-dimensional. But it’s still kind’a fun, in a youthful, naive, popcorn-eating sort’a way. And there’s something else to keep in mind: as veteran SF writer James Hogan says in his Introduction, Burroughs wasn’t *writing* clichés; he was *creating* the concepts and plotlines which subsequent authors (and, yes, he himself) turned *into* clichés: “all of it appearing well over half a century before *Star Wars* came on the scene.”

So maybe it’s time to sit back, relax, and “return to those thrilling days of yesteryear” with some simple, escapist planetary romance (as the sub-genre is known). Mount your *thoat*, draw your sword, and ride along with John Carter of Mars on his thrilling adventures!



*Under the Moons of Mars:
New Adventures on Barsoom*
edited by John Joseph Adams
(Simon & Schuster, 2012)

I think this collection of short stories is pretty much only going to appeal to the “true believers,” the dyed-in-the-wool fans of ERB’s Mars stories. Oh, to be sure, there are some pretty nifty tales collected here – but many of them are so closely linked to the events in the Barsoom canon that I can’t help but think that the newcomer won’t get as much enjoyment out of them as an “Old Mars Hand” who can clearly see how they “fit” into pre-existing narratives of the ERB novels. It’s because of this that I think the editor was so careful about including short expository introductions before each story, as well as a helpful Appendix by Richard Lupoff, a well-known ERB expert (“A Barsoomian Gazetteer, or, Who’s Who and What’s What on Mars”).

That being said, there are some pretty impressive authors with stories in this anthology, including Joe Lansdale, Peter S. Beagle, L.E. Modesitt Jr., Garth Nix, Chris Claremont, S.M. Stirling, and Tamora Pierce (who wrote the Foreword).

Some of the stories are loving pastiches written in the ERB style – such as Lansdale’s “The Metal Men of Mars” and “A Game of Mars” by Genevieve Valentine. Others of them are sort’a like “hidden histories” that relate a previously-unknown side to the story as told by ERB – such as Robert Wasserman’s “Vengeance of Mars” and Theodora Goss’s “Woola’s Song.” And some of ’em are modern “responses” to the unexamined assumptions of the original ERB tales –

such as “A Sidekick of Mars” by Garth Nix, who examines John Carter’s “feet of clay” through the eyes of another (previously ignored) Earthling who ends up on Mars; or Catherynne Valente’s “Coming of Age on Barsoom,” which purports to show how Carter’s preconceptions and misconceptions about the Green Men and their society pervade the ERB novels. And a couple of stories even combine other ERB characters (such as Tarzan) into the Mars mythos (“The Ape-Man of Mars” by Peter S. Beagle; and “The Jasoom Project” by S.M. Stirling).

If you’re already a fan of Burroughs and his Mars novels, then I think you’ll get a kick out of this anthology. If you’re not already a Barsoomian aficionado, then I can’t say as I’d see you particularly enjoying it.

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I have ever been prone
to seek adventure
and to investigate and
experiment where
wiser men would have
left well enough alone.

- Edgar Rice Burroughs -
A Princess of Mars (1917)

****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, **October 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



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

Oct. 12-14, 2012 **CAPCLAVE 2012**. ("A small relaxed literary convention with a program that usually focuses on the short fiction form.") Hilton Washington DC North/Gaithersburg (Gaithersburg, MD). Author GoH: John Scalzi; Author/Editor GoH: Nick Mamatas. Membership: \$55 from 7/31 to 9/29; \$60 from 9/30 to 10/7. Register on-line (with Paypal) or print PDF of membership form, make check payable to "Capclave", and send to: Capclave 2012 Registration, c/o Barry Newton, PO Box 53, Ashton, MD 20861. Website: www.capclave.org

Nov. 9-12, 2012 **PHILCON 2012** ("The Philadelphia Area's Conference of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror" - est. 1936). Crowne Plaza Hotel (Cherry Hill, NJ). Principal Speaker: Catherynne M. Valente; Artist Guest of Honor: Phil Foglio. Membership: \$40 for the weekend. Register on-line (with PayPal) or send membership request (with check payable to "Philcon 2012") to: Philcon 2012, PO Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101-8303 Website: www.philcon.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 Info at: jaille@darkovercon.org

February 15-17, 2013 **FARPOINT 2013**. Crowne Plaza Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: Lee Arenberg (Grumpy in *Once Upon a Time* & Pintel in *Pirates of the Caribbean*); more guests TBA. Membership: \$80 for the weekend. (Daily rates available.) Make checks payable to "Farpoint Enterprises" and send to: Farpoint Enterprises, 11708 Troy Ct., Waldorf, MD 20601. (You can also register online.) Website: www.farpointcon.com E-mail: trekcontact@comcast.net

April 5-7, 2013 **RAVENCON 2013**. Holiday Inn Select, Koger Center (Richmond, VA). Writer Guests of Honor: Kevin J. Anderson & Rebecca Moesta; Fan Guest of Honor: Carla Brindle. Membership: \$35 until 12/31/2012; \$40 from 1/1/2013 to 3/23/2013; \$45 at the door. More info available at: <http://www.ravencon.com>

