



lambda Sci-fi DC Area Gaylaxians



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(202) 232-3141 - Issue #278 - May 2013

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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 book discussion will be held on **May 23rd**.

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

May 23 - *Kindred*, by Octavia Butler; moderator: Carl.

June 27 - *Among Others*, by Jo Walton; moderator: Greg.

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LSF April Meeting Minutes taken by Scott



There appears to be much interest in the BBC series *Orphan Black*, about Sarah, a woman who discovers she is one of several clones. SyFy's new *Defiance* show premieres tomorrow - it's about several races of aliens (collectively referred to as the Votans) that travel to Earth seeking a new home after their star system was destroyed.

Dan briefly mentioned *Upstream Color*: "A man and woman are drawn together, entangled in the life cycle of an ageless organism. Identity becomes an illusion." Is it genre? It might be. A Sundance Festival "art film".

The trailers for *Elysium*, Neill Blomkamp's follow-up to *District 9*, look promising. The ultra-wealthy live in a luxury space station, and everyone else lives on the ruins of Earth. It stars Matt Damon and Jodie Foster.

There is humor in the new *Evil Dead* movie, but it is not *Cabin in The Woods* funny.

Game of Thrones! *Game of*

Thrones! *Game of Thrones!* The various points of view work well.

Guy Gavriel Kay's *River of Stars*, the sequel to *Under Heaven*, is available now.

DC Comics has introduced its first mainstream transgender character, Alysia Yeoh, the transgender roommate of Barbara Gordon, aka Batgirl.

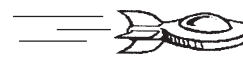
Will Carrie Kelley, the female Robin from the "Dark Knight" continuity, become the new Red Robin?

Several LSF members will be attending the upcoming Gaylaxicon 2013 con in Atlanta.

Dan described Peter Clines's novel *Ex-Heroes*, about superheroes and
(continued on page 2)



May LSF Meeting



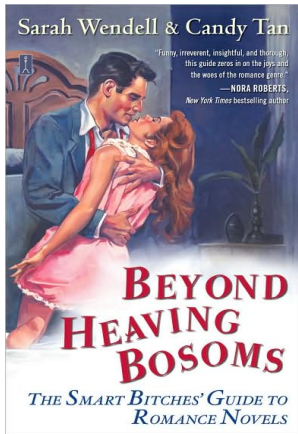
The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 12th**. The meeting will once again be held at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washing-

ton, 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. Join us! Λ Ψ Φ

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Beyond Heaving Bosoms (book review - pg. 2); *Dr. Who 50th Anniversary Preview* (TV review - pg. 3); *About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar* (pg. 4)

**Beyond Heaving Bosoms:
The Smart Bitches' Guide to
Romance Novels
by Sarah Wendell
& Cindy Tan
(Fireside Books, 2009)
reviewed by Carl**



This book has been staring back at me from one of my “to read” piles for several years now. I just never got around to reading it, for one reason or another. The topic came up once again recently, when I was talking with J—, for whom (like me) reading Romance novels is a guilty pleasure. For quite some time now, I’ve been promising to pass this book to him “as soon as I finish reading it” — and, with a recent lull in my “must read” assignments, I finally figured I should get to it. And now that I’ve read it, I certainly wish I’d gotten around to it sooner. It’s (as they say) “a hoot and a half”!

The authors’ analysis of the genre is intelligent, wide-ranging, and masterful. But please don’t think that *Beyond Heaving Bosoms* is a dry-as-toast examination of the literature. Wendell-and-Tan’s writing style is an absolute delight — irreverent, snarky, and urbanely witty. Here’s an example:

Some of the misconceptions about romance novels are, unfortunately, all too understandable. Take, for instance, the reputation that they’re all bodice rippers. Just look at the covers they’ve been inflicted with: a woman with quivering mounds one button away from a wardrobe malfunction being held up by a male specimen whose quivering mounds of man titty are even larger and

firmer than hers. The woman looks either orgasmic or nauseated—hard to tell sometimes. The man’s face is usually clenched in masculine determination, as if attempting to hold Montezuma’s revenge at bay, with limited success. Unfortunate hand or body placements can give the pained expressions new meaning entirely, making us wonder how so many romance novel heroes are being presented as ad hoc proctologists.

Ya gotta love it! And then there are the chapters... Wendell and Tan don’t use numbers; they use other descriptive identifiers, such as: “Chapter Codpiece: The Romance Hero”; or “Chapter WTF: Defending the Genre (No, It’s Not Chick Porn. Dammit.)”.

“But WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!” I hear you shouting. “What the heck does a book about Romance novels have to do with F&SF?” Good question. I’ll let Wendell/Tan explain it with an excerpt from the Introduction (“Chapter Cleavage”):

And then we get to the landscape of paranormals: Vampires! Werewolves! Vampire werewolves! Mummies! Psychics! The undead! The reanimated! The demonic and the celestial! The slayers, the fey, the wee folk, the fairies, trolls, and selkies. They all fall under “paranormal,” which has its roots in an ancient Greek word meaning “overcrowded genre.”

And then there’s that scary place, the crossroads of romance, fantasy, and perhaps even science fiction, where the puffy-paint sweatshirt-clad stereotypical romance readers meet the stock sci-fi readers, complete with Spock ears and communicator pin, and they all do the hora with the fantasy readers who have d20s in their pockets and long sword replicas strapped to their backs. In fantasy or science-fiction romance, the fate of the entire fucking universe can depend on the Happily Ever After of the hero and heroine. No pressure or anything. It’s a scary mixture, but it works.

Got it? Tropes and examples of paranormal, fantasy, or sci-fi romances crop up throughout the book. Heck,

they’ve even got sections specifically dealing with LGBT Romance novels! (It’s not just a matter of peering at the cover art eye candy, ya know!)

As I said, I think *Beyond Heaving Bosoms* is “a hoot and a half.” I am sooooo glad I finally got around to reading it! (J—, I’ll hand you a copy next time I see you. But not my copy — I’m gonna keep that one! I’ve bought a new copy for you!)

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LSF April Meeting Minutes

continued from page 1

zombies, published in 2010.

The next season of *Venture Brothers* will premiere on May 19th.

Rob described *Shadow Unit*, a shared universe centered upon superhumans — a little bit *X-Files*, *Warehouse 13*, and *Alphas*. Twelve collections have been released so far.

Peter distributed a flier for the Pittsburgh sci-fi group’s Confluence con.

Ian Banks, author of the “Culture” books, is reported to not be long for this world.

Rob listed the upcoming book discussion titles and authors: *The Years of Rice and Salt* by Kim Stanley Robinson (April); *Kindred* by Octavia Butler (May).

Peter eagerly reported that *Star Trek: Into Darkness* will be coming out on May 15th.

Horrible reviews for the *Obivion* movie, starring Tom Cruise. Rave reviews for the *Bates Motel* TV series. Steven King’s *Under the Dome* is being made into a TV series.

Dan described William Brinkley’s *The Last Ship*, a post-apocalyptic novel that apparently is being adapted for TV. He also described the BBC series *Black Mirror*, described as a cross between *Twilight Zone* and *Tales of the Unexpected* — the stories tend to have a “techno-paranoia” feel. Not yet on BBC America.

Yet another “Suki Stackhouse” book is forthcoming. It was noted that the more recent “Suki” books are no longer as entertaining to read.

“*American Horror Story /Asylum Season 2* was totally crazy!” exclaimed Rob.

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Doctor Who 50th Anniversary Preview

by Peter Knapp

Warning:

This preview contains spoilers!

On November 23, 1963, the very first episode of *Doctor Who* premiered. Fifty years later the show is still going strong, and the show's creators have planned some goodies for the casual and fan viewers of the show. Before talking about the 50th anniversary season, I need to set the stage by talking about a few last year's episodes.

The first 2012 episode to feature the last adventures of companions Amy Pond and Rory Williams was called "Asylum of the Daleks." Oswin Oswald (Jenna-Louise Coleman) spent the adventure helping Amy, Rory, and the Doctor from her "spaceship." At the end of the episode, the Doctor (and the audience) discover that the inhabitants of the asylum had converted Oswin from a human into a Dalek. The Doctor convinces Oswin of the sad truth; and she helps the Doctor, Amy, and Rory escape but loses her life when the Daleks blow up the asylum.

In the 2012 Christmas special, "The Snowmen," the Doctor meets Clara (Jenna-Louise Coleman) in Victorian England's London. Clara helps the Doctor defeat the villain of the piece, the Great Intelligence. Clara dies by the end of the episode; and at her funeral the Doctor discovers the Clara's full name is Clara Oswin Oswald and decides to find Clara wherever she may be in time and space.

The 50th anniversary U.S. broadcast year began on March 30, 2013 with the premiere of "The Bells of Saint John." The Doctor again finds a woman named Clara (Jenna-Louise Coleman) in modern-day London. She helps the Doctor defeat a hidden foe which the audience learns is the Great Intelligence (which first appeared in 1967 during the Second Doctor's reign, and also in the 2012 Christmas special, "The Snowman"). Rumor has it that the Great Intelligence may appear in the season finale. I wonder if the Great Intelligence may be a recurring theme in the season, similar to "Bad Wolf," "Torchwood," and "Vote Saxon" being recurring themes in previous seasons.



Seven more episodes make up the rest of Season 7, "Rings of Akhaten," "Cold War," "Hide," "Journey to the Centre of the TARDIS," "The Crimson Horror," "Nightmare in Silver," and the as-yet-unnamed season finale. Here are a few tidbits to whet your appetite.

The monster appearing in "Cold War" is an Ice Warrior, another villain from the classic series. Ice Warriors also first appeared in 1967 during the Second Doctor's reign. "The Crimson Horror" stars Dame Diana Rigg and her real life daughter Rachael Stirling. "Nightmare in Silver" was written by Neil Gaiman, who the producers tasked with making the Cybermen scary again. While the Cybermen have appeared many times in the new show, they first appeared in 1966 in the First Doctor's last episode. Alex Kingston guest-stars in the season finale as River Song, the Doctor's wife and part-time companion.

It's rumored that on November 23, 2013, fifty years to the day of the first episode of *Doctor Who*, the BBC will air the 50th anniversary special. In addition to the current Doctor (Matt Smith) and companion Clara (Jenna-Louise Coleman), previous Doctor (David Tennant) and companion Rose (Billie Piper) will star in the special. Other cast members include John Hurt (*Alien, Harry Potter, Hellboy, V for Vendetta*) and Joanna Page (*Gavin & Stacey, Love Actually*). Jemma Redgrave will be reprising her role as UNIT's Head of Scientific Research, Kate Stewart. The Zygons, who appeared in 1975 during the reign of the Fourth Doctor, will be the Doctor's adversaries.

In addition to the nine further adventures of the Doctor being broadcast

this year, the docudrama "An Adventure in Space and Time" will explore the show's origins. It was written by *Doctor Who* and *Sherlock* writer Mark Gatiss (who happens to be one of the few people who has written for and starred in *Doctor Who*). There has been plenty of documentary material about the creation of the show, but this special will recreate that magical time when head-of-drama Sydney Newman green-lighted the show and producer Verity Lambert brought the show to life.

In other *Doctor Who* news, the last of the restored classic stories (complete and partial) will be released on DVD in 2013. Since 1992 The Restoration Team has been lovingly restoring classic episodes of *Doctor Who*. In 1970, the BBC erased *Doctor Who* master tapes. Some episodes and parts of episodes have been found over the years. As of this writing, only 10 out of 160 classic stories have no moving visual content in the BBC archives. With any luck, more content will be recovered.

Gobs of *Doctor Who* merchandising will be released this year, both in the UK and in the U.S. Fandom is at an all-time high. Gallifrey One, the annual *Doctor Who* convention in L.A., had 3500+ attendees in February. Next year's convention sold out in twelve days.

I predict *Doctor Who* will continue on long after its 50th anniversary!

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**The very powerful
and the very stupid
have one thing common:
they don't alter their views
to fit the facts,
they alter the facts
to fit their views,
which can be uncomfortable,
if you happen to be
one of the facts
that needs altering.**

**-- Chris Boucher --
Dr. Who - "The Face of Evil"
(1997)**

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. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, **May 12th, 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



May 3-5, 2013 **GAYLAXICON 2013**. Atlanta Marriott Century Center (Atlanta, GA). Guests: David DeCoteau (film producer: *The Brotherhood*, *Voodoo Academy*, etc.) and more TBD. Membership: \$50 until 4/15/2013 (available on-line via PayPal).

Website: www.outlantacon.org Info: info@outlantacon.org

May 24-27, 2013 **BALTICON 47**. Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guest of Honor: Joe Haldeman; Artist Guest of Honor: Rick Sternbach; Special Guest: Nnedi Okorafor. Membership: \$55 until 4/30/2013. Make checks payable to "Balticon 47" and send to: Balticon, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. On-line resignation also available.

Website: www.balticon.org

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: \$50 thru May; \$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

