



# Lambda Sci-fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians

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### Interstellar Visitor info passed along by Carl



On August 7<sup>th</sup>, NASA and the European Space Agency released the latest photos of a high-speed comet visiting our solar system from another star. The photos were taken by the Hubble Space Telescope a couple of weeks previously when the comet was 277 million miles away.

The comet is known as 3I-Atlas and was discovered in July by a telescope in Chile. It's traveling at 130,000 miles per hour. At its closest approach it will pass between the orbits of Earth and Mars, at a safe distance from both planets and closer to Mars than to Earth.

Astronomers originally estimated that the size of 3I-Atlas's icy core to be several miles across. Hubble's observations have shown that it's no more than 3.5 miles across – and could even be as small as 1,000 feet across. The Hubble photos reveal a teardrop-shaped plume of dust around the nucleus, as well as traces of a dusty tail.

3I-Atlas is only the third known interstellar object that's passed our way.

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**ISTI MIRANT  
STELLA**  
Watching Halley's  
Comet, 1066  
(Bayeux Tapestry)



### 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 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; but the next book discussion will be held on September 25, 2025.

Here are the details for the next three discussions:

**September 25** – *The Daughter of Doctor Moreau*, by Sylvia Moreno-Garcia; moderator: Carl.

**October 23** – *Bury Your Gays*, by Chuck Tingle; moderator: Rob.

**December 4** (combined Nov/Dec discussion) – *Bright Sword*, by Lev Grossman; moderator: Dan.

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### \*\*\*\*\* September 14, 2025 Meeting \*\*\*\*\*

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 14th**. The meeting will be held at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The meeting will begin at 1:30 PM. Hope to see you there!



### What's Inside?

Page 2: 2025 Hugo Awards; Minutes of the August LSF Meeting.

Page 3: Women in F&SF Short Stories, Part 4 (book review).

Page 4: Info About LSF: DC Area Gaylaxians; Con Calendar.

## 2025 Hugo Awards

info from Peter & Carl

### Part 1:

Newsflash from Peter at Worldcon

I attended the August 16 Hugo Awards in Seattle and found out one of my picks won. *Dune Part II* won the Hugo for Best Dramatic Presentation Long Form. That was my third choice. *Star Trek: Lower Decks*: “The New Next Generation” won the Hugo for Best Dramatic Presentation Short Form. That was my 1st choice!

See you next year for the 2025 Hugo Awards.

### Part 2:

Info from Carl in Washington DC

And here’s the info for the other Hugo Awards. I found this info on the File 770 website: [2025 Hugo Awards | File 770](#) The website includes a link to the YouTube video of the event.

The winners of the 2025 Hugo Awards, the Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book, and the *Astounding* Award for Best New Writer were announced on Saturday, August 16 at Seattle Worldcon 2025. Here is a list of most of the award winners:

- Best Novel - *The Tainted Cup* by Robert Jackson Bennett (Del Rey, Hodderscape UK).
- Best Novella - *The Tusks of Extinction* by Ray Nayler (Tordotcom).
- Best Novelette - “The Four Sisters Overlooking the Sea” by Naomi Kritzer (*Asimov’s*, September/October 2024).
- Best Short Story - “Stitched to Skin Like Family Is” by Nghi Vo (*Uncanny Magazine*, Issue 57).
- Best Series - “Between Earth and Sky” by Rebecca Roanhorse (Saga Press).
- Best Graphic Story or Comic - *Star Trek: Lower Decks: Warp Your Own Way* written by Ryan North, art by Chris Fenoglio (IDW Publishing).

(continued on page 4)

## Minutes of the August LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

### Conventions

There was a lot of discussion about conventions. Peter and Rob are currently on their way to the West Coast, eventually to attend the World Science Fiction Convention next weekend in Seattle WA. David and Scott will also be heading to Worldcon.

The upcoming Gaylaxicon (October, Minneapolis) has announced that attendees will be required to wear masks in various public spaces at the con (“on behalf of our various immune-compromised attendees). Carl says he’s looking forward to visiting the reopened Uncle Hugo’s Science Fiction Bookstore and Uncle Edgar’s Mystery Bookstore (both of which were destroyed by fire back in 2020).

Jim W. displayed a program book from the very first Gaylaxicon (1988, Provincetown Mass.) He also reported that Chattacon (Chattanooga TN) is ending after 50 years; and he might decide to attend Boscone as a replacement. Last year, he attended Liberty-Con, which leans toward libertarian military SF themes.



2025 Hugo Award  
Designed by Joy Alyssa Day

### TV

Teresa is enjoying the Argentinian sci-fi series *Eternauts* on Netflix; it’s based on a 1950s comic book. She also likes *Ironheart*, an MCU Universe series on Disney+. She says that she and Dan are delighted by Apple+’s multi-verse-based series *Dark Matter* (same producer as *Wayward Pines*). Jim W. and Wess have been annoyed by certain aspects of a recent episode of *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*. On the other hand, Jim has been enjoying Amazon Prime’s steampunk-ish series *Nautilus* (loosely based on the works of Jules Verne. (He described the design of the *Nautilus* as “really cool, but not as cool as the 1950s Disney version”.) He has mixed feelings about the current season of Apple+’s *Foundation* series.

### Other

Karl passed around an article that discussed the continuing interest in the works of Octavia Butler. David enjoyed the Arena Stage production of *A Wrinkle in Time* (play based on the novel by Madeleine L’Engle) – he reported that “Aunt Beast” was portrayed by puppets. The Zoom-based *War of the Worlds* movie received horrible reviews.

Carl described a recent PBS episode, in which investigator Lucy Worsley looked into various aspects of the Jack the Ripper legend and its relationship to the newly-developing Victorian sensationalist press. Based on information in the episode, Carl is looking forward to reading *The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper* (2019), in which researcher Hallie Rubenhold investigates the life stories of the five Ripper victims and the likelihood that none of them were prostitutes.

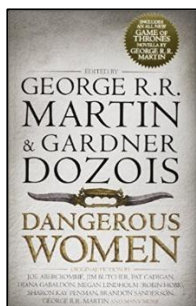
Today’s Factoid: Did you know that vampires have OCD and can be foiled by having rice thrown at them? (They have to stop and count all the grains.) Now you know. (This factoid came up following a discussion of Barnabas Collins and *Dark Shadows*.)

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## Women in F&SF Short Stories, Part 4

reviews by Carl

Continuing a series of reviews begun in the January 2017 LSF newsletter and continued in the February and March 2018 newsletters.



***Dangerous Women***  
edited by  
George R.R.  
Martin &  
Gardner  
Dozois (TOR,  
2013)

You've probably heard the phrase "deadlier than the male", but you didn't know where it came from. Its source is a 1911 poem by Rudyard Kipling entitled "The Female of the Species". One line of the poem runs as follows: "The female of the species must be deadlier than the male." That particular sentiment isn't necessarily supported by the stories in this anthology; but every story in it amply demonstrates just how "dangerous" women can be: from medieval queens to *femmes fatale* to Fantasy or SF heroines.

*Dangerous Women* is another of the huge cross-functional anthologies edited by George R.R. Martin and Gardner Dozois (several of which I've reviewed in previous issues of the LSF newsletter). It includes stories by some of my favorite authors (for example: Cecelia Holland, Joe Lansdale, Lawrence Block). Only slightly more than half the stories are F&SF – and I must admit that some of my favorites were *non-F&SF* stories, including: Cecelia Holland's "Nora's Song" (told from the point of view of one of the daughters of Eleanor of Aquitaine), Joe Lansdale's "Wrestling Jesus" (a coming-of-age story involving Mexican-style wrestlers), and Sharon Kay Pennman's "A Queen in Exile" (about Constance, Queen of Sicily in the 12th Century).

There's even a new "Outlander" story by Diana Gabaldon ("Virgins"), although there are no time-traveling antics in this one – it's straightforward historical fiction.

Here are some notables among the F&SF stories:

Joe Abercrombie: "Some Desperado" – When I started reading this one, I thought it was a Western; but it soon became apparent that this story is set in another of Abercrombie's gritty Fantasy worlds (no magic or unicorns or dragons or stuff like that). Shy (a female bank robber) is being pursued by her erstwhile murderous co-desperados; they plan to kill and rob her (though not necessarily in that order). It's a nail-biter to the end, with Shy demonstrating just how "dangerous" she can be.



Jim Butcher: "Bombshells" – A new story in the "Harry Dresden" universe, but *without* Harry Dresden (who was surprisingly killed off in the novel *Changes*). Now, it's Harry's former protégé Molly who is carrying on the fight against the Powers of Darkness in Chicago. And in this story, Molly has teamed up with a female werewolf and a personal assistant to one of the vampires of the White Court. Their goal: prevent a dark alliance between the Svartalves and the Fomor to enslave the world. If you're a fan of Butcher's "Harry Dresden" stories, I think you'll get a kick out of this one, too.

Lev Grossman: "The Girl in the Mirror" – Here's a new story set in Brakebills, site of Grossman's "Magicians" novels. Teenaged pranks lead to deadly consequences when students encounter a vengeful ghost.

Diana Rowland: "City Lazarus" – This is a classic *noir*-style murder mystery – *femme fatale* included – set in a near-future New Orleans that literally became an economically-depressed backwater after the Mississippi River changed its course. One of my favorites in this anthology, with an ending that I didn't see coming.

George R.R. Martin: "The Princess and the Queen" – Welcome back to Westeros! But this particular story is set a little more than a century and a half *before* the events in GRRM's famous "Song of Ice and Fire" novels. It chronicles the events of the "Dance of Dragons", the innocuous-sounding name for a disastrous civil war between rival Targaryen claimants to the Iron Throne. I got a kick out of it. It's a fascinating look at earlier times in Westeros – including an answer to the question "What the heck happened to all the Targaryen dragons?" It reminds me of Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*: lots of descriptions of feats of derring-do and chivalric (and not-so-chivalrous) battles, but not much depth of character or sterling dialog.

I'm absolutely convinced that you'll find lots of enjoyment reading the F&SF stories in this anthology – and, if you're willing to step outside the F&SF genre, I think you'll find an even larger selection of enjoyable stories herein. (FYI: I bought *Dangerous Women* when it was a massive hardback; but its latest incarnation is in the format of two – count 'em, two – *big* mass market paperbacks.)

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## \* \* INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS \* \*

**Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians** (LSF) is an organization for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and trans-gendered (LGBT) 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 LGBT people and their friends;
- provide forums for LGBT people and their friends to share their interest in SF/F/H;
- promote the presence of LGBT elements within SF/F/H and within fandom; and
- promote SF/F/H within the LGBT community.

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

September 19-21, 2025 **CAPCLAVE 2025**. Rockville Hilton & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville MD). Guests of Honor: Joe Haldeman, Gay Haldeman, Naomi Kritzer. Weekend membership: \$70 (on-line registration). Website: [www.capclave.org](http://www.capclave.org)

October 3-5, 2025 **GAYLAXICON 2025**. Crowne Plaza Suites AiRE MSP Airport - Mall of America (Bloomington MN). Guests of Honor: Nghi Vo, Jim Johnson, KD Edwards, Emma Törzs, Greg Ketter. Membership: \$80 (register on-line).

Website: [Home - Gaylaxicon 2025](http://Home-Gaylaxicon2025)

May 22-25, 2026 **BALTICON 60**. Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore MD). Guests of Honor: Jim Butcher, Jennifer Blackstream, Elizabeth Leggett (Art GoH). Membership: \$75 thru Feb. 29, 2026; then \$80 thru April 15; then \$85 thru May 15; \$89 at the door (daily rates available). More details as they become available. Website: <https://www.balticon.org/>

August 27-31, 2026 **LACON V** (2026 World Science Fiction Convention). Anaheim Convention Center, Hilton Anaheim & Anaheim Marriott Hotels (Anaheim CA). Guests of Honor: Barbara Hambly, Ronald D. Moore, Colleen Duran, Dr. Anita Sengupta, Tim Kirk, Geri Sullivan (Fan GoH), Stan Sakai, Ursula Vernon (aka T. Kingfisher). Full attending membership: currently \$200 (will go up). For more information & on-line registration: <https://www.lacon.org/>

## 2025 Hugo Awards

continued from page 2

- Best Related Work - *Speculative Whiteness: Science Fiction and the Alt-Right* by Jordan S. Carroll (University of Minnesota Press).
- Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form - *Dune: Part Two*, screenplay by Denis Villeneuve & Jon Spaihts, directed by Denis Villeneuve (Legendary Pictures / Warner Bros. Pictures).
- Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form - *Star Trek: Lower Decks*: "The New Next Generation", created and written by Mike McMahan, based on *Star Trek* created by Gene Roddenberry, directed by Megan Lloyd (CBS Eye Animation Productions for Paramount+).

- Best Game or Interactive Work - *Caves of Qud*, co-creators Brian Bucklew & Jason Grinblat; contributors Nick DeCapua, Corey Frang, Craig Hamilton, Autumn McDonnell, Bastia Rosen, Caelyn Sandel, Samuel Wilson (Freehold Games); sound design A Shell in the Pit; publisher Kitfox Games.
- Best Editor, Short Form - Neil Clarke.
- Best Editor, Long Form - Diana M. Pho.
- Best Professional Artist - Alyssa Winans.
- Best Semiprozine - *Uncanny Magazine*, publishers & editors-in-chief: Lynne M. Thomas and Michael Damian Thomas; managing editor Monte Lin; poetry editor Betsy

Aoki, podcast producers Erika Ensign and Steven Schapansky.

- Best Fanzine - *Black Nerd Problems*, editors William Evans and Omar Holmon.
- Best Fancast - *Eight Days of Diana Wynne Jones*, presented by Emily Tesh and Rebecca Fraimow.
- Best Fan Writer - Abigail Nussbaum.
- Best Fan Artist - Sara Felix.
- Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book - *Sheine Lende* by Darcie Little Badger (Levine Querido).
- Astounding Award for Best New Writer (sponsored by *Dell Magazines*) - Moniquill Blackgoose (2nd year of eligibility).

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