



ASFACTS 2015

APRIL "VARIED WEATHER" SPRING ISSUE

VERNON AMONG 2014 NEBULA NOMINEES; NIVEN NAMED SFWA GRAND MASTER

In late February, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America released the final ballot for the 2014 Nebula Awards. The group also named Larry Niven the recipient of the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award, citing his "invaluable contributions to the field of science fiction and fantasy." A full list of nominees, including Bubonicon 44 Artist Guest Ursula Vernon, follows:

Novel: *The Goblin Emperor* by Katherine Addison, *Trial by Fire* by Charles E. Gannon, *Ancillary Sword* by Ann Leckie, *The Three-Body Problem* by Cixin Liu, *Coming Home* by Jack McDevitt, and *Annihilation* by Jeff VanderMeer. **Novella:** *We Are All Completely Fine* by Daryl Gregory, *Yesterday's Kin* by Nancy Kress, "The Regular" by Ken Liu, "The Mothers of Voorhisville" by Mary Rickert, *Calendrical Regression* by Lawrence Schoen, and "Grand Jeté (The Great Leap)" by Rachel Swirsky.

Novellette: "Sleep Walking Now and Then" by Richard Bowes, "The Magician and Laplace's Demon" by Tom Crosshill, "A Guide to the Fruits of Hawai'i" by Alaya Dawn Johnson, "The Husband Stitch" by Carmen Maria Machado, "We Are the Cloud" by Sam J. Miller, and "The Devil in America" by Kai Ashante Wilson. **Short Story:** "The Breath of War" by Aliette de Bodard, "When It Ends, He Catches Her" by Eugie Foster, "The Meeker and the All-Seeing Eye" by Matthew Kressel, "The Vaporization Enthalpy of a Peculiar Pakistani Family" by Usman T. Malik, "A Stretch of Highway Two Lanes Wide" by Sarah Pinsker, "Jackalope Wives" by URSULA VERNON, and "The Fisher Queen" by Alyssa Wong.

Ray Bradbury Award: *Birdman*, *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, *Edge of Tomorrow*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Interstellar* and *The Lego Movie*. **Andre Norton Award:** *Unmade* by Sarah Rees Brennan, *Salvage* by Alexandra Duncan, *Love Is the Drug* by Alaya Dawn Johnson, *Glory O'Brien's History of the Future* by A.S. King, *Dirty Wings* by Sarah McCarry, *Greenglass House* by Kate Milford, and *The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender* by Leslye Walton.

Winners will be announced at the Nebula Awards Banquet June 6 at the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago IL.

In addition to his contributions to the genre, Niven has influenced the "fields of space exploration and technology." The Grandmaster Award is given for "lifetime achievement in science fiction and/or fantasy." Jeffery Dwight will receive the 2015 Kevin O'Donnell Jr. Service to SFWA Award.

2015 HUGO AWARD FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The finalists for the 2015 Hugo Awards were announced April 4 at Norwescon and three other conventions and online via UStream, as well as via the Twitter feed and other social media of Sasquan, the 2015 Worldcon.

Since then, the Hugo committee has decided that two nominees were not eligible, two other nominees have asked for their names to be removed from the ballot, and Connie Willis has withdrawn as an award presenter at the ceremony – all due to controversy around the nominees.

2,122 valid nominating ballots were received – setting a new record for participation, exceeding last year's previous record nominating ballot turnout of 1,923 votes. A full list of nominees, including Albuquerque's Laura J. Mixon and George RR Martin's TV show, follows:

Best Novel: *Ancillary Sword* by Ann Leckie, *The Dark Between the Stars* by Kevin J. Anderson, *The Goblin Emperor* by Katherine Addison (Sarah Monette), and *Skin Game: Dresden Files Book x* by Jim Butcher. **Best Novella:**

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Devin O'Leary of the *Weekly Alibi* presents his 3RD SCI-FI TRAILER PARK with a look at forthcoming genre movies. We're a week late!
- **May 8:** Mars One candidate Zachary Gallegos!
- **June 12:** Local artist Jon Sanchez shows off his stuff, and talks about his art & printing techniques.
- **July 10:** Unknown program. Plus the summer issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline July 5).
- **August 14:** Bubonicon 47 preview & a visit from author Melinda Snodgrass.
- **August 21:** Bubonicon 47 Gofer Meeting.
- **September 18:** Bubonicon 47 & Spokane Worldcon reports. Meeting is a week late (3rd Friday).
- **October 9:** Club officer elections, something fun or educational, and the Halloween *ASFACTS*.

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. **Darth Vader**, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Phone: (505) 266-8905. E-mail: cwrcraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Sun, July 5. **Club Officers:** Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Geneva Schult, Moderator. Patricia Rogers, Alternator. **Bubonicon Chairs:** Craig Chrissinger & Caci Cooper (505) 559-0931. www.bubonicon.com

Big Boys Don't Cry by Tom Kratman, "Flow" by Arlan Andrews, Sr, *One Bright Star to Guide Them* by John C. Wright, "Pale Realms of Shade" by John C. Wright, and "The Plural of Helen of Troy" by John C. Wright.

Best Novelette: "Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust, Earth to Alluvium" by Gray Rinehart, "Championship B'tok" by Edward M. Lerner, "The Day the World Turned Upside Down" by Thomas Olde Heuvelt, "The Journeyman: In the Stone House" by Michael F. Flynn, and "The Triple Sun: A Golden Age Tale" by Rajnar Vajra. **Best Short Story:** "On A Spiritual Plain" by Lou Antonelli, "The Parliament of Beasts and Birds" by John C. Wright, "Totaled" by Kary English, and "Turncoat" by Steve Rzasa.

Best Related Work: "The Hot Equations: Thermodynamics and Military SF" by Ken Burnside, *Letters from Gardner* by Lou Antonelli, *Transhuman and Subhuman: Essays on Science Fiction and Awful Truth* by John C. Wright, "Why Science is Never Settled" by Tedd Roberts, and *Wisdom from My Internet* by Michael Z. Williamson. **Best Graphic Story:** *Ms. Marvel Volume 1: No Normal* written by G. Willow Wilson, *Rat Queens Volume 1: Sass and Sorcery* written by Kurtis J. Weibe, *Saga Volume 3* written by Brian K. Vaughan, *Sex Criminals Volume 1: One Weird Trick* written by Matt Fraction, and *The Zombie Nation Book #2: Reduce Reuse Reanimate* by Carter Reid.

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form: *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, *Edge of Tomorrow*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Interstellar*, and *The Lego Movie*. **Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form:** *Doctor Who*: "Listen," *The Flash*: "Pilot," *GAME OF THRONES*: "THE MOUNTAIN AND THE VIPER," *Grimm*: "Once We Were Gods," and *Orphan Black*: "By Means Which Have Never Yet Been Tried."

Best Editor, Short Form: Jennifer Brozek, Vox Day, Mike Resnick, Edmund R. Schubert, and Bryan Thomas Schmidt. **Best Editor, Long Form:** Vox Day, Sheila Gilbert, Jim Minz, Anne Sowards, and Toni Weisskopf. **Best Professional Artist:** Julie Dillon, Kirk DouPonce, Nick Greenwood, Alan Pollack, and Carter Reid.

Best Semiprozine: *Abyss & Apex*, *Andromeda Spaceways In-Flight Magazine*, *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *Lightspeed Magazine*, and *Strange Horizons*. **Best Fanzine:** *Black Gate*, *Elitist Book Reviews*, *Journey Planet*, *The Revenge of Hump Day*, and *Tangent SF Online*. **Best Fancast:** *Adventures in SF Publishing*, *Dungeon Crawlers Radio*, *Galactic Suburbia Podcast*, *The Sci Phi Show*, and *Tea and Jeopardy*.

Best Fan Writer: Dave Freer, Amanda S. Green, Jeffro Johnson, LAURA J. MIXON and Cedar Sanderson. **Best Fan Artist:** Ninni Aalto, Brad W. Foster, Elizabeth Leggett, Spring Schoenhuth, and Steve Stiles.

The John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer of 2013 or 2014 (not a Hugo Award, but administered along with the Hugo Awards): Wesley Chu, Jason Cordova, Kary English, Rolf Nelson, and Eric S. Raymond.

The 2015 Hugo Awards and John W. Campbell Award winners will be announced August 22 at the 2015 Worldcon.

HUGO VOTING CAMPAIGN SPARKS CONTROVERSY

from Isabella Biedenharn of EW.com & File 770

Many science fiction writers are up in arms with a slate of Hugo Awards nominees lobbied by two groups affiliated with last year's GamerGate scandal, Sad Puppies and Rabid Puppies.

Sad Puppies broadcast their selection on February 1, writing: "If you agree with our slate below—and we suspect you might—this is YOUR chance to make sure YOUR voice is heard." Brad Torgerson, who runs Sad Puppies along with Larry Correia, complains that the Hugo Awards have lately skewed toward "literary" works, as opposed to "entertainment."

Torgerson also writes that he disagrees with Hugos being awarded for affirmative action-like purposes, as many women and writers of color went home with awards in 2014: "Likewise, we've seen the Hugo voting skew ideological, as Worldcon and fandom alike have tended to use the Hugos as an affirmative action award: giving Hugos because a writer or artist is (insert underrepresented minority or victim group here) or because a given work features (insert underrepresented minority or victim group here) characters."

The other lobbying group, Rabid Puppies, is run by Theodore Beale (who goes by the name Vox Day). As *The Telegraph* reports, "Members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America called for Beale's exclusion from the group after he wrote against women's suffrage and posted racist views towards black writer NK Jemisin."

Writer Philip Sandifer wrote on his blog April 5, "The Hugo Awards have just been successfully hijacked by neofascists." Sandifer's post, which is worth reading in full, addresses what this disaster means for the sci-fi world:

"To be frank, it means that traditional sci-fi/fantasy fandom does not have any legitimacy right now. Period. A community that can be this effectively controlled by someone who thinks black people are subhuman and who has called for acid attacks on feminists is not one whose awards have any sort of cultural validity. That sort of thing doesn't happen to functional communities. And the fact that it has just happened to the oldest and most venerable award in the sci-fi/fantasy community makes it unambiguously clear that traditional sci-fi/fantasy fandom is not fit for purpose."

As writer Joe Abercrombie put it on Twitter: "The Hugo Awards have never looked less like the future of anything. 2:24 PM - 4 Apr 2015"

In the days since, two of the Sad Puppies' recommended nominees were removed from the ballot for being ineligible, Hugo finalists Marko Kloos and Annie Bellett announced they are withdrawing their stories from consideration, and Connie Willis has withdrawn from presenting the John W. Campbell Award at the Hugo ceremonies.

On his Facebook page April 15, Hugo Ceremony host David Gerrold wrote: "Fans don't quit... We will have a Hugo ceremony. It will be a celebration of our deserving nominees. It will be a celebration of excellence in the genre."

It will be a celebration of our history and traditions. It will be a celebration of us. There will be some jokes. There will be some surprises.”

DISCWORLD'S PRATCHETT DIES AT 66

(BBC News) Fantasy author Sir Terry Pratchett died March 12, having had Alzheimer's disease for eight years. He was 66 years old. “The world has lost one of its brightest, sharpest minds,” said Larry Finlay, publisher.

Best known for the *Discworld* series, Pratchett wrote more than 70 books over his lengthy career. He was first diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2007, but continued writing, completing his final book last summer.

The author died at home “with his cat sleeping on his bed, surrounded by his family,” Finlay said. “In over 70 books, Terry enriched the planet like few before him. As all who read him know, *Discworld* was his vehicle to satirize this world: He did so brilliantly, with great skill, enormous humour and constant invention. Terry faced his Alzheimer's disease publicly and bravely. Over the last few years, it was his writing that sustained him.”

The *Discworld* series – which started in 1983 – was based in a flat world perched on the backs of four elephants which, in turn, stand on the back of a giant turtle. By 2013, he had written more than 40 installments.

At the peak of his writing powers, Pratchett was publishing more than three books a year. His quirky and satirical view of the world won him a worldwide following. At the turn of the century, he was Britain's second most-read author, beaten only by JK Rowling.

On being knighted by the Queen in 2009, he said, “It would appear to me that me getting up and saying 'I've got Alzheimer's', it did shake people. The thing about Alzheimer's is there are few families that haven't been touched by the disease. There's far more awareness about it and that was really what I hoped was going to happen.”

Pratchett approached his Alzheimer's diagnosis with a pragmatic sense of humor. His death was announced on his Twitter account the afternoon of March 12.

The first tweet was composed in capital letters - which was how the author portrayed the character of Death in his novels: “AT LAST, SIR TERRY, WE MUST WALK TOGETHER,” it stated.

“Terry took Death's arm and followed him through the doors and on to the black desert under the endless night.”

“The End.”

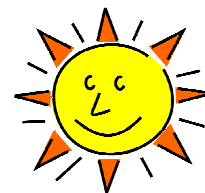
Despite campaigning for assisted suicide, Pratchett's publishers said he did not take his own life.

PHILIP K. DICK AWARD ANNOUNCED

The 2015 Philip K. Dick Award winner was announced on Friday, April 3, at Norwescon 38, in SeaTac, WA, according to Locusmag.com. The winner for the distinguished original science fiction paperback published for the first time

during 2014 in the US is *The Book of the Unnamed Midwife* by Meg Elison. Special citation was given to *Elysium* by Jennifer Marie Brissett.

The Philip K. Dick Award is presented annually with the support of the PKD Trust for distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States. The award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the Philip K. Dick Trust and the award ceremony is sponsored by the NorthWest Science Fiction Society.



BOOK GROUP STILL READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, April 20, in the side room of Pacific Paradise, northeast corner of San Pedro & Candelaria NE, to discuss *The Martian* by Andy Weir. The group then focuses on *Embassytown* by China Mieville on Monday, May 18 – probably at Pacific Paradise again.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the third Monday of each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on selected novels at Page One Books in the Mountain Run Shopping Center. For more info, contact Leah at skycaptain1883@yahoo.com or Craig at 266-8905.

TIPTREE AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Monica Byrne's novel *The Girl in the Road* and Jo Walton's novel *My Real Children* are the winners of the 2014 James Tiptree, Jr. Award, it was announced in early April on Locusmag.com. The award is given annually to works of science fiction or fantasy that explore and expand gender roles. They will be honored at a ceremony during WisCon 39, held May 22-25, 2015 in Madison WI.

7000BC DOES COMICS WORKSHOPS

7000 BC will be presenting free comics workshops aimed at teens and tweens at all of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Library branches June 9 through July 14. These introductory workshops will be led by a variety of creators, so you can attend more than one and learn different approaches. No experience necessary. Watch www.7000bc.org or abclibrary.org for more details. They're aimed at teens, but the occasional adult will certainly not be turned away.

SPIELBERG TO DIRECT READY PLAYER ONE

Steven Spielberg is set to direct *Ready Player One*, the highly anticipated project based on the popular sci-fi book by Ernest Cline that takes place in a virtual world, reported Deadline.com in late March.

Spielberg and his films are actually mentioned in the 2011 book. “I also absorbed the complete filmographies of

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each of his favorite directors,” says the main character Wade Watts at one point as he’s studying the interests of digital utopia creator James Donovan Halliday. “Cameron, Gilliam, Jackson, Fincher, Kubrick, Lucas, Spielberg, Del Toro, Tarantino. And of course, Kevin Smith.” There are also references to the *Indiana Jones* franchise, which Spielberg directed, and *E.T.* in the cultural touch points of the book.

The book takes place in 2044 and follows the story of a virtual-reality game creator who offers up his entire company to the best player who can find an Easter egg in one of his many virtual worlds via a game called OASIS. A teenager named Wade Watts decides to take it on after millions have failed over many years. The key to winning the game is a plethora of pop culture clues from the 1980s. Whomever figures it out and wins the game – without having their avatars killed in the process – earns the entire OASIS empire.

Although the book was published in 2011, the studio acquired the rights to the film in 2010 for producers Donald De Line and Dan Farah, who brought the project into the studio. They will produce with Kristie Macosko Krieger. Warner Bros plunked down a high-six-figure deal, besting other suitors at the time. The book has become a phenomenon, published in 40 countries; it was on *The New York Times*’ bestsellers list and was chosen “best-of” by numerous news and pop cultures websites around the globe.

Zak Penn (*X-Men: The Last Stand*, *The Avengers*) wrote the latest script after taking over the duties from Cline and Eric Eason (*A Better Life*). Interestingly, Penn and Cline worked together on the video game documentary *Atari: Game Over* and have said to be collaborating on the *Ready Player One* script extremely well for some time.

TREK'S NIMOY DIES AT 83

(CNN) Leonard Nimoy, whose portrayal of *Star Trek*'s logic-driven, half-human science officer Spock made him an iconic figure to generations, died February 27. He died in Bel Air, CA, due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, said his family. He was 83 years old.

Nimoy's career in show business spanned more than six decades and included stints as a stage actor, TV guest star, series regular, movie veteran and film director. He also was a singer (of sorts), a published poet and an noted photographer.

But his lasting claim to fame remains Spock, a Vulcan whose pointed ears, unemotional manner and frequently uttered "fascinating" endeared him to millions. Nimoy felt a close connection to the character. "Spock is definitely one of my best friends. When I put on those ears, it's not like just another day. When I become Spock, that day becomes something special," he told *Starlog* in 1989.

Leonard Simon Nimoy was born in Boston, far from Vulcan, on March 26, 1931. His parents were Russian immigrants, and he was raised in an Orthodox Jewish family.

Nimoy's last Tweet was posted February 23: "A life is like a garden. Perfect moments can be had, but not preserved, except in memory. LLAP."

Upon graduating from high school, Nimoy acted in

small productions. After encouragement from other actors, he applied to the Pasadena Playhouse in California and was accepted. He moved to the West Coast when he was 18. His early years were bumpy.

Nimoy eventually gained steady work as a character actor, taking parts on such series as *Bonanza*, *The Twilight Zone* and *Dragnet*. It was a 1964 appearance on a show about Marines, *The Lieutenant*, that brought him to the attention of Gene Roddenberry, the show's producer.

When *Star Trek* went off the air, Nimoy quickly rebounded by joining the cast of *Mission: Impossible* as Paris, part of Peter Graves' secret-agent team. In the '70s, he made a few movies – the most notable being the 1978 remake of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* – and a handful of TV guest appearances. He also hosted the syndicated *In Search of ...* and appeared in a number of stage plays.

Then Hollywood came calling with 1979's *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*, which reunited the original cast. Though the film garnered mixed reviews, it was a box-office success and led to a series of sequels.

The *Trek* movie series also gave Nimoy a chance to direct. He helmed both the third and fourth films, 1984's *The Search for Spock* (which takes place after the Spock character dies in the second film, though he's eventually revived) and 1986's *The Voyage Home*.

Nimoy also directed the biggest box-office hit of 1987, *Three Men and a Baby*. As a director, his other films include *The Good Mother* and *Funny About Love*.

He narrated documentaries, provided voice-over for video games, appeared in the paranormal series *Fringe* as Dr. William Bell; and did voice work in 2011's *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*, two episodes of *The Simpsons*, and in an episode of *The Big Bang Theory*.

For all that, Nimoy knew how he'd be remembered. He hadn't left Spock behind, after all: He acted in the first two of the rebooted *Trek* movies, playing Spock Prime in 2009's *Star Trek* and 2012's *Star Trek Into Darkness*.

He is survived by his second wife and two children from his first marriage.

GOSLING TO STAR IN BLADE RUNNER SEQUEL

Ryan Gosling is in negotiations to star in Alcon Entertainment's sequel to *Blade Runner*, the film that will be directed by *Prisoners* helmer Denis Villeneuve, reported Deadline.com in mid-April. Ridley Scott, who directed the original classic based on the Philip K. Dick novel, is aboard as executive producer. Harrison Ford, who starred in the original film, reprises his role as replicant hunter Rick Deckard. Tapping into hallowed ground is risky — even Scott got mixed results when he expanded *Alien* with *Prometheus* — but Gosling adds a certain cool element to the effort.

Hampton Fancher (co-writer of the original) and Michael Green have written an original screenplay based on an idea by Fancher and Scott. The story takes place several decades after the conclusion of the 1982 original. Shooting begins in summer 2016.

BUBONICON 47 HAS UPDATES

Bubonicon 47 planning still is in the early stages with potential participants responding with programming choices and fan groups writing in to request space & time. Weekend passes are at \$38.00 through May 16, and then go to \$40. You can purchase your weekend pass at ASFS meetings with cash/check, mail your payment to "Bubonicon" with the PDF registration form to 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108, or pay online with a credit card.

The "Women of Wonder" con takes place August 28-30 (a week after the Spokane Worldcon) at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). Single-Quad rooms are \$99 a night when reserved by August 17.

In addition to Co-Guests of Honor Tamora Pierce & Catherynne M. Valente, Toastmistress Mary Robinette Kowal, and Guest Artist Ruth Sanderson, those confirmed to participate so far include: Daniel Abraham (unless there's filming), Richard Berthold, Livia Blackburne, Ben Bova, Craig A. Butler, Yvonne Coats, Ty Franck (unless film schedule interrupts), Loretta Hall, Betsy James, Darynda Jones, Jeffe Kennedy, T. Jackson King, Jane Lindskold, Emily Mah, George RR Martin (tentative), Victor Milan, Pati Nagle, costumers Charles & Tauni Orndorff, Scott Phillips, C.S. Plesko, M.T. Reiten, Joan S. Saberhagen, Debbie Lynn Smith, Melinda Snodgrass, Gabi Stevens, S.M. Stirling, David Lee Summers, Lauren Tefteau, and Walter Jon Williams. More will be added, of course.

Green Slime Mistress Jessica Coyle is taking nominations for "wretched things that should be recognized" and preparing to entertain the masses Saturday night of the con.

The con will benefit the Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University and the Roadrunner Food Bank through the Friday night auction and a portion of con proceeds. The ABQ Public Library Foundation will benefit from screenings of *STAR TREK 4* May 8-9 at the Guild Cinema.

No Dealer Spaces remain - all 30 spaces have been sold! To be put on a waiting list, email Dan Cooper at dealers@bubonicon.com. Meanwhile, the Art Show will have rules & forms posted mid-May. Stay tuned.

As always, volunteers are appreciated! "Gofers," as con volunteers are known, receive movie promotional swag and other prizes, and are invited to a pizza party after Bubonicon 47 ends (usually late September).

More general information is available from 559-0931 (Google voice), 266-8905 (Craig), the UPS Store box 500-208, email to bubonicon@gmail.com or at bubonicon.com.

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

***Get in Trouble: Stories* by Kelly Link, 2015 Random House, hc \$25.00, 339 pages.** Review by Craig W. Chrissinger

You'll often find Kelly Link included in anthologies or editing them, and her short fiction is well regarded. Her writing is lyrical, and can twist the reader's perception of a world in the space of a paragraph. But is it for everyone? Readers who are

curious can start with nine of her stories in *Get in Trouble*.

I'm not sure whether I'm a fan. She has that kind of puzzling effect. Her stories definitely draw you in, but they often end just as you are starting to comprehend that particular world. Some stories have a few genre elements but are otherwise straightforward tales, like "Secret Identity," in which a young teenager recounts how she's gone to a hotel to meet an older man – a man she has tricked about her age, and in the middle of a convention of superheroes (some auditioning new sidekicks). Others are slightly creepy, such as "The New Boyfriend," in which young girls collect "boyfriend" dolls that can act, talk and dance.

My favorites are "The Summer People," the lead story which introduces a hidden world within a seemingly deserted house, and "Light," the final story which includes the idea of taking vacations in pocket universes.

Whether you like Link's prose may depend on whether the details and small touches work for you. Either way, *Get in Trouble* and Link's style are worth the exploration.

***Eternity's Wheel: InterWorld Book 3* by Neil Gaiman and Michael & Mallory Reaves, 2015 HarperTeen, hc \$17.99, 288 pages.** Review by Michael McCommas

Eternity's Wheel is the third book in the Young Adult *InterWorld* series. The authors took measures to catch the reader up on the story's recent events by having Joseph Harker, the 16-year-old lead character, explain what's going on to his former social studies teacher while Joseph is getting patched up from his narrow escape from the last book. Maybe not the most creative way to fill in the late reader, but it works. There were odd moments where Joseph gets out of predicaments because another character shows up in the nick of time with the right talent for the job, and we learn more about that character as Joseph reminisces about the last time they met. This usually happens in the heat of battle. Must be nice to be able to multitask like that.

Okay, so the premise of the *InterWorld* series is that we live in a Multiverse, and Joseph is one of an infinite number of "Joseph" variations living on an infinite number of "Earth" variants. The one thing the Josephs have in common is the ability to Walk between these dimensions. Time travel also comes into play when he meets Acacia Jones, an agent of TimeWatch. The bad guys are HEX (magic) and Binary (science) who team up to try to restart the Multiverse using a new hybrid magic/science weapon called FrostNight.

I found the book to be well written and entertaining. I might even go back and read the first two books in the series, *InterWorld* and *The Silver Dream*, since they are such quick reads. Judging from how the book ends, there's definitely a possibility of yet another sequel.

***Persona* by Genevieve Valentine, Saga Press 2015, hc \$24.99, 320 pages.** Review by Jessica Coyle

Nebula and World Fantasy Award nominee Genevieve Valentine's latest book is set in a near future where the world is run by the International Assembly, a UN-like group where the representatives are treated more like reality television stars than politicians. Suyana Sapaki, the representative for the United Amazonian Rainforest Confederation, is a delegate at the center of a scandal, who is trying to parlay a relationship with the US delegate into possibly power for her country. When her plans go

horribly wrong and she is almost assassinated, Suyana is forced to go on the run, unsure of who she can trust anymore.

Daniel Park is a photographer with a shady past of his own. He is the only witness to the attempted assassination, and he joins forces with Suyana, although it is unsure whether it is to protect her or do her even more harm. Suyana is determined to find a way to salvage her political career and help her country, no matter what the cost, but the reader is unsure up until the very end whether that cost will be her life.

Persona is a very different type of book for Valentine, whose previous books *Mechanique: a Tale of the Circus Tresaulti* and *The Girls at the Kingfisher Club* were definite fantasies. She spins a very believable world in which politicians live the life of television celebrities where no move goes unnoticed. While thrillers aren't always my cup of tea, I enjoyed *Persona* and would recommend it to those who like the genre.

***Star Wars: Heir to the Jedi* by Kevin Hearne, 2015 Del Rey, hc \$28.00, 304 pages.** Review by Sean Mike

Star Wars: Heir to the Jedi is the first of the new canon books that I have read. As a fan of Hearne's *Iron Druid Chronicles*, I was interested to see his take on the *Star Wars* universe. This book was originally intended to be third in the *Empire and Rebellion* series before all of the expanded universe continuity was thrown out. I don't know how much the story changed from what was planned, but what we got was quite disappointing.

In a daring rescue mission of an alien cryptographer, crucial to the Alliance cause, Luke plunges head-on into a high-stakes espionage operation that will push his abilities as a Rebel fighter and would-be Jedi to the limit. I found the plot to be uninteresting and wondered why Luke was picked for the mission.

The characterizations of both Luke and Leia (who has a brief appearance) felt very off to me and the writing itself was just bad compared to the writing we see in the *Iron Druid Chronicles*. Unfortunately, it's not a book I can recommend.

***Finn Fancy Necromancy* by Randy Henderson, 2015 Tor, hc \$25.99, 367 pages.** Review by Craig W. Chrissinger

For a debut novel, *Finn Fancy Necromancy* is quite the calling card. Randy Henderson has crafted a quirky urban fantasy novel with unique characters, entertaining family drama, and sarcastic and fannish references among the threat of war between the Fey's realm and a version of our world where magic works (but mundanes are kept in the dark).

Twenty-five years ago, Finn Gramaraye was framed for the crime of dark necromancy and exiled by the Arcane Enforcers to the Other Realms, where he existed as a shapeless blob of thought. On the day he's released back to his body, things quickly go wrong and once again he's accused of a crime he didn't commit. He has three days to get used to his 40-year-old body, catch up with technological and entertainment changes, and prove his innocence.

Finn will have to depend on his brothers and sister, a niece he hasn't met before, a former Enforcer exiled and released on the same days as he, a zany neighbor who made still hold a torch for him, another possible love interest from his teen years, and his Talent for speaking with the dead. All he has to do is fend off a family of renegade witches, fight against a pair of sasquatches, find a date for his brother, and figure out whether someone in his

own family is helping to frame him.

There's a heck of a lot going on here, and Henderson manages to keep it light and fast paced – even when the subject is dark. There are a few moments when Henderson can't quite keep all his cups spinning in the air, but overall it's an impressive job. *Finn Fancy Necromancy* is a compelling read, a heck of a debut, and the beginning of an entertaining series.

***An Ember in the Ashes* by Sabaa Tahir, Razorbill 2015, hc \$19.95, 464 pages.** Review by Jessica Coyle

An Ember in the Ashes is a debut YA fantasy novel by Washington Post foreign desk reporter Sabaa Tahir. It follows the story of Laia, a young girl who is a member of a race of Scholars who were taken over by the Empire many generations ago. When her brother is taken prisoner by the Empire's soldiers, she agrees to go undercover as a slave in the Empire's military academy for the Scholar resistance in exchange for their help.

Laia's job is to spy on the Head of the Academy and gain information on how to breach its walls. Instead, she becomes entangled with Elias, one of the Academy's finest students, who dreams of deserting the military and living a free life. As Laia and Elias are drawn closer together, it seems as if the chance of escape dwindles for them both.

An Ember in the Ashes is an interesting take on the genre, with visible Middle Eastern influences from Tahir's family and her time as a foreign reporter. It follows the tropes of many YA fantasies that have come before, but it is well written and engaging. I would definitely read another book by Tahir in the future, and would recommend this one to those who like YA fantasy.

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

- **THE HUGO AWARDS** are simply a mess this year, and there's probably not an easy fix without going too far with restrictions in the opposite direction. I feel empathy for Laura J. Mixon, Connie Willis, David Gerrold and Steven Gould as they decide where they stand and what to do. Bottom line, these "People's Choice" awards of SF should be chosen on what's a good story or art - not the politics (in the story or of the writer) or whether there's a spaceship or telepathy involved. The Puppies have crapped in the sandbox, and now everyone suffers!

- **WE'RE BACK FROM THE WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP** in Portales, which took place April 9-11. It was a good time, as always - full of the usual chatting and eating. I sent my article on the Lectureship and photographs to *Locus Magazine* this past Monday evening, so that coverage will be in their May issue. Bubonicon and Albuquerque were well represented between con-com members and professional writers. And it was nice to see Paolo Bacigalupi again. Next year Victor Milan is the Guest of Honor. Rowr!

- **I MEANT TO WRITE** a review of Ian Tregillis' *The Mechanical*, but ran out of time and space. It's an interesting book and good read, which I recommend. I should get a review done for the July *ASFACTS*. I also have enjoyed Andy Weir's *The Martian*.

- **THANKS TO MICHAEL, SEAN & JESSICA** for contributions. Submissions are welcome. Please. Really, I'm not kidding. Please.

- **IT MUST BE SPRING** based on the fluctuating temperatures, the random strong winds, and the signs of road construction everywhere in town! Not to mention the allergies from high pollen counts.. Well, just about out of room. Have a nice spring & Memorial Day! See you in July after Denver Comic Con. --CraigC