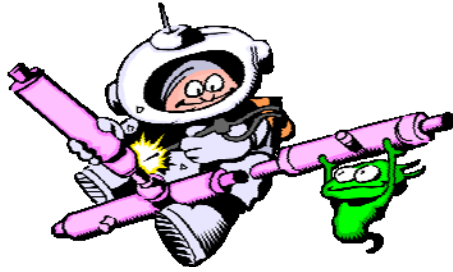




# **SITHFACTS 2019**

## **"WE EVEN HAD SNOW FOR THANKSGIVING" DECEMBER ISSUE**



### **2018 WORLD FANTASY WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

The World Fantasy Awards winners for works published in 2018 were announced November 3 in an awards ceremony at the World Fantasy Convention in Los Angeles, CA.

To be eligible, all nominated material must have been published in 2018 or have a 2018 cover date. Nominations came from two sources. Members of the current convention as well as the previous two were able to vote two nominations onto the final ballot. The remaining nominations came from the panel of judges. Judges this year were Nancy Holder, Kathleen Jennings, Garry Douglas Kilworth, Stephen Graham Jones, and Tod McCoy.

The World Fantasy Awards winners are:

NOVEL: *Witchmark* by C.L. Polk, NOVELLA: "The Privilege of the Happy Ending" by Kij Johnson, BEST SHORT FICTION (Tie) "Ten Deals with the Indigo Snake" by Mel Kassel and "Like a River Loves the Sky" by Emma Törzs, ANTHOLOGY: *Worlds Seen in Passing* edited by Irene Gallo, COLLECTION: *The Tangled Lands* by Paolo Bacigalupi & Tobias S. Buckell, and ARTIST: Rovina Cai.

SPECIAL AWARD – PROFESSIONAL: Huw Lewis-Jones for *The Writer's Map: An Atlas of Imaginary Lands*, SPECIAL AWARD – NON-PROFESSIONAL: Scott H. Andrews for *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, and LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS: Hayao Miyazaki and Jack Zipes.

### **GOODREADS NAMES BEST OF 2019**

Winners of the 2018 Goodreads Choice awards for the "best books of 2018," as chosen by users of the site, were announced December 10. These are the only major book awards decided by readers. There are several categories of genre interest:

FICTION: *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood (sequel to dystopian classic *The Handmaid's Tale*),

FANTASY: *Ninth House* by Leigh Bardugo (her debut into mainstream fantasy – Ivy League freshman Galaxy "Alex" Stern has been tasked with investigating Yale University's infamous secret societies),

SCIENCE FICTION: *Recursion* by Blake Crouch (an inventive and ambitious story on technology, time travel, and the essential nature of memory),

HORROR: *The Institute* by Stephen King (following the fate of six supernaturally gifted kids locked into a harrowing facility known only as, yes, the Institute),

HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY: *The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper* by Hallie Rubenhold (reviews the lives of those murdered, rather than the story of the killer, and reveals the inaccuracies and prejudices that have been repeated over the years),

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: *Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?: Big Questions from Tiny Mortals About Death* by Caitlin Doughty (answers all those questions that we're generally afraid to ask about death, decay, decomposition, and other depressing developments),

GRAPHIC NOVELS & COMICS: *Pumpkinheads* by Rainbow Rowell (the world's best pumpkin patch, it turns out, is located in Omaha, Nebraska),

YOUNG ADULT FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION: *The Wicked King* by Holly Black (second installment of the faerie realm series *The Folk of the Air* – the saga of Jude, a mortal in the treacherous High Court of Faerie),

MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S: *The Tyrant's Tomb: The Trials of Apollo Book 4* by Rick Riordan (book four in a five-part series centered on the character of Apollo,

### **UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS**

- **Tonight:** Comedic holiday film shorts, plus the 15th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off. Prizes! Mirth! *Emergency Space Rations* are here!
- **January 10, 2020:** Group Book Discussion! What did you read in 2019 & would recommend?
- **February 21 (One Week Late):** The Annual Club Auction with Bob Vardeman & Patricia Rogers. Start looking for stuff to donate - and save up your \$\$\$... Plus *ASFacts* (Deadline Monday, Feb 17).
- **March 20 (One Week Late):** Hopefully a puppet-related talk. Or some other guest presentation.
- **April 17 (One Week Late):** Tentatively, a visit from Portales author Darynda Jones. Definitely *ASFacts* for spring (deadline Monday, April 13).

**Darth Vader, guest editor. Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. Send Correspondence to —** PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Darth Vader's Phone: c/o (505) 266-8905. E-mail: cwraig@nmia.com. *SITHFACTS* printed each December. *ASFacts* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. NEXT DEADLINE: Monday, Feb. 17, 2020. **Club Officers:** Jessica Coyle & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Harriet Engle, Moderator. Grant Kuck, alternator. Kris Kringle & Rudolph the Reindeer, Holiday Hosts. **Bubonicon 52 Chair:** Craig W. Chrissinger.

who's sentenced by Zeus to a mortal life on Earth),

PICTURE BOOKS: *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: The Poetry of Mister Rogers* by Fred Rogers (an illustrated treasury of all the classic songs from the TV show, reimagined as poems for the shorter set).

Goodreads reports 4.65 million votes cast this year.

## TREK'S AUBERJONIS DIES

by Andrew Dalton, *The Washington Post*

René Auberjonois, a prolific actor best known for his roles on the television shows *Benson* and *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, and his part in the 1970 film *M.A.S.H.*, playing Father Mulcahy, died December 8 of metastatic lung cancer at his home in Los Angeles. He was 79 years old.

Auberjonois worked constantly as a character actor through several periods and forms, from the dynamic theater of the 1960s to the cinema renaissance of the 1970s to the prime period of network TV in the 1980s and '90s – and each generation knew him for something different.

For film fans of the 1970s, he was Father John Mulcahy, the military chaplain who played straight man to the doctors' antics in *M.A.S.H.* It was his first significant film role and the first of several for director Robert Altman.

For sitcom watchers of the 1980s, he was Clayton Runnymede Endicott III, the hopelessly highbrow chief of staff at a governor's mansion on *Benson*, the ABC series whose title character was a butler played by Robert Guillaume.

And for sci-fi fans of the 1990s and convention-goers ever since, he was Odo, the shape-shifting Changeling and head of space-station security on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*.

"I am all of those characters, and I love that," Auberjonois said in a 2011 interview with the *Star Trek* website. "I also run into people, and they think I'm their cousin or their dry cleaner. I love that, too."

René Marie Murat Auberjonois was born in New York City on June 1, 1940, the son of Fernand Auberjonois, a Swiss-born foreign correspondent for U.S. newspapers, and the grandson of a Swiss post-impressionist painter, also named René Auberjonois.

He was raised in New York, Paris and London, and for a time lived with his family in an artists' colony in Rockland County, NY, whose residents included the actors John Houseman, Helen Hayes and Burgess Meredith.

After graduating in 1962 from Pittsburgh's Carnegie Institute, he hopped around the country joining theater companies, eventually landing three roles on Broadway in

1968, including as the Fool in a long-running version of *King Lear*.

The following year, he played Sebastian Baye opposite Katharine Hepburn in *Coco*, a play on the life of designer Coco Chanel that earned him a Tony for best actor in a leading role in

a musical. He later received Tony nominations for 1973's *The Good Doctor*, 1984's *Big River*, and 1989's *City of Angels*.

In 1970, Auberjonois began his run with Altman, playing Mulcahy in *M.A.S.H.* In his most famous exchange from the movie, Sally Kellerman's Margaret Houlihan wonders how such a degenerate doctor as Donald Sutherland's Hawkeye Pierce could reach a position of responsibility in the U.S. Army. A Bible-reading Auberjonois deadpans, "He was drafted."

He also appeared in the Altman movies *Brewster McCloud*, *McCabe & Mrs. Miller*, and *Images*.

Much of his later career was spent doing voice-overs for animation, most memorably as the French chef who sings the love song to fish-killing, "Les Poissons," in Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (1989).

He played Odo on *Deep Space Nine* from 1993 until 1998, and became a regular at *Star Trek* conventions, where he raised money for Doctors Without Borders and signed autographs with a drawing of Odo's bucket, where the character would store himself when he returned to his natural gelatinous state.

Auberjonois was also a regular on the ABC law firm dramedy *Boston Legal* from 2004 to 2008.

Late in his career, he worked with independent filmmakers including Kelly Reichardt, for whom he appeared in *Certain Women* in 2016, and *First Cow* in 2019, his final role.

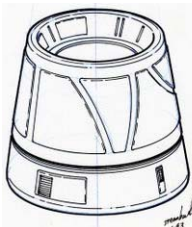
He is survived by his wife of 56 years, the former Judith Mihalyi; a son, Remy-Luc Auberjonois; daughter, Tessa Auberjonois; two sisters; and three grandchildren.

## BUJOLD NAMED SFWA GRAND MASTER

The Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) on December 9 named Lois McMaster Bujold the 36th recipient of the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award.

SFWA president Mary Robinette Kowal said Bujold "has had an undeniable influence on the field of science fiction and fantasy. From the *Vorkosigan Saga*, to the *Chalion* series and the *Sharing Knife* series, she finds new ways to explore the genre, mixing and matching everything from regency to science fiction. With dozens of books in multiple languages, while continuing to write, she is one of the most prolific authors working today. Importantly, she also serves as a role model for many writers, including me. In *A Civil Campaign*, she wrote, 'Reputation is what other people know about you. Honor is what you know about yourself.' There is no doubt about Lois McMaster Bujold's honor and becoming SFWA's newest Grand Master only underlines her sterling reputation."

The award, given for "lifetime achievement in science fiction and/or fantasy," will be presented at the Nebula Conference May 28-31, 2020, in Woodland Hills, CA.



## SF BOOK GROUP READS ON

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, December 16, at Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE – across the street from Bubonicon's Marriott Hotel) to discuss *The Heads of Cerberus* by Francis Stevens. The group then meets January 20, 2020, to talk about *Empress of Forever* by Max Gladstone (at Jason's Deli again).

Meetings of D&D are open to all readers on the 3rd Monday of each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on them at Page One Books. For more info: Leah at mrsransom@hotmail.com or Craig at 266-8905.

## TREK'S D.C. FONTANA DIES

by Geoff Boucher, deadline.com

Dorothy Fontana, the first female *Star Trek* writer and a stalwart presence in TV science fiction for four decades, died December 2. She was 80 years old.

Fontana's death was confirmed by the official *Star Trek* website, which described her as "the legendary writer who brought many of *Star Trek*'s greatest episodes to life." The website reported that she died after a brief illness but offered no other details.

Fontana was active in the Writers Guild of America for many years, and most recently worked as a lecturer for the American Film Institute.

The screen credit "D.C. Fontana" became a familiar one to several generations of sci-fi TV viewers – and *Star Trek* fans in particular – but some didn't know the pen name belonged to a trailblazing woman hoping to carve out a career in an arena long dominated by male writers, executives, and fans.

Fontana's considerable contributions to the Starfleet universe include the classic episode "Journey to Babel" from the original *Star Trek* series (1966-1969), "Yesteryear" from the well-regarded *Star Trek: The Animated Series* (1973), and "Encounter at Farpoint," the pilot for *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (1987-1994), which she co-wrote with the brand's creator, Gene Roddenberry.

The New Jersey native's television writing career began in 1960 with *The Tall Man* and her eclectic credits included episodes of signature hits such as *Dallas*, *The Waltons*, *Bonanza*, *Kung Fu*, *The Streets of San Francisco*, *The Big Valley* and *Ben Casey*. It was in science fiction, however, where Fontana made her biggest mark.

In addition to multiple *Star Trek* franchises, she also wrote episodes of *Babylon 5*, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *Buck Rogers in the 25<sup>th</sup> Century*, *Logan's Run*, *War of the Worlds*, *Land of the Lost*, and *The Fantastic Voyage*. She also wrote the novelization of Roddenberry's *The Questor Tapes*, and *Star Trek* novel *Vulcan's Glory*.

Fontana was feted for her years of service to the

WGA with honorary awards in 1997 and 2002.

Fontana is survived by her husband, cinematographer Dennis Skotak. The family requests that donations be made in Fontana's name to the Humane Society, Best Friends Animal Society or the American Film Institute.

## MARTIN WINS CLARKE AWARD

George RR Martin received the 2019 Sir Arthur Clarke Imagination Award "for creating engrossing worlds of science fiction and fantasy" at the Unleash Imagination 2019 awards ceremony and dinner, held October 17 at Harman Hall in Washington, DC. Scott Shannon of Random House presented the award, which is sponsored by the Arthur C. Clarke Foundation.

For more information, see the Clarke Foundation website.

## AND MARTIN INDUCTED INTO NJ HALL OF FAME

George RR Martin was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in a ceremony held October 27 at the Paramount Theatre in Asbury Park, NJ. Inductees are recommended by New Jersey residents, and final selections are made by public vote. Martin, who currently lives in New Mexico, grew up in Bayonne, NJ.

Peter Benchley was inducted posthumously.

For more information, including a complete list of inductees, see the New Jersey Hall of Fame website.

## MUPPETEER CAROLL SPINNEY DIES

From Reports by NPR and The New York Times

Caroll Spinney, the actor and puppeteer who portrayed Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch on *Sesame Street* over five decades, died December 8 of dystonia. He was 85 years old.

Spinney had lived with a long time with the disorder, which causes involuntary muscle contractions.

"Caroll and Big Bird are very similar in their genuine niceness and sweetness and lovingness," said Joan Ganz Cooney, co-founder of the Sesame Workshop, in a video tribute to Spinney last year. "He's just so respectful and so nice to all the kids, and all that comes across in Big Bird."

At a celebration for the show's 15th anniversary in 1984, Muppet-master Jim Henson recounted how he and Spinney had met in August 1969 at a puppetry festival in Salt Lake City.

"He's a very talented performer and he had a great sense



of ad-libbing," Henson remembered. "And he was doing this strange-looking cat on local TV in Boston. And so we started talking at that point about this show, and I asked Carroll if he'd enjoy being part of this very strange bird."

But Spinney also played the character with the opposite of Big Bird's sunny persona: Oscar the Grouch.

"I loved playing Oscar. He has a power I never had. ... I can't believe that Jim gave me two such characters that have become iconic, and are a part of so many people in America growing up."

Big Bird also appeared in 1979's *The Muppet Movie* in 1979 and *The Muppets Take Manhattan*, and in 1985 starred in *Sesame Street Presents: Follow That Bird*, in which a meddlesome social worker sends him to live with "his own kind," a family of dodos in "darkest Illinois." He runs away, and has a cross-country adventure.

Spinney retired last year. Balance issues made the physically demanding role of Big Bird difficult, so the big yellow suit was taken on by another performer, Matt Vogel, while Spinney continued to voice Big Bird and Oscar.

Spinney was originally directed to play Big Bird as "a funny, dumb country yokel," he said last year. But he convinced Henson that it'd be better to play Big Bird instead as a very big, feathered 6-year-old.

Caroll Edwin Spinney was born in Waltham, MA, on Dec. 26, 1933, the youngest of three boys. Carroll was a shy, lonely artistic child. Unlike his disapproving father, his mother encouraged his interest in drawing, painting and puppetry, even building him a puppet stage set to perform for neighborhood children. At 12, he had 70 puppets, many made by his mother.

He graduated from Acton-Boxborough Regional High School and attended the Art Institute of Boston, but dropped out to join the Air Force. Serving in Las Vegas, he had his first professional puppet show in 1955, playing "Rascal Rabbit" on television. After being discharged, he returned to Boston, where for a decade he played clown and puppet characters on TV show *Bozo's Big Top*.

He encountered Henson at a puppeteers festival in Salt Lake City in 1969, and a few months later joined *Sesame Street*.

His honors included six Daytime Emmys, two Grammys, a Library of Congress Living Legend Award in 2000 and a Lifetime Achievement Award of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in 2006.

He published a memoir, *The Wisdom of Big Bird (and the Dark Genius of Oscar the Grouch): Lessons From a Life in Feathers* in 2003, with J. Milligan, and was the subject of a 2014 documentary, *I Am Big Bird: The Carroll Spinney Story*, by Dave LaMattina and Chad N. Walker.

Spinney and his first wife, Janice, had three children, Jessica, Melissa and Ben, and were divorced in 1971. In 1979, he married Debra Jean Gilroy, who was working for the Children's Television Workshop when they met in 1972. Besides his second wife and three children, survivors include several grandchildren.

## **KAVALIER & CLAY To TV**

by Germain Lussier, [io9.com](http://io9.com)

Since its publication almost 20 years ago, Michael Chabon's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*, has been flirting with Hollywood. Numerous stars, directors, producers, and other show biz types have circled the project in those two decades (among them Jude Law, Natalie Portman, Tobey Maguire, Ryan Gosling, and the late Sydney Pollack), but the sprawling tale of cousins who create a comic book superhero during World War II has always been a bit too broad for the big screen. Now, finally, it may have found its home.

*Variety* reported in early December that Chabon and producing partner Ayelet Waldman have signed an overall deal with CBS TV and, as part of it, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* has been given a series commitment at Showtime. Chabon and Waldman, who are married, will act as showrunners – but that won't happen until later in 2020, when Chabon can transition out of his current position as an executive producer on another CBS show: *Star Trek: Picard*.

## **GAHAN WILSON DIES**

Gahan Allen Wilson died on November 21 from complications of dementia. He was 89 years old. A widely published cartoonist and artist, he was best known for his dark humor and macabre sensibilities.

Gahan Wilson's work first appeared in *Amazing Stories* in 1954, but he became nationally known through art in slick magazines including *Colliers*, *Playboy*, and later *The New Yorker*. In 1964, he began a continuing association with *F&SF*, as cartoonist and occasional reviewer. His long series of graphic art collections began in 1965 with *Gahan Wilson's Graveside Manner*; recent volumes are *Gahan Wilson's America* in 1985, *Still Weird, Even Weirder*, *The Best of Gahan Wilson*, *Gahan Wilson: 50 Years of Playboy Cartoons*, *Gahan Wilson's Out There*, and *A Little Purple Book of Phantasies* in 2019.

Wilson wrote a detective novel, *Eddy Deco's Last Caper: An Illustrated Mystery* in 1987 and a number of children's books, did animation for 20th Century Fox in *Gahan Wilson's Diner* (1973), and the CD-ROM game *Gahan Wilson's The Ultimate Haunted House* for Microsoft/Byron Preiss Multimedia. He wrote reviews for *F&SF* and *The Twilight Zone*, and reviewed books for *Realms of Fantasy*. Wilson started publishing short fiction in 1964, and the best of this work appears in *The Cleft* and *Other Odd Tales*, along with his own illustrations.

Wilson designed the World Fantasy Award, a bust of H.P. Lovecraft, in 1975 and has served as toastmaster and awards judge for several of the World Fantasy Conventions. He won a special World Fantasy Award in 1981, the Best Artist Award in 1996, and was guest of honor at



the 1998 convention. He received the Bram Stoker Life Achievement Award in 1992, the World Fantasy Life Achievement Award in 2004, and the International Horror Guild Living Legend Award in 2005.

Wilson was born February 18, 1930, in Evanston, IL. His father was an executive at a steel company, and his mother did publicity for a department store. Wilson married the writer Nancy Winters in 1966, who predeceased him this year. Wilson is survived by stepsons Paul and Randy Winters; daughter-in-law, Patrice Winters; eight step-grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

## PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BEST BOOKS 2019

Publishers Weekly announced its list of the best books of 2019 on October 28, including “100 best adult titles and 50 for children and teens.”

The best books in the SF/Fantasy/Horror category are: *The Light Brigade* by Kameron Hurley, *The Institute* by Stephen King, *A People's Future of the United States* edited by Victor LaValle & John Joseph Adams, *Middlegame* by Seanan McGuire, *The Luminous Dead* by Caitlin Starling, *The Lesson* by Cadwell Turnbull, and *Wanderers* by Chuck Wendig.

Titles of genre interest were listed in other categories, including Fiction: *Mars* by Asja Baki, *Mouthful of Birds* by Samanta Schweblin, *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk, and *Frankissstein* by Jeanette Winterson.

## CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS: A GUIDE

by Justin Carter

The crossover to end all Arrowverse crossovers is upon us. Beginning December 8, the CW aired the first half of its adaptation of *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, bringing together all its heroes in a quest to save the multiverse. There are six shows involved, some more involved than others. Here's what you need to know about the Crisis!

**HOW TO WATCH CRISIS:** Like the previous Arrowverse crossovers, *Crisis on Infinite Earths* airs across multiple nights on The CW, with the first three parts already aired. *Supergirl*'s episode on December 8 was the first part of the crossover; while parts two and three aired as episodes of *Batwoman* on December 9 and *The Flash* on December 10.

Parts four and five of *Crisis*, which are episodes of *Arrow* and *Legends of Tomorrow*, will air back to back on January 14. If you don't have cable, never fear – you'll be able to watch each episode the day after on the CW app.

**CAN I GET A PRE-CRISIS RECAP?**

For *Crisis*, the two shows you need to be the most aware of going into this crossover are the ones that birthed this universe: *Arrow* and *The Flash*. In their current seasons, both shows have been building the foundation for everything to come.

During last year's crossover *Elseworlds*, a cosmic enti-

ty called the Monitor arrived on Earth-1, looking to prepare its heroes for an incoming Crisis. To save Flash and Supergirl's lives, Oliver Queen made a bargain with the Monitor to help save the Multiverse when summoned.

The very first episode of *The Flash* in 2014 ended on a tease that Barry Allen would vanish during the Crisis of April 2024. In its fifth season, Nora Allen, Barry's adult daughter from the year 2040, came to the present day to spend time with her father. In doing so, she changed the timeline, accidentally wiping herself from existence and accelerating the Crisis' original date. It would now occur in December 2019, with Earth-1 (primary Earth for the Arrowverse shows) becoming the final battleground.

The Monitor has also become a recurring character during the eighth and final season of *Arrow*. At the end of last season's finale, not long after Oliver Queen's daughter Mia was born, the cosmic being arrived at the vigilante's home looking to recruit him into a fight to save the multiverse. Like Barry, Oliver is slated to die in the battle, but he agreed to uphold his end of the bargain.

The Monitor has also made appearances in the recent season finales of *Legends of Tomorrow* and *Supergirl*. While in the wackier *Legends*, he just showed up to eat circus popcorn and watch the time-traveling heroes make idiots of themselves, his time on *Supergirl* was more serious. He retrieved Lex Luthor's dead body to revive him, claiming the universe will need Lex's mind.

**WHAT'S NEXT AFTER CRISIS?**

*Crisis* is sure to leave a mark on the Arrowverse. In the aftermath of this crossover, there will be at least two new shows born. *Arrow*'s penultimate episode, and its first to follow *Crisis*, will be a spinoff pilot for *Green Arrow & the Canaries*, focusing on Oliver's daughter Mia. Another planned spinoff is *Superman & Lois*, starring the *Supergirl* versions of Lois Lane and the Man of Steel.

Should the Arrowverse version of *Crisis on Infinite Earths* hold true to the source material, all the shows will take place in one single universe from now on. Thus far, *Supergirl* and *Black Lightning* have been the outliers in this regard – the former series, due to its origins as a CBS show, takes place on Earth-38. *Black Lightning*, in contrast, has never definitively stated what Earth it's on.

Of course, we won't know for sure until *Crisis on Infinite Earths* finishes in the New Year!

## REVIEW ROUND-UP

**Rewrite: Anyone** by Charles Soule, 2019 Harper Perennial, hc \$18.99, 432 pages. **Review by Roberta Johnson**

Two young women inhabit this novel of the near future: Gabrielle White and Annami. *Anyone* switches viewpoints between Gabby and Annami constantly, and we will not learn the connection between them for a long time. Gabby is a brilliant scientist, wife and mother, not necessarily in that order. She has obtained research funding from a shady and unscrupulous entrepreneur/gangster named Hendricks. After blowing through the money searching for a cure for Alzhei-

mer's, she instead accidentally invents a technique to transfer consciousness from one body to another, and immediately decides that the gangster, who contracted and naturally expects to own her results, is not fit to administer it.

With hubris and naiveté, she decides that she's the only one qualified to decide how her "flash" technique should be used to benefit the world, and that she can find a way to keep it from her gangster boss. Unfortunately, she has no idea just how bad the man is. She will find out.

Annami lives 25 years in Gabrielle's future, in a world which makes it clear that Gabby will not/did not succeed. The flash has revolutionized everything in Annami's world; climate change is no longer an issue since no one needs to travel and hence fossil fuels are unnecessary. Need domestic workers? The poor in some third world country can be hired to flash into local bodies to do the work. The local unemployed can make money by renting out their bodies. This, however, is the bright side, and not everyone has the same access, or the willingness to follow the rules.

Annami, desperate to make a lot of money fast, joins the darkshare, the world of illegal flashing. Her employer, Mama Run, can find plenty of ways to use her body, and in the world of the darkshare, Annami turns herself over for whatever illegal tasks she can be used for. The folly of this is proven when she awakens from her first darkshare in a room with a dead body, of which she is the obvious cause. But this is only the first darkshare, and she doesn't stop. Instead she throws herself headlong into the cause of making more money, even while being hunted for murder and for her secrets.

Both Gabby and Annami, while brilliant and tough, tend to trust the wrong people, and Soule takes them on wild rides to prove it. Each woman is on her own mission; Gabby's story will eventually lead to Annami, and Annami will change the world once again in her own quest, though not quite in the way she intends. The plot is exciting and the action is fast enough to draw you in, and the ending is unpredictable but works.

***A Night's Tail: Magical Cats Mystery Book 11* by Sofie Kelly, 2019 Berkley Prime Crime, hc \$25.00, 276 pages.**  
**Review by Jessica Coyle**

I love magical cats. They are the best. They walk through walls, disappear, and help solve crimes. My only complaint is that the publisher is now doing them as hardcovers.

Librarian Kathleen Paulson has to help her brother when one of his bandmates in The Flaming Gerbils is accused of murder. Readers of the series know that her magical cats, Owen and Hercules, will have to help solve the case.

The book is fun and I didn't have to think much while reading it. And that's why I love magical kitties when life is stressing me out. They are awesome and fun and fluffy.

## ***ASFS MEETING REPORTS —*** **SEPTEMBER: REPORTS ON 3 CONS**

A crowd of 41 people were on hand to listen to reports on Bubonicon 51, the Dublin Worldcon, and DragonCon.

Craig Chrissinger went over how BUBONICON 51 went, including attendance of 717 people, and the giving away of

\$1,600 to four charities/non-profit groups. Attendance was down, and the convention spent about \$3,500 in the red.

Then Kevin and Rebecca Hewett talked about their experiences at the DUBLIN WORLDCON the weekend before Bubonicon. About 5,800 people attended, and it was held in two venues spread apart by a mile.

The Hewetts spent 10 days beforehand visiting Ireland. "We discovered a new color - green," joked Rebecca. "Luckily, it mostly rained at night or when we were inside." They both kissed the Blarney Stone, which required them to lay on their backs and bend backward. And on their flights to Dallas and then to Dublin, they spent time with Walter Jon Williams and Kathy Hedges.

Rebecca said the Masquerade had 35 entrees, and some were very good costumes. Kevin said he helped with the Art Show checkout the last two days, and "I learned several ways not to run an Art Show, but it did brisk business. The Dealers Room was interesting, and some vendors were just daily. They also had a space where you could hold a Hugo or Retro Hugo, and have your picture taken. It was busy."

Rebecca said the food at the venues was pretty good, from "traditional Irish to pizza and salad, and there were actual good restaurants."

Kevin summed it up, "People had fun, there were the usual snafus, and the biggest complaint was the distance between venues."

Finally, Mandy Self talked about her 12th time at DRAGONCON. "The big concerns were Hurricane Dorian, and the Sheraton had had Legionnaire's Disease. That was cleared by the CDC about a week and a half before the con." Mandy's goal was to see David Tennant (*Dr Who*) as much as possible, and she got his autograph and a photo. "He's very Scottish, which at first was very odd compared to his Doctor voice. He was very nice," she commented.

Mandy also got a couple of David Weber and Jim Butcher novels signed for next year's Bubonicon, and congratulated SM Stirling on his Dragon Award on the plane home to New Mexico. She said the Marriott had a gender-neutral bathroom on one floor, and this year's big drama was around the Marriott's carpet because the hotel changed it after 10 years. "People said they hated that old carpet, but apparently they secretly loved it," she said.

## **EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE**

- SHORT & SWEET THIS TIME as space is running out. Still pretty weird out there in the mundane world, so let's try to find some Christmas spirit and joy this holiday season. Be kind!

- WENT TO MILEHICON 51, which was fun. Good to see Colorado authors & friends at the con & for meals. Also went to Elizabeth Leggett's gallery show in Santa Fe, helped out a bit with the Jim Henson Exhibit's opening day at the ABQ Museum (I was Cheryl Henson's handler for about 10 minutes), saw *Frozen II* with the Willis family during Thanksgiving weekend, and went to SMOFCon 37 (interesting & had ideas).

- ENTERTAINMENT-WISE, liking *Evil* on CBS & *Batwoman* on The CW, loved *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, and enjoyed every cheesy bit of *Tammy and the T-Rex*. And love all four *Murderbot Diaries* novels by Martha Wells!

- THANKS to Jessica & Roberta for reviews! See you in two months. Submissions welcome. Happy Holidays! - Craig