



## Spooky "MIXED WEATHER" OCTOBER EDITION

# ASFACTS 2025



## 2025 DRAGON AWARDS WINNERS

The winners of the 2025 Dragon Awards were presented at Dragon Con, held August 28-September 1 in Atlanta, GA, reported Locusmag.com.

**BEST SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL:** *This Inevitable Ruin* by Matt Dinniman, **BEST FANTASY NOVEL (INCLUDING PARANORMAL):** *The Devils* by Joe Abercrombie, **BEST YOUNG ADULT/MIDDLE GRADE NOVEL:** *Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins, **BEST ALTERNATE HISTORY NOVEL:** *The Martian Contingency* by Mary Robinette Kowal, **BEST HORROR NOVEL:** *Bury Your Gays* by Chuck Tingle, **BEST ILLUSTRATIVE COVER:** Michael Whelan for *Wind and Truth* by Brandon Sanderson, **BEST COMIC BOOK OR GRAPHIC NOVEL:** *Daredevil: Cold Day In Hell* by Charles Soule, **BEST SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY TV SERIES, TV OR INTERNET:** *Andor*, and **BEST SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY MOVIE:** *Deadpool & Wolverine*.

Winners in digital and tabletop gaming-related categories were also announced.

## GREEN SLIME AWARDS ANNOUNCED

In a ceremony August 23 during Bubonicon 56, Green Slime Mistress Jessica L. Coyle (with two short skirts from the Green Slime Puppets) presented the following with recognition of their wretchedness in the last 12 months:

**FOOD:** *Orange Crème Pop Twinkies* (Creamsicle filling over-whelming, and refrigerated makes it worse.)

**TOY:** *Avengers Iron Man Bop Ball* (Teaching kids to punch and make fun of old, fat superheroes.)

**BOOK:** *Darkhollow Academy: Year 2* by Lena McDonald (Self-published author blatantly using AI to mimic other popular authors' writing styles; she left an AI Prompt in the finished book.)

**TELEVISION:** *Universal Basic Guys* (Supposed to be future where two guys paid not to work, but show stuck somewhere around 2002; lacks clarity and comedic timing, show falls flat – welfare as a punchline)

**"TV" MOVIE:** *Star Trek: Section 31* on Paramount (Little tie-in to *Star Trek*, warp-core meltdown disaster; definite aborted spinoff series pilot with no *Trek* flavor; Michelle Yeoh can't rescue this project)

**HORROR MOVIE:** *The Crow* [2024] (Plot doesn't make sense, like a My Chemical Romance concept record; Eric doesn't become the Crow until 113 minutes in; sloppily inconsistent; a pale shadow of the original)

**SCI-FI MOVIE:** *War of the Worlds* [2025] (Some calling it "worst film of the year"; shoddy CGI effects, terrible acting, thinly written script; Ice Cube embarrassing & Eva Longoria acts blankly; Martians eat data? Just stupid)

## KOWAL WINS EUGIE AWARD

"Marginalia" by Mary Robinette Kowal is the winner of the 2025 Eugie Foster Memorial Award for Short Fiction for "stories that are irreplaceable, that inspire, enlighten, and entertain," reported Locusmag.com in early September.

Other finalists were: "After We Kill Our Father and Before We Reach the Mainland" by Max Franciscovich, "The Midnight Commuter" by Tammy Komoff, "Negative Scholarship on the Fifth State of Being" by A.W. Prihandita, and "We Will Teach You How to Read | We Will Teach You How to Read" by Caroline M. Yoachim.

Kowal receives a plaque and a \$1,000 prize. The award was presented at Dragon Con, held August 28-September 1 in Atlanta, GA. It honors writer and editor Eugie Foster, who died in 2014.

Speculative stories up to 20,000 words published in the previous year are eligible for the award, with nominations made by a panel of editors, reviewers, and select readers, and the winner chosen by a jury.

## SF BOOK GROUP READS ON

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, October 20, at Flying Star Café, 4501 Juan Tabo NE (just north of Montgomery Blvd) to discuss *The Mountain in the Sea* by Ray Nayler. The group then meets November 17 (location to be determined) to talk about *The Naturalist Society* by Carrie Vaughn.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on

## UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **October 10 (Tonight):** Benjamin Radford returns to talk on "The Truth Behind *The Entity* (the film)." Plus club officer elections & Holiday Cook-Off discussion...
- **November 14:** Podcaster/Chicken Wrangler Kevin Sonney talks on "Food Security in 2025 & Beyond."
- **December 12:** Our Holiday Social, with food treats & video amusements. Plus, the annual issue of *SITHFACTS* (deadline 5:30 pm Sun, Dec 7).
- **January 9, 2026:** Club reports/discussion on what members read in 2025...
- **February 13, 2025:** Unknown! The Valentine's *ASFACTS* will be published (deadline Sun, Feb 9).
- **March 13, 2025:** Again unknown! Maybe the annual Club Auction? Or a Science Talk?

**Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. Darth Vader, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to —** 2018 Cardenas Dr NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110. Phone: (505) 266-8905. E-mail: cwrcraig@nmlia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. **NEXT DEADLINE: Sun, Dec 7.**  
**Club Officers:** Jessica Coyle & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Eric Klammer, Moderator. Tanley McMullan, Alternator. HAL 9000, Advisor. Jack Skellington, Pumpkin King. **Bubonicon Chair:** Craig Chrissinger, google voice (505) 559-0931. www.bubonicon.com

the 3rd Monday 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 505-266-8905.

## HUGO, LODESTAR & ASTOUNDING AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The winners of the Hugo Awards, the Astounding Award for Best New Writer, and the Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book were announced on August 16 by Seattle Worldcon 2025, the 83rd World Science Fiction Convention, reported Locusmag.com.

The winners are:

BEST NOVEL: *The Tainted Cup* by Robert Jackson Bennett, BEST NOVELLA: *The Tusks of Extinction* by Ray Nayler, BEST NOVELETTE: “The Four Sisters Overlooking the Sea” by Naomi Kritzer, BEST SHORT STORY: “Stitched to Skin Like Family Is” by Nghi Vo, BEST SERIES: *Between Earth and Sky* by Rebecca Roanhorse,

BEST GRAPHIC STORY OR COMIC: *Star Trek: Lower Decks: Warp Your Own Way* written by Ryan North, BEST RELATED WORK: *Speculative Whiteness: Science Fiction and the Alt-Right* by Jordan S. Carroll, BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, LONG FORM: *Dune: Part Two* screenplay by Denis Villeneuve & Jon Spaihts, directed by Denis Villeneuve, BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, SHORT FORM: *Star Trek: Lower Decks: “The New Next Generation”* created and written by Mike McMahan, BEST GAME OR INTERACTIVE WORK: *Caves of Qud* co-created by Brian Bucklew & Jason Grinblat,

BEST EDITOR, SHORT FORM: Neil Clarke, BEST EDITOR, LONG FORM: Diana M. Pho, BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Alyssa Winans, BEST SEMIPROZINE: *Uncanny* published and edited by Lynne M. Thomas & Michael Damian Thomas, BEST FANZINE: *Black Nerd Problems* edited by William Evans & Omar Holmon, BEST FANCAST: *Eight Days of Diana Wynne Jones* presented by Emily Tesh & Rebecca Fraimow, BEST FAN WRITER: Abigail Nussbaum, BEST FAN ARTIST: Sara Felix, BEST POEM: “A War of Words” by Marie Brennan,

LODESTAR AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG ADULT BOOK [NOT A HUGO AWARD]: *Sheine Lende* by Darcie Little Badger, and ASTOUNDING AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER [NOT A HUGO AWARD]: Moniquill Blackgoose.

## CHELSEA QUINN YARBRO DIES

Author Chelsea Quinn Yarbro died August 31 at the age of 82 years old. She was a prolific author who wrote more than 80 books, most in the horror, SF, and mystery genres, and was best known for her sprawling Saint-Germain historical vampire series. In addition, she was Guest of Honor at Bubonicon 14 in 1982.

Yarbro was born September 15, 1942, in Berkeley, CA, and attended San Francisco State College for three years. She married Donald Simpson in 1969; they divorced in 1982. Yarbro was an expert on the occult, a Tarot and palm reader, and a musical composer.

She began writing work of genre interest with “The

Posture of Prophecy” (1969). The St. Germain series began with *Hôtel Transylvania: A Novel of Forbidden Love* (1978) and includes more than 20 books, set mostly in Europe and spanning centuries. She also wrote spin-off works, including the Atta Olivia Clemens books and the Madelaine de Montalia sequence.

The Sisters of the Night duology is 1996’s *The Angry Angel* and 1999’s *The Soul of an Angel*. Standalone novels include *Time of the Fourth Horseman* (1976), *False Dawn* (1978), *Sins of Omission* (1980), *Ariosto* (1980), *Hyacinths* (1983), *The Godforsaken* (1983), *Locadio’s Apprentice* (1984), *A Mortal Glamour* (1985), *Four Horses for Tishtry* (1985), *To the High Redoubt* (1985), *A Baroque Fable* (1985), *Floating Illusions* (1986), *Firecode* (1987), *Taji’s Syndrome* (1988), *Beastnights* (1989), *The Law in Charity* (1989), and *Monet’s Ghost* (1997).

She published more than 70 works of short fiction. Some of her stories were collected in *Cautionary Tales* (1978), *On Saint Hubert’s Thing* (1982), *Signs & Portents* (1984), and *Apprehensions and Other Delusions* (2004).

She co-wrote 1997’s *Against the Brotherhood: A Mycroft Holmes Novel* with Bill Fawcett under the name Quinn Fawcett; the pair wrote three more entries in the series. Other pen names include Camille Gabor, Trystam Kith, and Vanessa Pryor. She also wrote film tie-ins – such as the 1980 novelization of *Dead & Buried* – and contributed to shared world projects.

In addition to the Count Saint-Germain novels, she also published numerous volumes in a popular series of channeled wisdom from the entity Michael in the *Messages from Michael* series.

Yarbro was named a World Horror Grandmaster in 2003, won a Bram Stoker Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009, and received a World Fantasy Award for life achievement in 2014.

A GoFundMe has been set up to raise money for remaining care expenses that Quinn’s insurance did not cover. Any help is welcomed by Quinn’s estate.

## MONTREAL GETS WORLDCON 2027

CanSMOF and the Worldcon in Montréal 2027 Bid Committee won the right to host the 2027 Worldcon. The 85th World Science Fiction Convention will be held September 2-6, 2027, in Montréal, Canada.

Guests of Honor announced so far include Jo Walton, Chris Barkley, Yves Meynard, and artist Jeph Jacques.

A website quote reads, “In Montréal, Québec, there’s always something going on, and a Worldcon will fit right in with the traditional summer happenings of galas, festivals, and other events. Come and explore our city as well as our Worldcon as we highlight culture and diversity.”

The Montréal bid received 605 out of 682 votes cast. For more, see the Montréal 2027 website.

## NEA AXES GRANT

The National Endowment for the Arts has canceled all the creative writing fellowships awarded for 2026, reported Locusmag.com in early October. Grant winners were notified by email that the writing category had been “withdrawn by the Agency.” The recipients, all published

prose writers and poets, were to receive up to \$50,000 each.

The NEA statement said it “is updating its grantmaking policy priorities to focus funding on projects that reflect the nation’s rich artistic heritage and creativity as prioritized by the Administration. Consequently we are cancelling existing funding opportunities that fall outside these new priorities.” Funding for the “furtherance of the Administration’s agenda” will instead focus on “AI competency” and “skilled trade jobs,” making “the District of Columbia safe and beautiful.” This is the latest in a series of cuts to arts support by the Trump administration.

## **Bubonicon 56 Successful:** **ATTENDANCE LARGEST SINCE 2018**

by Craig Chrissinger, con chair

A good number of people showed up this year for Bubonicon, making it larger than the 2024 convention – and the largest affair since 2018 (two years before the Covid pandemic struck). So, we are financially in the black. Bubonicon 56 took place August 22-24 at the ABQ Marriott Uptown with Author co-Guests of Delilah S. Dawson and Joe Haldeman, Toastmaster Jeffe Kennedy, Guest Artist John Sumrow, and Science Speaker Dr. J.L. Doty.

With 781 attendees, Bubonicon 56 was in the middle of pre-pandemic levels – with 30 more people than 2024. While spending in the Art Show and Auctions was down – we had a large anonymous donation early in the year and the convention committee was thoughtful with spending – so we are in the black about \$4,400, which continues to help rebuild our nest egg after losses 2019-2022. People were happy to be in-person, and all in all the 2025 convention was a success.

Between Friday night’s Charity Auction and other funding, Bubonicon 56 has donated \$3,370 to non-profit organizations. The Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University has received \$450, the Roadrunner Food Bank received \$800, World Central Kitchen got \$520, the Storehouse of NM received \$350, the American Red Cross of NM received \$450, New Mexico PBS was given \$300, Albuquerque Public Library Foundation got \$300, and Meals on Wheels NM received \$200.

Bubonicon 56 saw four new programming participants – Brian Guthrie, Rae Oestreich, Jerrett “Doom Kitten” Querubin, and Tiffany Trent; plus the return of Ness Brown, Aaron Campbell, Cynthia Felice, David Gerrold, Reese Hogan, Kathy Kitts, Joe R. Lansdale, M.T. Reiten, Sherwood Smith, and John E. Stith.

The Art Show had 35 artists displaying their wares with sales of \$11,713 – 45 percent of all artwork entered was sold. The Sunday Auction had sales of \$1,374 (*Froomb* \$42). Of that, 67.1 percent went to Bubonicon.

Bubonicon 56 marked the 12th year at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, and all went as well as possible. While they still are working on repairing lighting controls, Santa Fe, Carlsbad and Las Cruces/Cimarron have dimmer switches. And it remains true that a large percentage of the hotel staff are closet fans!

Costume Contest Awards: Best of Show was “Stalhrim Armor, Skyrim” by Susanne Caro, Best Beginner was “Avian” from Jennifer (No Last Name), Best Inter-

mediate was “Steve Clark: Traffic Warlock (Tactical Breach Wizards)” by Fletcher Wallace Caro, Best Master was “Shadow Link” by Will Sly, and Best Use of Theme went to “Professor Coomba and his ‘Experiment’” from Jackie & Ken Coombes.

Art Show Awards: Professional to Peri Charlifou, Amateur to Rebecca Chimarusti, Student to Lucy Steffen, and Beast of Show (theme) to Basil King.

All in all, while we have a few minor things to address (and a replacement digital projector to purchase), Bubonicon 56 went very well thanks to every individual who pitched in! So, a tip of the con-com’s hats to everyone who contributed their time & efforts!

Bubonicon 57 will be held August 21-23, 2026 – a week early and four days before the Los Angeles Worldcon – at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown (Louisiana & I-40), with Guests of Honor Patricia Briggs & Martha Wells, Toastmaster Travis Baldree, and Guest Artist Jon Sanchez. Rooms most likely will be around \$159 single-quad with free WiFi in sleeping rooms. Con chair is Craig Chrissinger, with Jessica Coyle & Mandy Self as assistant chairs. Suggestions/program ideas are being taken at bubonicon@gmail.com.

## **ASFS MEETING REPORTS —** **MARCH 2025: ANNUAL CLUB AUCTION**

The annual Club Auction drew 34 people to St. Andrew’s, and lots of bidding. All in all, the Auction raised about \$420 for ASFS. Thank you to Auctioneers Robert Vardeman & Patricia Rogers, money tracker Jessica Coyle; item organizers Roberta Johnson, Becky Davis, and Danielle & Arthur Maurici-Pollock; and box suppliers Geneva & Eva Schult.

Some of the more interesting items included a “Trick or Treat” soft blanket \$13, *Doctor Who* plaques \$10, *Wild Cards: Sins of the Father* graphic novel by Melinda Snodgrass \$15, *Calvin & Hobbes* books \$7, a trilogy of Bob Vardeman books \$21, Brian Guthrie duology of books \$25, *Wolfsong* signed by TJ Klune \$30, two monster comic magazines \$15, pulp fiction paperbacks \$5, *Weapons of Chaos* ARCs by Vardeman \$21.

## **EDITOR NOTES THAT FIT THIS SPACE**

▪ **WHAT’S UP THIS SPOOKY MONTH?** ABQ is a little warmer than usual, but at least we’ve had some rain! The Balloon Fiesta is here, *Evil Dead: The Musical* is running at Musical Theatre Southwest, we enjoyed Ethan Coen’s *Honey Don’t* at the Guild Cinema, and TV shows like *High Potential* are starting their new seasons. Jessica and I got our Covid & Flu shots recently, and we’re preparing for Milehicon 57 (and Halloween) in Denver Oct 31-Nov 2 with Wen Spencer and Gail Carriger. And, of course, there’s a Government Shutdown affecting some ASFS/Bubonicon folks. Sigh. Can’t they all just make nice, talk, and move forward?

▪ In September we saw Weird Al Yankovic in Rio Rancho, which was so very entertaining - and we went to the 3rd Morgue & Krypt Horror Fest, where Jessica volunteered and I worked at the Don’s Bookstore booth. We had a good time and it was fun, even if busy at times with our work. The celebrity guests were very nice and so generous with their time. I enjoyed chatting with P.J. Soles, Nick Castle, Nancy Loomis & Ashley Laurence. We also did some shopping and visited vendors & attendees we know. Congrats to the M&K con chairs, staff & volunteers on another good job!

▪ **THAT’S** all this month since there were no contributions. More stuff needed for December’s *SithFacts!* **Happy Halloween & Thanksgiving.** Take care, get vaxxed & stay strong! — Craig C.



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

**FROM  
DR. PERRY STEIN  
AND  
THE BRIDE TERRI**

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**Albuquerque SF Society**

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*NEXT DEADLINE* SUN, DEC 7, 2025

**DELIVER TO:**