

# WATCH THE SKIES



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## OLD MAN 'S WAR

By John Scalzi

War is for the old. A life time of experience apparently can just begin to prepare you for what you might find enlisting in the Colonial Defense Force. John Perry is going to find that out the hard way. At 75 he's seen a lot, his wife pass away in front of him, his son become mayor and his body slowly begin the process of decline. But is it inevitable? John and a good many of Earth's senior citizens have found a new life waiting for them and it's nothing like they could have ever imagined. A new body is just the tip of the iceberg because the galaxy that the homebodies on Earth know so little about is a vicious place. There are four trillion aliens inhabiting our galaxy and a good many are in direct competition with humanity for habitable worlds and these are just the ones we know about. Seventy-Five percent of the CDF recruits will die in the years of service that they have promised. But they will die so that humanity can continue to exist among the stars.

**-In November we welcome author Jeri Smith-Ready to discuss and sign *Wicked Game*, which is appropriately enough our book of the month.**

**-Check out the website at:**

**<http://mysite.verizon.net/res89guj/>**

# New Releases

## November 2009

Bear, Elizabeth - *By the Mountain Bound*  
Boyett, Steven R. - *Elegy Beach*  
Card, Orson Scott, & Jake Black -  
*The Authorized Ender Companion*  
Cooper, Brenda - *Wings of Creation*  
Dann, Jack, & Gardner Dozois, eds. -  
*The Dragon Book*  
Doctorow, Cory - *Makers*  
Fenner, Cathy, & Arnie Fenner, eds. - *Spectrum 16: The Best  
in Contemporary Fantastic Art*  
Hamilton, Laurell K. - *Divine Misdemeanors*  
Jordan, Robert, & Brandon Sanderson -  
*A Memory of Light*  
Kerr, Katharine - *The Silver Mage*  
Lynch, Scott - *The Republic of Thieves*  
MacLeod, Ken - *The Restoration Game*  
Mahy, Margaret - *The Magician of Hoad*  
McDevitt, Jack - *Time Travelers Never Die*  
McKinley, Robin, & Peter Dickinson -  
*Fire: Tales of Elemental Spirits*  
Niven, Larry, & Edward M. Lerner -  
*Destroyer of Worlds*  
Rambo, Cat, Paul Tremblay & Sean Wallace, eds. - *Worlds of  
Fantasy: The Best of  
Fantasy Magazine*  
Rusch, Kristine Kathryn - *Diving Into the Wreck* VanderMeer,  
Jeff - *Finch*



-Joe Haldeman was recently released from the hospital into a rehab center. Joe was rushed to the hospital after complaining of abdominal pains in September and diagnosed with a twisted bowel and severe pancreatitis. After an operation and subsequent recovery in the ICU, Joe was moved to the Drake Center in Cincinnati on October 15th. Joe is the author of the award winning *Forever War* series. Also Joe and John Varley were recently awarded the Robert Heinlein Award for works that inspire the exploration of space.

-Baen books has an unusual challenge for you—everybody can come up with something cute or snarky to go with ridiculous cat pictures as evidenced by I-CAN-HAZ-CHEESEBURGER, but what about kzinti? The ferocious felines created by Larry Niven grace the covers of the many volumes of the Man-Kzin Wars collections. So put on your smartizing helmet and come up with something witty to say about one of those illustrations and you might win an autographed print by the cover artist, Stephen Hickman. Multiple entries allowed...

<more info here <http://www.sfw.org/2009/10/baen-books-can-haz-caption-contest-neow-plz/> >

-Everyone wants a little *Serenity* but at what price? Well for \$2495 you can have the 19"x12"x7" "damn big" version available through Qmx Artisan Replicas. There are 32 lighting effects controllable through a remote and the entire exterior is hand painted. The 250 plus parts are all hand assembled so be prepared to wait 30-90 days after ordering. Join the preordering rush with the other brown coats on October 30th. < <http://www.quantummechanix.com/Serenity.html> >

-What was Neil Patrick Harris to do in the genre after starring the in Emmy winning Dr. Horrible? Why not voice the villain in *Batman: The Brave and the Bold's* first musical episode? As the Music Meister, Harris fronts the rock opera themed half hour entitled "Mayhem of the Music Meister" which will premiere on October 23 at 7:30PM.

-What do you do when Johnny Depp breaks the news that your novel is the basis for the next film in the Pirates of the Caribbean franchise? Tim Powers sort of threw up his hands and said, sorry couldn't tell you, I was sworn to secrecy. Film four will be loosely based on Powers' 1987 book, *On Stranger Tides*. Powers sold the rights to Disney over three years ago.

-The Observer, the bald man always in the background of *Fringe* maybe getting the spotlight soon. Michael Cerveris, who plays the enigmatic character, says that there is an Observer centered episode on the way soon that explains the culture and activity of Observers. < <http://www.fox.com/fringe/> >

# The Wisdom of John Scalzi

<Crack interviewer, Eric Hardenbrook, asks Jon Scalzi,  
author of *Old Man's War*, five tough questions>

**1. What's the one aspect of the future you've created in *Old Man's War* that you would like to see come true first?**

I suspect I would probably like the body-swapping technology, because while at 40 I'm not quite at the age where everything starts falling apart, it's not too far off now. I would not actually like a BrainPal, because the last thing I want is Russian Viagra spam running through the computer in my brain and no ability to shut it off.

**2. If the circumstances come about as you portray in *OMW*, would you sign up?**

Probably not. I like to know as much as possible what I'm getting into, and I think the lack of knowledge about the circumstances I'm signing up for would strike me as suspicious and not worth my time. But then, I'm 40. Ask me again when I'm 75.

**3. There seems to be a lack of religious aspects to the soldiers in *OMW*. Was this an intentional elimination on your part (not aiding the structure and pace of the story) or was it simply something that didn't occur to you (or your characters)? I think you've mentioned before that religion does come up, just not until the Colonial Mennonites in *The Last Colony*.**

In fact in *OMW* there's a brief mention in the brochure about what people should do if they have theological concerns about their new bodies, etc. But no, religion is not a huge topic of conversation in *OMW*, simply because John Perry was formulated as being a bit agnostic and it's from his point of view. That said, religion and spirituality plays a role in other books of mine, including *The Last Colony* and also *The Android's Dream*. While being agnostic myself, I don't believe either religion or the spiritual impulse is going anywhere anytime soon.

**4. I was surprised when I read that your attendance at conventions is a relatively recent occurrence (first convention in 2003 - wow). What is your most unusual convention encounter so far?**

Well, I was propositioned by a fan at one (which I politely turned down), but I don't know if that's unusual, since we authors a VERY SEXY GROUP OF PEOPLE (no, really. Stop looking at me like that). I haven't really had many encounters I'd actually term as "unusual," to be truthful about it. The closest thing to something like that was when I showed Robert Silverberg how to use Twitter at the last Worldcon. But that wasn't unusual, just moderately amusing.

**5. If you could have one (and only one) super power, what would it be?**

Oh, I have no idea. I can never answer these sorts of questions. Possibly the mystical power to eat all the ice cream I want and not get fat. Which is not a SUPER power, but would still be a neat trick.

Regards,  
John Scalzi, Freelance Troublemaker  
<http://www.scalzi.com>

"Your stupidity amuses me."

-- Kristine Blausen Scalzi, after I poked myself in the eye with a pen

<Many thanks to intrepid interviewer Eric Hardenbrook>

# THE PRINTED WORLD

September 2009

-*Memories of the Future* is Wil Wheaton's look at *Star Trek the Next Generation* from the inside. Not really an episode guide, nor a spill-all of the secrets, the book covers the episodes in the front half of the first series, "Farpoint" through "Datalore". Those familiar with Wheaton's blogging style will appreciate his sharp sense of humor. Wheaton promises that volume two will cover the rest of the episodes from season one.

-*Lightspeed* is the new online magazine put out by Prime books. The e-zine will accept submissions starting January 1st, 2010 and publishing new content twice a week featuring a fiction and a nonfiction item. *Lightspeed* will be open to all types of science fiction, but only science fiction and the editors encourage authors to take chances and stretch boundaries. *Lightspeed* will be edited by John Joseph Adams, fiction and Andrea Kail, nonfiction. <read more here – <http://www.lightspeedmagazine.com/> >

-Scholastic books is taking a unique to interesting younger readers from grades 5-9 in the Greek mythos with *Mythlopedia*, a series of books that treat classical mythology to a modern media makeover. Four books : *Oh My Gods*, *She's All That*, *What a Beast* and *All in the Family* will bring the traditional to the current reader by using formats familiar to the digitally savvy. There are online supplements that will allow readers to friend various Gods and Goddesses on Facebook for instance.

-Baen books has gone to an all new low asking its readers to create a title for a collection created and edited by Esther Friesner about vampires using the vilest pun. Well the winner is Ellen Kaye-Cheveldayoff with the title *Fangs for the Mammaries*. Esther's prior collections were titled *Witch Way to the Mall* and *Strip Mauled*, both of which seem mild in comparison...

-October 27 marks the release of J.C. Hutchins novel *Seventh Son: Descent*. What makes this important is that like Scott Sigler, Hutchins promoted this novel by podcasting it in its entirety. The response was enough to make publisher Simon and Schuster take notice enough to offer a book deal.

-The Starburst Awards for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic in 2009 recognized Andrew Davidson in the adult category for his novel *Gargoyle*. Cory Doctorow was honored in the young adult category for *Little Brother*.

## THE ALIEN WRITER

**D.C. Wilson gives you one man's look at the writer's life,  
Book reviews and more in the SF & F genre  
Get your podcast here: <http://dcwilson.libsyn.com/>**

## Tillyer's News from the High Frontier

**-There is a glowing band in the sky** at the point where the boundaries of our solar system meets the rest of the universe. It may sound like something out of a SciFi movie but a new satellite the Interstellar Boundary Explorer, or IBEX has now observed what went unnoticed by both Voyagers as they left our locale and headed out into interstellar space. Scientists knew about the heliopause but they did not expect part of it to be lit up like a dividing line. We know that the electromagnetic nature of the Sun's effects would create a reaction with the gaseous medium void between stars. What was unexpected was that the electromagnetic field existing in the space between stars would also have an extended effect that would cause such a reaction. The physics of how the external field creates the ribbon is unknown, but because Astronomers now know that the bright line exists, the truly interesting process of divining its secrets begins.

<read more here -

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33332042/ns/technology\\_and\\_science-space/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33332042/ns/technology_and_science-space/) >

**-Set sail on the high seas of Titan.** The "lake lander" is a new addition to the mission to survey Titan. Three pieces are proposed for the observation of Saturn's Moon: an orbiter, a balloon observer and the lake lander. Since Cassini and its Huygens probe mission the information about Titan has shown that the moon experiences weather that bears similarities to that of our own world. However, water here is substituted with liquid methane or ethane and the average temperature is about -292 degrees Fahrenheit. The lakes of Titan's surface make a tempting target for exploration and NASA may have something else that will bring this process closer to completion— a new more powerful nuclear power source. Two lakes in Titan's northern hemisphere present possible targets: Kraken Mare and Ligeia Mare compare to large earth bodies of water such as the Great Lakes. Also the atmosphere of Titan being thicker than that of Mars provides greater aero braking and allows for more accurate landings. The lake lander is expected to be able to not only study the composition of the lake as well as map its extent and depths.

<read more here-

<http://www.space.com/business/technology/091014-titan-boat-mission.html> >

**-STS-133 marks space shuttle Discovery's last mission.** Next September, according to current planning Discovery will make its final flight to the International Space Station. No one is saying that this is the end, because the option of allowing extended operation of the shuttle fleet is out there to help offset the time frame until the next generation of transport is available— NASA's Orion or possibly even SpaceX's Dragon. NASA's Ares 1 rocket's test was pushed forwards from Halloween and now faces a setback as a hydraulic part that works assuring stabilization and steering failed. Set to be rolled out onto the launch pad the Ares 1 now waits repair. The Ares 1 is the two part booster designed to lift the Orion.

<read more here - <http://cosmiclog.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2009/10/15/2099882.aspx> & here - [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33351268/ns/technology\\_and\\_science-space/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33351268/ns/technology_and_science-space/) >



## The Pterosaur Egg

(like the easter eggs on a DVD only slightly more ridiculous)

-50 years of space exploration condensed into a map by National Geographic  
<http://books.nationalgeographic.com/map/map-day/index>

-Republibot interviews J. M. Straczynski creator of Babylon 5  
<http://www.republibot.com/content/interview-joe-straczynski>

-Nightwatch & Daywatch creator Timur Bekmambetov's new movie *Black Lightning* takes flying cars to a crazy new level...  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOcv4qijPFU&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOcv4qijPFU&feature=player_embedded)

-A film review of Ray Harryhausen's *Monsters* -  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9kmjW73-v4&feature=player\\_embedded#](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9kmjW73-v4&feature=player_embedded#)

-Doctor Who Fan Film – Doctor Who : Alternate Empire  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/DOCTORWHOEMPIRE>

-Crave Online interviews Leonard Nimoy –  
<http://www.craveonline.com/entertainment/tv/article/leonard-nimoy-talks-fringe-87549>

### ALL THINGS JOHN SCALZI

Blog - <http://whatever.scalzi.com/>.

#### Interviews:

Locus - [http://www.locusmag.com/2007/Issue08\\_Scalzi.html](http://www.locusmag.com/2007/Issue08_Scalzi.html)

SF Books - <http://www.assortednonsense.com/2009/09/20/john-scalzi-interview/>

I Should Be Writing - <http://isbw.murlafferty.com/2008/03/01/isbw-special-29-john-scalzi-interview/>

Strange Horizons - <http://www.strangehorizons.com/2005/20050307/scalzi-int-a.shtml>

John interviews a stick of butter -

<http://whatever.scalzi.com/2009/05/15/interview-with-a-stick-of-butter/>

# BOOKGROUPS

1st Tuesday of the month  
Wordwrights Writing group 7:00PM  
1st Wednesday of the month  
Kingswood Fiction Group 7:30PM  
2nd Wednesday of the month  
Whodunnit? Mystery Group 7:00PM  
3rd Thursday of the month  
Young Readers Group 7:00PM  
4th Wednesday of the month  
Pennwriters 6:00PM



3rd Wednesday 7:00PM

**BARNES & NOBLE**  
BOOKSELLERS