



WATCH THE SKIES

The Speed of Dark

By Elizabeth Moon

What makes you normal? Who decides what normal is? Do others have the right to make you normal? Is there a place for everyone in society? Lou Arrendale has found his own way in our world without compromising who he is. He's got a job that utilizes his abilities, but the upper management at his company feels that people like Lou are pandered to and given expensive benefits. Suddenly Lou is given the opportunity to change from the autistic existence he knows to that of a "normal" person through a new therapy. But how much of Lou's identity is tied into his present state? Is Lou really being given a choice? Suddenly everything that Lou has done to find a stable and comprehensible path in life is called into question. While he grows in his ability to deal with challenges by overcoming the adversity of persecution— Lou still feels the desire to change for many reasons. Does *The Speed of Dark* change the way that you as reader view autism or does it ramble on to come to an abrupt conclusion? Tell us, please...

September's book is *Titan* — John Varley

-Check out the website at:

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

AND AS ALWAYS, THANKS FOR COMING!

New Releases

September 2009

Atwood, Margaret - **The Year of the Flood**
Bacigalupi, Paolo - **The Windup Girl**
Baker, Phil - **The Devil is a Gentleman: The Life and Times of Dennis Wheatley**
Banks, Iain - **Transition**
Brom - **The Child Thief**
Brook, Terry - **A Princess of Landover**
Brown, John - **Servant of a Dark God**
Brust, Steven - **Iorich**
Campbell, Ramsey - **Creatures of the Pool**
Campbell, Ramsey - **Look Behind You**
Cashore, Kristin - **Fire**
Collins, Suzanne - **Catching Fire**
Erikson, Steven - **Bauchelain & Korbal Broach**
Gibson, Gary - **Nova War**
Gray, Alasdair - **Life in Pictures**
Gregory, Daryl - **The Devil's Alphabet**
Herbert, Brian, & Kevin J. Anderson • **Jessica of Dune**
Homan, Daniel - **Queen of Hearts**
Koch, Meliva, ed. - **L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of the Future Volume XXV**
Lake, Jay - **The Specific Gravity of Grief**
McAuley, Paul - **The Quiet War**
Morgan, Richard - **The Cold Commands**
Ness, Patrick - **The Ask and the Answer**
Resnick, Mike - **Dreamwish Beasts and Snarks**
Van Gelder, Gordon, ed. - **The Best of the Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction**
VanderMeer, Jeff - **Booklife: Strategies and Survival Tips for the 21st-Century Writer**
Williams, Conrad - **Decay Inevitable**



-Twelve years ago scientists discovered a state of matter known as Bose-Einstein condensate (and no it is not red matter). This state can be used to detect minute deviations in magnetic fields since the material is super cooled removing nearly all of the thermal noise and quantum vibration. The good news is this cooling is done with lasers instead of the superconductors commonly associated with today's magnetic imagers. This means that the devices can be made on a much smaller scale. So you have something that could be a handheld imager that could allow you to look into a patient's body.

-The solar sail idea is still trying to take flight. Not from a lack of trying but rather poor luck with the rockets necessary to life the device up to the proper height to deploy. The Planetary Society, who's Cosmos 1 was the victim of a Russian Rocket malfunction in 2005, would like to take another shot at being the first successfully guided sail. What could bring this closer to fruition is NASA's backup materials for its own sail design Nanosail-D which also experienced delivery issues in 2008. The first part of the sail's name is a clue to the new thought patterns affecting planning at the Planetary society— nano for small. The Society is considering using the Nanosail-D design with a much smaller payload than its Cosmos 1 that would still allow for control of the sail. In 2004 Japan was able to deploy a sail but it was not a controlled flight which is the ultimate goal. The Society plan to announce their plans once they are finished studying the Nanosail-D design concepts.

-In a super tug of war, media giant Warner Brothers has lost some ground to Superman's creator's estate. The Siegel estate has acquired the rights to the early editions of Action Comics and the early Superman comics in addition to the first two weeks of the daily newspaper comic strip. So how does this affect Warner Brothers? Well it means that the Siegel estate owns the depictions of Superman's origins from the destruction of Krypton through to his landing on earth. One of the key points of the lawsuit was to determine how much royalty was owed to the estate due to use of their material. In reality, Warner still holds the lion's share of the rights— but only until 2013 when they will revert to the Siegel's. This means that if Warner wants to do any kind of film involving Superman, to retain the rights to the picture, they can reasonably start no later than 2011.

-District 9 climbed to the top with 37M in earnings for the first weekend beating all comers. The movie cost only 30 million dollars to make and gained early popularity due to Peter Jackson's production involvement.

-Has AMC gone to the zombies? The network won the development rights to *Walking Dead*, the comic book after a bidding war. NBC was originally in line to start things off but the network that runs such shows as *Mad Men* and *Breaking Bad* now has the living dead to play with.

-Awhile ago Richard Dreyfuss took us on a wild ride across the countryside to the top of Devil's Tower to finally meet the aliens in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, the new movie starring Milla Jovovich is something different. *The Fourth Kind* looks at the large number of missing persons cases from Nome, Alaska as alien abductions. Interviewees under hypnosis reveal memories of being watched by a white owl and then collapse into screaming fits.

-560,000 fans of comic books— nope, not talking about the San Diego Comic-con which weighs in with an impressive 140-156,000 attendees but rather Comiket. This is the world's largest comic book convention held twice a year in Tokyo.

-*Warehouse 13* attracts all sorts of interesting things including guest stars. Roger Rees will take on a reoccurring role, you might remember him as the Sheriff of Nottingham from Mel Brooks, *Men in Tights*...

-Are they waiting for *SGU* before moving on the *SG1* & *Atlantis* movies? *Stargate* executive producer Robert Cooper says that the scripts for both movies are done but now is not yet the time due to economic issues. *Atlantis: Fan's Choice* was released on Blue-ray August 4th.

REBOOT

-Is it too soon for Bryan Singer to re-imagine *BSG* as a movie? Universal has confirmed that he is onboard as a producer and possibly director for a big screen adaptation of the one of the hottest properties from Syfy. There are rumors floating that this will be a standalone and re-imagine the series. So is it a good thing that someone known as excellent director and producer wants to try and redo something that barely just ended and was widely acclaimed as a success?

-Cruise, Townsend or Downey Jr.— which makes a better Lestat? Apparently like everything else once popular, there is a reboot in the works for Anne Rice's novels tentatively called *The Vampire Chronicles* and Robert Downey Jr. is in consideration for Lestat.

-Since we just talked about rebooting things, Sony pictures has hired on James Vanderbilt to write the 5th & 6th *Spiderman* movies. Sam Raimi and cast are set to begin production next year on number 4. Vanderbilt wrote the script for the original movie. When we look forward enough to the next to films, there is no guarantee that Raimi, Maguire, and Dunst will be available or back. Raimi already has commitments to the *World of Warcraft* franchise he is starting. So where does that leave *Spiderman*? Reboot!

THE PRINTED WORLD

-Cory Doctorow has come up with a unique way to get his books *Little Brother* and *Content* into the hands of students and teachers alike— a book drive. Instead of asking for donations, Doctorow will supply you with a teacher from a verified listing who would like his book and then you can purchase it through any bookseller that does a mail order business to be shipped to the recipient. All in time for back to school.

-Author Terry Pratchett, in an interview with the London Daily Mail, says that he believes he should have the right to end his own life with dignity without legal repercussions. Pratchett is suffering from early onset Parkinson's disease. He states that before the disease takes everything away from him, he would like to pass on in a chair in his garden with a glass of brandy in one hand. His most poignant line was "We have been so successful in the past century at the art of living longer and staying alive that we have forgotten how to die."

-Here's a thought to give you pause—Eoin Colfer is tweeting Vogon poetry... Colfer whose sixth book contribution to the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, And Another Thing* comes out on October 12. Fans have a unique opportunity to get involved with the release by sending in their own tweets before midnight on October 11th that will be transmitted into deep space upon the book's release.

-Here are the results of the awards from Worldcon-
The Hugos:

Best Short Story: "Exhalation" by Ted Chiang

Best Novelette: "Shoggoths in Bloom" by Elizabeth Bear

Best Novella: "The Erdmann Nexus" by Nancy Kress

Best Novel: *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman

The Dragon's Nine Sons by Chris Roberson won the Sidewise Award.

David Anthony Durham, author of *Acacia*, won the John W. Campbell Award for best new writer of 2008.

Marseguro by Edward Willett received the Prix Aurora the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Award.

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Tillyer's News from the High Frontier

-On August 11th Saturn's Rings disappeared... So why wasn't the astronomical community up in arms about this strange Occurrence? Well they expected them to. While the rings are one of the most scenic aspects of the solar system, they are thin— really thin— in fact only thirty feet thick. Due to their axial tilt, there is a rare occasion where the rings will tip edge on to the infalling light from the sun and that's when the magic trick occurs. Consider the moon shining in the evening sky. It's not glowing with unearthly lunar light, just the reflected light of the sun. Saturn's rings do exactly the same thing and when the light gets turned off briefly, their visibility simply goes away— they vanish. With his eye to telescope Galileo watched the same magical transformation as the apparent size of the rings declined until they vanished. This event occurs once every fifteen years at Saturn's Equinox. The Cassini probe continues to observe the rings and recently discovered what appears to be an object punching through the ring plane leaving a trail of debris. Another reason to study the rings at this point is their edge on aspect can reveal larger moonlets within the rings which will stand out against the background.

-In the planet hunt, Kepler puts forth astonishing new information about the atmosphere of a planet one thousand light years away.

Astronomers and scientists expected an improvement when using the new Kepler telescope and they already knew the location of HAT-P-7, a hot Jupiter world that .orbits its primary twenty-two times closer than earth. They were pleasantly surprised by the wealth of information sent back by Kepler's observations of the system. Whereas observations from before were able to identify the planet, the light variations detected by the new telescope indicate the world has a circular orbit, a day side .temperature of 4310 degrees Fahrenheit and that little of the heat travels to the cooler night side. More importantly, by gathering this data, Astronomers were able to measure the sensitivity of Kepler and determine that the telescope can measure a light variation within one and one half times that necessary to pinpoint earth sized worlds. Fortunately there is a software update in the works for Kepler that will increase the sensitivity of the detectors to the level to locate new rocky worlds around distant suns.

-Every planet orbits its sun in the direction of the sun's rotation—

wrong! "On that backward little world in the outer fringes of the Milky Way Galaxy," sounds like the beginning of a typical space opera— right? Well if your world is WASP—17 which lies nearly a thousand light years away, then you might really be backward. This world has what is known as a retrograde orbit. Retrograde is something that you hear about when astronomers discuss the motion of the planets in the sky overhead. They have retrograde motion when the orbit of the earth in conjunction with their orbital motion makes them appear to reverse in their courses across the evening sky. Astronomers believe that somewhere in the past a collision changed this newly discovered planet's orbit into a complete reversal of expectations. When a star forms the common theory is that the disk of collapsing gas gains an increase in velocity as the momentum increases like a skater pulling into a tighter position while rotating. Since the star forms from a disk of matter, resulting planets tend to form in the same orbital plane. Since the worlds are all lying in the same plane it is understandable that there may be potential collisions or WASP-17's may have even sling-shotted around a more massive planet into its unique circumstances. But that's not the only thing that's interesting about this planet— it's a lot less dense than expected. While the planet is half of Jupiter's mass, it has the average density of styrofoam. Another aspect of WASP-17's orbit is its highly elliptical nature which leads scientists to believe that the world is stretched by tidal forces as it rushes toward and away from its sun. The friction of these tides is believed to heat the interior of the planet and cause its bizarre bloated appearance.



The Pterosaur Egg

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

How does a Jedi Master eat noodles? Light saber chopsticks - that's how.

http://www.tokiomango.com/tokyo_mango/2009/08/light-saber-chopsticks.html

Could you sell your brilliant book idea during an elevator ride with a publishing agent?

<http://io9.com/5318070/make-your-epic-space-novel-live-up-to-your-elevator-pitch>

Autism :

The National Autism Association

<http://www.nationalautismassociation.org/>

- ⚡ Autism is a bio-neurological developmental disability that generally appears before the age of 3.
- ⚡ Autism impacts the normal development of the brain in the areas of social interaction, communication skills, and cognitive function. Individuals with autism typically have difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, and leisure or play activities.
- ⚡ Individuals with autism often suffer from numerous physical ailments which may include: allergies, asthma, epilepsy, digestive disorders, persistent viral infections, feeding disorders, sensory integration dysfunction, sleeping disorders, and more.
- ⚡ Autism is diagnosed four times more often in boys than girls. Its prevalence is not affected by race, region, or socio-economic status. Since autism was first diagnosed in the U.S. the occurrence has climbed to an alarming one in 150 people across the country.
- ⚡ Autism does not affect life expectancy. Currently there is no cure for autism, though with early intervention and treatment, the diverse symptoms related to autism can be greatly improved.

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

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