

WATCH THE SKIES



1799

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TITAN

By John Varley

Cirocco Jones was the captain of the *Ringmaster*, one of Earth's most advanced ships, sent to survey Saturn and its moons. But what was waiting for her was stranger than she could ever imagine and more dangerous. After the momentous discovery of an uncharted moon, the Ringmaster is destroyed and her crew subjected to confinement that changes all of them beyond their expectations. Reborn on the interior of the alien that is its own environment, Gaea, Girocco finds herself with two goals: reunite her crew and find a way home. However, with the exception of her radio, all of the technology that made the voyage so far from earth possible is gone. With nothing but her wits she sets out. But the crewmembers she finds have all undergone subtle changes and no longer accept her as the leader she once was. Calvin the ship's doctor can speak to the large aeromorphs, the blimps. Bill has frightening gaps in his memory. Gaby is fixated on Girocco and has episodes of irrational fear. Girocco can now sing in the language of the Titanides, one the races that inhabit Gaea. Convinced that the Hub holds the answers, Girocco leads an expedition to climb up the spoke of the world. Once again Gaea has nothing but surprises in store. . .

-September's book is *Old Man's War*— John Scalzi

-Check out the website at:

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

New Releases

October 2009

Bradbury, Ray - **Bullet Trick: Teleplays and Short Stories**
Cashore, Kristin - **Fire**
Chadbourne, Mark - **The Silver Skull**
Datlow, Ellen, ed. - **Best Horror of the Year 1**
Datlow, Ellen, ed. - **Digital Domains:
A Decade of Science Fiction & Fantasy**
Gaiman, Neil - **The Tales of Odd**
Hamilton, Laurell K. - **Divine Misdemeanors**
Hobb, Robin - **Dragon Keeper**
Horton, Rich, ed. - **Science Fiction:
The Best of the Year: 2009 Edition**
Jordan, Robert, & Brandon Sanderson- **The Gathering Storm**
Kelly, James Patrick, & John Kessel, eds. - **The Secret History of Science
Fiction**
King, Stephen - **Under the Dome**
Lackey, Mercedes - **Gwenhyfar: The White Enchantress**
Palmer, Philip - **Red Claw**
Pratchett, Terry - **The Unseen Academicals**
Reynolds, Alastair - **Terminal World**
Reynolds, Alastair - **Thousandth Night & Minla's Flowers**
Roden, Barbara - **Northwest Passages**
Sapkowski, Andrzej - **Times of Anger**
Scholes, Ken - **Canticle**
Shinn, Sharon - **Gateway**
Shinn, Sharon - **Quatrain**
Skillingstead, Jack - **Are You There and Other Stories**
Snodgrass, Melinda - **The Edge of Ruin**
Strahan, Jonathan, ed. - **Eclipse Three**
Straub, Peter - **American Fantastic Tales: Terror and the
Uncanny from Poe to the Pulps**
Straub, Peter - **American Fantastic Tales: Terror and the
Uncanny from the 1940s Until Now**
Sturgeon, Theodore - **Slow Sculpture: The Complete Stories of Theodore
Sturgeon: Volume XII**
VanderMeer, Ann, & Jeff VanderMeer - **The Kosher Guide to Imaginary
Animals**



-Have you ever wanted to be a successful author? Well now you can—you can be John Twelve Hawks, author of the Fourth Realm series, just in time to do his book signing for his final book in the trilogy, *The Golden City*. But how or why might I want to be John Twelve Hawks you might ask. See John is very reclusive and lives off the grid, so far in fact he's not going to do his book tour, you're going to do it for him. First you need to set up a time and a place with a local bookstore and then email John that you have that task complete. After which John will email you all of the information you need to be John for the appearance. Video tape the appearance and send it to John and you will receive a signed copy of *The Golden City*.

(iamjohntwelvehawks.com for information...)

-Finally getting the Emmy recognition Joss Whedon has to be happy for creating *Dr. Horrible's Sing-a-long Blog*. The web program won an award in the short-format live-action entertainment category. This category is new this year and also contained such entrants as *BSG's—The Face of the Enemy*.

-On October 3-4, Kauffman Hall in New York will host the annual Singularity Summit. Speakers include Gregory Benford, Anders Sandberg and Ray Kurzweil.

-It's in the mud and it makes waves— so far nobody knows a whole lot more about something that is becoming known as the "muck monster". The mysterious ripples posted on YouTube from the West Palm Beach area in Florida brought in over 4 million hits from viewers. In fact the interest is enough that city officials are considering putting a feeding station at the end of the Lake Worth dock or mounting a telescope to allow fans to watch for what might be causing the unexplained ripples.

-David Lynch responsible for one version of *Dune* as well as *Twin Peaks* is known for taking his inspirations in unusual directions. This time his work is on display in the French Department store Galeries Lafayette du Boulevard Haussmann's front window. The installation is titled "Machine Abstracted Woman".

-Besides buying up superheroes Disney also launched Double Dare You, a new Horror label that will be lead by Guillermo Del Toro. What's the drive here? Make scarier movies that are still family friendly. The first project on the board is *Troll Hunters*, created by Del Toro. Of course there will also be a merchandise line to go with all of this as well as a series of books aimed at young readers. Del Toro said he wants to "challenge young viewers without out giving them inconsolable nightmares".

-Apparently playing a vampire gives you strange and possibly stupid urges...Five actresses and a cameraman from *Vampire Diaries* were recently arrested for flashing motorists while hanging off of an overpass. When apprehended the group tried to pass of the activity as filming for the show...

Gamer

<a review>

This movie *is* science fiction. The makers of Gamer (or the marketing team at least) wanted to hide this fact from the general public so the advertising campaign displayed a level of violence and mayhem that would turn away anyone but the most hardcore "gamers". Anyone looking for a thought provoking film would simply turn away.

That is the single biggest problem with this film. It shies away from any message that could pertain to society past, present or future. There is interesting stuff in here – and it could have easily become a thought provoking film. What are the ethical issues of controlling other people? Is it murder if you're giving the orders but never actually do it yourself, and it's sanctioned? How much control can an individual allow themselves to give up and still be considered fit for retaining custody of their children? How much responsibility is held by the media that forwards any agenda related to this? Gamer fails to properly address any of these items preferring mountains gratuitous violence and flashes of overtly sexual situations.

Yes, that's right – sex. Didn't see that in too many advertisements did you? It's probably a third of the film and the movie executives squashed it for the ad campaign focusing solely on the violent aspects of a "first person shooter". Unfortunately, they didn't get the sex part right either. There are glimpses of the sorts of things people would do given the anonymity of a remote connection, but none of this turns out to be anything more than background.

I'm not sure there are any real "spoilers" I could give for this film. It was deeply predictable. They had so many chances to do something new and interesting and fell back on the tried and true. They had potentially interesting characters that were used to move the plot but then conveniently ignored for the remainder of the film. I definitely saw aspects of *Gladiator* and *15 Minutes* reflected in there – but not in any way that really mattered. Have we seen enough of the father who is secretly a super agent that has a unique set of skills that allow him to save his family (yeah, I'm looking at you Liam Neeson)? Apparently not.

The entire movie feels as if we're waiting for something. That something fails to arrive. If you want to see people explode on the big screen, this movie's for you - otherwise wait to see the interesting parts on DVD.

Brought to you by reviewer at large Eric Hardenbrook

THE PRINTED WORLD

September 2009

-In hard times, it's apparently easier to say "no" to some manuscripts. It only makes sense that a publisher cuts its losses by curtailing the number of books it prints. But the publishing business is one with a long turn over time period from manuscript delivery to print. The agents and lawyers that review contracts are trying to find more ways to make the wording watertight but more publishers are now refusing to extend deadlines or claiming that the received product is not up to their standards. Big names are no exceptions as this trend. This also has an effect on authors who have spent the time working on novels that are then turned down, after all this is a year or more of work that was commissioned and then rejected.

-VisionSF is a new website dedicated to reviewing Science Fiction and Fantasy. Created by Norwegian, Frank Vevle the site has an in depth review system designed to give the reviewer more input and ability to score their likes and dislikes than a standard point system. VisionSF is similar to Facebook in design and is an online community for blogs and forums.

-Sometimes circumstances create strange results, namely the book autographed by Truman Capote to Harry Potter. It's not a hoax, just a unusual coincidence that the copy of *The Thanksgiving Visitor* is signed to a New Jersey doctor, who happens to have the same name as J.K. Rowling's hero. Capote died in six years before the publication of *The Sorcerer's Stone*. The volume has a current asking price of \$1000.

-Not only was *Twilight* the most pirated download, now an unknown author is suing Stephanie Meyers for plagiarism. Jordan Ross alleges that while there are no direct word for word issues but the similarity of plot between her book *Nocturne* and *Breaking Dawn* is enough for the basis to seek monetary ammends. Publisher Hachette defended Meyer stating that she wasn't even aware of *Nocturne's* existence.

-Ridley Scott is planning on bringing Aldus Huxley's *classic Brave New World* to the big screen— never mind commitments to the *Alien* prequel and *Forever War*. Scott is working with Leonardo Di Caprio as well as the writer of *Apocalyptico*, Farhad Safinia. The dystopian work has been adapted for TV in the past.

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Tillyer's News from the High Frontier

<This month it's Lunacy>

-Moon rock, moon rock, where did you go? NASA was generous with the rocks brought by the Apollo missions, giving them away to numerous countries and even to heads of the states. Rocks from the Apollo 11 and 17 missions about 270 in all were given to heads of state or enshrined in museums. Apollo 11 rocks weighed about .5 grams and Apollo 17 were typically 1.1 grams. Since their gifting some of the rocks have fallen off of the map. The rock in the Nicaragua disappeared when the Sandinistas came to power. Kabul's National Museum was destroyed in 1996 and Afghanistan's rock vanished. Malta's rock was stolen in 2004. Because of their rarity private collectors are willing to pay exceptional amounts for the moon rocks. One NASA official investigating the sale of fake rocks made an unexpected discovery when he was offered the Honduran Apollo 17 rock for 5 million dollars. This allowed the recovery of the stone. The Netherlands National Museum staff got a nasty surprise when they had their rock tested. Their sample which came from estate of the late Prime Minister was over 3 ounces and turned out to be petrified wood. In reality the Dutch gift rocks are carefully locked away. But it is a good point to consider—nations of the world; do you know where your moon rocks are? (NASA maintains its own stock pile of 842 pounds of lunar rock and occasionally sends larger pieces out on publicity tours.)

-NASA offers a cool million to the company that can build the next lander and Armadillo Aerospace is in the lead. After what is touted as a perfect flight and set of landings, the Scorpius Rocket is now the lead contender in the contest. The rocket flew from its launch pad to a simulated lunar landing site, refueled and then flew a return flight to the launch pad making two landings within a meter of the assigned target. This contest required the lander to hover in the air for three minutes at either end of its journey and then select a landing zone with simulated boulders scattered about the area. Rain threatened to put a damper on the trial but the weather cleared just enough to allow the flight. Armadillo was very happy with the results but still must wait a month to collect on the winnings as other teams begin to demonstrate their landers.

Moon here we come—or not? With the successful test of the Ares 1 rocket in Utah it seems as though we've taken one step closer to setting foot on the closest body in the solar system— or have we? The Ares has taken a great deal on criticism for being inefficient and there has been commentary that we should be focusing on building the next rocket motor phase the Ares 5. The Ares 1 is designed to use its five stages to lift the crew vehicle 36 miles upwards into space in only 120 seconds. At that point another motor will propel the crew module to the international space station and then on to the moon. The heavy equipment is to be lifted by another rocket, the Ares 5. A task force assigned by President Obama has looked over the financial plans and offered another alternative— build the Ares 5 instead and use it for both flights because it is more cost effective and efficient. But NASA has already sunk its money into the Ares 1. Another test is scheduled for Halloween.

CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR SCIENCE FICTION WRITING CONTEST.

No Visitors Beyond This Point

Official Contest Rules

The contest period will be August 15, 2009 through October 15, 2009 (C.E.; Earth standard dating). All entries must be received by Midnight (EST/ Greenwich-plus-five) on October 15, 2009.

The contest is open to all sentient species of the known universe. (Off-Earth Entrants are requested to submit photo with entry, although this is more for personal curiosity than anything else and probably won't have any impact on the judging.)

Entries are to be original, unpublished poems, one act plays or short stories of 5,000 words/ communication units/symbols/thought implants/squeaks or less. Plagiarism (particularly of Vogon poetry) will be grounds for disqualification and may lead to discorporalization of significant, yet unspecified, body parts. Multiple entries are permitted, but limited to a single time-line.

Judging will be conducted by a staff of crack professional writers, otherwise unemployed English majors and (if we can get him) William Shakespeare. Our judges will be looking for originality, plot, beer, professionalism and credibility, although not necessarily in that order. Their decisions will most likely be arbitrary and certainly final.

With the submission of each entry, the writers acknowledge receipt (if not comprehension) of these official rules. Writers retain final copyrights to all original works, but grant contest organizers permissions to (1) publish works in the upcoming anthology, (2) excerpt work for promotional purposes and (3) leave it laying around for just a bit while we mull things over.

An entry fee of \$10.00 (ten dollars) must accompany each submission (see "quest for beer", above). *You will not get this back.*

Entries must be delivered (by hand, by mail, by email, by radio wave transmission, by beaming, by magic) in electronic format to:

The York Emporium
343 West Market Street
York, PA 17401

contest@theyorkemporium.com

The contest will have one Grand Master and a series of finalists. All winning entries will be published in an original anthology by Fortress Publishing, Inc. during the Fall of 2009

CONTACT: Jim Lewin, 717-846-2866

jiml@theyorkemporium.com



The Pterosaur Egg

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

Interview with Jon Scalzi

<http://www.sfsignal.com/archives/2007/06/interview-zombie-john-scalzi/>

Interview with Chris Evans

<http://www.suvudu.com/2009/09/interview-chris-evans.html>

Cory Doctorow reads his novel *Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town* as a podcast at his website

<http://craphound.com/?p=2328>

Harlan Ellison does a dramatic reading of “I Will Not Read Your F*#%ing Script” in a Seussified form . . . <NSFW>

http://blogs.villagevoice.com/runninscared/archives/2009/09/harlan_ellisons.php

A Science Fiction Novel Crossword

<http://ars.userfriendly.org/cartoons/?id=20090913>

Eddie Izzard’s Death Star Canteen (Yes, I am that Jeff Vader. . .)

<http://www.sfsignal.com/archives/2007/11/friday-youtube-death-star-canteen/>
<NSFW>

The video for The Guild’s song – “Do You Want to Date My Avatar”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urNyg1ftMIU>

Felicia Day the fairy tells you more than you might want to know about doing it dragon-style . . . <NSFW>

<http://io9.com/5344575/felicia-days-psychotic-fairy-sings-about-doing-it-dragon-style>

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