

Volume 34 Number 7 Issue 406

December 2021

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

This was an odd year. There was gloominess of the last year bleeding to this that hopefully will get better soon. As I write this I am preparing for my trip to Worldcon this year in Washington DC. This will be an interesting hybrid of a live and virtual convention.

Next month's issue will have the Hugo Winners and the end of the year lists. We will find out what was big in science fiction and fantasy books, films, and television. Happy Holidays.

Award News (Source File 770)

Mercedes Lackey will be the 38th Damon Knight Grand Master. This is awarded by the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA) for lifetime contributions to the literature of Science Fiction and Fantasy.

Lackey's first novel was *Arrows of the Queen*, published in 1987. She is best known for her *Valdemar* series that cover thousands of years. Lackey has published over 140 short stories and novels. She has written songs in the folk community which earned her 5 Pegasus Awards. She was the Guest of Honor at CoNZealand, the 2020 Worldcon which was supposed to be in Wellington, New Zealand, but became a virtual con due to COVID.

SFWA President Jeffe Kennedy praised Lackey for her complex books and characters.

Lackey will formally accept the honor at the 57th Nebula Weekend, May 19-22, 2022. The Nebula Weekend will be both live and virtual in Los Angeles and the award ceremony is usually open to all.



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December OASFiS Calendar

Holiday Party and Elections

Sunday December 11, 2021 12:30PM at Patty Russell's House (email Patty Russell at patriciarussell101@gmail.com or Juan at sanmiguel@earthlink.net for more detailed directions).

To contact for more info:
OASFiS Business Meeting 407-823-8715

NPR: Book We Love List

This list was composed by the NPR staff and trusted critics. The list can be found with details about the books at the site below:
<https://apps.npr.org/best-books/#tags=sci+fi%2C+fantasy+%26+speculative+fiction&view=list&year=2021>

Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston

Victories Greater Than Death by Charlie Jane Anders

Appleseed by Matt Bell

Skin of the Sea by Natasha Bowen

I'm Waiting for You and Other Stories by Kim Bo-young translated by Sophie Bowman and Sung Ryu

A Psalm for the Wild-Built: A Monk and Robot Book by Becky Chambers

Land of Big Numbers by Te-Ping Chen

Cyclopedia Exotica by Aminder Dhaliwal

Hunting by Stars by Cherie Dimaline

Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr

The Sentence by Louise Erdrich

Infinitum: An Afrofuturist Tale by Tim Fielder

Celestia by Manuele Fior

The Gilded Ones by Namina Forna

A Spindle Splintered by Alix E. Harrow

Redemptor by Jordan Ifueko

Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

Palmares by Gayl Jones

The Morning Star by Karl Ove Knausgaard

People From My Neighborhood by Hiromi Kawakami translated by Ted Goossen

Firebreak by Nicole Kornher-Stace

Sword Stone Table: Old Legends, New Voices edit by Swapna Krishna and Jenn Northington

Chaos on CatNet by Naomi Kritzer

Build Your House Around My Body by Violet Kupersmith

Jade Legacy by Fonda Lee

Six Crimson Cranes by Elizabeth Lim

To Bright to See by Kyle Lukoff

Night Bus by Zuo Ma translated by Orion Martin

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Any of these people can give readers information about the club and its functions. To be included in the list call Juan.

Summer Sons by Lee Mandelo

A Marvellous Light by Freya Marske

This Thing Between Us by Gus Moreno

Notes From a Burning Age by Claire North

Noor by Nnedi Okorafor

E.X.O.: The Legend of Wale Williams, Volume One by Roye Okupe illustrated Sunkanmi Akinboye and Raphael Kazeem

Garlic and the Vampire by Bree Paulsen

The Rock Eaters: Stories by Brenda Peyando

Bewilderment by Richard Powers

The Wolf and the Woodsman by Ava Reid

Children of the Fox by Kevin Sands

Lore Olympus: Volume 1 by Rachel Smythe

Sorrowland by Rivers Solomon

The Death of Jane Lawrence by Caitlin Starling

No Gods, No Monsters by Cadwell Turnbull

Hummingbird Salamander by Jeff VanderMeer

Alone in Space: A Collection by Tillie Walden

Monsters by Barry Windsor-Smith

Creatures of Passage by Morowa Yejidé

On Fragile Waves by E. Lily Yu

This review originally appeared in Journey Planet 60.

Night of the Comet

by Juan Sanmiguel

There is a long list of films that I have heard good things about, but I have not seen. Finding time is usually the challenge. A special presentation at the local art house theater, a showing on television, or a film finds itself on a streaming service I am subscribing to provides an opportunity to finally see these films. One film I have recently caught up on was *Night of the Comet* from 1984.

Eleven days before Christmas, the world awaits the passage of a comet. Eighteen-year-old Regina Belmont (Catherine Mary Stewart) spends the night with her boyfriend in the steel lined projection room of the movie theater they work at. Regina's younger sister Sam (Kelli Maroney) has a fight with their stepmother and sleeps in the backyard shed. The next morning, Regina finds that the skies are red and there are piles of powder mixed with clothing. She is attacked by a zombie like creature. Regina fights it off and escapes to her house and meets up with Sam. They realize something cataclysmic happened during the previous night. Hearing the local radio station is still live, Regina and Sam go there and find the station is automated. They also find another survivor, truck driver Hector Gomez (Robert Beltran). They use the station's transmitter to try and find help. They are heard by mysterious group of scientists in the desert who seem to know what is going on. Hector goes to San Diego to check on his family while the girls stay put. Can the survivors figure out how to stay alive in this frightening new world? What are the scientists up to? Will the scientists help the survivors?

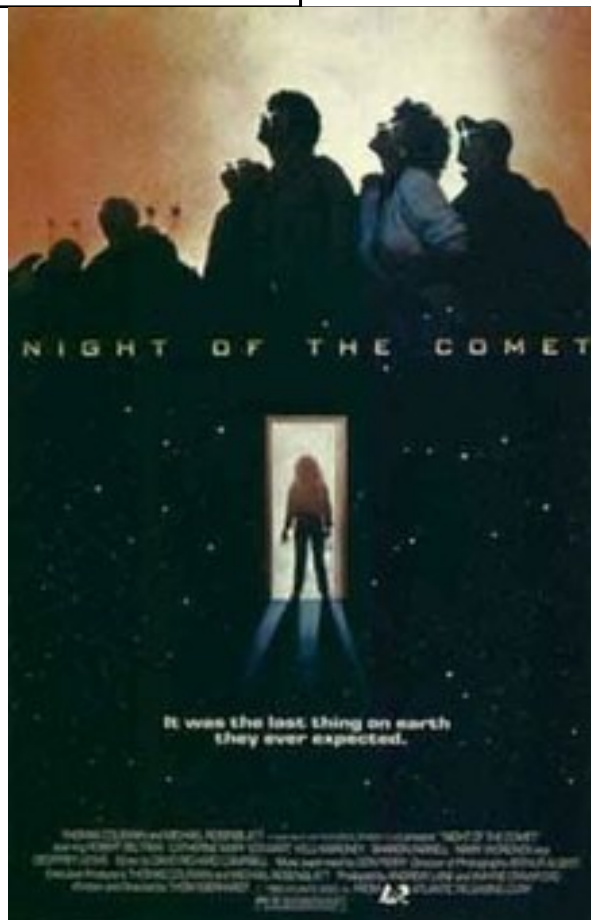
The film takes itself seriously but allows for moments of levity. It is not relentlessly dreary like *The Walking Dead*. While

waiting for Hector to come back from San Diego, Regina and Sam try on some new clothes at a local mall to tune of Cyndi Lauper's "Girl's Just Want to Have Fun". Sadly, the party is shutdown by some boys who were already at the store and starting to zombie-fy.

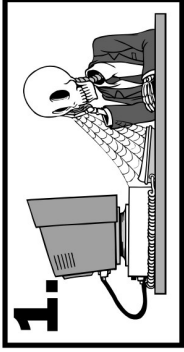
The characterization is quite positive. Regina and Sam were raised by a Special Forces father who left them with their stepmom while being deployed in Central America. The girls know how to fight and take care of themselves. They can outfight and outwit the zombies and the scientists. One scientist Audrey White does agree with the plan the rest of her team is following and does what she can to help the girls and Hector. Hector is also competent in the survival department and treats the girls with respect. (WARNING: When the girls are discussing Hector's virtues, a homophobic term is used which was sadly common in the 1980s)

The film was made for under a million dollars. The film makers put their small budget to good use. The underground thinktank headquarters of the scientists is the most ambitious set and it is convincing. The zombie make up is effective and scary. The cinematography conveys the emptiness of the town the girls live in. The strong production values keep you believing in this world. The film shows that a well thought story and good production planning is all that is needed to tell a strong science fiction story.

When the film was made, nuclear war was the biggest worry of the day. There were a lot of films at the time like *The Day After*, *Threads*, and the *Mad Max* films that had a lot of gloom and doom. It was nice to see a film where there is some optimism and hope. Things we can always use.



There are two ways to be a science fiction and fantasy fan in Florida.



1. Read about the exciting fan activities *other* people are doing.

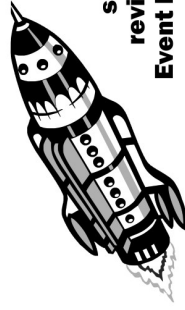


2.

Start doing exciting things yourself, and meet new friends "in the flesh" with OASFIS!

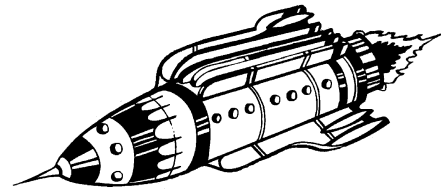


We're OASFIS - the Orlando Area Science Fiction Society. We enjoy and promote science fiction, fantasy, horror, books, movies, TV series, costuming, gaming - every part of the most imaginative hobby in existence. Of all the conventions in Central Florida, only our **OASIS conventions** are operated *by* fans, *for* fans, and not for profit...bringing affordable fun that speaks to *your* interests. Bring your unique fan interests to life and share them with Florida's fan community. We work with other fan organizations to bring our mutual passions to life. Visit our monthly meetings...and help shape fandom's future by joining OASFIS. Individual and family memberships are available. If you're tired of just sitting, you're welcome at OASFIS...no bones about it!



Besides monthly meetings and our OASIS conventions, read about our special events and activities on our web site! Members can contribute articles, reviews and original fiction to our magazine Event Horizon. We want to hear from you!

**OASFIS: The Orlando Area Science Fiction Society
www.oasfis.org**



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