



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

If you have not renewed your membership and wish to do so, please contact us or renew on the website.
 Next month I hope to do a review and the Nebula final ballot should be out and I will list the SFFH Oscar finalists.

Events

- SSA+S Toracon
 February 4
 Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences
 717 Central Avenue
 Sarasota, FL 34236
 \$7 at the door, \$5 students
www.ssastoracon.net/

- Olo Comic and Toy Show
 February 4
 Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center
 75 Taylor St
 Punta Gorda, FL 33950
 Guest: Bob Layton (comic artist)
 Naomi Grossman (actor)
 and other guests
 \$8 for at the door
www.oldtimecomicshow.com

- Brick City Anime Festival
 February 11-12
 The World Equestrian Center
 1390 NW 80th Avenue
 Ocala, FL 34482
 Guests: Ray Chase (actor)
 Max Mittleman (actor)
 And many more.
 \$50 for the weekend
www.brickcityanimefestival.com

- SWFL Anime Fest
 February 12
 Crowne Plaza
 1313051 Bell Tower Dr
 Fort Myers, FL 33907
 Guests: Jeremy Inman (actor)
 Kent Williams (actor)
 And many more.
 \$20 for general admission
<http://www.swflanimefest.com>

- Beyond Comicon
 February 18
 Marjorie & William McDonald Center
 17051 NE 19 Avenue
 North Miami Beach, FL. 33162
 Guests: Jeff Carroll
 Hailee Bergman (artist)
 And many more.
 Free
<http://www.swflanimefest.com>

- SyFy Bartow
 February 18
 200 W. Main Street
 Bartow, FL
 A SF themed street fair
 Free
 Search on Facebook for more info

- Pensacon
 February 24-26
 Pensacola Bay Center
 201 E Gregory Street
 Pensacola, FL, 32502
 Guests: Kevin J. Anderson
 Peter Davison (5th Doctor, *Doctor Who*)
 Colin Baker (6th Doctor, *Doctor Who*)
 Sylvester McCoy (7th Doctor, *Doctor Who*)
 Paul McGann (8th Doctor, *Doctor Who*)
 Christopher Eccleston (9th Doctor, *Doctor Who*)
 And many others see website
 Weekend pass \$85
pensacon.com

Birthdays

Pat Sims February 9

(Continued on page 2)

February OASFiS Calendar	OASFiS People
<p>OASFiS Business Meeting Sunday, February 12, 1:30 PM, Jean Rhein Central Branch Library 215 N. Oxford Road Casselberry, Florida 32707. Meeting room will be on the first floor. Come in Join us as we discuss Noor by Nnendi Okorafor.</p> <p>To contact for more info: OASFiS Business Meeting 407-823-8715</p>	<p>Steve Cole 407-379-1530 stevepcole@hotmail.com Susan Cole 407-275-5211 sacole@mindspring.com Arthur Dykeman 407-314-5506 adykeman@bellsouth.net Steve Grant 352 241 0670 stevegrant@embarqmail.com Mike Pilletere mike-sf@webbedfeet.com David Ratti 407-282-2468 dratti@eudoramail.com Juan Sanmiguel 407-823-8715 sanmiguel@earthlink.net</p> <p>Any of these people can give readers information about the club and its functions. To be included in the list call Juan. Any of these people can give readers information about the</p>
<p>Coastal Magic February 23-26 Wyndham Orlando Resort on International Drive 8001 International Drive Orlando, FL 32819 Guests: Lucienne Diver Aria Kane And many others see website Weekend pass \$120 coastalmagicconvention.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Neom</i> by Lavie Tidhar • <i>Siren Queen</i> by Nghi Vo <p>Juan's sources for these books were the following webistes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazon's Best SF/Fantasy List • <i>Book Scrolling</i> • Kirkus list • <i>Transfer Orbit</i> - A newsletter by Andrew Liptak
<p>OASFiS Meeting Date: 1-8-2023</p> <p>This was a Zoom Meeting .</p> <p>Best Novels of 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Stardust Thief</i> by Chelsea Abdullah • <i>Dreams Bigger Than Heartbreak</i> by Charlie Jane Anders • <i>Mickey 7</i> by Edward Ashton • <i>Legends and Lattes</i> by Travis Baldtree • <i>Book Of Night</i> by Holly Black • <i>The Atlas Six</i> by Olivie Blake • <i>The Art of Prophecy</i> by Wesley Chu • <i>The Book Eaters</i> by Sunyi Dean • <i>Last Exit</i> by Max Gladstone • <i>Moon Witch, Spider King</i> by Marlon Jones • <i>The Spear Cuts Through Water</i> by Simon Jimenez • <i>The World We Make</i> by N.K. Jemisin • <i>All the Seas of the World</i> by Guy Gavriel Kay • <i>Fairy Tale</i> by Stephen King • <i>Nettle and Bone</i> by T. Kingfisher • <i>The Spare Man</i> by Mary Robinette Kowal • <i>Babel: Or the Necessity of Violence: An Arcane History of the Oxford Translators' Revolution</i> by R.F.Kuang • <i>Nona the Ninth</i> Tasmyn Muir • <i>Ordinary Monsters</i> by J.M. Miro • <i>How High We Go in the Dark</i> by Sequoia Nagamatsu • <i>The Mountain in the Sea</i> by Ray Nayler • <i>The Golden Enclaves</i> by Naomi Novik • <i>Goliath</i> by Tochi Onyebuchi • <i>The Kaiju Preservation Society</i> by John Scalzi • <i>Sea if Tranquility</i> by Emily St. John Mandel • <i>The Cartographers</i> by Peng Shephard • <i>The Justice of Kings</i> by Richard Swan • <i>Daughter of the Moon Goddess</i> by Sue Lynn Tan 	<p>Awards</p> <p>Philip K. Dick Award (source <i>File 770</i>)</p> <p>The finalists for the Philip K. Dick Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Arboreality</i> by Rebecca Campbell (Stelliform Press) • <i>Widowland</i> by C. J. Carey (Sourcebooks Landmark) • <i>Ymir</i> by Rich Larson (Orbit) • <i>January Fifteenth</i> by Rachel Swirsky (Tordotcom) • <i>The Legacy Of Molly Southbourne</i> by Tade Thompson (Tordotcom) • <i>The Extractionist</i> by Kimberly Unger (Tachyon Publications) <p>First prize and any special citations will be announced on Friday, April 7, 2023 at Norwescon 45</p> <p>The Philip K. Dick Award is presented annually with the support of the Philip K. Dick Trust for distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States during the previous calendar year.</p> <p>The award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the Philip K. Dick Trust and the award ceremony is sponsored by the Northwest Science Fiction Society.</p> <p>The judges are Michael Cassutt (Chair), Matthew Goodwin, Stina Leicht, and Elise C. Tobler.</p>

Academy Awards
Speculative Fiction finalists
(source *File 770*)

Best Picture

- ***Avatar: The Way of Water***, James Cameron and Jon Landau, Producers
- ***Everything Everywhere All at Once***, Daniel Kwan, Daniel Scheinert and Jonathan Wang, Producers

Best Director

- Daniel Kwan, Daniel Scheinert (***Everything Everywhere All at Once***)

Best Lead Actress

- Michelle Yeoh (***Everything Everywhere All at Once***)

Best Supporting Actor

- Ke Huy Quan (***Everything Everywhere All at Once***)

Best Supporting Actress

- Angela Bassett (***Black Panther: Wakanda Forever***)
- Jamie Lee Curtis (***Everything Everywhere All at Once***)
- Stephanie Hsu (***Everything Everywhere All at Once***)

Best Original Screenplay

- ***Everything Everywhere All at Once***, Written by Daniel Kwan & Daniel Scheinert

Best Film Editing

- ***Everything Everywhere All at Once***, Paul Rogers

Best Original Song

- “Lift Me Up” from ***Black Panther: Wakanda Forever***, Music by Tems, Rihanna, Ryan Coogler and Ludwig Goransson; Lyric by Tems and Ryan Coogler
- “This Is a Life” from ***Everything Everywhere All at Once***, Music by Ryan Lott, David Byrne and Mitski; Lyric by Ryan Lott and David Byrne

Best Production Design

- ***Avatar: The Way of Water***, Production Design: Dylan Cole and Ben Procter; Set Decoration: Vanessa Cole

Best Visual Effects

- ***Avatar: The Way of Water***, Joe Letteri, Richard Baneham, Eric Saindon and Daniel Barrett
- ***The Batman***, Dan Lemmon, Russell Earl, Anders Langlands and Dominic Tuohy
- ***Black Panther: Wakanda Forever***, Geoffrey Baumann, Craig Hammack, R. Christopher White and Dan Sudick

Best Animated Feature Film

- ***Guillermo del Toro’s Pinocchio***, Guillermo del Toro, Mark Gustafson, Gary Ungar and Alex Bulkley
- ***Marcel the Shell With Shoes On***, Dean Fleischer Camp, Elisabeth Holm, Andrew Goldman, Caroline Kaplan and Paul Mezey
- ***Puss in Boots: The Last Wish***, Joel Crawford and Mark Swift
- ***The Sea Beast***, Chris Williams and Jed Schluger
- ***Turning Red***, Domee Shi and Lindsey Collins

Best Animated Short Film

- ***The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse***, Charlie Mackesy and Matthew Freud
- ***The Flying Sailor***, Amanda Forbis and Wendy Tilby
- ***Ice Merchants***, João Gonzalez and Bruno Caetano
- ***My Year of Dicks***, Sara Gunnarsdóttir and Pamela Ribon
- ***An Ostrich Told Me the World Is Fake and I Think I Believe It***, Lachlan Pendragon

Best Costume Design

- ***Black Panther: Wakanda Forever***, Ruth Carter
- ***Everything Everywhere All at Once***, Shirley Kurata

Best Makeup and Hairstyling

- ***The Batman***, Naomi Donne, Mike Marino and Mike Fontaine
- ***Black Panther: Wakanda Forever***, Camille Friend and Joel Harlow

Best Original Score

- ***Everything Everywhere All at Once***, Son Lux

Best Sound

- ***Avatar: The Way of Water***, Julian Howarth, Gwendolyn Yates Whittle, Dick Bernstein, Christopher Boyes, Gary Summers and Michael Hedges
- ***The Batman***, Stuart Wilson, William Files,



Review

Neom

by

Lavie Tidhar

When does the future begin? Is it when one has a dream? When the blueprints are drawn up? When the website is up? Neom is a dream of a fabulous city in Saudi Arabia on the Red Sea. The land is secured, the website is up, and the planning goes on. Lavie Tidhar decided not to wait until it was built to take us to Neom in his novel of the same name.

This is a part of the universe created by Tidhar in his earlier book *Central Station*. We are in the far future. Humanity has colonized the inner and outer Solar System. Generation ships are going to nearby stars. Robots are everywhere, and were once used in wars. Neom is a city which chases the new. One day a robot comes to Neom to buy a rose, and then goes out into the desert and starts digging. What is it looking for? Is it this something the residents of Neom should be concerned about?

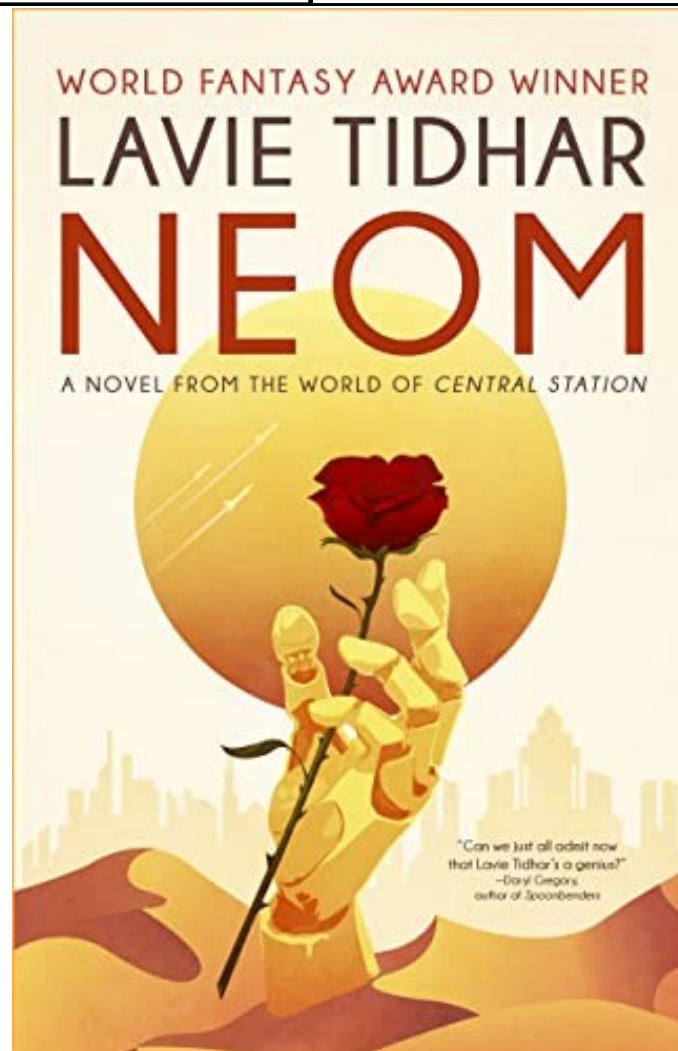
The main point of view character is Miriam de la Cruz. She works several jobs to make sure her elderly mother has good care. Miriam is a secretary, a florist, cleaner, and volunteer at a Tamagotchi (a virtual pet) center. Miriam is shown as a compassionate person early in the novel when she shows concern for an old robot on the street. She is kind to the robot looking for a flower. Her first reaction to anything is openness rather than fear.

Nasir, a childhood friend of Miriam, is a police officer in Neom. He takes his job seriously even though Neom has a low crime rate. When the robot starts digging in the desert, he is concerned. Some of the weapons from past wars still roam the open desert. Nasir wants answers but does not use brute force to get them.

Elias is an orphan who joins a caravan travelling the area to find a way off the planet. He dreams of going to the stars. Elias has an artifact which could fetch him a price to get him off world. Elias eventually comes to Neom, with a robot jackal, where he might find a buyer for his artifact.

The robots are critical to the story. They are humanity's progeny. Many of the robots are homages to robots from Science Fiction's past. The robots are looking for purpose beyond their original design. Some are following the Asimov Laws of Robotics as a belief system; the laws are not hardwired in as they were in Asimov's early stories. Other robots are trying to build a new faith on Mars. The robot in the desert is looking for a new path for its life and in doing so enables the other characters to find what they want from life.

This is the second novel in this universe. Tidhar gives enough information and a glossary to understand it all. It leaves the reader wanting more.



Film Review

Avatar: The Way of Water

Well, it finally happened. It took 13 years, but we now have a sequel to *Avatar*. The first film pushed the limits on what can be done in film. This sequel continues that tradition.

The film takes place sixteen years after the first. Jake Sully and Neytiri have a family consisting of 2 sons (Neteyam and Lo'ak) and a daughter (Tuk). They have two adopted children: a human named Spider, the biological son of Colonel Miles Quaritch; and Kiri, a Na'Vi born of Grace Augustine's avatar. Another military force comes from Earth, set to conquer Pandora. This time they have avatars with the personalities of the team lead by Quaritch. The goals of the invasion force are to secure Pandora, and take a serum from the whale-like Tulkuns that can extend human life. After a raid where Spider is captured, Sully and his family flee the forest to an archipelago where the sea-based Na'Vi, the Metkayina live. Eventually the war will come to them. Can they resist Quaritch forces?

I see all the original film's problems in the sequel. There is no cliché that Cameron is afraid to use. Sully is having difficulty parenting his sons. One son is favored, but the other is not. There is tension between the Sully family and the Metkayina, particularly with the children. Instead of harvesting needed Tulkun, the human forces are determined to hunt the Tulkun to extinction. Kiri is a child that could not exist but seems to be the key to the battle yet to come, rather than having the Na'Vi solve the conflict themselves. Even though we now know of several exo-planets that can possibly support human life, Earth still wants to colonize Pandora at all costs.

The film is too long. Many scenes involving Sully's family learning the way of the Metkayina could be cut. They are beautiful, but they do not advance the plot and do little to

develop the characters. These scenes would have been better as shorts to promote the film.

Pandora is still incredibly impressive and feels other-worldly. Moving onto the sea, one sees a variety of life. The Tulkun are well-designed. They are like whales, but alien enough to not be whales. The Tulkun are not a monolithic culture. Some find their philosophy of pacifism hard to understand, since humans are hunting them.

Moving the action to the ocean raises the challenges in production. It is always a challenge to animate water. Cameron and his crew were able to make all the water-based scenes look real.

The film is worth seeing in 3D. It uses the focus on depth to draw one into the world. It also adds to feeling of the environment. One feels the claustrophobia of the scenes of a sinking ship, and the openness of the ocean.

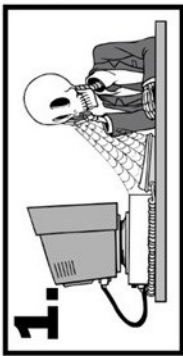
The story basic "good vs. evil" story. We have humans who are ruthlessly trying to take Pandora from the Na'Vi. We see Quaritch, his team, and human leadership regarding Na'Vi and Tulkun as animals rather than as sentient beings. Cameron goes out of his way to show Quaritch and his team being as cruel as they can be to any Na'Vi they encounter. When the Na'Vi and Tulkun fight back, the audience is on their side.

We will be getting more films in the series. This film has an ending that leads to more story possibilities. Sully will rally other Na'Vi groups against the human forces.

The story I want to see is what is happening on Earth. I want to see Na'Vi representatives working with human activists and politicians to end the occupation of Pandora. This will require a lot of work, by these activists particularly in raising awareness of Na'Vi. This can be combined with an action-oriented story on Pandora. I hope we get that kind of movie. It would be a great complement to the visual splendor we have already seen.



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



Read about the exciting fan activities other people are doing.



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



Were 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. Bring your unique fan interests to life and share them with Florida's fan community. We work with other fan organizations to bring our 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 out monthly meetings, read about our special events and activities on our website! Members can contribute articles, reviews, and original fiction to our newzine *Event Horizon*. We want to hear from you!

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

OASFIS
PO Box 323
Goldenrod, FL 32733-0323

