



Trampling in the Land of Woe

By William Galaini

16.9

Hell almost keeps up with the times. In 1910, Haephestus of Greece finally makes a spectacular entrance into a steampowered New Dis after years in Purgatory and afloat on its seas. Rescuing his eternal companion and love, Alexander the Great, will require a trip into the abyss, down the many levels of Hell to the river of fire, Phlegethon. It won't be easy by any means. New Dis, however, turns out to be full of surprises, including people who are willing to help him on his journey. On the other hand, the Jesuits, who have their own plans for the netherworld, don't like random elements like Haephestus on the loose and will stop at nothing to halt his descent. Haephestus has seen the armies of the world arrayed against him as Alexander drove onward and even that may not prepare him for what lies ahead in depths.

-Next month's book– The Lost Heir by Andi O'Connor, our guest author for October

-Dear Crabby tells you tells you how to deal with your friends when they've been caught stealing

-Stefanie Hackenberg looks back over DragonCon 2016

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NEW RELEASES

October 2016

Abnett, Nik - **Savant**
Aickman, Robert - **The Late Breakfasters and Selected Stories**
Armstrong, Kelley - **Otherworld Chills**
Atwood, Margaret - **Hag-Seed**
Barron, Laird - **Swift to Chase**
Bowen, Lila - **Conspiracy of Ravens**
Bradley, Darin - **Totem**
Brom - **Lost Gods**
Cameron, Miles - **The Plague of Swords**
Chambers, Becky - **A Closed and Common Orbit**
Chu, Wesley - **The Rise of Io**
Datlow, Ellen, ed. - **Nightmares: A New Decade of Modern Horror**
Dietz, William C. - **Into the Guns**
Duchamp, L. Timmel - **The Waterdancer's World**
Erikson, Steven - **Willful Child: Wrath of Betty**
Fowler, Karen Joy, ed. - **The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2016**
Grant, Mira - **Feedback**
Hamilton, Peter F. - **A Night Without Stars**
Headley, Maria Dahvana - **Aerie**
Jones, Stephen, ed. - **Best New Horror 27**
Lackey, Mercedes - **Closer to the Chest**
Le Guin, Ursula K. - **The Found and the Lost**
Lethem, Jonathan - **A Gambler's Anatomy**
Littlewood, Alison - **The Hidden People**
Liu, Ken - **The Wall of Storms**
McCammon, Robert - **Last Train from Perdition**
McIntosh, Will - **Faller**
Miéville, China, & Zak Smith - **The Worst Breakfast**
Modesitt, L. E., Jr. - **Treachery's Tools**
Morden, Simon - **The White City**
Moreno-Garcia, Silvia - **Certain Dark Things**
Newman, Kim - **Angels of Music**
Nix, Garth - **Goldenhand**
Parisien, Dominik, & Navah Wolfe, eds. - **The Starlit Wood: New Fairy Tales**
Powers, Tim - **Poems**
Roberson, Chris - **Firewalk**
Silverberg, Robert, ed. - **This Way to End Times: Classic Tales of the Apocalypse**
Slatter, Angela - **A Feast of Sorrows**
Strahan, Jonathan, ed. - **Bridging Infinity**
Strantzias, Simon, & Michael Kelly, eds. - **Year's Best Weird Fiction, V.3**
Tan, Shaun - **The Singing Bones**
Turner, Frederick - **Apocalypse**
Wallace, Sean, ed. - **The Mammoth Book of Kaiju**
Weeks, Brent - **The Blood Mirror**
Williams, Walter Jon - **Impersonations**
Willis, Connie - **Crosstalk**
Wilson, Kai Ashante - **A Taste of Honey**

EVENT HORIZON

-This year's Emmys finally recognized the amazing performances of *Orphan Black's* star Tatiana Maslany. Tatiana has played numerous versions of the main character Sarah Manning and her clone sisters. Her true talent lies in the ability to make each persona unique and individual. *Orphan Black* has been repeatedly lauded for its portrayal of strong female characters, LGBT inclusiveness and adventurous plotlines. Sadly, *Orphan Black's* fifth season will be its last but is good that it's finally being recognized. The Emmy's also picked out several other genre items for awards: the Best Lead Actor went to Rami Malek for his work on *Mr. Robot*, "The Abominable Bride" *Sherlock* won for best TV Movie and *Game of Thrones* was awarded Best Drama Series.

-There could be a *Furiosa Road* in the future. The Herald Sun leaked rumors that the film is already in development and could even start shooting as soon as the end of the year. The new film will be a prequel focusing on *Furiosa*. George Miller was quoted as saying earlier that he wanted to do a smaller film before jumping into another big production, so all of this is still speculation. In addition, the Black and Chrome version of *Fury Road* will release in the *Mad Max High Octane Collection* as well as the *Black and Chrome* edition, which will have both the color and black and white films.

-*Pacific Rim: Maelstrom*, the follow up jaeger/kaiju bashup has cast another star and she's a pop singer. Cailee Spaeny will be teaming up with John Boyega (*Force Awakens*) in a follow up to the successful movie. There are a number of concerns about the followup: del Toro is not directing the movie-instead Steven S. DeKnight (*Daredevil*) is and the big names stars are not returning. Cailee's addition to the cast is an unusual choice and it's hard to see if it's a positive or not.

-Disney has its hands on everything now-a-days including a new movie version of Madeleine L'Engle's award winning novel, *A Wrinkle in Time*. Storm Reid (*12 Years a Slave*), will be playing the part of Meg as she travels to another world to rescue her lost father. They've also brought onboard Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon and Mindy Kaling to play Mrs. Which, Mrs. Whatsit and Mrs. Who respectively. The classic coming of age story features interplanetary travel as well as facing your fears.

-He may have sung "Jessie's Girl" but now he's just the devil. Rick Springfield has joined the cast of *Supernatural* to play the father of all lies. The upcoming 13th season will feature new folks at the helm, Robert Singer and Andrew Dabb in addition to a certain rock and roll legend.

-So last newsletter we let you know about the new Star Trek series, *Discovery* and mentioned that it was premiering in January, which was awesome news. Sadly, we've got some less than happy follow up from CBS. In order to make sure that things are 100%, the start date has been moved to May 2017. Brian Fuller and Alex Kurtzman stated they wanted to take the extra time to ensure the quality of the end result.

-Evel Knievel never made it across the Snake River Canyon but Eddie Braun just did. Not only did he make the jump on a rocket bike using the same design specs as the original from 42 years ago, he also flew 2000 feet into the air at 400 miles an hour. Braun spent 1.5 million dollars and 3 years in planning to accomplish this feat. He also worked with Scott Truax, the son of the original creator of the rocket. The bike was built using the original blueprints with the only update being the parachute system. Others have talked about attempting the jump, including Evel's son, but only Braun took the challenge to completion. Truax felt that he'd redeemed his father proving that the bike worked fine and if Evel had not hit the parachute early, he would have been successful.

DEAR CRABBY

Dear Crabby,

My roommate keeps stealing my dice and miniatures. It's worse than how my girlfriend steals my shirts! When I've tried confronting him he always says that I'm crazy and that what he took has been his for many years. We do both have quite a collection of gaming paraphernalia but, I've even started painting the numbers in my dice sets specific colors and painting my initials on the bottom of my miniature bases. You can see traces in the numbers on the die of the paint that's been scraped out. The initials wiped off. He's a really good roommate otherwise. Pays his half of rent on time, cleans up after himself, is overall easy to get along with. Since the direct approach didn't work can you suggest something to help?

Sincerely,

Pulling my hair out



Dear Baldy,

Congratulations on being an adult. You went to your roommate and straight up confronted him. It didn't work. So, you could regress to a toddler and grab your stuff back and have a screaming fit. You could go back to being a passive aggressive teenager and just start taking his stuff and your stuff back without saying anything. You could approach it like the recently graduated man child and threaten bodily harm if he doesn't knock it off. You could kick him out on his can and lose what sounds like decent roommate other wise or you could just consider it a dry run for what it's like to be married because shirts are just the start of things.

Good luck anyway!

Crabby

THE TROLL KING



Jeffrey Lyman

AVAILABLE NOW

The Best of Times -- DragonCon 2016 Recap

The highpoint of the year for cosplayers and connoisseurs of pop culture and science came in like a lion and went out like a glitter-covered, hungover lion this past Labor Day weekend. DragonCon's 30th anniversary pulled in 77,000 attendees over 5 days (though for some of us it's a 6-7 day extravaganza) with more programming, guests, and vendors than ever before. The best approach to use in order to get the most out of DragonCon is flexibility -- you will never see everything you want to see, attend all the events you are excited for, see all the cosplays everyone is talking about, or meet up with all the friends who similarly converged on Atlanta for the weekend. Prioritize, accept changes, and have as much fun as you can with whatever you end up making it to. There are dozens of Ultimate DragonCon Survival Guides out there but after attending for 7 years in a row "flexibility" is my two cents. At least the five host hotels have gotten this convention down to an efficient, elegant, pleasantly crazy science.

Out of the over-crammed schedule and resource app DragonCon distributes for those of us relying at least a little on foresight and not 100% spontaneity I managed to attend maybe 15% of the programming I had bookmarked. The drum circle, the World of Warcraft cosplay photo shoot, our friend's panel featuring their exciting upcoming video game *Camelot Unchained*, our traditional belly dancing and Turkish food outing at Truva, and the three all-night raves were about all I could get to. I'm disappointed I missed the Sleepy Hollow panel with the ever-charming Tom Mison and my chance to fulfill a 20+ year fangirl wish to see Gillian Anderson, as well as some other interesting lectures, but again one must follow the "flexibility" mantra.

Part of why I missed so much on the schedule was my masochistic inclination to cosplay, and even though I had no time to make any new projects this year even my "closet cosplays" took up most of the space in the car and many hours to get into and out of -- sadly since the car randomly broke down on the way down to Atlanta we arrived at the end of the night Thursday and I didn't even get to wear one of the costumes I had packed. So for me even a cosplay-lite year included Garona Halforcen from the *Warcraft* movie, Lydia Deetz from *Beetlejuice* (the only book I could find that would fit in the *Handbook for the Recently Deceased* dummy cover was a bartender's bible -- apropos for this convention!), Medusa from Greek mythology,

a Team Mystic leader in a “Pokémon Go” trio, a fairy, and a general gothy costume for the Friday night rave with the legendary DJ Spider. The sorceress cosplay didn’t make it out of the suitcase. Some of the most popular cosplays this year were all iterations -- *Suicide Squad*, Bombshells, Animated Series, etc. -- of Harley Quinns and Jokers, Rick and Morty from the cartoon of the same name (we passed multiple mobs of Ricks throughout the weekend) and many *Game of Thrones* characters. If one participated in a drinking game for the Harley Quinn sightings one may now be on a liver donor waiting list. Our favorite 2016 cosplay was a perfect re-creation of Prince from Charlie Murphy’s sketch on the *Dave Chappelle Show* retelling one strange night with him involving pancakes and “blouses vs. shirts” basketball. If you haven’t seen it, trust me, look it up on YouTube. Someone also donned a “Purple Rainger” cosplay mashup between Prince and his signature *Purple Rain* guitar plus a purple Mighty Morphin Power Ranger costume. It’s this kind of creative genius that makes DragonCon so much fun.

Above all I prioritized the social aspect of DragonCon this year and was able to spend time with at least part of the dozens of friends I’ve made there over the years that I only see while we’re in Atlanta. As many gleefully declared with a mix of exhaustion and wonder at the end of the weekend, this truly WAS the best DragonCon ever. 346 days until the next one!

By Stefanie Hackenberg

Cosplay Tip of the Month:

Hiding the Mundane

Don't forget the little stuff when designing a cosplay: Where will you put your cell phone, badge, chapstick, keys, spare batteries (if your costume includes electronics), etc? Do you have pockets? Pouch on your belt? Secret compartment? Space to tuck something in your bra? Whatever works -- the more clever the better!

By Stefanie Hackenberg



Ready for something magical? You can help bring two novels to life.

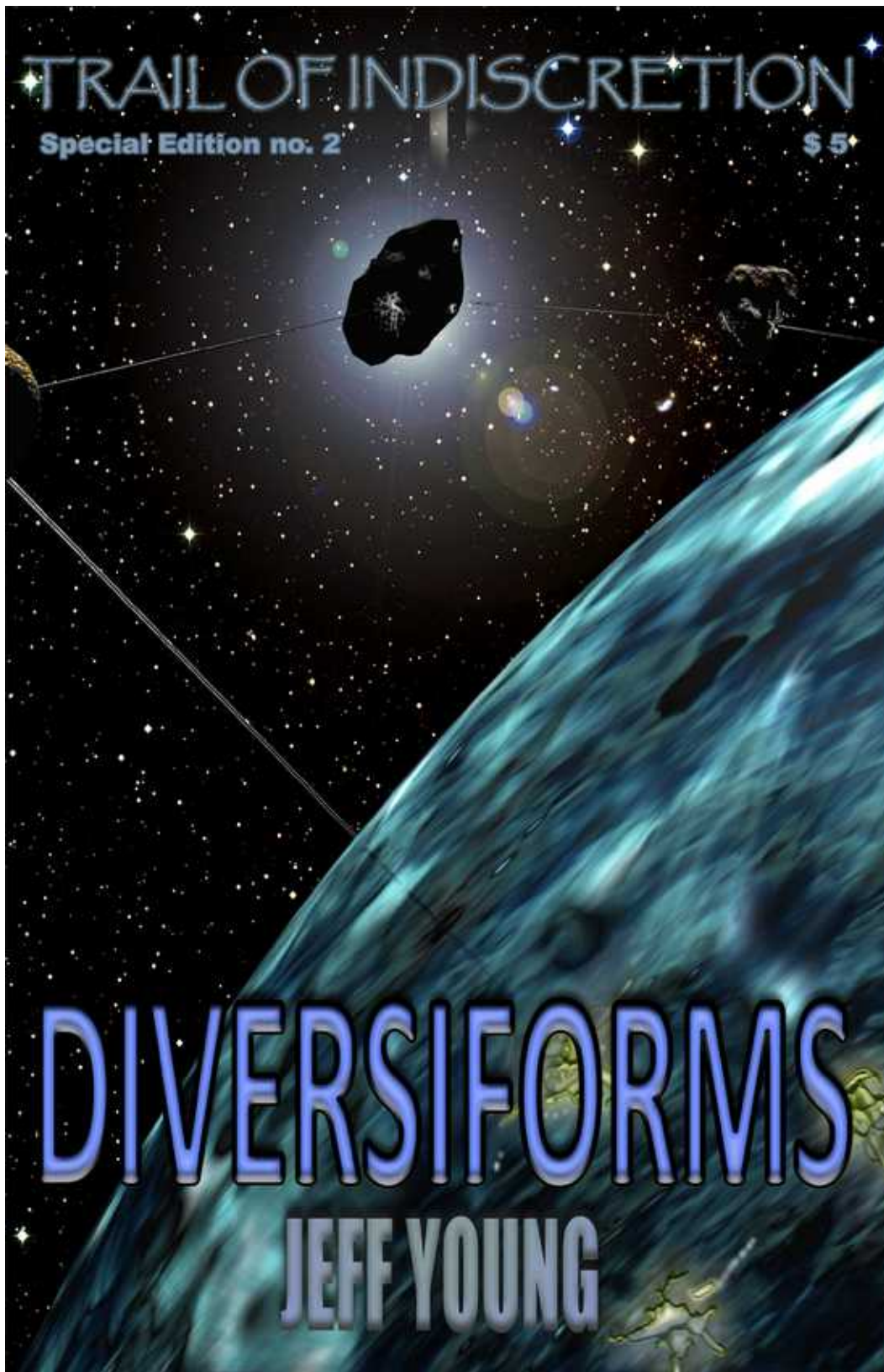
In Jack Campbell's *The Sister Paradox* 16-year-old Liam is an only child who suddenly finds himself with a sword wielding sister from an alternate dimension. And if that isn't strange enough, she's come to take him on an important quest ... involving cursed keeps and dragons.

In Brenda Cooper's *POST* 16-year-old Sage has grown up almost exclusively within the confines of a botanical garden, a sage haven from the post-apocalyptic collapse of the outside world. Sage, however, is tired of the sheltered life and wants to discover the world rebuilding itself outside of the garden's walls. She learns hard lessons on the way back to civilization ...

The books are already written and eSpec Books is crowdfunding the project on Kickstarter to pay the authors and artists for their work. There are plenty of awards for participating in the campaign as well.

<http://tiny.cc/Novels2016>





AVAILABLE NOW

Tillyer's News of the High Frontier

-Insight Astronomy Photographer of the Year's winner Yu Jun has produced an image that is stunning on several levels and it looks nothing like any of the other astronomical photographs you've seen before. The image is a composite pictures of the limb of the moon during a solar eclipse both before and after totality. Until you know what it is you can visualize it as a side lit slinky on either side of a black circle. It looks like modern art, but it's also a highly technical piece of work composed of more than 40 exposures at taken at exactly the right time to show how totality occurs. Yu's picture also shows a phenomenon called Bailey's Beads where small bits of sunlight appear along the edge of the moon during the final moments of the eclipse before totality. Along the top is a small red mark that repeats across the images on the left hand side. This is a solar prominence large enough that it shows over the edge of the moon. Yu Jun received a \$13,000 reward for his groundbreaking photo.

-The Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation continues to tell us more about the beginnings of the universe. At about 380 million years after the Big Bang when atoms were first forming photons could be scattered and these became the origins of the Background Radiation. Because they have traveled so far so long, these photon's wavelengths have dopplered all the way into the microwave range. There was another point in the history of the universe where it became ionized a second time and that has a lot of scientists wondering. Over time astronomers have continued to try to establish a timeline for this reionization as well as a reason. Up until now most believed that it occurred closer in time to the Big Bang. Now the scientist believe it occurred about 700 million years after the big bang after the death of the very first generation of stars. Since the universe was still relatively small in size, the novae and disruptions of the first generations of stars would have changed the state of the matter in the universe. This resulted in a polarization of the Cosmic Background Radiation, which tipped off scientists in the first place.

