

WATCH THE SKIES





VICTORIES GREATER THAN DEATH

By Charlie Jane Anders

23.9

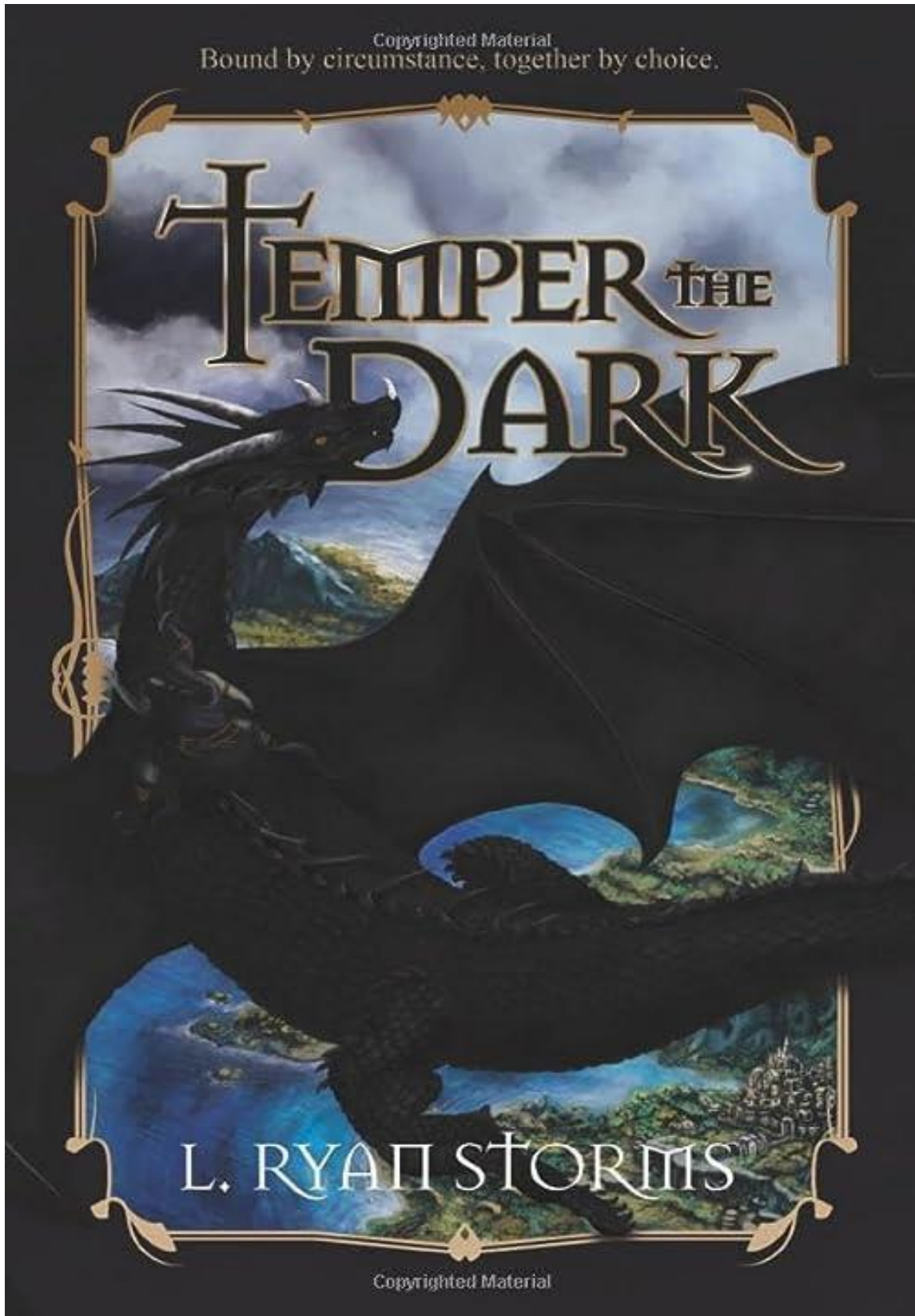
Tina has never belonged here. She's a ticking time bomb of a beacon that will signal the aliens that left her behind, but it also makes her a target of their deathly enemies. Off and on, she and her best friend Rachel have been trying to activate her pushing herself to different limits. Success is going to change everything because her rescue turns into a firefight that endangers her and eventually the entire Earth. Determined to find out who she really is, Tina joins the crew of the *Indomitable* along with Rachel and four other of the best teens Earth has to offer. Trying to solve a galactic mystery, running from an implacable enemy, and trying to fit into a crew, it feels like the universe is trying to kick her ass – but Tina is perfectly fine with kicking back.

-October's meeting is on the 18th, in person, at the Simpson Library, Mechanicsburg (unless otherwise announced) and the book of the month is *The Kaiju Preservation Society* – John Scalzi.

-Cover art by Eric V. Hardenbrook.

Check out the website at: watchtheskies.org or
contact us at: wtsnewsletter@gmail.com

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NEW RELEASES

OCTOBER 2023

EUGEN BACON & ANDREW HOOK - **Secondhand Daylight**

A. DEBORAH BAKER - **Under the Smokestrewn Sky**

J.G. BALLARD - **Selected Nonfiction**

SAMIT BASU - **The Jinn-Bot of Shantiport**

TOBIAS S. BUCKELL - **A Stranger in the Citadel**

JAMES J. BUTCHER - **Long Past Dues**

V. CASTRO **The Haunting of Alejandra**

C.J. CHERRYH - **Defiance**

CASSANDRA CLARE - **Sword Catcher**

EOIN COLFER - **Three Tasks for a Dragon**

ELLEN DATLOW, ED. **Christmas and Other Horrors: An Anthology of
Solstice Horror**

ALIETTE DE BODARD - **A Fire Born of Exile**

TANANARIVE DUE - **The Reformatory**

OGHENECHOVWE DONALD EKPEKI & JOSHUA UCHENNA OMENGA - **Between
Dystopias: The Road to Afropantheology**

NICOLA GRIFFITH - **Menewood**

PAULA GURAN, ED. - **The Year's Best Dark Fantasy and Horror: Volume Four**

ALIX E. HARROW **Starling House**

LUCY HOLLAND - **Song of the Huntress**

TOM HOLT - **The Eight Reindeer of the Apocalypse**

BENEDICT JACKA - **An Inheritance of Magic**

KIJ JOHNSON - **The Privilege of the Happy Ending: Small**

ALLAN KASTER, ED. - **The Year's Top Robot and AI Stories: Fourth Annual
Collection**

CASSANDRA KHAW & RICHARD KADREY - **The Dead Take the A Train**

GEORGE R.R. MARTIN, ED. - **George R.R. Martin Presents Wild Cards:
Sins of the Father**

SEANAN MCGUIRE - **The Innocent Sleep**

TERRY MILES - **The Quiet Room**

SARAH MONETTE - **A Theory of Haunting**

WALTER MOSLEY - **Touched**

JASON PARGIN - **Zoey Is Too Drunk for This Dystopia**

K.J. PARKER - **Saevus Corax Deals With the Dead**

TERRY PRATCHETT - **A Stroke of the Pen: The Lost Stories**

CAITLIN STARLING - **Last to Leave the Room**

JONATHAN STRAHAN, ED. - **Communications Breakdown**

LAVIE TIDHAR, ED. - **The Best of World SF Volume 3**

R.R. VIRDI - **The Doors of Midnight**

GENE WOLFE - **The Wolfe at the Door**

JOHN WYNDHAM - **Logical Fantasy: The Many Worlds of John Wyndham**

E. LILY YU - **Jewel Box**



NEWS OF THE REALM

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS 9-23-23

-A celebration of all genres, held at Rock Lititz, Lititz, PA, 12-4PM, 70 attending authors, \$5 admission fee

PHILCON 2023

-Philadelphia Science Fiction Society's convention, November 17-19th, at the Doubletree Cherry Hill, NJ. Guest of Honor Jonathan Maberry, Special Guest Kelley Armstrong, Artist Guest of Honor Rob Carlos.

BALTIMORE SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY – EVENTS:

BSFS's Speculative Poetry Workshop by Zoom – 9/21/23 7:00PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82344040646?pwd=eFdCQlZmL29KSVYzYUZXdeE1EK3Q1UT09>

Meeting ID: 823 4404 0646 Passcode: 365968

Book Club Meeting at BSFS – Alex Jennings - *The Ballad of Perilous Graves* – 9/23/23 7:30PM

<https://zoom.us/j/94129016253?pwd=LzRMVEZmVGtnUi9jOUc3MnFOcHFHQQT09>

Meeting ID: 941 2901 6253 Passcode: 041896

Anime Social at BSFS – 9-23-23 starting at 1:00PM also on Discord –

<https://discord.com/invite/5U3s2YzPzQ>

Writers Circle at BSFS – next meeting 9-28-23 6:30-8:30 by Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/91064908740?pwd=TENjZ25HenRNOHhtcHFalZnOGE3dz09>

Meeting ID: 910 6490 8740 Passcode: 805110

BRITISH FANTASY AWARDS

Robert Holdstock Award for Best Fantasy Novel

WINNER: *The Spear Cuts Through Water*

August Derleth Award for Best Horror Novel

WINNER: *Just Like Home* – Sarah Gailey

The Sydney J. Bounds Award for Best Newcomer

WINNER: Hiron Ennes, for *Leech*

Best Novella WINNER: *The Queen of the High Fields*

Best Short Fiction WINNER: "Morta" – James Bennett

CALISTA LINDQUIST IS

THE KILLER OF DEVILS

BOOK 1

CLOWNS

VIKTOR
BLOODSTONE



AVAILABLE SOON

You Should Be Watching

You Should Be Watching – *The strike*



I'm not a known entertainment writer. I'm no expert on contracts, unions or anything related to the television and movie industry. I write the 'you should be watching' pieces because in a day and age where there are so many options for things to see, some things slip through the cracks. Unlike earlier days of television, there are many *channels* you haven't heard of, let alone actually entertaining shows. All of this completely depends on the people who write and act in these shows, and those unions are on strike.

So, they're on strike... so what? Well, in the short term this isn't something that will greatly affect the public. Movies and TV shows that were finished before the strike are still being put out or posted to streaming sites as they were expected to be. No big deal. Except we're starting to see the very first edges of the change coming our way. *Dune 2* has moved its release date because the actors in the film are on strike, so they won't go out on tour doing interviews and appearances to get people to pay to see the movie. *Deadpool 3*, slated to be released in September, then November, has shut down production because of the strike and may (or may not) be seen until May of '24... or later. Those are two big, easy to name productions, but the same issues will hit every other film and TV show. It's fine right now, but during the winter months when more folks stay inside and media takes on a larger role there will likely be a very large gap in anything new to see.

This isn't just the writers and actors. As soon as those key players stop so does the work for camera people, stunt teams, electricians, carpenters, model builders, even the catering team. In recent years movie companies have started adding messages to the ends of the credits about how many jobs were created or tapped in order to produce the film. Well, now none of those people have work in that industry – so they're doing whatever they can to get some kind of job to pay the bills.

Is this just a pay issue? No, it really isn't. Well, not just that. Yes the writers want more pay, but they also need protections and assurances for the continuity of their work. Part of this is a sustainable royalties structure and part of this is dealing with people who think the emerging technology of AI can just take their place. The same goes for actors as well. Bluntly, the better the tech gets the easier it will be to create 'fakes' that the public wouldn't necessarily be able to spot. There are a lot of challenging technical questions (and ethical ones if we're

being honest) about how much right anyone has to use YOUR image or likeness.

As I stated at the start, most of this is at a depth of detail that is beyond my level of understanding. There's an awful lot tied up in it and it's an industry that I'm not directly connected to on a day-to-day basis. What I am connected to is the entertainment they provide on a regular basis. There may be numerous complaints about no new ideas when we're looking at the third, fifth or even later installment of a movie franchise, but they all have a huge number of moving parts that need to work together to create the movies and shows we love. Hopefully, the negotiators will come to an agreement that allows the actors, writers and creators to be paid a living wage for what they create and allow them to continue giving us something to review.

Given the circumstances, I plan to write two more of these pieces to round out our year. Once those two are written I'm going to put these on hiatus for a while. After 3 years I've pulled together 34 of these for Watch The Skies. I'll see how the industry shakes out and what sort of things come up, but this feels like a good time for a break. Who knows, maybe there's a whole new feature coming our way next?



AVAILABLE NOW

Tillyer's News of the High Frontier

SEPTEMBER 2023

What's shaking? Well, it could be the one place we thought wouldn't – the moon and even better, it could be our fault. One of the reasons that the Earth experiences seismic activity is that the core of our planet is still molten. Unlike us, our satellite overhead has no such activity going on under the surface, so why are we detecting seismic rumbles on the Moon? While it is quiet in one way, the Moon does, however, experience something the Earth doesn't that can trigger some reactions. Without an atmosphere, the Moon goes through some truly epic temperature changes from night to day transitions. Dropping to as low as negative 208 degrees Fahrenheit in the shadows, temps can rocket all the way up to 250 in the sunlight. That's a heck of a rollercoaster ride to put the surface through. We've known this for a while, since Apollo 17, when the mission left behind seismic meters that relayed readings for almost a year. This information allowed scientists to predict the waves produced by the expansion and contraction of the heating. Other waves are believed to be caused by the impact of meteors. With the creation of a moonbase as part of the Artemis plan, it's important to know just how structurally sound we would have to create our buildings. It's a very different matter when we have to be focused on keeping the air in as well as the walls upright. But we mentioned being at fault for some of the moonquakes? Scientists realized that after reviewing the Apollo data there were quakes that were not the result of the thermal expansion of the Moon, but rather of something closer. Closer to the detectors that is, in fact it was the expansion of the discarded lunar module creating its own set of readings. At about 5-6 minutes apart, these mini-quakes showed up proving that the neighborhood value of everything decreases when humans leave their stuff around. It is a good reminder that not only do we have to take into consideration the naturally occurring seismic activity of the Moon but also the kind we are generating. Building a base directly on the surface could mean that heating of the structure could cause instability in the very ground it is set up and that's going to be important moving forward.

