

WATCH THE SKIES





The Black Company

By Glan Cook

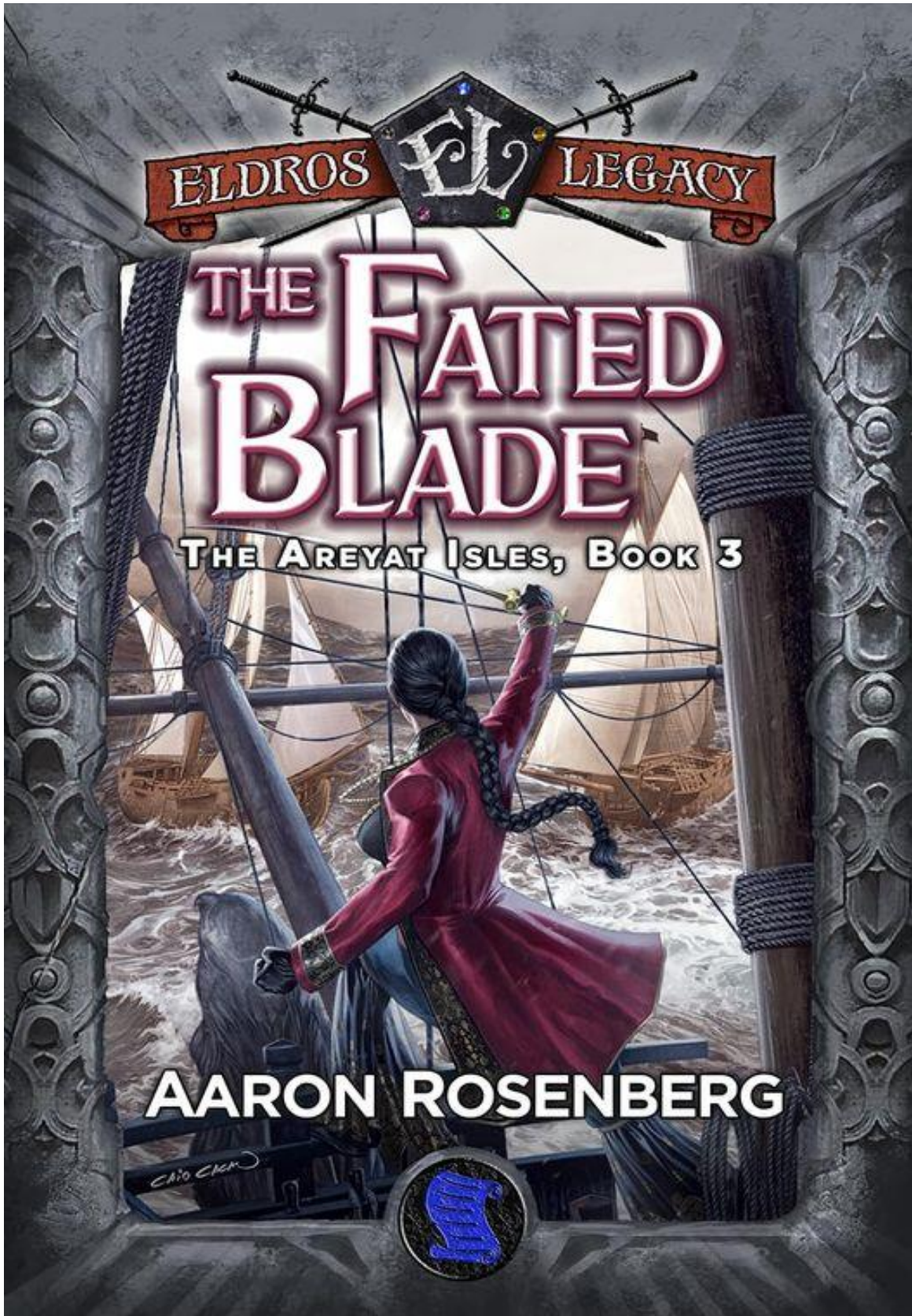
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To Croaker, the doctor, the Black Company feels as though it has always existed. Keeping the history means that he is more aware and focused on its ways and means than nearly any other. Although the Company has had its high points, their stay in the city of Beryl is surely one of the lowest. When the Captain is convinced to accept the patronage of a mysterious person, the soldiers leave to fight in the North. Here it becomes evident the Company is now in the employ of one of the Taken, a resurrected sorcerer in thrall to the greatest source of magic, The Lady. Embroiled in the power struggles to control the land, tied up in magical deceptions, and unsure if they are fighting on the right side, the Black Company faces its darkest hour. An unwitting focus in these struggles, Croaker will be where he'd least likely desire – right in the center of history in the making.

-Welcome to the 25th year of Watch the Skies, a whole quarter century!
January's meeting is on the 15th, in person, at the Simpson Library,
Mechanicsburg (unless otherwise announced) and the book of the month
is Day Zero – C. Robert Cargill

-Cover art by Eric V. Hardenbrook

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



AVAILABLE NOW

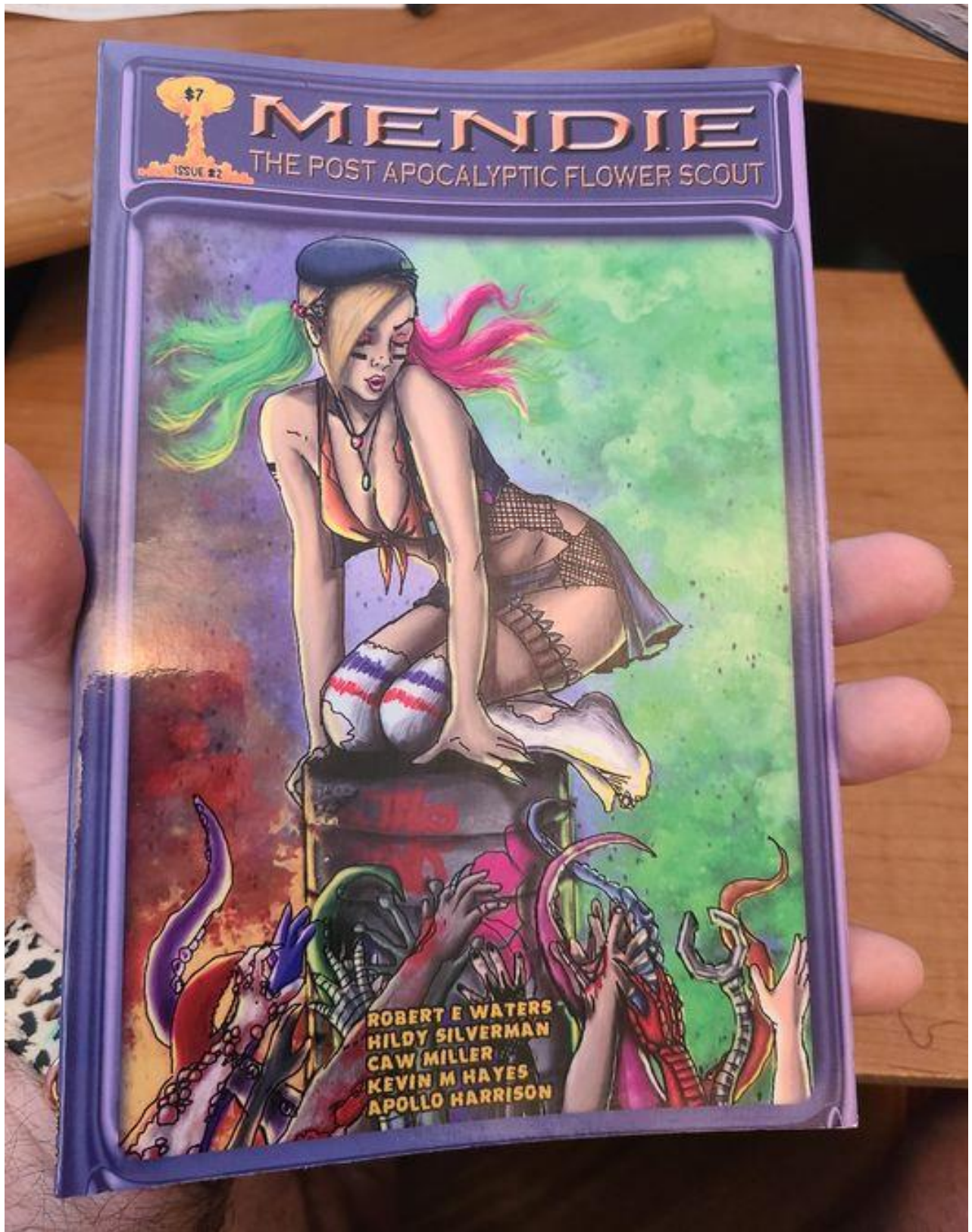
NEW RELEASES

DEC 2024

CHAZ BRENCHLEY - **Rowany de Vere**
GERVASIO GALLARDO - **A Life in Art**
VERONICA G. HENRY - **A Breathless Sky**
MERCEDES LACKEY - **Miss Amelia's List**
JONATHAN MABERRY - **Mystic**
SEANAN MCGUIRE - **Velveteen vs The Early Adventures**
EMMA NEWMAN - **The Vengeance**
JEFF NOON & STEVE BEARD - **Ludluda**
BRANDON SANDERSON - **Wind and Truth**
LUCIUS SHEPARD - **Green Eyes**
ADRIAN TCHAIKOVSKY - **Days of Shattered Faith**
MAKANA YAMAMOTO - **Hammajang Luck**
TIMOTHY ZAHN - **The Icarus Needle**

JANUARY 2025

KATHERINE ADDISON - **The Orb of Cairado**
CORY DOCTOROW - **Picks and Shovels**
LAURIE FOREST - **The Dryad Storm**
GRADY HENDRIX - **Witchcraft for Wayward Girls**
SHANNON LEE & FONDA LEE - **Breath of the Dragon**
MARINA LOSTETTER - **The Teeth of Dawn**
SEANAN MCGUIRE - **Adrift in Currents Clean and Clear**
TOBI OGUNDIRAN - **At the Fount of Creation**
NNEDI OKORAFOR - **Death of the Author**
EDWARD LEE & MARY SANGIOVANNI - **Strange Stones**
NISI SHAWL - **Making Amends**
CHARLES STROSS - **A Conventional Boy**
REBECCA YARROS - **Onyx Storm**



AVAILABLE NOW

NEWS OF THE REALM

Philcon 2024

87th convention, November 22-24, Double Tree by Hilton, Cherry Hill, NJ
Principle Speaker – Max Gladstone, Artist Guests Matthew Stewart and Gina Matarazzo, Special Guest Nghi Vo, and Musical Guest Cecilia Eng
“Started in 1936, Philcon features cutting-edge programming about literature, art, television, film, anime, comics, science, gaming, costuming and cosplay, music, and other topics of interest to fans of sci-fi, fantasy, and horror.”

2024 Ignyte Award Winners

Outstanding Novel: Adult

WINNER: **The Saint of Bright Doors** - Vajra Chandrasekera

Outstanding Novel: YA

WINNER: **I Feed Her to the Beast and the Beast Is Me** - Jamison Shae

Outstanding Middle Grade

WINNER: **Abeni’s Song** – P. Djèlí Clark

Outstanding Novella

WINNER: **The Lies of the Ajungo** - Moses Ose Utomi

Outstanding Novelette

WINNER: “Spell for Grief and Longing” - Eboni J. Dunbar

Outstanding Short Story

WINNER: “A Witch’s Transition in the City of Ghosts” - Oluwatomiwa Ajeigbe

THE STUDY OF FIRE



A COMPANION NOVEL TO *FIRE STUDY*

MARIA V. SNYDER

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

COMING 11/26

Tillyer's News of the High Frontier

NOVEMBER 2024

If you were counting on exotic theories about gravity to help us travel faster than light, the scientists who have been working with the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI) are going to spoil your hope because their data shows Mr. Einstein's classic 1915 theory of general relativity is still the best one. After four year's worth of observations, the consideration of 11 billion years of galactic development, and some heavy-duty data interpolation, the results show that the concepts of general relativity work on a universal scale as well as the typical tests we've applied in a more local fashion. The DESI, a device mounted on a 4-meter telescope at Kitt Peak Observatory, used 5000 sensors to observe 6 million galaxies stretching back into the distance (which is also time due to the speed of light) of 3 billion lightyears to consider how the universe developed. The results, in reference to the time frame of the formation of galaxies, prove out the theory of general relativity. But DESI is not a one trick pony. You might have noticed the "Dark Energy" part of its name. That part of the experiment is ongoing, and data brought in by the sensors may help us define something which everyone is struggling to nail down – just what is Dark Energy? DESI's observations bear out our ideas about the make up of the universe – the recipe is essentially 69% Dark Energy, 26% Dark Matter, and 5% Baryonic or normal everyday matter, the kind you and I can see and interact with. Having said we can interact with this matter, does also mean that doing so is not necessarily easy. DESI also had some interesting data about neutrinos. These particles are what are known as weakly interacting with matter, which means they tend to pass through it without anyone noticing unless there's some really delicate observation going on. They've got almost no mass and no charge and while there are a crazy amount of them flying around and through you too, right now. Attempts at detection are extremely difficult. So, trying to find out what they mass is a challenge. After a number of

experiments, scientist established a low-end estimate but couldn't go any farther until DESI came along. A review of the data from the experiment has allowed scientists to set an upper boundary to the weight of a neutrino. Finally, DESI has also allowed scientist to create a model of the universe itself even more detailed and exact than any previous one. This is called the Full Shape Analysis which considers why galaxies exist in their current configuration. Results from DESI were released in April and are continuing to allow scientists to make additional discoveries. The program is scheduled to run for another year with more results being made available next Spring.

As an aside, eSpec author David Lee Summers works at Kitt Peak. His facebook post from February 16th, 2019, talks about working in the clean room on the spectrograph cameras for the DESI. David continues to work at Kitt Peak.



