



**WATCH
THE**

SKIES



The Wanderers

By Chuck Wendig

24.2

It started with her sister and one by one grew into a phenomenon. The marching sleepwalkers, and their caring relatives became a world for Shana. She was just as baffled as the CDC, the police, and the government as to how people could just drop everything and walk along without food, water, or wear and tear on their feet. The “flock”, as they became known, made their way across the states while the CDC tried desperately to understand their affliction. The people in their mindless state became a focus for the nation – were they something to be feared, were they a sign, what was their goal? The answers were stranger than anyone was prepared for. An artificial intelligence lurked in the background and was it truly focused on saving the human race? Were the flock truly ill, were they still conscious, and could they be cured? A presidential race, power hungry militias, and a veritable plague all would come to a boil before the flock reached their final destination. Once there, Shana would have to decide if the future she was offered was one she could live with.

- March's meeting is on the 20th, in person, at the Simpson Library, Mechanicsburg (unless otherwise announced) and the book of the month is *The Left-Handed Booksellers of London* by Garth Nix
- Cover art by Eric V. Hardenbrook

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

NEW RELEASES

MARCH 2024

KAGE BAKER - *Maelstrom and Other Martian Tales*

BODHISATTVA CHATTOPADHYAY, ED. - *Inhumans and Other Stories: A Selection of Bengali Science Fiction*

SEB DOUBINSKY - *The Horror*

HARLAN ELLISON - *Greatest Hits*

HADEER ELSBAI - *The Weavers of Alamaxa*

KIM HARRISON - *Three Kinds of Lucky*

VERONICA G. HENRY - *The Canopy Keepers*

LUCY HOLLAND - *Song of the Huntress*

HAO JINGFANG - *Jumpnauts*

STEPHEN GRAHAM JONES - *The Angel of Indian Lake*

JOE R. LANSDALE - *The Unlikely Affair of the Crawling Razor*

LEE MANDELO - *The Woods All Black*

SEANAN MCGUIRE - *Aftermarket Afterlife*

PREMEE MOHAMED - *The Siege of Burning Grass*

THOMAS OLDE HEUVELT - *Oracle*

ADRIAN TCHAIKOVSKY - *Alien Clay*

MOSES OSE UTOMI - *The Truth of the Aleke*

TIMOTHY ZAHN - *The Icarus Job*

CALISTA LINDQUIST IS

THE KILLER OF DEVILS

BOOK 1

CLOWNS

VIKTOR
BLOODSTONE



AVAILABLE NOW

NEWS OF THE REALM

-Registration and rooms are now available for Balticon 58 (May 24-27) to be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Baltimore Inner Harbor. Guests of honor L.E. Modesitt, Jr. and Sheila Williams. 300+ hours of programming, filk, film festival, cosplay Masquerade, Art Show and more await you.



-SciFi Valley Con, June 7th-9th will be at the Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA featuring Billy West, Phil Lamarr, Greg Baldwin, Lauren Tom, Steven Ogg, Ned Luke, and Shawn "Solo" Fonteno.



-Hershey Comicon – the sweetest Comic Con on Earth – will run from June 29th-30th at the Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA. Guests include Mark Morales, Bob McLeod, Scott Hanna, Geof Isherwood, Wayne Faucher, Deegan Puchkors and Chris Ring. Comic Sellers, Exhibitors, Cosplay, and more.

-Also, the same weekend – Horror on Main located at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, Harrisburg, PA. Guests include Oded Fehr, John Russo, Daniele Serra, Jeffrey Reddick, Jeff Goodwin, Chris Alexander, and Rio Youers.



-Shore Leave 44, July 26th-28th has relocated to the Wyndham Lancaster Resort, Lancaster, PA and features such guests as Amanda Tapping, Teryl Rothery, Greg Grunberg, and Ingvild Deila.



-And at exact the same time - Confluence – Pittsburg’s Literary Science Fiction and Fantasy convention will occur on July 26th-28th at the Sheraton Hotel Pittsburgh Airport Hotel in Coraopolis, PA. Guest of Honor will be New York Times Bestselling author, Richard Kadrey. Featured musical guest is Bonnie Gordon.



Do you like my treats? Do you like to cook?

Want to help me produce my long-requested cookbook? It has a bunch of cookie recipes in it!

You can check it out here: <http://kck.st/3uHCZdF>

The Art of Fandom

The String Witch

One of the longest standing members of our group is Mary. In all the years I've known Mary I've always been deeply impressed with her knowledge of and accomplishments with various forms of fiber arts. Weaving and creating some fantastic patterns creating something completely by hand. That being said, I don't actually know many details. I decided it was high time I found out!

Fiber arts seems like a catch all phrase to me. How would you describe or list the various forms of works you create?

Mary: I spin yarn. Sometimes I actually knit or weave with the yarns I have created. I have a floor loom and weave on that, as well as tablet weaving narrow pieces; like those shown in the pictures.

How long have you been spinning, knitting and weaving?

Mary: I started in the mid 1990s. I took a drop-spinning class and was able to actually make it work. Within a few years I bought and assembled my spinning wheel, they come unassembled. Tablet weaving is not loom dependent, although it is easier that way. I bought a book and pretty much taught myself. The rest of it evolved over time.

What is your favorite part of all the processes you do?

Mary: I love the planning of the project and watching the it grow from the idea to the end product.

How long will a piece like these weaves take?

Mary: It generally takes a couple of weeks it depends on how much time I can devote to it.

How long are those weave pieces?

Mary: I honestly don't remember... I generally start with about 3 yards of warp and up with about 2.5 yards (of finished product).

Would a weave piece like that generally be used as trim on a period piece of clothing?

Mary: Yes, that (the green) piece was put on a Viking Coat. The other pieces could be used for the same .

Is this the sort of thing a casual hobby person could pick up?

Mary: Yes. I taught myself from a book. Now there are several books aimed at beginners. YouTube is also a great resource.

A very big thank you to Mary for sharing her artistry with us!



Tillyer's News of the High Frontier

January 2024

Due to their ability to absorb literally everything, what we know about black holes is all done by inference and theory. What we know about the mysterious Buchdahl stars is even less. While they have many of the same characteristics as a black hole, these stars are missing one key element – an event horizon. The event horizon of a black hole is the point where information cannot escape. It's the key reason black holes are black because the horizon is the point of no return for everything including light. So, how can Buchdahl stars, which are the densest objects in the universe this side of black holes, exist? Hans Adolf Buchdahl created a model star in order to determine the point at which stellar remnants must become black holes. The result, known as the Buchdahl Limit is $\frac{9}{4}$ times the objects mass, multiplied by the gravitational constant and then divided by the speed of light squared. (Observant readers will recognize that final term from $e=mc$ -squared) If a star collapses below this radius, its fate is sealed. However, objects that live just outside of the radius can surpass even neutron stars in density and exhibit some of the characteristics of black holes. Follow along as we try to wrap our minds around the recent findings of Naresh Didhich, physicist from Pune, India who has been hunting Buchdahl stars. When stars collapse two forms of energy occur. One is the gravitational potential energy, which since gravity itself is attractive, is considered negative. On the other hand, the interior of the star gains kinetic energy as decreasing volume increases the collisions between atoms occupying less space. Didhich's work suggests that there can be an equilibrium reached when the kinetic energy is equal to half of the gravitational potential. This theory has parallels with others where forces of various types balance out gravity. Now we have a theory that explains how a theoretical star can exist – why do we care? Let's go back to the beginning and remember everything we know about black holes is from inference. What we could learn from Buchdahl stars could be directly observed because there is no event horizon to keep things secret. It is even possible that probes launched at such a star could actually escape its gravitational pull. It all sounds like exactly what astronomers would love. There's just one problem – the Buchdahl stars still remain theoretical at this point. Astronomers are still looking for the key to discovering these strange objects and until then, their secrets are just as safe as if they were hiding behind an event horizon



THE STUDY
CHRONICLES



Tales of Ixia & Sitia

MARIA V. SNYDER

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR



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