

WATCH THE SKIES



The Left-Handed Booksellers of London

By Garth Nix

24.3

Susan's ordinary. Never mind the strange reoccurring dreams of something in the stream or talking ravens. Her mother is dazed and confused about her past and Susan's father. It was the seventies after all. But now in 1983, after turning 18, it's time for some answers, and London appears to be a logical destination. Susan may not be ready for what is waiting for her there. The trail to her father runs her headlong into a mythological reality that lays slumbering beneath the surface of ordinary life. Kept asleep by the Booksellers of London, a secret group of mystics and warriors with the oddest personalities, the beasts and creatures of legend are waking with one interest – Susan. As she get's closer to the answers she seeks it may turn out that London may not be ready for Susan...

-April's meeting is on the 17th, in person, at the Simpson Library, Mechanicsburg (unless otherwise announced) and the book of the month is *The Body Scout*-Lincoln Michel.

-Cover art by Eric V. Hardenbrook

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

NEW RELEASES

APRIL 2024

EDWARD ASHTON - **Mal Goes to War**

LEIGH BARDUGO - **The Familiar**

S.A. BARNES - **Ghost Station**

STEVEN BRUST - **Lyorn**

V. CASTRO - **Immortal Pleasures**

RIN CHUPECO - **Court of Wanderers**

P. DJÈLÍ CLARK - **The Dead Cat Tail Assassins**

JULIE E. CZERNEDA - **A Change of Place**

SARAH BETH DURST - **The Lies Among Us**

H.E. EDGMON - **Merciless Saviors**

IAN C. ESSELMONT - **Forge of the High Mage**

DANIEL M. FORD - **Necrobane**

MAX GLADSTONE - **Wicked Problems**

LIZ KERIN - **First Light**

GREG KEYES - **The Wind that Sweeps the Stars**

MARK LAWRENCE - **The Lie That Broke the World**

ANN LECKIE - **Lake of Souls**

DARCIE LITTLE BADGER - **Sheine Lende**

CIXIN LIU - **A View from the Stars**

TARAN MATHARU - **Dragon Rider**

SEANAN MCGUIRE - **The Proper Thing**

SAMANTHA MILLS - **The Wings Upon Her Back**

THOMAS OLDE HEUVELT - **Oracle**

CHRISTOPHER RUOCCHIO - **Apr 2024 (hc, eb)**

CHRISTOPHER RUOCCHIO - **Disquiet Gods**

SALMAN RUSHDIE - **Knife: Meditations After an Attempt-ed Murder**

R.A. SALVATORE - **Pinquickle's Folly**

SOFIA SAMATAR - **The Practice**

DAVID J. SCHOW - **Suite 13**

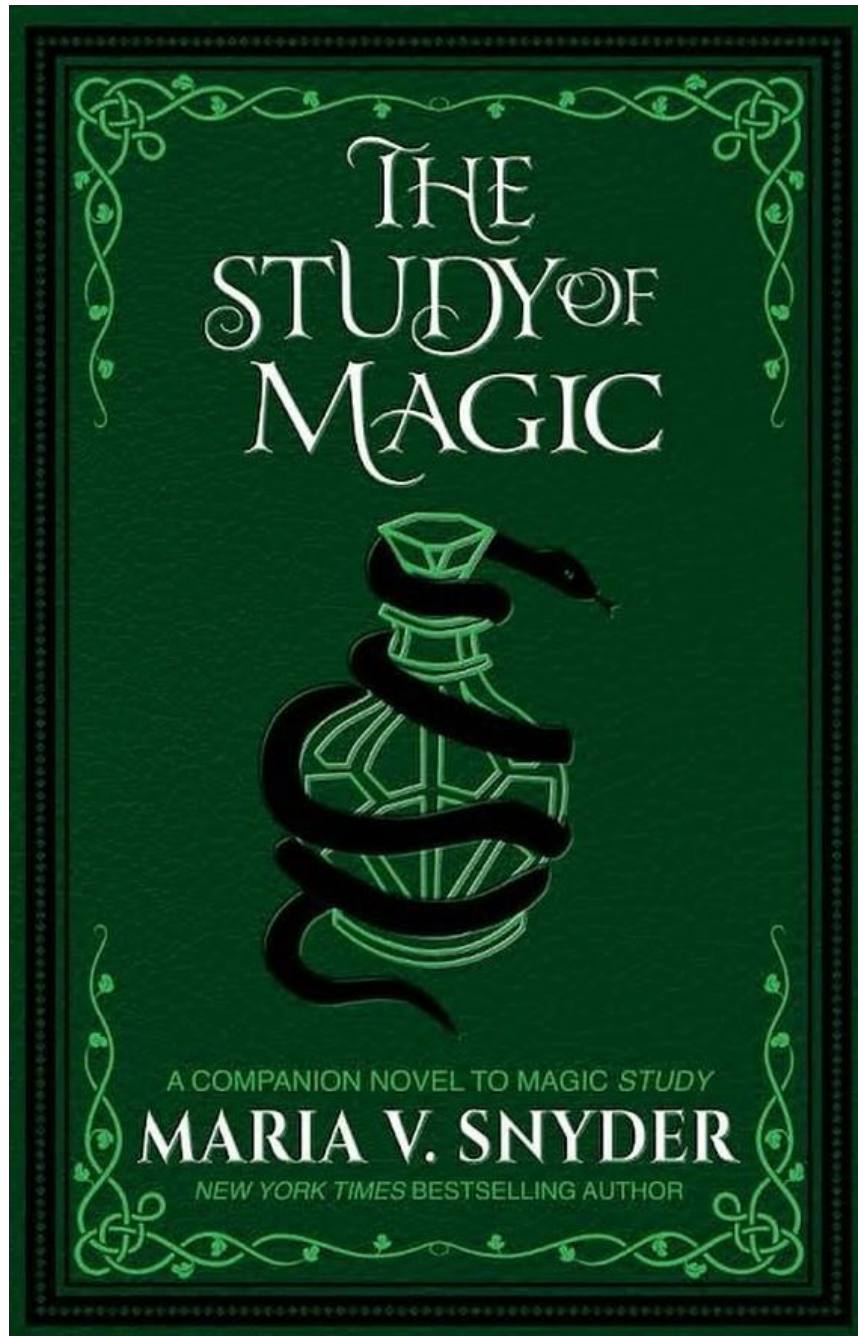
DAVID WEBER - **Toll of Honor**

ALIYA WHITELEY - **Polestars 6: Drive or Be Driven**

LIZ WILLIAMS - **Polestars 7: Back Through the Flam-ing Door**

JOHN WISWELL - **Someone You Can Build a Nest In**

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



AVAILABLE APRIL 19TH

NEWS OF THE REALM

Nebula Award Nominees

Nebula Award for Novel

The Saint of Bright Doors - Vajra Chandrasekera
The Water Outlaws - S.L. Huang
Translation State - Ann Leckie
The Terraformers - Annalee Newitz
Shigidi and the Brass Head of Obalufon - Wole Talabi
Witch King - Martha Wells

Nebula Award for Novella

- The Crane Husband* - Kelly Barnhill
- *Linghun* - Ai Jiang
- Thornhedge* - T. Kingfisher
Untethered Sky - Fonda Lee
The Mimicking of Known Successes - Malka Older
Mammoths at the Gates - Nghi Vo

Nebula Award for Novelette

"A Short Biography of a Conscious Chair" - Renan Bernardo
"I Am AI" - Ai Jiang
"The Year Without Sunshine" - Naomi Kritzer
"Imagine: Purple-Haired Girl Shooting Down The Moon" - Angela Liu
"Saturday's Song" - Wole Talabi
"Six Versions of My Brother Found Under the Bridge" - Eugenia Triantafyllou

Nebula Award for Short Story

"Once Upon a Time at The Oakmont" - P.A. Cornell
"Tantie Merle and the Farmhand 4200" - R.S.A Garcia
"Window Boy" - Thomas Ha
"The Sound of Children Screaming" - Rachael K. Jones
"Better Living Through Algorithms" - Naomi Kritzer
"Bad Doors", John Wiswell

Andre Norton Nebula Award for Middle Grade and Young Adult Fiction

To Shape a Dragon's Breath - Moniquill Blackgoose
The Inn at the Amethyst Lantern - J. Dianne Dotson
Liberty's Daughter - Naomi Kritzer
The Ghost Job - Greg van Eekhout

For the complete list - <https://file770.com/sfwa-announces-the-59th-nebula-awards-finalists/>

CONVENTIONS

-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.



eSpec Books Available at Tell-Tale Steampunk Convention

The Art of Fandom

The Bag Lady

Continuing to dig into the wealth of talent that lives among our members, I had the opportunity to chat with Pam about her fabulous bags! Dame Dahlia Creations is the real showcase of her work, but I wanted to get more detail, so we did an interview!

How would you describe what you do? I mean, you're essentially a handbag/tote creator, right? You do all the material cutting and sewing?

Pam: While I don't design my own patterns, I do everything else. I select the fabric/material based on what the individual wants or something if I just find some really cool fabric and get inspired. I cut everything out and sew it all together. It can take anywhere from 10 - 60 hours to make depends on the pattern. Certainly a labor of love.

How did you get started doing this?

Pam: I started sewing about 7-8 years ago making costumes and fun stuff like that. Then I started making retro inspired dresses. 40s, 50s, 60s styles. I was having a hard time finding handbags to match the outfits. So I looked for some patterns and found some and just started making them. I'd post on my personal Facebook page the different bags I was making. My friends kept commenting asking if I made them to sell. When my husband was going through cancer treatment, it gave me something to focus on instead of just taking care of him.

[do you want me to include that last bit?]

Pam: Sure you can. When going through something like cancer the caretaker has to take care of themselves as well. Having a hobby or something to focus on instead of the ick that is cancer is important.

Do you have a favorite piece that you've done? Or, one that you really didn't want to let go of?

Pam: I have several but the one that really sticks out is a sugar skull one. I just loved how that one came out. The woman who bought it was so excited because she just loves sugar skulls and well skulls in general. In fact the dress she was wearing matched the pattern on that bag pretty well so it went to the right home but part of me was sad to see it go.

What is your favorite part of the whole process?

Pam: Seeing it really start to come together. That particular bag has 45 individual pieces. It's difficult to see how it will actually come together. Finding all the little

fun things - like zipper pulls to match. Then seeing the person's face when they see it done. Seeing the person's face when they see their custom bag makes all the work rewarding.

A very big thank you to Pam for sharing her creations with us! Be sure to head over to her site and check out all the fabulous things she makes!

<https://www.damedahlia.com/>



Tillyer's News of the High Frontier

March 2024 The Eclipse – Basics

-Sorry we're not in the right spot – yes, you really want to be in the line that the eclipse is visible to achieve the experience of totality (complete coverage of the Sun by the Moon, with exception of the corona). Erie and Ohio are your closest possibilities for proper positioning and the best is at the center of the shadow line. But wait, you can still see the eclipse, only your experience will be of a partial eclipse. Philadelphia will see 88% coverage, which is better than the previous eclipse in 2017, so it's definitely worth being outside.

[Solar Eclipses - Interactive Google Maps - Xavier Jubier \(free.fr\)](#)

-If you are travelling, plan ahead – as in you should have already done it. This is an event that will cause people to travel. Areas experiencing totality probably have had their housing options rented long in advance. Ohio and Texas have both issued warnings to residents to stock up on water and fuel because of the influx of visitors who will be expecting to purchase these essentials.

-Where outside are you planning on viewing the eclipse? The best spots are areas that provide a completely clear view. Hills are great options. Some scenic views can also offer good possibilities. If you are planning on experiencing the eclipse from start to finish, you will want a comfortable portable seat, water and possibly snacks. A good book is also a great companion in the lead up and wind down of the eclipse.

-Think about when you want to arrive and adjust. More people are going to be travelling on the day before the eclipse. Leave yourself some time to arrive early and get settled. The last thing you want to do is miss out. Just like the end of a sporting event or a concert, traffic will probably be the heaviest after the eclipse.

-Filters or indirect viewing – your eyes are delicate and important. Looking directly at the eclipse or the Sun at any time can cause them damage. Hobby shops or science websites can help you out. When considering glasses make sure that they have the ISO 1232-2 stamp and are in good condition with no scratches. Don't wait too long, it's not long until April 8th. If you are using a camera, read up first. The plate that captures the light for electronic images is also delicate, and you will want a filter for your camera as well. It should go without saying that observing through a telescope absolutely requires a filter since the device is designed to capture and magnify light. Don't let your eye be the ant under the magnifying glass!

<https://bestreviews.com/electronics/binoculars/best-eclipse-viewing-glasses>

-Adjust your expectations – the eclipse in our area will achieve its best coverage

at around 3:23PM. The actual eclipse will last longer. Even if you do go to Erie, totality will last about 3 minutes 24 seconds. Folks in Mexico's totality will be more like 4 and a half minutes. The arc of the shadow's journey across the sphere of the Earth distorts the shadow of the Moon changing its coverage of the ground. So, be prepared, your picture taking time is limited.

-What happened to my phone? Locally, cell phone networks in the path of totality could be strained as everybody and their brother tries to post their pictures and videos on Instagram, facebook, and tiktok. Lower your expectations as far as your cell service.

-Why is this eclipse better than the last one? 2017's eclipse was during the quieter period of the Sun's activity cycle. Coronas were still visible to viewers in totality. 2024 is a different story because the current state of the Sun is the opposite. As we are closer to the solar maximum, viewers may see streamers and prominences due to the activity of the magnetic field. It's even possible with really good timing a coronal mass ejection may occur where the sun actually throws off a portion of its atmosphere.

-Observe the moment. No matter how close you are to line of totality interesting things are going to happen during the peak of the eclipse. The obvious part is the change in the light. Of course, if you are in the path, you will find all of the common unusual effects, darkness, chill in the air, change in sound and others. These obviously occur at lesser degrees outside of the path of the eclipse. It's easy to keep clicking away with a phone or a camera, but your senses are also great ways to capture the experience. How ever you choose to view, enjoy it because there will not be another total eclipse whose path crosses the continental US until 2044.



2017 Partial Eclipse, JY

[Great American Eclipse](#)

[Total solar eclipse 2024: Everything you need to know | Space Eclipsophile | Climatology and weather for celestial events](#)

