

WATCH
THE

SKIES



The Atlas Six

By Olivie Blake

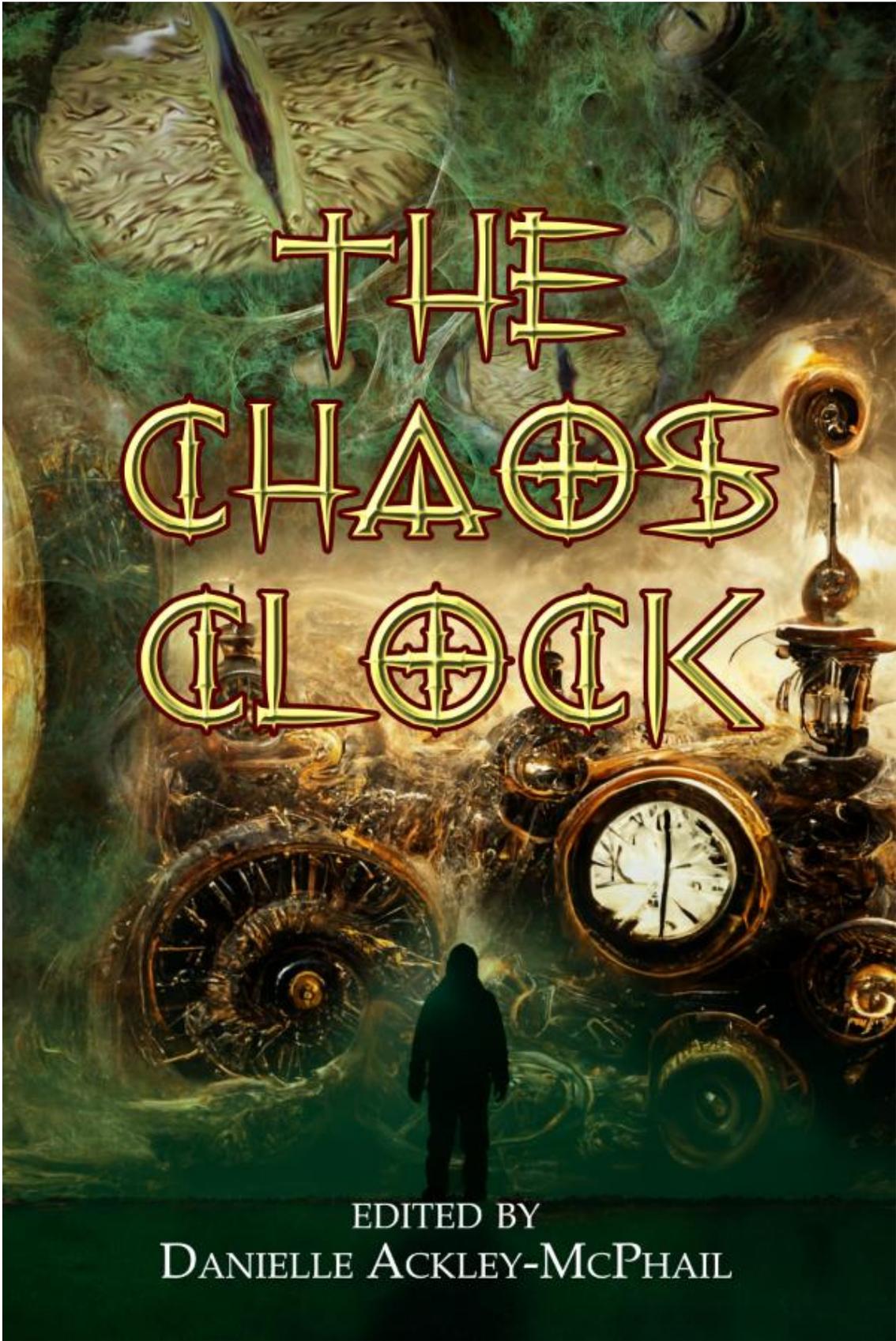
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Six with the talents that make them stand above all others with magical abilities are chosen to compete for the opportunity to join the Alexandrian Society every decade. Pledged to maintain the ancient esoteric knowledge that originated in the Library of Alexandria, the initiates will gain access to powers that will only amplify their own further. But ultimately only five will be accepted into the Society – let the competition begin. From all walks of life and with secret reasons for accepting this honor, each will have to make choices that alter their current lives and their futures. Alliances will be made, and betrayals will be planned. As they come to know each other better, the familiarity only provides more weaknesses to be attacked or exploited. No one is safe from each other's machinations and at no point are they told that they all will survive the year of trial. Who will fall and who will triumph in this tale of dark academia?

-September's meeting is on the 18th, in person, at the Simpson Library, Mechanicsburg (unless otherwise announced) and the book of the month is Annihilation – Jeff Vandermeer

-Cover art by Eric V. Hardenbrook

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



AVAILABLE NOW

NEW RELEASES

SEPTEMBER 2024

BEN AARONOVITCH - **The Masquerades of Spring**
KEMI ASHING-GIWA - **This World Is Not Yours**
CHERITH BALDRY - **The Chronicles of Sir Kay**
STEPHEN BAXTER - **Fortress Sol**
ELIZABETH BEAR - **The Folded Sky**
BROM - **Evil in Me**
ELLEN DATLOW, ED. - **Fears**
DELILAH S. DAWSON - **Guillotine**
ALIETTE DE BODARD - **In the Shadow of the Ship**
OGHENECHOVWE DONALD EKPEKI, ED. - **The Year's Best African Speculative Fiction**
BRIAN EVENSON - **Good Night • Sleep Tight,**
PETER F. HAMILTON - **Exodus: The Archimedes Engine**
M. JOHN HARRISON - **Wish I Was Here**
CHARLIE N. HOLMBERG - **Still the Sun**
TJ KLUNE - **Somewhere Beyond the Sea**
JONATHAN MABERRY - **Midnight Lullabies: Unquiet Stories and Poems**
IAN MCDONALD - **The Wilding**
XUETING C. NI, ED. - **Sinophagia**
NAOMI NOVIK - **Buried Deep and Other Stories**
SUZAN PALUMBO - **Countess**
JASON PARGIN - **I'm Starting to Worry About This Black Box of Doom**
SARAH PINSKER - **Haunt Sweet Home**
HANNU RAJANIEMI - **Darkome**
CAT RAMBO - **Rumor Has It**
PHILIP REEVE - **Thunder City**
ANTHONY RYAN - **The Road of Storms**
ANTHONY RYAN - **A Tide of Black**
NEAL STEPHENSON - **Polostan**
ADRIAN TCHAIKOVSKY - **Alien Clay**
CATHERYNNE M. VALENTE - **Space Oddity**
KIERSTEN WHITE - **Lucy Undying**
CONNIE WILLIS - **The Road to Roswell**



HAPPY 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY TO eSPEC BOOKS

NEWS OF THE REALM

The Hugo Award Winners 2024



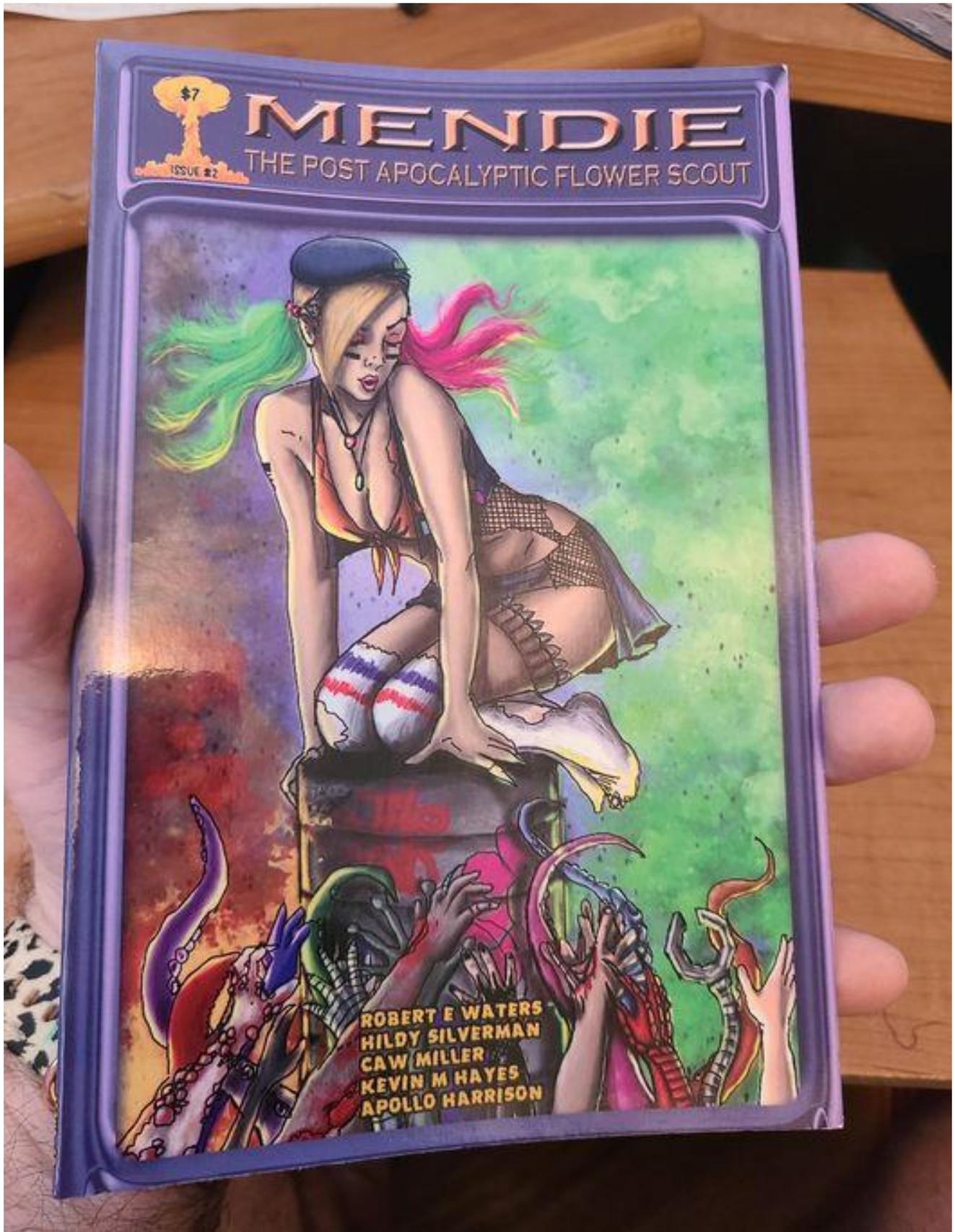
- Best Novel** – Some Desperate Glory – Emily Tesh
- Best Novella** – Thornhedge – T. Kingfisher
- Best Novelette** – “The Year Without Sunshine” – Naomi Kritzer
- Best Short Story** – “Better Living through Algorithms” – Naomi Kritzer
- Best Series** – Imperial Radach by Ann Leckie
- Best Graphic Story** – Saga, Volume 11
- Best related Work** – A City on Mars – Kelly Weinersmith and Zach Weinersmith
- Best Dramatic Presentation** – Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves
- Best Dramatic Presentation Short Form** – The Last of Us, “Long, Long Time”
- Best Game or Interactive Work** – Baldur’s Gate 3
- Best Editor Short Form** – Neil Clarke
- Best Editor Long Form** – Ruoxi Chen
- Best Professional Artist** – Rovina Cai
- Best Semiprozine** – Strange Horizons
- Best Fanzine** – Nerds of a Feather, Flock Together
- Best Fancast** – Octothorpe
- Best Fan Writer** – Paul Weimer
- Best Fan Artist** – Laya Rose

The Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book 2024

To Shape a Dragon’s Breath – Moniquill Blackgoose

Astounding Award for Best New Writer 2024

Xiran Jay Zhao



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Tillyer's News of the High Frontier
AUGUST 2024

-Well, that didn't go as planned – on June 30th, China's Tianlong-3 rocket changed a static test fire into a dynamic launch with unfortunately destructive results. Beijing's Space Pioneer company's test in Gongyi plans went awry when the anchoring mechanism on the rocket failed. The flight was short and was terminated by a nearby hilly area. Luckily there were no injuries as a result of the accident. In 2023 Space Pioneer had a successful trip to orbit with their Tianlong-2, making them the first private company in China to accomplish this goal. Hopefully, they will be able to get back on track.

-Space-X on the other hand, used their Falcon 9 to place 116 satellites into orbit. 70% of the payload was devoted to the Starlink system. One of the experiments will test the Nvidia Jetson Orin NX Chip protected by a nanoparticle infused polymer which will be used on the hardware of the Transporter 11 mission.

-The astronauts of the Boeing Starliner mission were originally planning on spending 10 days at the International Space Station. They've been there more than 70 now. NASA's not willing to let them return in the Starliner until issues with the propulsion and thruster systems are resolved. Astronauts Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore were trained to take on many of the tasks on the ISS, so they've been far from bored. How they are getting back to Earth may be decided very soon. NASA is looking at two options currently: adding seats to the cargo area of SpaceX's Crew Dragon, which is currently at the station, or launching a Crew-9 with half the crew, leaving two seats open for the astronauts.

-Internet has been full of aurora pictures recently and the phenomenon was visible locally. The light shows are a result of the Sun's active solar cycle and this one's been hitting several highs. Right now, observers are recording hundreds of sunspots, areas that appear dark against the bright surface of the Sun. The places have strong magnetic fields and can create solar flares that fling energy and mass into space. The cycle runs every 11 years with the activity peaking in the middle. Keep an eye out for advance warning of imminent solar storms and more auroras may be in our future.

-Not exactly what was advertised in the brochure – pieces of a SpaceX Crew Dragon ended up on a trail at The Glamping Collective in Canton, NC. After it was reported, NASA had a look and confirmed that this piece and several others, that showed up in people's yards, were from the "trunk" part of the vehicle and expected to burn up on re-entry. Unfortunately, other incidences are indicating that the trunks do not always completely burn.

