

WATCH

THE



SKIES



Song for a New Day

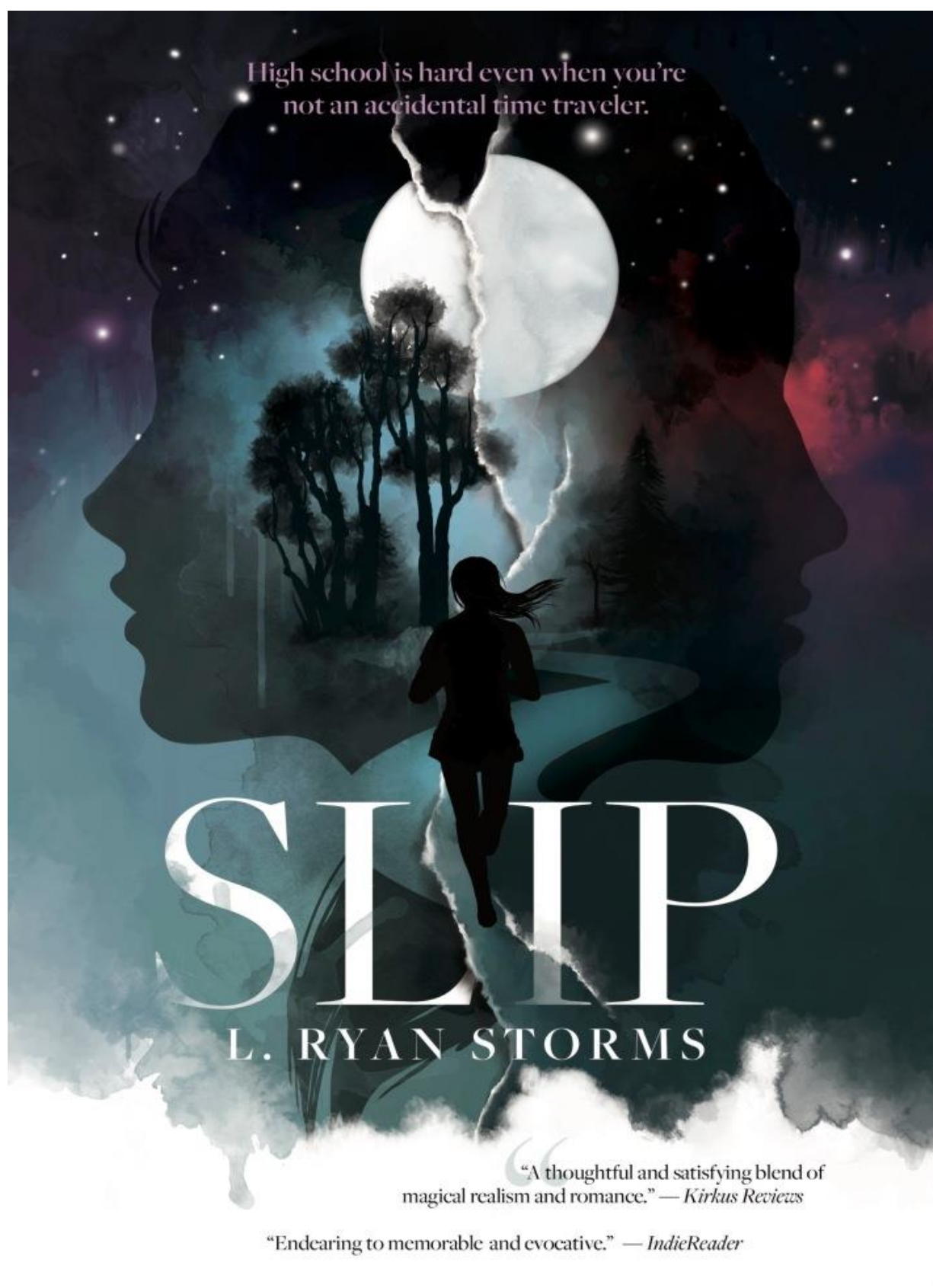
By Sarah Pinsker

25.5

You can play any note over any chord and any chord over any note, but can it drown out the sound of the world you know ending? Luce's life was music. When success found her, everything changed for everyone and not for the better. Now the musicians hide in shadows because the government won't let people congregate in groups based on a fear of disease and terrorism. Music, though, music was meant to be heard. There are people like Rosemary who innocently believe they are bringing the songs to the people through corporate controlled holo shows. Then there's Luce playing host to bands in underground venues. Neither situation can last. Can you hear the revolution? It won't be televised, it won't be broadcast, but it will ring loud from every street corner.

-Welcome to the 25th year of Watch the Skies, a whole quarter century!
May's meeting is on the 21st, in person, at the Simpson Library, Mechanicsburg (unless otherwise announced) and the book of the month is Assassin's Apprentice – Robin Hobb
-Cover art by Eric V. Hardenbrook

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



High school is hard even when you're
not an accidental time traveler.

SLEEP

L. RYAN STORMS

“A thoughtful and satisfying blend of
magical realism and romance.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

“Endearing to memorable and evocative.” — *IndieReader*

AVAILABLE NOW

NEW RELEASES

JUNE 2025

ELIZABETH BEAR - The Folded Sky

**L. TIMMEL DUCHAMP - Like Shards of Rainbows
Frolicking in the Air**

KATE ELLIOTT - The Witch Roads

ERIC FLINT & RYK E. SPOOR - Fenrir

AUSTON HABERSHAW - If Wishes Were Retail

K. IBURA - Tempest

**ALLAN KASTER, ED. - The Year's Top Hard Science
Fiction Stories 9**

MATTHEW KRESSEL - Space Trucker Jess

MERCEDES LACKEY & LARRY DIXON - Gryphon's Valor

**HELEN MARSHALL - The Lady the Tiger, and the Girl
Who Loved Death**

MALKA OLDER - The Potency of Ungovernable Impulses

H.G. PARRY - A Far Better Thing

RORY POWER - Kill Creatures

**ALASTAIR REYNOLDS - The Revelation Space Collection -
Volume 1**

**ALASTAIR REYNOLDS - The Revelation Space Collection -
Volume 2**

V.E. SCHWAB - Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil

ADRIAN TCHAIKOVSKY Bee Speaker

ADRIAN TCHAIKOVSKY - Shroud

JOHN WISWELL - Wearing the Lion

THE PROGENY OF DEVILS BOOK 2

THE NIGHTMARE IN THEIR BLOOD



VIKTOR BLOODSTONE

AVAILABLE NOW

NEWS OF THE REALM

Hugo Awards 2025 Finalists

Best Novel

The Tainted Cup- Robert Jackson Bennett
The Ministry of Time- Kaliane Bradley
A Sorceress Comes to Call- T. Kingfisher
Alien Clay- Adrian Tchaikovsky
Service Model- Adrian Tchaikovsky
Someone You Can Build a Nest In- John Wiswell

Best Novella

Navigational Entanglements- Aliette de Bodard
What Feasts at Night- T. Kingfisher
The Butcher of the Forest- Preeje Mohamed
The Tusks of Extinction- Ray Nayler
The Practice, the Horizon, and the Chain- Sofia Samatar
The Brides of High Hill-, Nghi Vo

Best Novelette

"The Brotherhood of Montague St. Video"- Thomas Ha
"The Four Sisters Overlooking the Sea"- Naomi Kritzer
"Lake of Souls"- Ann Leckie
"By Salt, by Sea, by Light of Stars"- Preeje Mohamed
"Signs of Life"- Sarah Pinsker
"Loneliness Universe"- Eugenia Triantafyllou

Best Short Story

"Five Views of the Planet Tartarus"- Rachael K. Jones
"Why Don't We Just Kill the Kid in the Omelas Hole"- Isabel J. Kim
"Marginalia"- Mary Robinette Kowal
"Three Faces of a Beheading"- Arkady Martine
"Stitched to Skin Like Family Is"- Nghi Vo
"We Will Teach You How to Read | We Will Teach You How to Read"-
Caroline M. Yoachim

Best Series

InCryptid- Seanan McGuire (DAW; Tor)
Between Earth and Sky- Rebecca Roanhorse
The Stormlight Archive- Brandon Sanderson
The Burning Kingdoms- Tasha Suri
The Tyrant Philosophers- Adrian Tchaikovsky
Southern Reach- Jeff VanderMeer

Best Graphic Story or Comic

The Deep Dark- Molly Knox Ostertag
The Hunger and the Dusk: Vol 1- written by G. Willow Wilson, art by Chris Wildgoose
Monstress, Vol. 9: The Possessed- written by Marjorie Liu, art by Sana Takeda
My Favorite Thing Is Monsters- Book Two, Emil Ferris
Star Trek: Lower Decks: Warp Your Own Way- written by Ryan North, art by Chris Fenoglio
We Called Them Giants- written by Kieron Gillen, art by Stephanie Hans, lettering by Clayton Cowles

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form

Dune: Part Two
Flow
Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga
I Saw the TV Glow
Wicked
The Wild Robot

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form

Fallout: "The Beginning"
Agatha All Along: "Death's Hand in Mine"
Doctor Who: "Dot and Bubble"
Star Trek: Lower Decks: "Fissure Quest"
Star Trek: Lower Decks: "The New Next Generation"
Doctor Who: "73 Yards"

Best Game or Interactive Work

1000xRESIST
Caves of Qud
Dragon Age: The Veilguard
The Legend of Zelda: Echoes of Wisdom
Lorelei and the Laser Eyes
Tactical Breach Wizards

Best Editor, Short Form

Scott H. Andrews
Jennifer Brozek
Neil Clarke
Jonathan Strahan
Lynne M. Thomas & Michael Damian Thomas
Sheila Williams

Best Editor, Long Form

Carl Engle-Laird
Ali Fisher
Lee Harris
David Thomas Moore
Diana M. Pho
Stephanie Stein

Best Professional Artist

Micaela Alcaino
Audrey Benjaminsen
Rovina Cai
Maurizio Manzieri
Tran Nguyen
Alyssa Winans

Best Semiprozine

The Deadlands
Escape Pod
FIYAH

khōréō
Strange Horizons
Uncanny

Best Fanzine

Ancillary Review of Books
Black Nerd Problems
The Full Lid
Galactic Journey,
Journey Planet
Silver
Unofficial Hugo Book Club Blog

Best Fancast

The Coode Street Podcast
Eight Days of Diana Wynne Jones
Hugo, Girl!
Hugos There
A Meal of Thorns
Worldbuilding for Masochists

Best Fan Writer

Camestros Felapton
Abigail Nussbaum
Roseanna Pendlebury
Jason Sanford
Alasdair Stuart
Örjan Westin

Best Fan Artist

Iain J. Clark
Sara Felix
Meg Frank
Michelle Morrell
Alison Scott
España Sherif

Best Poem

“Your Visiting Dragon”- Devan Barlow
“A War of Words”- Marie Brennan
“We Drink Lava”- Ai Jiang
“Calypso”- Oliver K. Langmead
“there are no taxis for the dead”- Angela Liu
“Ever Noir”- Mari Ness

Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book

The Feast Makers- H.A. Clarke
So Let Them Burn- Kamilah Cole
The Maid and the Crocodile- Jordan Ifueko
Moonstorm- Yoon Ha Lee
Sheine Lende- Darcie Little Badger
Heavenly Tyrant- Xiran Jay Zhao

***Astounding* Award for Best New Writer**

Moniquill Blackgoose
Bethany Jacobs
Hannah Kaner
Angela Liu
Jared Pečaček
Tia Tashiro

Seattle Worldcon announced that Joy Alyssa Day, a professional glass artist, will be sculpting the bases of the 2025 Hugo Awards. Day previously designed the bases for the 2014 LonCon.

Compton Crook Award

The Wings Upon Her Back by Samantha Mills was chosen as the 43rd winner of the Compton Crook Award. The award will be presented at the 59th Balticon at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel, May 23-26.

Arthur C. Clarke Memorial Award

The National Space Society will present Joe Haldeman the inaugural Arthur C. Clarke Award as the International Space Development Conference, Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando Florida, June 19-22.

THE STUDY OF FIRE



A COMPANION NOVEL TO *FIRE STUDY*

MARIA V. SNYDER

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

AVAILABLE NOW

Tillyer's News of the High Frontier

There are some questions that we have not been able to answer about the nature of the universe through our observations. Scientists and astronomers are beginning to believe that the problem may be one of perspective. By various observations, we've come to accept that the universe is expanding. This follows the Big Bang theory and other origin concepts. The problem is not everyone is not in agreement about the speed, the consistency of the speed or the evenness of the expansion. All of these seem at odds to the commonsense expectations when we look at the data gathered. The clue to the expansion was the discovery of the cosmic microwave background, a radiation detected by radio telescopes that appears to be everywhere. It is the fingerprint of the Big Bang explosion and the information from it has allowed us to create a model of cosmology known as the Lambda-cold dark matter. This is one of the most accepted current models. This helps us understand that when we look at other galaxies and see their red or blue shifted spectrums, the concept explains how and why they are moving. The expansion we are seeing, however, does not fit within the model neatly. Astronomers and physicists have tried various means of explaining the deviations from new theories of gravity, variations in the speed of light, to inconsistent expansion. But what if it's actually our observations that are the problem. In old programming terms, garbage in equals garbage out. What if our local collection of galaxies is actually inside a void within the larger structure of the universe itself? We could be inside an area where the density of galaxies is 20% less than average for the rest of the universe around a billion lightyears in radius. A count of the galaxies we can observe starts to bring this idea into focus as the numbers bear out. Idranil Banik, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Astrophysics at the University of St. Andrews and others feel that perhaps the Lambda model isn't the best representation. They favor another theory called Modified Newtonian Dynamics or MOND which implies that Newtonian laws of gravity can fail in cases where gravitational pull is very weak. This theory also follows the idea that dark matter can alter the rotational speeds of galaxies. MOND is very similar to the Lambda theory except in this case galaxies would grow faster than previously expected. Predictions using MOND and observations of the bulk flow, or the matter moving through the universe side with this solution and also point to the interesting fact that we as observers are actually pretty close to the center of the predicted void. Ancient astronomers always felt that the Earth was at the center of the universe, and it may turn out that instead we are at the center of the absence of the rest of the universe. Not strange enough for you? There are other theories and a new one generated by the

observations of the James Webb telescope may actually indicate that our universe is inside of a rotating black hole. Let's talk about spin. Our observations of the galaxies around us indicate that most are rotating in the same direction, or about 2/3s of the total number of observable galaxies spin clockwise. If there were not outside influence and not something perhaps from the initial dispersal of the matter at the creation of the universe then the distribution should be closer to 50/50. How do we explain this? Well, if we entertain the thought the universe was born rotating there are unusual solutions. Ready to go down the rabbit hole? Schwarzschild cosmology posits that *our universe* is actually the inner space of a black hole that just happens to be located inside the "real universe". Since nothing escapes the gravitational capture of a black hole, we can never see outside of our universe. The event horizon is actually the edge of our observable universe. Nikodem Poplawski, a Polish physicist, believes that instead of a singularity at the center of a black hole, the torsion and spin allow the interior collapse to bounce back and create an expansion. Wait, weren't we just talking about expansion before? This is how it ties in; the interior expansion represents another version of the Big Bang tied together with the extreme gravitational forces causing particle production and increasing the mass inside the black hole. Or in other words, making a universe like ours. The torsion and the location at the interior of the black hole all would create a rotation that could account for our observations. Now, of course, there will need to be more observations by the James Webb telescope to provide additional evidence to help with fine tuning the theory. Another reason it remains a theory is that fact that since we are inside of the black hole, there is no direct way to observe the nature of our parent universe. Now if that's not strange enough for you, it's easy enough to take the next step and realize that there are plenty of black holes that we can observe which would be undergoing or have undergone the same torsional process and therefore there are an immense number of universes inside our own universe. The devil in the details is that each one of those is also inside of yet another event horizon where they cannot be directly observed. So, if the idea of the multiverse existing in additional parallel dimensions wasn't enough, now try and parse the concept that a significant number of the black holes in universe are also pregnant with additional universe. Finally, those other universes, if they follow the same type of rules as ours, will then also have black holes as well. As they say, it's turtles all the way down...

