

WATCH  
THE



SKIES



# The Long Way to a Small Angry Planet

By Becky Chambers

## 26.2

The good, little ship *Wayfarer* has just gotten the job of a lifetime. Now all of her crew has to do is survive the three-quarters of a year trip to the Galactic Core and build a wormhole bridge back to the civilized portion of the galaxy. They say, success is the journey not the destination, but there's two little problems there. *Wayfarer* is a little ship and the crew of humans and aliens are going to have to continue to get along with each other in order to overcome the challenges of the trip. Secrets are going to come out. Also, the destination has its own dangers and the folks at the other end might not be glad to see them arrive. It's going to be a voyage no one will ever forget.

-Welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> year of Watch the Skies. March's meeting is on the 18th, in person, at the Simpson Library, Mechanicsburg (unless otherwise announced). Next month's book is *This is How You Lose the Time War* – Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone.

-Cover art by Eric V. Hardenbrook

Check out the website at: [watchtheskies.org](http://watchtheskies.org) or  
contact us at: [wtsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wtsnewsletter@gmail.com)

# A FUTURE — A Charity Anthology — FOR FERALS



Edited by:  
**Danielle Ackley-McPhail**

  
MIKE McPHAIL

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# NEW RELEASES

**February 2026**

ILONA ANDREWS - **This Kingdom Will Not Kill Me**

KELLEY ARMSTRONG - **We Are All Monsters Here**

LOIS MCMASTER BUJOLD - **The Adventure of the  
Demonic Ox**

ADAM CHRISTOPHER - **Crawlspace**

AMAL EL-MOHTAR - **Seasons of Glass and Iron**

T. KINGFISHER - **Wolf Worm**

LAVANYA LAKSHMINARAYAN - **Intergalactic Feast**

MARK LAWRENCE - **Daughter of Crows**

JONATHAN MABERRY - **Red Empire**

SEANAN MCGUIRE - **Butterfly Effects**

RICHARD MORGAN - **No Man's Land**

HACHE PUEYO - **Cabaret in Flames**

REBECCA ROANHORSE - **River of Bones and Other Stories**

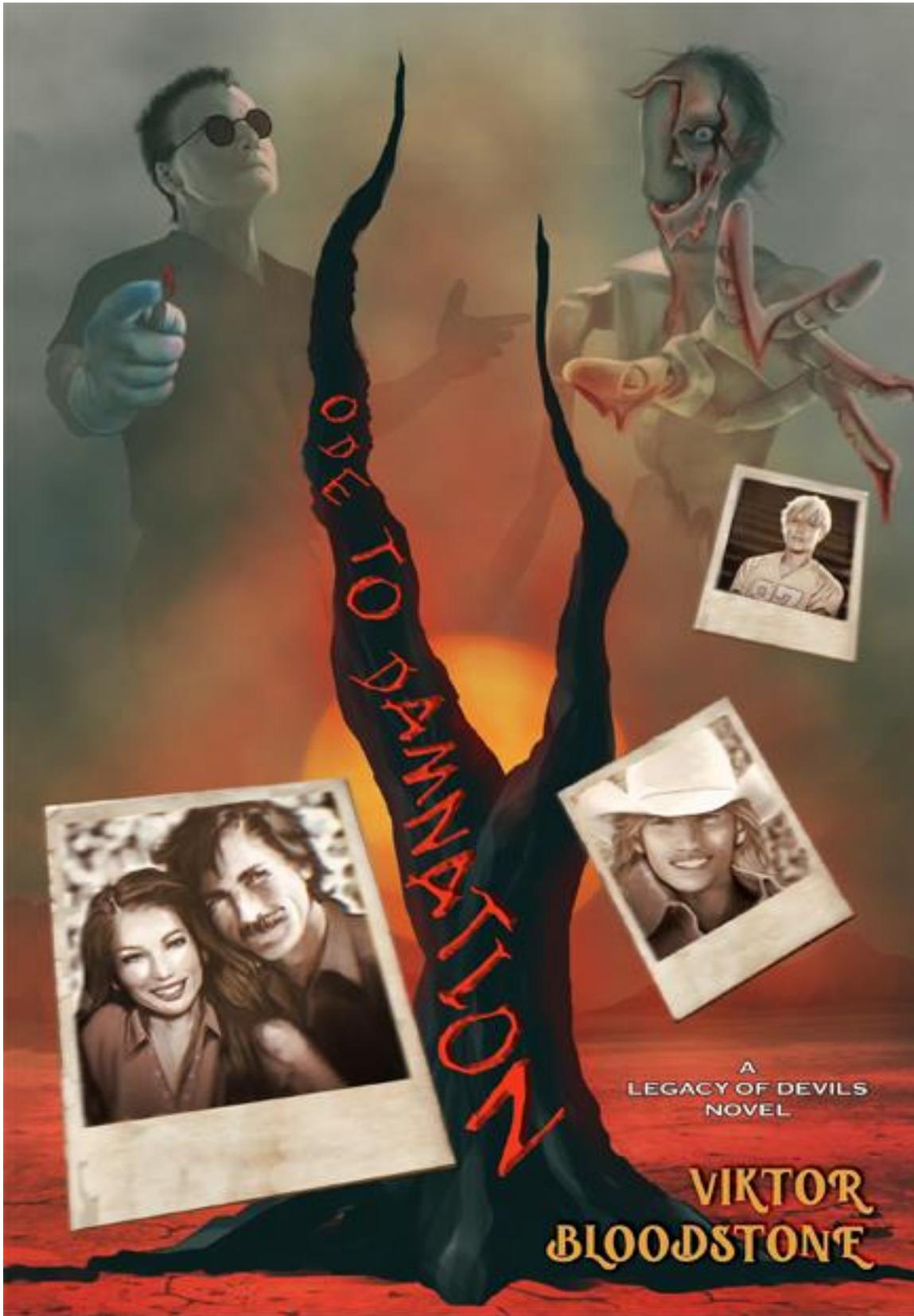
DONNA SCOTT, ED. - **Best of British Science Fiction 2025**

DRIAN TCHAIKOVSKY - **Children of Strife**

HARRY TURTLEDOVE - **Lightning Runes**

JO WALTON & ADA PALMER - **Trace Elements**

AMÉLIE WEN ZHAO - **The Dragon and the Sun Lotus**



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# NEWS OF THE REALM

## **Hugo Award Nominations**

Nominations are currently open for the Hugo Awards and will run through March 28th. Presentations of the awards as well as the Astounding and Lodestar award will be at the 84<sup>th</sup> Worldcon held in Anaheim, California from August 27th-31<sup>st</sup>.

## **2026 Kevin O'Donell, Jr. Service Award**

This year's award was presented to Gay Haldeman due to her work supporting the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association. Gay will be presented the award at the Nebula Award conference Chicago, Illinois June 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.

## **2025 Aurealis Awards – Shortlist (novels)**

*Letters to Our Robot Son* - Cadance Bell

*Arborescence* - Rhett Davis

*Volatile Memory* - Seth Haddon

*Dark Sands* - J.S. Harman

*Wastelands* - Samira Lloyd

*All We Have* - Tony Shillitoe

## **2025 Bram Stoker Awards- Preliminary Ballot (Novels)**

*Bat Eater and Other Names for Cora Zeng* - Kylie Lee Baker

*Wake Up and Open Your Eyes* - Clay McLeod Chapman

*Witchcraft for Wayward Girls* - Grady Hendrix

*King Sorrow* - Joe Hill

*The Buffalo Hunter Hunter* - Stephen Graham Jones

*Angel Down* - Daniel Kraus

*The Bewitching* - Silvia Moreno-Garcia

*A Game in Yellow* - Hailey Piper

*Lucky Day* - Chuck Tingle

*Girl in the Creek* - Wendy N. Wagner

# MORE FUTURES

A Charity Anthology

# FOR FERALS



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# TILLYER'S NEWS OF THE HIGH FRONTIER

Next steps from the International Space Station – NASA has set 2030 as the date to decommission the station. For now, it is becoming a place where private companies are encouraged to use it as a jumping off point for their own projects. NASA recently named Vast, a Long Beach based company, as the next participant in a program of visits that allows them to study the problem and experiment in space. As early as next year, Vast intends to launch their own station, called Haven-1, and follow that with the second model which will be constructed of several modules. Vast sent up an 1100-pound demonstration unit in November as a proof of concept for the Haven project. Vast will begin with a series of astronaut visits very similar to those done by the company Axiom who have already done four. Axiom, ferried up and down by SpaceX, also has plans for a space station. In 2027, their plan is to launch a series of modules, creating their own mini-station which can then be undocked from the ISS. This will allow them a base to continue to build in the same fashion as their prior anchor. NASA has provided over \$500 million dollars recently to other companies looking to establish themselves in Low Earth Orbit, such as Sierra Space and Blue Origin and NanoRacks and Voyager Space.

Return to the Moon – as early as March, the Artemis 2 mission could be on the way to circle and return. The three step process, unmanned flight, manned flight, and then landing is approaching the halfway point. We are rapidly approaching the dates set for the Artemis 2 mission to take 4 astronauts on a journey around the Moon and back. March windows are the 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup>. The fall back will be April with dates of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, and the 30<sup>th</sup>. The SLS rocket has already been moved into position. February 19<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of the fueling of the SLS rocket. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, fueling was stopped due to a leak. On February 12<sup>th</sup>, the launch teams were able to partially fill the tanks with liquid hydrogen and now feel confident to proceed. The crew of the Artemis 2 mission consists of Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Cristina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen. The mission will take this crew farther than any human has ever been, flying around the dark side of the Moon and then returning making it a ten-day journey. This will allow them to test the systems of the Orion crew capsule. Recent concerns about the ablative shield on the Orion capsule have called for a change in re-entry plans that will shorten the amount of time the capsule spends in the atmosphere. Artemis 1's mission caused damage to some of the tiles of the shield which were made using a new technique unlike previous tiles from Shuttles or other orbiters. Hopefully, NASA will soon announce their launch date.

# THE STUDY OF FIRE



A COMPANION NOVEL TO *FIRE STUDY*

**MARIA V. SNYDER**

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