

An aerial photograph of an industrial or construction site, possibly a rail yard or manufacturing plant, with various buildings, parking lots, and tracks. A semi-transparent, stylized image of a rocket engine with glowing orange flames is overlaid on the left side of the image. The text "WATCH THE SKIES" is centered in the lower half of the image in a bold, brown, serif font with a slight drop shadow.

**WATCH  
THE  
SKIES**



# Goliath

By Tochi Onyebuchi

## 26-3

The Earth has been discarded but not abandoned. The Colonies overhead maintain a lifestyle befitting those who can pay for it. The ground below has been inherited by those who can't afford the Colonies. Some outposts exist behind the shielding domes which keep out radiation and the polluted air. Most people are making the best of it in the wreckage. Bishop and his crew of stackers, who recover building materials from abandoned homes, have stumbled onto a treasure – horses living in the wilderness. Providing for them and building a barn and corral brings his community closer together. Jonathan decides to emigrate to Earth, a rising trend among the colonists. He's going to have to work hard to create a new life for him and his significant other who will be arriving soon. It does have its bright moments, tempered by harsh realities. The measure of the quality of life on Earth is determined by the perception of each of its inhabitants. Even though nature is reclaiming parts of the land, the whole system is still in a delicate balance that humans continue to apply pressure to in both directions.

-Welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> year of Watch the Skies. April's meeting is on the 15th, 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

**AVAILABLE NOW**

# NEW RELEASES

**APRIL 2026**

KATHERINE ADDISON - **The Orb of Cairado**

S.A. BARNES - **Dead Silence**

AKEMI DAWN BOWMAN - **The Afterlands**

PETER V. BRETT - **The Demon King**

JIM BUTCHER & KERRIE L. HUGHES, EDS. - **Paranormal Payback**

ORSON SCOTT CARD - **Master Alvin**

CLAY MCLEOD CHAPMAN - **Bodies of Work**

MIKE CHEN - **The Photonic Effect**

JOHN CHU - **The Subtle Art of Folding Space**

JAMES S.A. COREY - **The Faith of Beasts**

S.L. HUANG - **The Language of Liars**

JORDAN IFUEKO - **The Genie Game**

AI JIANG - **A Palace Near the Wind**

AI JIANG - **A River from the Sky**

TJ KLUNE - **We Burned So Bright**

L.D. LEWIS - **The Year of the Mer**

SEANAN MCGUIRE - **Once Broken Faith**

SAMANTHA MILLS - **Rabbit Test and Other Stories**

PATRICK NESS - **Piper at the Gates of Dusk**

SYLVAIN NEUVEL - **The Many**

JODY LYNN NYE, ED. - **L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of the Future Volume 42**

SUZANNE PALMER - **Ode to the Half-Broken**

ALLEN STROUD - **Anti-State**

HARRY TURTLEDOVE - **Lightning Runes**



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# NEWS OF THE REALM

## 2026 Audie Awards

### Audiobook of the Year

*Sunrise on the Reaping*- Suzanne Collins, narrated by Jefferson White

### Science Fiction

*Simultaneous*- Eric Heisserer, narrated by Marin Ireland, Ray Porter & Stephanie Sheh

### Fantasy

*Anima Rising*- Christopher Moore, narrated by Mary Jane Wells

### Horror

*The Buffalo Hunter Hunter*- Stephen Graham Jones, narrated by Shane Ghostkeeper, Marin Ireland & Owen Teale

## 2025 BSFA Awards Shortlist (British Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards)

### Best Novel

*A Granite Silence*- Nina Allan

*Project Hanuman*- Stewart Hotston

*When There Are Wolves Again*- E.J. Swift

*Edge of Oblivion*- Kirk Weddell

*The Salt Oracle*- Lorraine Wilson

### Best Shorter Fiction (for novelettes and novellas)

*Cities Are Forests Waiting to Happen*- Cécile Cristofari

*The River Has Roots*- Amal El-Mohtar

"The Art of Time Travel"- Teika Marija Smits

"Descent"- Wole Talabi

"The Apologists"- Tade Thompson

### Best Short Fiction

"25 Peppercorns"- Emma Burnett

"One Step at a Time"- Rick Danforth

"Godzilla as a Young Man Named Mike"- E.M. Faulds

"The Life and Times of Alavira the Great as Written by Titos Pavlou and Reviewed by Two Lifelong Friends"- Eugenia Triantafyllou

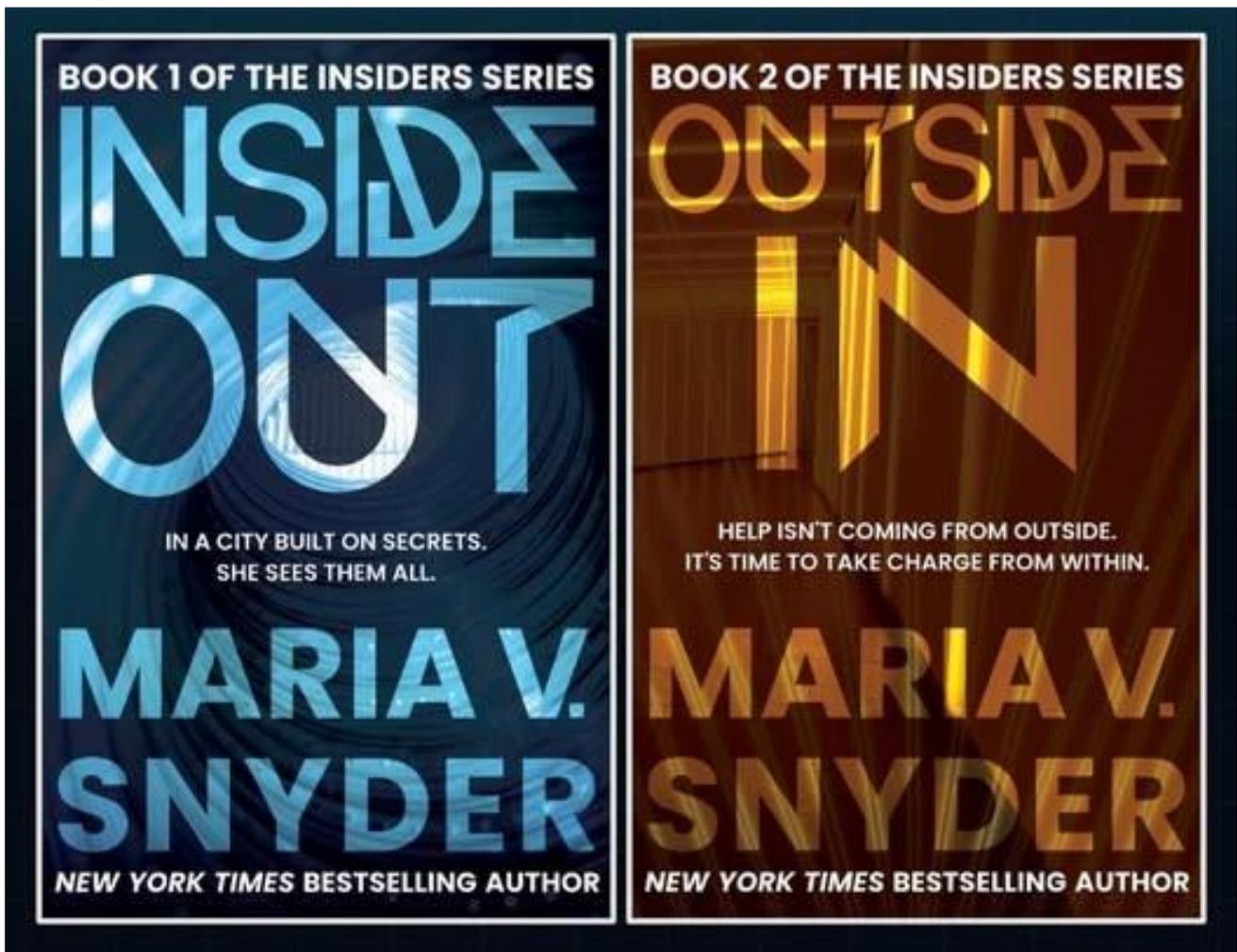
"Of Seagrass Fins and Slippery Fingers"- A.J. Van Belle

**Best Collection (for collections and anthologies)**

*The Black Fantastic: 20 Afrofuturist Stories*- André M. Carrington, ed.  
*Uncertain Sons and Other Stories*- Thomas Ha  
*Black Friday*- Cheryl S. Ntuny  
*Who Will You Save?*- Gareth L. Powell  
*Creative Futures: Beyond and Within*- Allen Stroud, ed.  
*Blood in the Bricks*- Neil Williamson

**Best Fiction for Younger Readers**

*Sunrise on the Reaping*- Suzanne Collins  
"The Ghost Merchant"- Rick Danforth  
*The Secret of the Sapphire Sentinel*- J. Dianne Dotson  
*Doctor Who: Lux*- James Goss  
*Secrets of the First School*- T.L. Huchu  
*Doctor Who: The Robot Revolution*- Una McCormack



**AVAILABLE 3-27-26**

# MORE FUTURES

A Charity Anthology

# FOR FERALS



Edited by:  
**Danielle Ackley-McPhail**

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# TILLYER'S NEWS OF THE HIGH FRONTIER

The Big Picture of the nature of our universe always seems to be either gaining focus or flickering to something new as we continue to grow our knowledge. Most scientists believe that there was an origin, a big bang, big bounce, big repetition, cosmic foam bubble expansion – take your pick. After that, the universe began to expand. If we didn't have enough trouble deciding how it all started, astronomers and physicists can also argue about what happened next. Edwin Hubble is given credit for being one of the first to point out that everything in the visible universe is moving. Just another shock to the system, the same sort that telling folks that the stars weren't stuck to a crystal globe overhead, or pin holes, etc. Hubble was able to look at the blue and red shifts in the spectra taken from stars and determine their motion, putting that all together brought about the revelation the whole of the universe was actually expanding. While we can lay the credit there, other discoveries, such as the Cosmic Background Radiation, the fingerprint of creation from the first energies of the Big (insert choice here), helped to determine the nature and speed of the expansion. Since then, the arguments have been pretty much ongoing with a great deal of emphasis on the speed of the expansion as well as the regularity. Originally, Hubble proposed a constant (which unsurprisingly ended up being named after him) with which one could express the expansion. This has become a target for astrophysicists seeking to refine the value or express it as a function. Why? Well, if you have this piece, it can help you define certain things like the amount of dark matter present, essentially letting you edit and refine the list of ingredients of our universe that are detectable only by their effects. In the past, besides the information from the Cosmic Microwave Background, astronomers were also using measurements taken from observations nearby of Type 1a supernovas. Using both techniques, it became evident that there were discrepancies in the rate of expansion. This is known as Hubble Tension. Wind forward to the present, where astronomers are using a new method to determine the rate. Since astronomers have access to better methods of acquiring data, they can now observe groups of galaxies and measure how all of their motions affect both their mutual gravitation as well as the expansion of the space around them which pulls them in different directions. (Imagine walking holding hands with someone on a treadmill but walking against the flow of the belt. Two different tensions occur to you.) The results show that locally, the rate of expansion is slower than expected. The Hubble constant results work out this way so far: Supernovas – 73 km/Mpc (megaparsec), CMB – 68 km/Mpc, new research – 64 km/Mpc. So, slower than we'd previously believed. But what does this tell us? Previously, astronomers believed that the distribution of dark matter influenced the expansion rates of the universe and could therefore be used to calculate the amount and the locations of said dark matter. The new information now indicates that there is less dark matter present than we believed. What's next after that revelation? Well, as good scientists always do, it's time to repeat the experiment. Astronomers will go back to their galaxy studies and implement them using different galactic groupings. This will allow them to refine their results. New telescopes will help astronomers reach farther into the universe to acquire more data and gain us new insight on the speed and nature of our ever-expanding universe.

