

WATCH



THE SKIES



Of Monsters and Mainframes

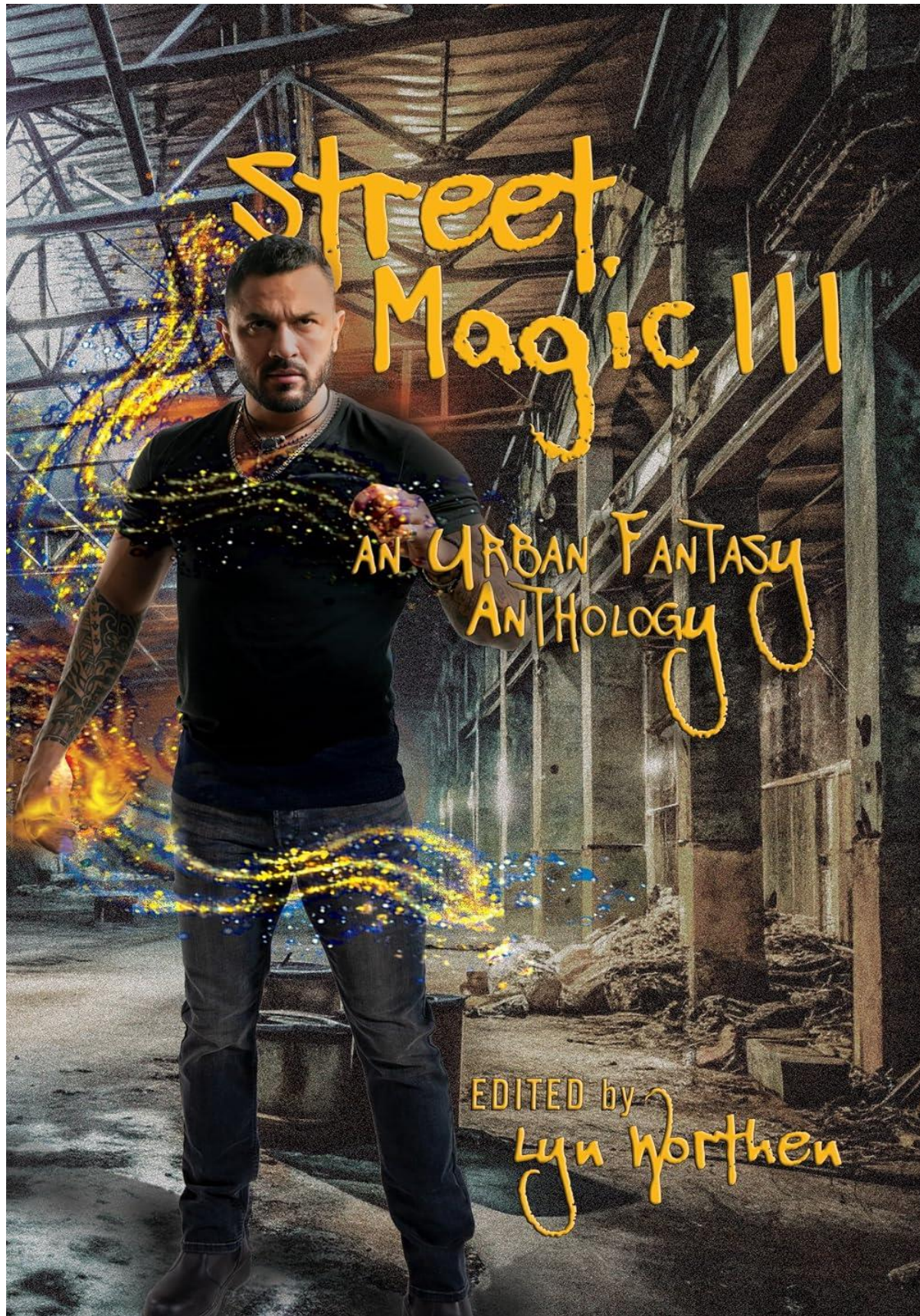
By Barbara Truelove

26-9

If humans weren't so perishable, Demeter's job would be so much easier. After all, what she really wants to do is ferry them back and forth to Apha Centauri's colony. She can't help it if their passengers keep mysteriously dying – or can she? With a plucky surgical program and not so bright but optimistic spider robots, Demeter sets out to set things right. But if the problem isn't natural, it might require a supernatural solution. Full of bite and byte, *Of Monsters and Mainframes* is a delightful romp that blends together *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *Monster Squad*.

-Welcome to the 26th year of Watch the Skies. August's meeting is on the 21st, 7:00PM, in person, at the Simpson Library Annex, Mechanicsburg, 45 W Allen St, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (NEW LOCATION). Next month's book is *The Society of Unknowable Objects* by Gareth Brown. Cover art by Eric V. Hardenbrook

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



Available Now

NEW RELEASES

October 2026

KEVIN J. ANDERSON - **Sleep With the Fishes**

EUGEN BACON, ED. - **Black Dingo Short Stories**

TRAVIS BALDREE - **Tales from the Territory**

JOHN BIRMINGHAM - **The Forever Dead**

OLIVIE BLAKE & JOHN JOSEPH ADAMS, EDS. - **The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2026**

MAURICE BROADDUS & CHESYA BURKE, EDS. - **Black Horror: Canonical Voices from Then to Now**

CHRISTOPHER BUEHLMAN - **The Thrice-Bound Fool**

JAMES J. BUTCHER - **Grim Folk Tale**

GENEVIEVE COGMAN - **A Scholar's Guide to Demonology and Other Dark Arts**

KAMILAH COLE - **Wicked Endeavors**

DELILAH S. DAWSON - **Monstera**

STEVEN ERIKSON - **Legacies of Betrayal**

STEPHANIE FELDMAN - **The Night Parade and Other Stories**

ALIX E. HARROW - **The Slantwise Histories**

STEPHEN GRAHAM JONES - **Off the Reservation**

BITTER KARELLA - **Quaint Folk**

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

ALMA KATSU - **Incarnate**

CASSANDRA KHAW - **Find Me Where It Ends**

CAITLÍN R. KIERNAN - **Gethsemane**

STEPHEN KING & PETER STRAUB - **Other Worlds Than These**

DEREK KÜNSKEN - **The Quantum Dawn**

MARK LAWRENCE - **The Bookshop Book**

SHANNON LEE & FONDA LEE - **Mark of the Warrior**

YOON HA LEE - **Code and Codex**

SEANAN MCGUIRE - **Be Sure**

JULIET E. MCKENNA - **The Riven Kingdom**

PREMEE MOHAMED & JONATHAN SIM - **From the Library of Jurgen Leitner**

ELIZABETH MOON - **Horngard**
MARK MORRIS, ED. - **Ghost Lights**
ANNALEE NEWITZ - **A Wall Is Also a Road**
CLAIRE NORTH - **As We Fall Through Time**
NUZO ONOH - **The Turning of Sally-Mae**
ADAM ROBERTS - **Frankenstein Rex**
VERONICA ROTH - **The Sixth Faction**
ANTHONY RYAN - **The Tomb of the Corpse King and Other Stories**
JASON SANFORD - **Plagues of Dissension**
VICTORIA SCHWAB - **Victorious**
SHARON SHINN - **Tropes**
ROBERT SILVERBERG - **Robert Silverberg's Ghosts and Things**
A.G. SLATTER - **Fitcher's Bird**
CAITLIN STARLING - **Milkteeth**
WOLE TALABI - **The Fist of Memory**
SHAUN TAN - **Hometown**
NGHI VO - **The Scarlet Ball**
EDWARD WILLETT, ED. - **On Spec 2026: New Canadian Literature of the Fantastic**

News of the Realm

Dream Foundry Award Winners

Writing Contest

1st - N.A. Blair
2nd - Natalie Anai Nowo Lydick
3rd - Tomás Xavier Díaz

Art Contest

1st - Emelia Feldman
2nd - Niko Kristic
3rd - Marcus Leon Solomon

David A. Drake Memorial Award

Baen Books has created a new short story award in honor of David Drake that will focus on discovering new writing talents who create stories with strong military themes. Original Stories up to 8k words can be submitted from 9/24/26 through 12/10/26, with finalists expected to be announced in February and the award to be presented at LibertyCon 27.

For more information - [Press Release - Baen Books Establishes New Writing Award Named in Honor of David A. Drake](#)

Baen also presents the Baen Fantasy Adventure Award and the Jim Baen Memorial Award.

Dragon Award Winners 2026

Best Science Fiction Novel

Operation Bounce House- Matt Dinniman

Best Fantasy Novel (Including Paranormal)

Twelve Months- Jim Butcher

Best Young Adult / Middle Grade Novel

Ride or Die- Delilah S. Dawson

Best Alternate History Novel

The Winds of Fate- S.M. Stirling

Best Horror Novel

King Sorrow-Joe Hill

Best Illustrative Cover

T. Kingfisher for **Hemlock & Silver**

Best Comic Book or Graphic Novel

Something is Killing the Children- James Tynion IV, illustrated by Werther Dell'Edera

Best Science Fiction or Fantasy TV Series, TV or Internet

A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms

Best Science Fiction or Fantasy Movie

Project Hail Mary

Sidewise Awards for Alternate History 2026

Long Form

Ten Incarnations of Rebellion - Vaishnavi Patel

Short Form

“Caesar at Sea” - Alan Smale

The Hugo Awards 2026

Best Novel

The Everlasting- Alix E. Harrow

Best Novella

The River Has Roots- Amal El-Mohtar

Best Novelette

“Never Eaten Vegetables”- H.H. Pak

Best Short Story

“In My Country”- Thomas Ha

Best Series

Old Man’s War- John Scalzi

Best Graphic Story or Comic

A Wizard of Earthsea: A Graphic Novel- written by Ursula K. Le Guin,
adapted & art by Fred Fordham

Best Related Work

Inventing the Renaissance- Ada Palmer

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form

Sinners- screenplay by Ryan Coogler, directed by Ryan Coogler

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form

Murderbot: "All Systems Red"- written by Paul Weitz & Chris Weitz, directed by Roseanne Liang, based on the book *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells

Best Game or Interactive Work

Clair Obscur: Expedition 33- developed by Sandfall Interactive, published by Kepler Interactive

Best Editor, Short Form

Neil Clarke

Best Editor, Long Form

Diana M. Pho

Best Professional Artist

John Picacio

Best Semiprozine

Uncanny- publisher and editor-in-chief Michael Damian Thomas; managing editor Monte Lin; poetry editor Betsy Aoki, podcast producers Erika Ensign & Steven Schapansky

Best Fanzine

nerds of a feather- flock together, Roseanna Pendlebury, Arturo Serrano, Paul Weimer; senior editors Joe Sherry, G. Brown, Vance Kotrla, eds.

Best Fancast

Hugo, Girl!- presented by Kevin Anderson, Lori Anderson, Amy Salley & Haley Zapal

Best Fan Writer

Jason Sanford

Best Fan Artist

Yuumei

Best Poem

"Hex Supply Customer Support Log" - Elis Montgomery (*Strange Horizons* 8/25)

Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book

Coffeshop in an Alternate Universe- C.B. Lee

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

Antonia Hodgson



AVAILABLE NOW

TILLYER'S NEWS OF THE HIGH FRONTIER

What we learn about space is filtered through our instruments and our intellect. If our devices can't provide us with all the information we need or if we misinterpret what we do receive sometimes we can create what looks like a paradox. Images from the James Webb Space Telescope appeared to show black holes in distant parts of the universe that were too massive for their age. Galaxies harbor massive black holes at their centers. When we use a telescope of any kind: light, radio, infrared, all of the information we receive is limited by the universal speedlimit, the speed of light. So, the farther out we look, the farther back in time we are observing.

Astronomers were finding black holes who simply wouldn't have had enough time to accumulate the mass they were measuring. These galaxies were from the first billion years of the universe. Perhaps, the answer is simpler, what if the methods we are using to determine the mass of these black holes were showing something other than the expected value? Black holes acquire matter through their accretion disks. The flattened mirrored fried egg shape made popular by the movie *Interstellar* shows the disk spreading out from the hole itself. Using data from the gas velocity and the emitted light astronomers can calculate the expected mass of the black hole. Scientists are beginning to believe that what they are observing are black holes taking on mass through a process called super Eddington accretion. The gas falling into the black hole happens so rapidly that it changes the variables we use for the mass calculations. Astronomers used 14 observed black holes as test subjects for this theory, specifically ones faint in X rays. The math indicates that the spectrum of the holes would be shifted towards red and this matches up with observations. It is possible that there are other reasons for the changes, but right now the best answer appears to be black holes feeding at an accelerated rate instead on ones that are too large for their age. Of course, without instruments like the JWST telescope, we would have never been able to observe the black holes to begin with. What we do with the data receive can certainly help us understand the mysteries of the universe and this will not be the last observation that leads us to something we cannot immediately explain.

