





BLUE BIRD

By Ciel Pierlot

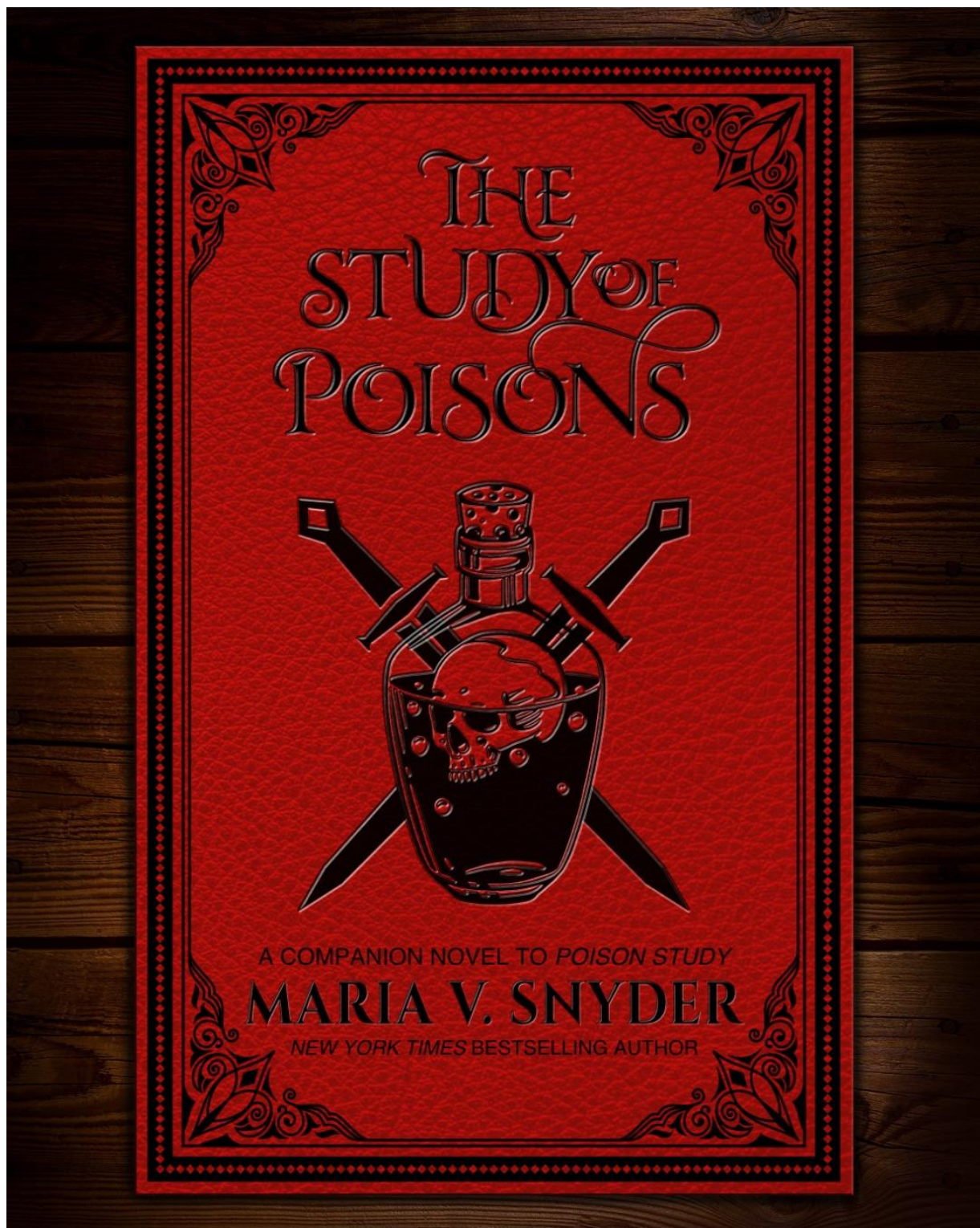
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Rig is good at running away. She's parlayed that talent into helping less fortunate refugees escape from bad situations. She's run away from her family, her faction, and from the horrible potential of the weapon she developed falling into the wrong hands. In a galaxy carved up by the Three Factions, there is only so far you can go, and her pursuers are tired of chasing her. Instead, they are going to use her sister to make her come to them. Rig is going to have to risk everything, her friends, her lover, her newly found acquaintance, and her ship on this venture. Every step forward increases the danger and decreases her chance of success. But Rig has always lived on the edge, so the margins are nothing new. A gun for each hand, a swift ship, someone to watch her back, and Rig is set to go. Can she win though in a game of galactic politics where her enemies keep changing the rules?

-June's meeting is on the 21st, in person, at the Simpson Library, Mechanicsburg (unless otherwise announced) and the book of the month is *Legend's and Latte's* by Travis Baldree.

-Cover art by Jeff Young

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



AVAILABLE NOW

NEW RELEASES

JUNE 2023

EUGEN BACON - **Danged Black Thing**

INDRA DAS - **The Last Dragoners of Bowbazar**

JUNO DAWSON - **The Shadow Cabinet**

TANANARIVE DUE - **The Reformatory**

GREGORY FROST - **Rhymer**

KIM HARRISON - **Demons of Good and Evil**

S.L. HUANG - **The Water Outlaws**

ALLAN KASTER, ED. - **The Year's Top Hard Science Fiction Stories 7**

NICOLE KORNIHER-STACE - **Flight & Anchor**

DEREK KÜNSKEN - **The House of Saints**

MERCEDES LACKEY & LARRY DIXON - **Gryphon in Light**

ANN LECKIE - **Translation State**

MICHAEL MOORCOCK - **The Woods of Arcady**

JOHN SHIRLEY - **SubOrbital 7**

LISA TUTTLE - **The Curious Affair of the Missing Mummies**

HOWARD WALDROP - **H'ard Starts: The Early Waldrop**

FRAN WILDE - **The Book of Gems**

CONNIE WILLIS - **The Road to Roswell**

GENE WOLFE - **The Dead Man and Other Horror Stories**

NEWS OF THE REALM



Balticon 57, May 26-29th, the Renaissance Hotel, Baltimore Inner Harbor, MD.
For more information: [Home](#) | [Balticon 57](#)



Shore Leave 43, July 7-9, the Delta Hotel, Hunt Valley, MD. Media Guests include: Ben Browder, Claudia Black, Grace Park, Aaron Douglas, Robert Picardo, Peter Macon, Jennifer Johnson Jerald, Bonnie Gordon, Robert Duncan McNeill, and Alaina Huffman. For more information: [Shore Leave: A Fan-Run Science Fiction Convention \(shore-leave.com\)](#)



Confluence – Pittsburgh's Literary Science Fiction and Fantasy convention is July 21st-23rd at the Sheraton Hotel Pittsburgh Airport Hotel in Coraopolis, PA. Guest of Honor will be Ada Palmer, winner of the John W. Campbell Award and the Compton Crook Award in 2017. Featured musical guest Sassafrass is an a cappella troop lead by Ada Palmer.

For more information: <https://confluence-sff.org>





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AWARD WINNERS 2022 NEBULAS

Novel

Babel, R.F. Kuang

Novella

Even Though I Knew the End, C.L. Polk

Novelette

"If You Find Yourself Speaking to God, Address God with the Informal You", John Chu

Short Story

"Rabbit Test", Samantha Mills

Andre Norton Award

Ruby Finley vs. the Interstellar Invasion, K. Tempest Bradford

Ray Bradbury Award

Everything Everywhere All at Once

Game Writing

Elden Ring

The SFWA Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award

Robin McKinley

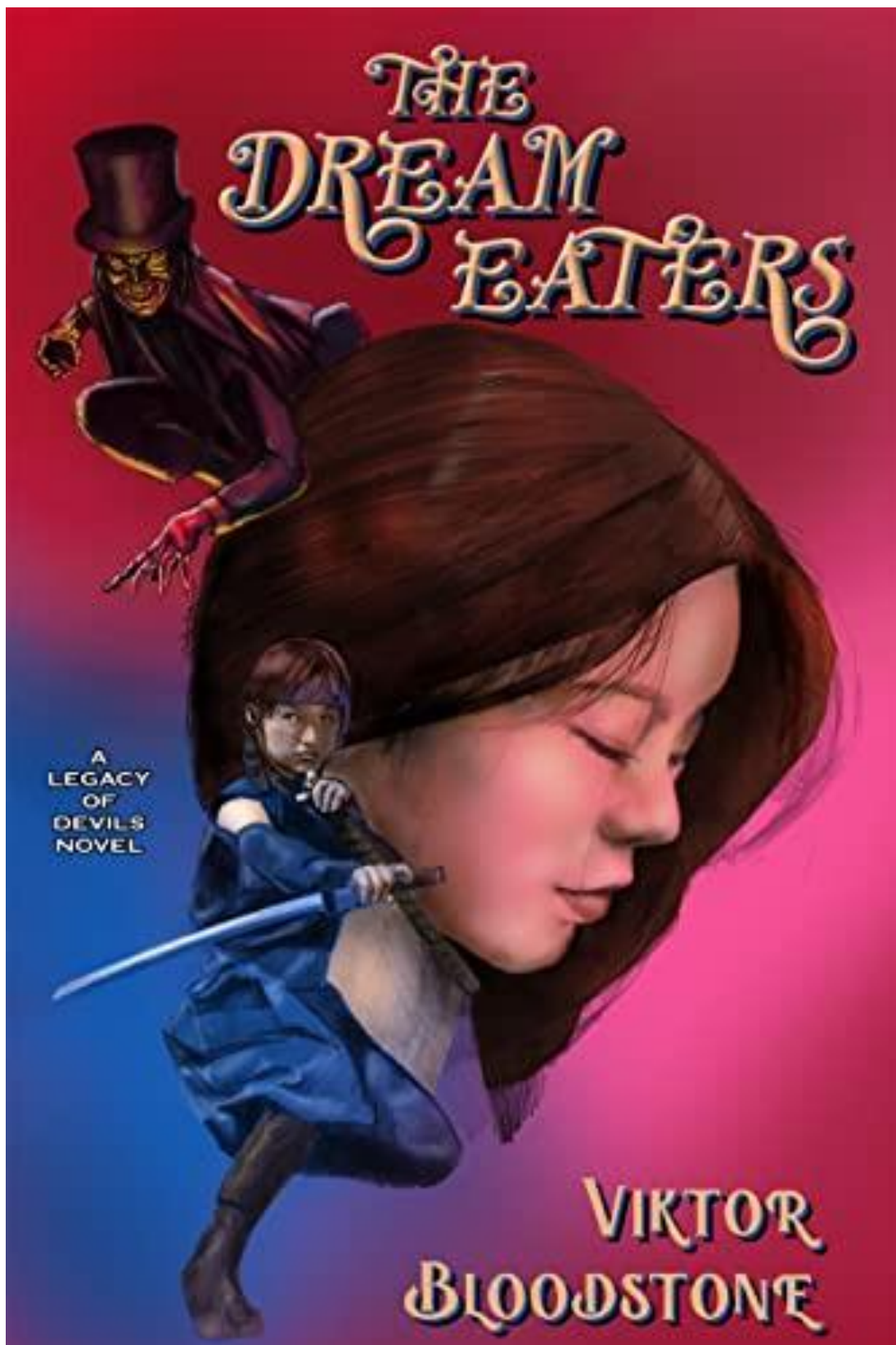
The Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award

Greg Bear (posthumous)

Cerece Rennie Murphy

The Kevin J O'Donnell, Jr. Service to SFWA Award

Mishell Baker



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Tillyer's News of the High Frontier

MAY 2023

Scary Barbie is a funny name for an event where the immense amount of energy being released is a thousand times more powerful than a supernova. What lies at the center powering this explosion – a super massive black hole and an unfortunate star. But before we go into the mechanics of this, why call it Scary Barbie? Originally designated as ZTF20abrbeie, one can see that a little bit of manipulation of the letters can lead to the 'barbie'. Discoverer, Dan Milisavljevic said its characteristics are so out of the ordinary as to be terrifying, hence the 'scary' part. Identified by an AI engine designed to scan the skies for stellar objects of interest using the data supplied by observatories and observers around the world, Scary Barbie was in a typically ignored portion of the sky, which explains why initial observations were logged in 2020. Milisavljevic and colleagues had definitely found something worth investigating and his typical interest in supernovae made this worthwhile. After verifying the information with several real-world observations using telescopic data, he was stuck with the question of just what he was looking at which was so incredibly bright. The current theory is that a massive star passed close to the accretion disk circling a super massive black hole and was captured by the gravitational pull. Inevitably headed toward demise by falling into the hole, the star was subjected to a worse fate being stripped apart and its gases then spread over the already hot accretion disk of matter also circling to its final fate. The resulting explosion is the largest observed so far. Here's another way to look at things from the 'barbie' point of view, rather as a barbeque or grill. Imagine that the rocks and debris in the accretion disk are the same as what you would find at the bottom of your grill. Take the gas supplied from the star and compare it to that from your propane tank. Supply ignition and truly scary barbeque on an interstellar level. Right now, as long as there is still gas infalling from the remainders of the star, the explosion will continue. It should be pointed out that the infalling star hit the bullseye for an orbit that would allow it to be peeled of its gases over a period of time. Astronomers believe that Scary Barbie may continue for some time and are taking advantage of not only all of the previously filed data but additional observations to try to understand this immensely powerful event.

