



**WATCH**

**THE SKIES**



# ROADSIDE PICNIC

By Arkady and Boris Strugatsky

## 23.11

Red has been trying to stumble down a path of good intentions often missing his step. He has a reputation as a stalker, someone who enters the Zone, where an alien visitation has altered the rules of reality, to retrieve valuable objects with bizarre abilities. At first, Red tries to play by the rules and watches one of his friends die due to the dangers of the Zone. After that he falls back on what he knows best, stealthy entrances, clandestine missions, and theft of the valuable swag taken from under the noses of the authorities. Even after removing countless strange objects, there still remains a treasure only spoken of in whispers – the sphere. An item so powerful that it can grant the desperate wishes of one's heart. Red keeps telling himself he's wise enough not to seek it out, but how long can he resist such a temptation?

-January's meeting is on the 17th, in person, at the Simpson Library, Mechanicsburg (unless otherwise announced) and the book of the month is *Boneshard Daughter* – Andrea Stewart. (Yes, there is no December meeting Virginia)

-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)

*CALISTA LINDQUIST IS*

# THE KILLER OF DEVILS

*BOOK 1*

## CLOWNS

VIKTOR  
BLOODSTONE



**AVAILABLE NOW**

# NEW RELEASES

## DECEMBER 2023

BEN AARONOVITCH • **Winter's Gifts**

KELLEY ARMSTRONG • **Cocktails & Chloroform**

NATHAN BALLINGRUD • **The Atlas of Hell**

BRADLEY P. BEAULIEU • **The Dragons of Deepwood Fen**

MICHAEL BLUMLEIN • **Long**

OGHENECHOVWE DONALD EKPEKI & EUGEN BACON, ET AL., EDS. • **The Year's Best African Speculative Fiction 2022**

CHIKODILI EMELUMADU • **Dazzling**

MERCEDES LACKEY • **Valdemar**

FOZ MEADOWS • **All the Hidden Paths**

CAT RAMBO & JENNIFER BROZEK, EDS. • **The Reinvented Detective**

JUSTINA ROBSON • **Polestars 4**

GEOFF RYMAN • **Him**

L. NEIL SMITH • **Ares**

JODI TAYLOR • **The Most Wonderful Time of the Year**

ADRIAN TCHAIKOVSKY • **House of Open Wounds**

HARRY TURTLEDOVE • **Wages of Sin**

TIMOTHY ZAHN • **The Icarus Twin**

## JAN 2024

BRADLEY P. BEAULIEU • **The Dragons of Deepwood Fen**

OLIVIE BLAKE • **The Atlas Complex**

D.J. BUTLER • **Among the Gray Lords**

MIKE CHEN • **A Quantum Love Story**

SETH DICKINSON • **Exordia**

IAN C. ESSLEMONT • **Forge of the High Mage**

HEATHER FAWCETT • **Emily Wilde's Map of the Other**

CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN • **The House of Last Resort**

JUSTINA IRELAND • **The Leisure Class**

KATHLEEN JENNINGS • **Kindling lands**

SARAH J. MAAS • **House of Flame and Shadow**

SEANAN MCGUIRE • **Mislaid in Parts Half-Known**

L.E. MODESITT, JR. • **From the Forest**

RAY NAYLER • **The Tusks of Extinction**

H.G. PARRY • **Heartless**

J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI • **The Glass Box**

## NEWS OF THE REALM

### BALTIMORE SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY – EVENTS:

**Book Club Meeting at BSFS:** November 25, 2023, at 7:30 PM. Featured Book: *Who's Afraid of Beowulf* by Tom Holt. This Book Discussion will be by Zoom and also in-person at the BSFS Building (only use this zoom link for book club, for other zoom meetings use proper links below) at <https://zoom.us/j/94129016253?pwd=LzRMVEZmVGtnUi9jOUc3MnFOcHFHQ T09>

Meeting ID: 941 2901 6253 Passcode: 041896

**Speculative Poetry Workshop by Zoom:** A monthly writer's workshop for SF and Fantasy and Speculative authors of poetry held every Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Near term this would mean 11/16/2023. By Zoom only (only use this zoom link for Poetry Workshop, for other zoom meetings use proper links below)

at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82344040646?pwd=eFdCQlZmL29KSVYzYUZXdE1EK3Q1UT09>

Meeting ID: 823 4404 0646 Passcode: 365968

**Film Night at BSFS:** November 18, 2023, at 7:00 PM (building opens at 6:00 PM for early folks and browse the library) with fun fan films and professional productions our license allows. This month a superhero movie with Mexican American lead and flare. The license we have says we cannot advertise on the web but can distribute flyers so use the password "movie" on the pdf file of the flyer that opens to see the movie schedule when you click [here](#). Free screening on our 10 ft screen. Watch with old or new friends!

**Sunday Tabletop Role-Playing Game Event Online:** Tabletop Role-Playing Game Event next held November 26, 2023, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. On Discord only at <https://discord.gg/5U3s2YzPzQ> To participate by Discord you do need to register for Discord if you have never done so before, but the process is fairly easy. Our Tabletop Roleplaying Games (RPGs) meetup! We will be rotating through various tabletop Sci Fi RPGs. You are welcome if you love Tabletop RPG's. We will be running for all levels and will have premade characters available. We will run as many games as we have players to fill. The Tabletop RPG by Discord that would have the usual date at the end of August will not be held, the Tabletop RPG by Discord will return in September. For more details contact mike at bsfs dot org

**Anime Social at BSFS:** Anime Social will be in person at the BSFS Building and as watch party on discord as well. [Join Discord here](#) On 11/25/2023 we will be screening: episodes 1-3 of SHY, A superhero must overcome her greatest enemy, her own shyness. Then at 3:30pm we'll watch episodes 1-3 of BULLBUSTER, when mysterious creatures terrorize an island a construction company is transformed into a monster fighting outfit. And finally, we'll continue Space Dandy episodes 11 & 12. For more info or suggest titles for the future contact anime at BSFS dot org

**Alphabet Soup Board Gaming at BSFS:** Every third Sunday of the month at the BSFS Building. Next on November 19, 2023, 4:30 PM to 9:00 PM. For info email matthewsands at bsfs dot org





**July 26-28, 2024**  
**Lancaster, PA**

**We have found a new home for 2024. The Lancaster Wyndham Resort and Convention Center. More details on our website at [www.shore-leave.com](http://www.shore-leave.com).**

**Pre-Registration is also now open at our Online Store.**





## 2023 World Fantasy Awards

**NOVEL - WINNER:** *Saint Death's Daughter* by C. S. E. Cooney

**NOVELLA -** *The Bruising of Qilwa* by Naseem Jamnia

**SHORT FICTION -** "The Devil Don't Come with Horns" by Eugen Bacon

**ANTHOLOGY -** *Screams from the Dark: 29 Tales of Monsters and the Monstrous*,  
ed. Ellen Datlow

**COLLECTION -** *Dark Breakers* by C. S. E. Cooney

**ARTIST - WINNER:** Kinuko Y. Craft

**SPECIAL AWARD – PROFESSIONAL - WINNER:** Matt Ottley, for  
*The Tree of Ecstasy and Unbearable Sadness*

**SPECIAL AWARD – NON-PROFESSIONAL - WINNER:** Michael Kelly, for  
Undertow Publications





**THE STUDY  
CHRONICLES**



**Tales of Ixia & Sitia**

**MARIA V. SNYDER**

*NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR



**AVAILABLE NOW**

# Tillyer's News of the High Frontier

## NOVEMBER 2023

Water always seems to be a problem. Ask any homeowner about water and they will have stories. It seeps in where it isn't wanted, erodes, and weakens everything from manmade structures to eventually etching the surface of the Earth to create such geologic marvels as the Grand Canyon. Three quarters of our world is covered with water and its salinity ensures that we can't use it. At either pole of the Earth is an immense supply of frozen water and it's not going to stay where it is currently. Climate change is freeing the frozen ice sheets of the poles, setting giant icebergs adrift on the oceans – oceans whose salinity will ultimately be affected by their melting. Much like tracking asteroids, keeping up with icebergs is a daunting task, but it's also a somewhat redundant task that involves the review of immense amounts of data. A perfect job for AI, instead of imitating actors or creating uncanny art. An AI program can perform one of the most basic tasks 10k times quicker than a human. Now programs can monitor not only the positions of bergs but also the rate at which they melt and deposit their cargo of water into the oceans, creating an overview which will aid climatologists as they attempt to determine the rate of sea level rise. Massive iceberg A68a, measuring 100 by 30 miles, ended its five-year journey in the South Atlantic Ocean last year- certainly something that should show up on navigation charts while it was floating around. Its demise dumped trillions of gallons of freshwater into the ocean as well as a large number of nutrients that were encapsulated in its ice. Scientists are of course very interested in the results of this change on the local ocean. Another reason to task AI with detection and monitoring of icebergs is that from a satellite, bergs, clouds, and other sea ice all look white when seen from above. Teaching a neural network definitely makes sense instead of having humans try to decide what they are observing. Scientists were able to bring the results to within 99% accuracy. The European Space Agency's Sentinel 1 satellite provides the images, and the AI reviews the results creating databases of information about the observed icebergs. By reviewing the change in the nature of the outlines of the icebergs, scientists will then be able to calculate the rate at which they are melting and estimate the amount of water entering the ocean. It's a big ocean and a lot of icebergs, so this is a positive use of AI to monitor our changing planet.

