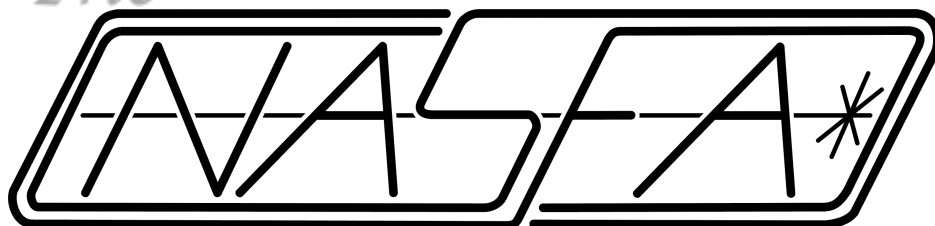


The



Shuttle August 2015

The Next NASFA Meeting is 6:30P Saturday 15 August 2015 at the Regular Location

Concom: 3P Saturday 15 August 2015, at the Church

▲ Oyez, Oyez ▲

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be **6:30P Saturday 15 August 2015**, at the regular meeting location—the Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church (old Wilson Lumber Company building) at **7105 Highway 72W** (aka University Drive). Please see the map at right if you need help finding it.

PLEASE NOTE that per a vote at the October 2014 meeting, the start of the Business Meeting has changed from 6P to 6:30P. Programs are still scheduled to start at 7P.

AUGUST PROGRAM

The August program will be the More-or-Less-Annual NASFA Auction. Gather up all that, um, great stuff you no longer need and bring it along as donations. Don't forget cash or your checkbook to pay when you buy other people's, um, great stuff.

AUGUST ATMM

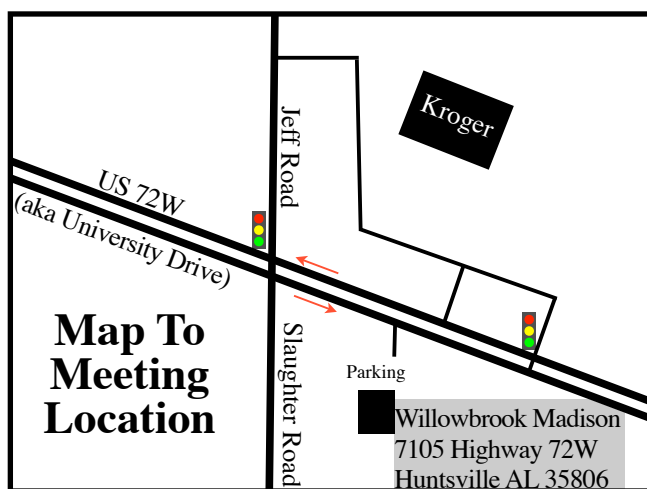
The host for the August After-The-Meeting Meeting is TBD at press time. The ATMM will likely be at the church, which means the usual rules will apply—that is, please bring food to share and your favorite drink. Also, please stay to help clean up. We need to be good guests and leave things at least as clean as we found them.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The next Con†Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting will be at **3P on 15 August 2015**—the same day as this month's club meeting. It will be held at the same place as the club meeting,

Willowbrook Baptist Church. There will be a dinner break between the Concom Meeting and the NASFA Business Meeting.

The general idea going forward is for the concom to meet on club meeting Saturdays, and (typically) on a Sunday about halfway between club meetings. We would like to publish a full set of tentative dates/places for concom meetings for the rest of this year, but that is proving difficult. Please stay tuned to your email (and grapevine opportunities) for further info. In the meantime, please consider all meeting dates as tentative until confirmed.



Continuing Our 35th Year of Publication

Inside this issue...

News & Info	2	Worldcon—Pending WSFS Business	4
Minutes of the July Meeting	3	Awards Roundup	5
NASFA Calendar	3	<i>No Need for a Questing Beast</i> —Chapter 16	6
		Art by Daniel Gish.....	7

Deadline for the August 2015 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday 31 July 2015

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs

Future programs for the rest of 2015 have been set:

- September—A presentation by Les Johnson (topic TBD).
- October—Con “postmortem” program at Con†Stellation.
- November—A presentation by Jamie Marchant, a new author, about her books. She may also do a reading.
- December—Christmas Party. (We have a tentative host identified.)

We need an ATMM volunteer or volunteers for September. The ATMM for October will be subsumed by Con†Stellation. We have tentative hosts identified for November and December. Volunteers for 2016 (especially the first few months) would be Good Thing™, too.

Stay tuned for possible info on a New Year’s Eve party.

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

All remaining 2015 NASFA meetings are currently scheduled on the normal 3rd Saturday. That includes (in theory at least) a club meeting during Con†Stellation XXXIII.

CHANGING SHUTTLE DEADLINES

The latest tweak to the *NASFA Shuttle* schedule shifted the *usual* repro date somewhat to the right (roughly the weekend before each meeting) but much of each issue will need to be put to bed as much as two weeks before the monthly meeting.

Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents *each month* to submit news, reviews, LoCs, or other material. We will generally need to enforce that deadline strictly.

JOINING THE NASFA EMAIL LIST

All NASFAnS who have email are urged to join the NASFA email list, which you can do online at <tinyurl.com/NASFAEmail>. The list is usually low traffic, though the rate is rather variable. Generally the list is limited to announcements about club activities plus the occasional message of general interest to north-Alabama sf/f/h/etc. fans. Non NASFAnS are both *encouraged* and *welcomed* to join the list, but please only do so if you’re interested in the above restricted topics.

NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE

NASFA has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties can check the calendar online, but you can also subscribe to it and have your Outlook, iCal, BlackBerry, or other calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, Concom Meetings, local sf/f/h/etc. events) are added or changed. You can view the calendar online at <tinyurl.com/NASFACal>.

News & Info

2016 DEEPSOUTHCON CANCELLED

Next year’s DeepSouthCon—which was to have been called ABC-DSC <www.abcdsc.com>—has been cancelled. A 25 July 2015 news release from chair M. Lee Rogers reads:

“After a recent meeting of the ABC DeepSouthCon committee and a review of the convention’s financial standing, the committee decided that it was no longer feasible to host the convention. Therefore, ABC DeepSouthCon on May 13–15, 2016, has been canceled.

“I apologize to everyone for this unfortunate outcome. The committee members tried their best to make this work. In the end, it did not.

“All current convention members will have their memberships refunded.”

The 2015 DSC <contraflowscifi.org> is still scheduled for 2–4 October 2015 in conjunction with CONtraflow V in Kenner LA (New Orleans area) at the New Orleans Airport Hilton.

The current DSC By-Laws (see about halfway down the

webpage <www.smithuel.net/sfchb/hberrata.html>) do not address a selected committee that can no longer put on their convention. That said, it seems likely that there could be action at the 21015 DSC to select a new host for 2016. (In addition, of course, to their regular duty to do the same for the con to be held 2 years hence.)

GUFF VOTING OPENS

Voting has opened for the 2016 Going Under Fan Fund (aka the Get Up-and-over Fan Fund) <taff.org.uk/guff.html>. This will be a southbound year, sending a delegate from Europe to Australasia—generally to attend the Australian natcon (in this case Contact2016 <contact2016.com>, to be held in Brisbane Australia 25–28 March 2016).

There is only one candidate this time around, **Jukka Halme**, who is involved in the 2017 Helsinki Worldcon bid and has an extensive fannish resume.

Voting <rantalica.com/GUFF_2014_Ballot.php> involves being an “active fan” (since at least the beginning of 2014) and paying at least £5, €6, \$10AUS, or \$10NZ. Those fees help support the trip.

SASQUAN NEARING AND BREAKING RECORDS

Due at least in part to the cultural phenomena of the Sad/Rabid Puppies Hugo campaign(s), Sasquan—this year’s Worldcon—has neared or set several records.

- As far as is known, Sasquan will be the first Worldcon to have more Supporting Members than Attending Members. (Or at least it is likely to have—a large spurt of at-the-door conversions or new memberships *could* happen.) As of their last posted update (29 July 2015) they had 4644 total Attending Members (adult, YA, child, dealer, military, etc.) and 5706 Supporting Members.
- That total of 10,350 members is getting close to eclipsing the record set just last year at London; which had 10,718 total members. Sasquan has reported a slightly later total of 10,626 members (without an attending/supporting breakdown)—creeping even closer to Loncon 3’s total.
- Voting in the Hugos has (to use the vernacular) smashed the previous record count. There were 5,950 votes received in the final round this year, well surpassing Loncon 3’s prior record of 3,587. This participation was said to be 57% of eligible voters—probably *not* a record, but still a high-water mark going back at least a decade.

SFPA GRAND MASTERS ANNOUNCED

The Science Fiction Poetry Association <sfpoetry.com> has announced that they have selected two **Grand Masters** in 2015—**Marge Simon** and **Steve Sneyd**. This marks only the 5th time that SFPA has selected a Grand Master (the first in 1999) and the first time they have selected two in one year.



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED...

...what it would be like to be a professional sf/f writer? Well, most of you reading this will never know, but you *can* buy a copy of the Spring 2015 *SFWA Bulletin*. Amazon has the Kindle ebook edition of that pub listed for only \$2.99 <tinyurl.com/AmznSFWABulS15>.

You can also pick up either a Kindle (\$9.99) or spiral-bound paper (\$19.95) version of *Ad Astra: The 50th Anniversary SFWA Cookbook* <tinyurl.com/AmznSFWACKbk>. Proceeds from that latter “go to SFWA’s Legal Fund, which was established to create loans for eligible member writers who have writing-related court costs and other related legal expenses.”

July Minutes

by Steve Sloan

The July meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, July 25, 2015, in the Madison satellite location of Willowbrook Baptist Church at 6:40:31P by President Mary Lampert. Doug nominated Shelly for President, Jim K. seconded, and Shelly quickly refused.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Darryl Osborn's mother passed away recently, and the club had a card to sign for him.

Program Co-Director Sue notified us that next month is the auction, so bring stuff to sell. Les Johnson will speak in September. The October meeting will be held at Con†Stellation, where the program will be the con postmortem. Author Jamie Marchant will speak at the November meeting. The December meeting will be the NASFA Christmas party.

CON BUSINESS

A concom (convention committee meeting) was held earlier that afternoon. The concom is currently working on programming.

Orson Scott Card will be 2015 Con†Stellation Guest of Honor. Additional guests include Artist Guest of Honor Sam Flagel, Master of Ceremonies Jeff "Uglyshoes" Harris, and "also attendings" B. Allen Lewis and Les Johnson.

Shelly asked about the con, in a pathetic voice, "Please help, please help so much, please..."

It's time to reserve your hotel room. Online registration is ready.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Doug read the copyright page of a book for a couple of minutes before Tracey moved to adjourn at 6:51:17P.

July's program was a presentation about OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH. Mary and Doug Lampert hosted the After the Meeting Meeting at the meeting location.

NASFA Calendar

AUGUST

- 01 Summer Time Steampunk—Atlanta GA.
- 07–09 Akaicon—Nashville TN.
- 07–09 Fandomfest—Louisville KY.
- 07–09 Shore Leave 37—Baltimore MD.
- 07–09 BronyCon—Baltimore MD.
- 08 BD: Jim Woosley.
- 12 BD: Sue Thorn.
- 14 BD: Edward Kenny.
- 14–16 Onyxcon 7—Atlanta GA.
- 15* Con†Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting—3P, at Willowbrook Madison.
- 15* NASFA Meeting—6:30P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: More-or-Less-Annual NASFA Auction. ATMM: TBD.
- 15–16 AndoCon—Atlanta GA.
- 16 Atlanta Comic Convention—Atlanta GA.
- 19 National Aviation Day.
- 19–23 Sasquan (73rd Worldcon)—Spokane WA.
- 21 BD: Deborah Denton.
- 21 Senior Citizens Day.
- 26 Women's Equality Day.

SEPTEMBER

- 03 BD: David K. Robinson.
- 07 Labor Day.
- 04–07 DragonCon—Atlanta GA.
- 04–07 Mephit Furmeet—Memphis TN.
- 05 National Book Festival—Washington DC.
- 09 BD: Mike Cothran.
- 11 BD: Ray Pietruszka.
- 11 Patriot Day.
- 11–13 OutsideCon 28—Burns TN.
- 11–13 ScareFest—Lexington KY.
- 12 BD: Pat Butler.
- 13 National Grandparents Day.
- 14 Rosh Hashanah.
- 16 Día de la Independencia.
- 17 Constitution Day/Citizenship Day.
- 18 National POW/MIA Recognition Day.
- 19* Con†Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting—3P, at Willowbrook Madison. **TENTATIVE.**
- 19* NASFA Meeting—6:30P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: Presentation by Les Johnson. ATMM: TBD.
- 19–20 Geek Gathering—Sheffield AL.
- 19–20 Save vs Hunger—Maryville TN.
- 23 Yom Kippur.
- 23 Fall equinox.
- 24 Eid al-Adha.
- 24–27 Anime Weekend Atlanta—Atlanta, GA.
- 24–27 Horror Film Fest—New Orleans LA.
- 25–27 FenCon 12—Dallas TX.
- 25–27 Wizard World—Nashville TN.
- 26 BD: Jenna Victoria Stone.
- 27 Gold Star Mother's Day.
- 28 First Day of Sukkot.

OCTOBER

- 01–04 Atlanta Game Fest 26—Atlanta GA.
- 02–03 Handmade & Bound—Nashville TN.
- 02–04 Contraflow V/DeepSouthCon 53—New Orleans LA.
- 02–04 Monsterama—Atlanta GA.
- 04 Last Day of Sukkot.
- 09–11 SIEGE—Atlanta GA.
- 10 Cleveland Geekster—Cleveland TN.
- 10–11 Rocket City Lit Fest—Huntsville AL.
- 12 Columbus Day/Native Americans' Day/Indigenous People's Day/Día de la Raza.
- 15 BD: Robert Buelow.
- 15 Muharram.
- 16–18 Con†Stellation XXXIII: Coma Berenices.
- 16 Boss's Day.
- 17* NASFA Meeting—At Con†Stellation; details TBD.
- 24 Marble City Mini-Con—Knoxville TN.
- 25 BD: Marie McCormack.
- 30–01 Fangcon—Knoxville TN.
- 30–01 Geek Media Expo—Nashville TN.
- 30–01 HallowCon—Dalton GA.
- 30–01 Walker Stalker—Atlanta GA.
- 31 Halloween.

NOVEMBER

- 01 Daylight Saving Time ends.
- 02 Día de Muertos.
- 06–07 PhreakNic 19—Nashville TN.
- 06–07 Nerdacon v10—Columbus GA.
- 06–08 Comic Con—Perry GA.
- 11 Veterans Day/Remembrance Day.
- 13–15 Anime Blast—Chattanooga TN.

originally published outside the USA. The makers of the motion note that if a work received sufficient nominations to appear on the final ballot in its first year of eligibility and should the author decline the nomination, the work would not be eligible in its second year due to other existing parts of the constitution.

- **Electronic Signatures**—This would change the constitution to authorize Worldcons to accept Site Selection ballots with any form of signature or authentication legal in the jurisdiction of the administering Worldcon (e.g., electronic signatures). The *Shuttle* notes that a plain-English reading of the wording would not just authorize Worldcons to accept non-physics signature, but require them to do so for any form of signature that is legal in their jurisdiction.

Awards Roundup

KAYMAR AWARD

The National Fantasy Fan Federation <n3f.org> has announced that **Holly Wilson** won the 2015 **Kaymar Award** (for service to N3F). The award includes a 1-year N3F membership and a check for \$10. Selection is by current N3F members who are previous award winners.

ICON AWARD

San Diego Comic-Con has announced that **Reggie Hudlin** won the 2015 **Icon Award** <www.comic-con.org/awards/icon-award> (for “individuals or organizations who have been instrumental in bringing comics and/or the popular arts to a wider audience”). The award was presented at the convention in early July, but the info was a bit slow to reach the *Shuttle*.

MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS

The Mythopoeic Society <www.mythsoc.org> announced the winners 2015 Mythopoeic Awards (for fantasy and scholarship relating to “the Inklings”) at Mythcon 46 <www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/mythcon-46>, held 31 July–2 August 2015 at the Hotel Elegante in Colorado Springs CO. The winners are:

- Fantasy Award for Adult Literature***Tales from Rugosa Coven*, Sarah Avery (Dark Quest)
- Fantasy Award for Children’s Literature***A Snicker of Magic*, Natalie Lloyd (Scholastic)
- Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies***C.S. Lewis and the Middle Ages*, Robert Boenig (Kent State University Press)
- Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies***Stories About Stories: Fantasy and the Remaking of Myth*, Brian Attebery (Oxford University Press)

ENNIE AWARDS & MORE

At Gen Con, the Diana Jones Award <www.dianajonesaward.org> (for “Excellence in Gaming”) and the Gen Con EN World RPG Awards (aka ENnies) <www.ennie-awards.com> (for “excellence in tabletop roleplaying gaming”) were announced. The Diana Jones Award is listed first below, all other awards are part of the ENnies. The ENnie winners and runners up are styled as Gold and Silver awards, respectively.

- Diana Jones Award***Guide to Glorantha*, Greg Stafford, Jeff Richard, and Sandy Petersen
- Adventure Winner****Horror on the Orient Express**
Adventure Runner-Up.....*A Red & Pleasant Land*
- Aid/Accessory Winner****Dungeons & Dragons**
Dungeon Masters Screen
Aid/Accessory Runner-Up.....Black Green
Call of Cthulhu 7th Edition RPG Dice Set
- Cover Art Winner****Rise of Tiamat**
Cover Art Runner-Up.....Achtung! Cthulhu:

- Terrors of the Secret War
- Interior Art Winner****Dungeons & Dragons**
Monster Manual
Interior Art Runner-Up.....The Strange
- Blog Winner****ConTessa Tabletop Gaming by**
Women for Everyone
Blog Runner-Up.....Gnome Stew
- Cartography Winner****Ninth World Guidebook**
Cartography Runner-UpThe Guide to Glorantha
- Electronic Book Winner****Basic Rules for**
Dungeons & Dragons
Electronic Book Runner-Up ..Ken Writes About Stuff Volume 2
- Family Game Winner****Dungeons & Dragons Starter Set**
Family Game Runner-Up.....Atomic Robo
The Roleplaying Game
- Free Product Winner** ..**Basic Rules for Dungeons & Dragons**
Free Product Runner-Up.....13th Age The Archmages Orrery
- Game Winner****Dungeons & Dragons Players Handbook**
Game Runner-UpThe Strange
- Miniatures Product Winner****Dungeons & Dragons**
Icons of the Realms Elemental Evil Boosters
Miniatures Product Runner-UpPathfinder Pawns
Inner Sea Pawn Box
- Monster/Adversary Winner****Dungeons & Dragons**
Monster Manual
Monster/Adversary Runner-Up.....Achtung! Cthulhu:
Terrors of the Secret War
- Podcast Winner****Ken and Robin Talk About Stuff**
Podcast Runner-UpMiskatonic University Podcast
- Production Values Winner****Dungeons & Dragons**
Starter Set
Production Values Runner-Up.....Horror on the Orient Express
- RPG Related Product Winner****Designers & Dragons:**
A History of the Roleplaying Game Industry
RPG Related Product Runner-UpTemple of Elemental Evil
- Rules Winner****Dungeons & Dragons Players Handbook**
Rules Runner-Up .MUTANT Year Zero The Roleplaying Game
- Setting Winner****A Red & Pleasant Land**
Setting Runner-UpThe Strange
- Software Winner****Roll20**
Software Runner-Up.....HeroLab
- Supplement Winner****Dungeons & Dragons**
Dungeon Masters Guide
Supplement Runner-Up.Pathfinder RPG: Pathfinder Unchained
- Website Winner**.....**The Escapist**
Website Runner-UpTabletop Audio
- Writing Winner****A Red & Pleasant Land**, Zak S
Writing Runner-UpD&D Player’s Handbook,
Jeremy Crawford, James Wyatt, Robert J. Schwalb, and
Bruce R. Cordell
- Fan’s Choice for Best Publisher Winner****Wizards**
of the Coast
Fan’s Choice for Best Publisher Runner-UpPaizo Inc
- Product Of The Year Winner****Dungeons & Dragons**
Players Handbook
Product Of The Year Runner-Up.....*A Red & Pleasant Land*

ELGIN AWARD NOMS

The Science Fiction Poetry Association has announced the candidates for the 2015 Elgin Award <sfpoetry.com/elgin.html>. Books of sf poetry published in 2015 and 2014 are eligible in two length categories—chapbook (10–39 pages of poetry) and full-length books (40+ pages of poetry). Somewhere north of 30 books are listed in the two categories—see the SFPA website for the full list <sfpoetry.com/el/elgcand.html>.

BRITISH FANTASY AWARDS NOMS

The shortlist for the 2015 British Fantasy Awards <www.britishfantasysociety.org/category/awards> has been announced. Winners will be announced at FantasyCon 2015 <fantasycon2015.org>, to be held 23–25 October 2015 at the East Midlands Conference Centre and Orchard Hotel in Nottingham UK. Nominations are by British Fantasy Society members and the attendees of the 2014 and 2015 FantasyCons, with some additions by a jury. Category jurors will select the winners, with the exception of a special award—the Karl Edward Wagner Award—which is selected by “the BFS committee.” By category, the nominees are:



Anthology BFA Noms

The Alchemy Press Book of Urban Mythic 2, Jan Edwards and Jenny Barber, eds.

Terror Tales of Wales, Paul Finch, ed.

Horror Uncut: Tales of Social Insecurity and Economic Un-ease, Joel Lane and Tom Johnstone, eds.

The Spectral Book of Horror Stories, Mark Morris, ed.

Lightspeed: Women Destroy Science Fiction Special Issue, Christie Yant, ed. (*Lightspeed Magazine*)

Artist BFA Noms

Ben Baldwin

Vincent Chong

Les Edwards

Sarah Anne Langton

Karla Ortiz

Daniele Serra

Collection BFA Noms

Nick Nightmare Investigates, Adrian Cole

Scruffians! Stories of Better Sodomites, Hal Duncan

The Bright Day Is Done, Carole Johnstone

Gifts for the One Who Comes After, Helen Marshall

Black Gods Kiss, Lavie Tidhar

Comic/Graphic Novel BFA Noms

Through the Woods, Emily Carroll

The Wicked + The Divine, Kieron Gillen and Jamie McKelvie

Cemetery Girl, Charlaïne Harris, Christopher Golden, and Don Kramer

Seconds, Bryan Lee O’Malley

Grandville Noël, Bryan Talbot

Saga, Brian K. Vaughan and Fiona Staples

Fantasy Novel BFA Noms (Robert Holdstock Award)

City of Stairs, Robert Jackson Bennett

The Relic Guild, Edward Cox

Breed, K.T. Davies

Cuckoo Song, Frances Hardinge

A Man Lies Dreaming, Lavie Tidhar

The Moon King, Neil Williamson

Film/Television Episode BFA Noms

Birdman: Or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

Black Mirror: “White Christmas”

Guardians of the Galaxy

Interstellar

Under the Skin

Horror Novel BFA Noms (August Derleth Award)

The Girl With All the Gifts, M.R. Carey

The Last Plague, Rich Hawkins

The Unquiet House, Alison Littlewood

Station Eleven, Emily St John Mandel

The End, Gary McMahon

No One Gets Out Alive, Adam Nevill

Independent Press BFA Noms

The Alchemy Press (Peter Coleborn)

Fox Spirit Books (Adele Wearing)

NewCon Press (Ian Whates)

Spectral Press (Simon Marshall-Jones)

Magazine/Periodical BFA Noms

Black Static, Andy Cox, ed.

Holdfast Magazine, Laurel Sills and Lucy Smee, eds.

Interzone, Andy Cox, ed.

Lightspeed, John Joseph Adams, ed.

Sein und Werden, Rachel Kendall, eds.

Newcomer BFA Noms (Sydney J. Bounds Award)

Edward Cox, for *The Relic Guild*

Sarah Lotz, for *The Three*

Laura Mauro, for “Ptichka” (*Horror Uncut*)

Den Patrick, for *The Boy with the Porcelain Blade*

Jen Williams, for *The Copper Promise*

Non-Fiction BFA Noms

Rhapsody: Notes on Strange Fictions, Hal Duncan

You Are the Hero: A History of Fighting Fantasy Gamebooks, Jonathan Green

Touchstones: Essays on the Fantastic, John Howard

Letters to Arkham: The Letters of Ramsey Campbell and August Derleth, 1961–1971, S.T. Joshi, ed.

D.F. Lewis Dreamcatcher Real-Time Reviews, D.F. Lewis

Ginger Nuts of Horror, Jim McLeod, ed.

Sibilant Fricative: Essays & Reviews, Adam Roberts

Novella BFA Noms

Water For Drowning, Ray Cluley

Cold Turkey, Carole Johnstone

“Newspaper Heart,” Stephen Volk (*The Spectral Book of Horror Stories*)

Drive, Mark West (Pendragon Press)

Short Story BFA Noms

“The Girl on the Suicide Bridge,” J.A. Mains (*Beside the Seaside*)

“Ptichka,” Laura Mauro (*Horror Uncut*)

“A Woman’s Place,” Emma Newman (*Two Hundred and Twenty-One Baker Streets*)

“A Change of Heart,” Gaie Sebold (*Wicked Women*)

Examining Elves

No Need for a Questing Beast—Chapter 16

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor’s Note: PieEyedDragon’s adventures in Middle-Earth will resume in these pages later. In the meantime, we take you to another time and location. PED spends somewhat less time “on camera” in this adventure, but still plays a major part.]

Ginny tickles the portrait of a bowl of fruit. The portrait opens as a door. A short, ugly being rushes toward her, wearing a golden locket on a chain.

Kreacher: Mistress Ginny has returned! Will you have tea and cakes, or roast goose?

Ginny: Soon, Kreacher. How is Winky?

Kreacher: She no longer drunken layabout. She seldom cries, though still misses the Crouchs. The rest do about as usual, except one. Winky is caring for old one who is too distracted to work.

Hermione: Someone sick? Please show us.

Kreacher: (pointing) Over there by that fireplace. Winky tends to Petty.

Petty was an old, scarred creature. He didn’t look a lot like any of the other house-elves, but they varied so much that few of them did resemble others strongly. He was a little broader, maybe a little taller could he but unbend his curving back. He sat on the floor, clutching a recent copy of the *Daily Prophet*; staring fixedly at the front page photographs.

Petty: (moaning) Summoned... cannot travel. Blood calls. Cannot go. Hate all the big ones. Poor Cappy.

Hermione: (kneeling) Winky, who is Cappy?

Winky: Winky does not know, mistress. Petty talks crazy. Sometimes says he is son of Beau. We not know any Beau. Winky asks all house-elves. All say Petty was here before them... long before. Never apparates... never.

Hermione: Petty, can I help you?

Petty: No help. All dead or burned. Summoned; but cannot go. Cannot go! (slapping hand on color photograph of PED)

Luna: The dragon is napping not far away; just down by the gate, son of Beau.

Petty leaps to attention, with back straighter than it had been seen before. There is a feverish gleam in his eyes. He grabs a polishing cloth and heads toward the kitchen door at a dead run, shaking off all attempts at restraint.

Ginny: Kreacher! We have to follow him, but we can't push the prams so fast!

Kreacher: (beckons to several other house-elves, then grabs hold of Ginny and her perambulator. Others grab Luna, Hermione, and her pram) Hang on mistresses. *Main Gate! Now!* (the kitchen disappears in a familiar squeezing darkness. They find themselves on the road where they had met Charlie.)

James Potter: WHEEEEEEE! (and laughs)

A bright flash of light occurs near the gate. "OK, next pose Miss Warbeck," said the photographer.

Hermione: (Looks at the gate, the photographers, the posing singer, the partially-camouflaged reptilian outline. A small figure exits the castle gate, running down the road toward them all. She draws her wand and touches it to her throat to magnify her warning) *Sonus! Everyone! Take cover! Charlie! We've got to stop him!* (points wand toward Petty, though the range is still much too far) *Impedimenta!*

Charlie Weasley: (Gets the idea, steadies his wand and waits for the range to shorten. Others follow suit. One of the photographers grabs a smaller camera, takes a steady stance, and waits.) *Incarcerous!* (but Petty tears through the cords like cobwebs) *Impedimenta!* (same result, now Petty is too close for another attempt).

Charlie drops his wand, opens his arms, and lunges to catch Petty. Petty ducks, grabs Charlie, and throws him on in the same direction, never stopping. There is a *Crack!* and three house-elves appear immediately in front of Petty. They try to grab him but get bowled over. There is no time left. Hermione shouts "*Petrificus Totalus!*", Ginny shouts "*Incarcerous!*", Luna shouts "*Pratfall!*"

Petty, unparalyzed, tears through the cords, slips a bit on a large banana peel, regains his balance, and enters the photo area. The photographer takes one more shot, then drops prone and readies his camera for another. Petty runs up to the dragon and stops dead, staring. No one breathes. Nothing moves, except the photographer's finger. Click. Click. Petty places one hand on the immense neck, reaches up with the cloth, and starts gently rubbing at the end of one of the many scars.

James Potter: (laughs, and points) Blue! Blue, blue, blue!

The dragon's camouflage is no longer unbroken. Two very large, very blue orbs have appeared a few feet off the ground.

The dragon's head rises somewhat. She looks at Petty, sniffs deeply, and looks thoughtful. She looks at the tableau of photographers, wizards, house-elves, witches, and perambulators. Her eyes narrow. The smell of cinnamon gets stronger. All camouflage drops. The beast appears as a blue-eyed green dragon, with a golden aura.

PED: (A loud, brassy bugle is followed by bellowing) *you monsters!* What do you take me for, *Moloch?* Whose children are those? Who would bring infants so near such a creature as I?

From the perambulators, two infants start crying at the noise. Deep in the brains of Ginny and Hermione, ancient instincts trigger certain reflexes, releasing oxytocin hormone. Sensations of dampness follow, and familiar aches.

Hermione: Oh, damn! And we can't apparate! (She picks up Rosie and starts to adjust her blouse. Noticing the photographer, she throws a broad scarf over her shoulder, raises the baby, and makes another adjustment. Rosie grows quiet. Ginny, meanwhile, has done the same with Albus, who also grows quiet once more.)

PED: (calming down) Well, it seems that these are your own children at least. Hello, Luna. Please excuse my mood. What is going on, and who is this fellow trying to polish my neck? I haven't completely processed his scent, but it seems familiar.

Luna: That is Petty, a very old house-elf. He seemed to get spellbound by your picture in the *Prophet*. He ran down here and we couldn't stop him from waking you. Do you know a house-elf named Beau? Petty says that he is Beau's son, but no one knows Beau.

PED: (eyes half-closed, thinking and processing olfactory information, eyes open wide as pies once more) *Bosun!*

Petty: (straightens to attention) *Here and ready!* But unable to travel. I could not answer the summons.

PED: (gently) There is another place where you are needed. Others need your service.

Petty: But... I am burned... burned out. I cannot travel. There are no officers to serve.

PED: Healing is possible, and there is one officer left. The morale officer survived.

Petty: Hrobben? No, he was spaced, too. I saw this.

PED: He is a Brownie of the High Air. He survived and made landfall. We are trying to raise the ship.

Petty: My blood in the *ship!* The *ship* in my blood! My duty to serve... if I but can.

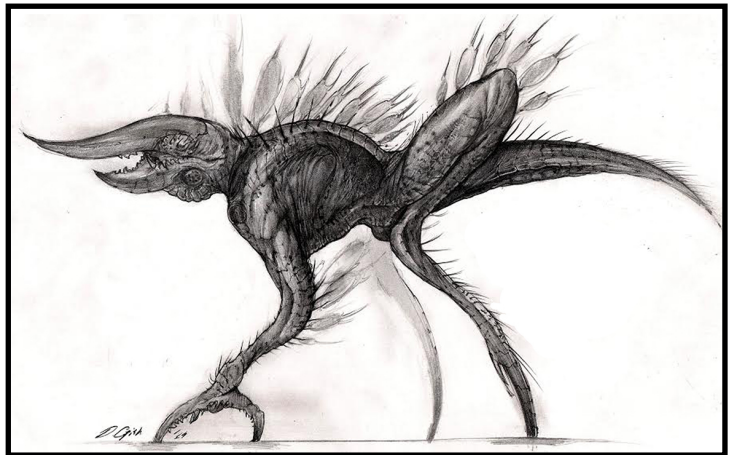
Luna: Excuse me. What seems to be happening?

PED: One of the *lost...* has been found.

Petty: They enslaved me, but could not break my prior conditioning. Helga and Rowena... Salazar and Godric. They did not break Petty Officer Bosun!

— O — O — O —

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of J.K. Rowling. (But you already knew that, didn't you?)]



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