



Space Cowboy Books Presents: Simultaneous Times Newsletter

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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to issue fourteen of Simultaneous Times Newsletter! This issue features an interview with A.C. Wise about her wonderful new book *Wendy, Darling*. We also have a new section of Author Reading Recommendations, with this month's reading list brought to you by SF author extraordinaire Gareth L. Powell. In other news Space Cowboy Books is finally open to the public again, we're all vaccinated and looking forward to seeing you at the store! As always we'd love to hear from you, so get in touch. - Jean-Paul L. Garnier spacecowboybooks@gmail.com



Tell us a bit about your latest book?

Wendy, Darling is dark, feminist re-imagining of the Peter Pan story. It picks up with Wendy Darling as an adult with a child of her own. When Peter kidnaps her daughter, Wendy returns to Neverland to save her. Along the way, she must confront her past, the trauma she suffered following her time in Neverland as a child, and face the darkness in Neverland itself, which she failed to see the first time she was there.

What challenges did you face working with preexisting characters?

I tried to strike a balance between making the characters recognizable to fans of the original Peter Pan stories and play, while also putting my own spin on them. I did take quite a few liberties and made the story my own, but I'm hopeful that my version of the characters and setting will still resonate with people, and still have that mythic, fairy tale feel found in the original.

You've been a prolific writer of short fiction, how does the process of writing a novel differ for you, which format do you prefer, and why?

Writing a novel is definitely a very different skillset from writing short fiction. I had to trick myself into writing a novel by starting with a flash fiction story, which I then tried to expand into a novella before expanding it into a novel. By taking it in stages, and not fully admitting to myself that I was writing a novel, it made the process less intimidating. I still love short fiction, and I don't intend to give up writing it anytime soon. Both forms have their appeals, and I don't think I could choose a favorite between them!

*You've also published several books of short stories and a novella, can you tell us about those and how they differ from *Wendy, Darling*?*

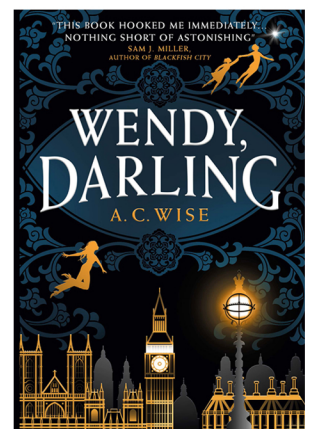
My two collections and my novella are all very different from each other, and from *Wendy, Darling*, but at the same time, there are common themes that echo across a lot of my work. Found/chosen family and queer relationships tend to show up a lot, as do things that are horror-tinged even in stories that aren't explicitly horror. My first collection, *The Ultra Fabulous Glitter Squadron Saves the Day Again*, is a series of inter-connected short stories about a group of queer ladies (with the occasional male or non-binary member of the team making an appearance) who kick ass and save the world from various supernatural threats, all while looking fabulous in sequins and high heels. My second collection, *The Kissing Booth Girl and Other Stories*, is a more traditional short story collection in that it brings together several previously-published short stories along with a few originals. *Catfish Lullaby*, my novella, is a Southern Gothic, cosmic horror story that revisits the main character at several points throughout his life as he deals with a recurring evil that just happens to have originated next door to the house where he grew up. *Wendy, Darling* is obviously based on J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*, but I still found a way to work in the themes of found and chosen family, queer relationships, and horror-adjacent situations while putting my own spin on the original characters and story!

What themes and issues do you think will become increasingly important in SF/F?

A theme that I've seen an increasing number of authors tackling in their work is climate change. Science fiction, fantasy, and horror are perfect vehicles to explore not only the ongoing climate crisis itself, but possible solutions and recovery efforts that could turn things around going forward. Another thing that isn't a theme exactly, but which I've started to see more of and that I hope we will continue to see, is SFF in translation. Online short fiction publications in particular have been leading the way here with special issues dedicated to translated fiction and fiction written outside of North America, translated work regularly appearing publications in general, and whole publications dedicated to translated fiction, all of which is really wonderful to see.

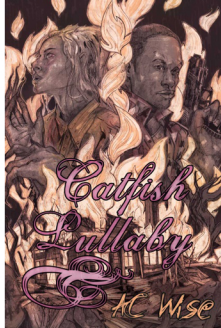
Do you have any advice for beginning SF/F writers?

Find what you're passionate about and what keeps you coming back to and finishing the stories you're writing. Writing to chase a trend, or to try to fit an ideal of what you think publishers or readers want will likely only lead to frustration. If you're not excited about what you're writing, you're more likely to give up on it, and that lack of excitement will come through to the reader as well. Write the kind of stories you want to read, and the kind of stories only you can tell!



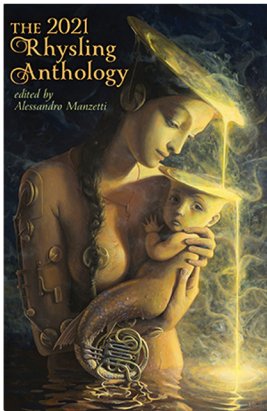
What's next for you, and what are you currently working on?

In addition to *Wendy, Darling*, I have a new short story collection, *The Ghost Sequences*, coming out from Undertow Books in October this year. Appropriate to the time of year, the stories all deal with ghosts and hauntings in one way or another, and they all lean firmly into dark fantasy and horror. As for what I'm currently working on, I am in the process of editing and revising the (as yet untitled) sequel to *Wendy, Darling*.



<http://www.acwise.net/>

New From the Small Press



The 2021 Rhysling Anthology Ed. Alessandro Manzetti

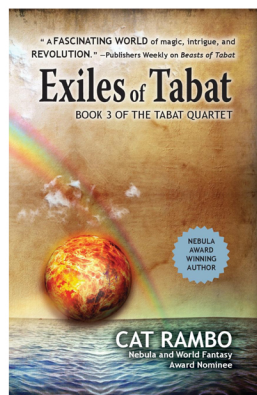
The 2021 Rhysling Anthology contains the best speculative poems published in English in 2020, nominated by members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association. The Anthology serves as the voting instrument for the annual Rhysling Award, given in Long and Short categories. Poems may be science fiction, fantasy, or horror, and often include tropes from more than one

genre. The Anthology is a respected showcase of speculative poetry. <http://sfpoetry.com/>

Exiles of Tabat

By Cat Rambo

Exiles of Tabat is the third in a fantasy series from Wordfire Press, taking place in a world that depends on the servitude - and sometimes the physical bodies -- of dryads, unicorns, centaurs, and similar magical beings. What happens when those beings question the order of things -- and how will those in power fight back? It follows the journey of Bella Kanto, exiled gladiator, and her companion Teo, as well as that of former apprentice Lucy, whose life depends on a mistaken identity after her kidnapping, as all three try to work their way back to the city of Tabat. <http://www.kittywumpus.net/blog/>



Author Recommendations

My name's Gareth L. Powell and I write science fiction about extraordinary characters wrestling with the question of what it means to be human. I've won and been shortlisted for several major awards, and my *Embers of War* novels are currently being adapted for television.



When asked to provide a recommended reading list, I had to think hard. I didn't just want to make a list of books that have meant a lot to me over the years, as many of them are now outdated. Plus, there are so many great writers and classic books that this list will need to omit many of them for the sake of brevity. I could probably have listed 500 books without too much trouble, so I have left out some of the more obvious ones, like *Dune*, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* or *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*.

Bearing all that in mind, I present here—in no particular order—a list of books I've enjoyed, books I admire, and books I think every self-respecting modern SF author should read.

1. Neuromancer by William Gibson
2. A Fire Upon The Deep by Vernor Vinge
3. Nova by Samuel R. Delany
4. Ancillary Justice by Ann Leckie
5. The Long Way To A Small Angry Planet by Becky Chambers
6. Velocity Weapon by Megan E. O'Keefe.
7. The Player of Games by Iain M. Banks
8. Pandora's Star by Peter F. Hamilton
9. Revelation Space by Alastair Reynolds
10. Binti by Nnedi Okorafor
11. Dangerous Visions edited by Harlan Ellison
12. Mirrorshades edited by Bruce Sterling
13. New Worlds edited by Michael Moorcock
14. Light by M. John Harrison
15. Gateway by Frederik Pohl
16. The Collapsing Empire by John Scalzi
17. Gideon The Ninth by Tamsin Muir
18. Ancestral Night by Elizabeth Bear
19. The Stars My Destination by Alfred Bester
20. Rosewater by Tade Thompson
21. The Tea Master and The Detective by Aliette de Bodard
22. End of the World Blues by Jon Courtenay Grimwood
23. A Memory Called Empire by Arkady Martine
24. Seven Devils by Elizabeth May and Laura Lam
25. Children of Time by Adrian Tchaikovsky
26. The Dispossessed by Ursula K. Le Guin
27. Star Maker by Olaf Stapledon
28. The Forever War by Joe Haldeman
29. Lord of Light by Roger Zelazny
30. The Rediscovery of Man by Cordwainer Smith
31. Annihilation by Jeff Vandermeer
32. Planetfall by Emma Newman
33. All Systems Red by Martha Wells
34. Brasyl by Ian McDonald
35. Leviathan Wakes by James S.A. Corey
36. Do You Dream of Terra-Two by Temi Oh
37. Wanderers by Chuck Wendig
38. Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell
39. Manifold: Space by Stephen Baxter
40. Embers of War by Gareth L. Powell (well, I had to include one of mine, didn't I?)