



# Space Cowboy Books Presents: Simultaneous Times Newsletter

#18 October 2021

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## Letter from the Editor

Welcome to Simultaneous Times issue eighteen! In this issue we bring you the free gift we promised – *Simultaneous Times Vol 2.5* free science fiction anthology ebook, details on the back page. We've also launched our new website and encourage you to check it out, and we've love to hear any feedback you might have. For this month's interview we have Holly Lyn Walrath – poet, author, educator, and editor of *Interstellar Flight Press* – as well as some new releases from independent presses. As always, we've love to hear from you, so please get in touch at [spacecowboybooks@gmail.com](mailto:spacecowboybooks@gmail.com)

Jean-Paul L. Garnier



*Tell us a bit about your latest book of poetry?*

My first full-length book of poetry is *The Smallest of Bones* (CLASH Books, September 28, 2021). This is a weird little book of tiny body horror poems. Some of the topics in the book include love, romance, relationships, queer sexuality, religion, death, demons, ghosts, bones, gender, and darkness. These are a few of

my favorite things. Oh, and bones.

*Your last book of poetry, Glimmerglass Girl won the Elgin Award for best speculative poetry chapbook, what was the experience like?*

It was such an honor for the membership of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association to choose my book out of the wonderful nominated works. The chair for the award reached out and told me that my book overwhelmingly won the most votes—and that I should consider going into politics. I love the fact that people respond to my work and engage with it. That book will always hold a little sweet spot in my heart.

*You are also the editor / publisher of Interstellar Flight Press, what were your motivations for starting the press, and what goals are you working towards?*

My father passed away a few years ago from Parkinson's disease. When my first book came out, he was near the end stages of the disease and was unable to speak. I was devastated that I never got to share with him my book, and the success I've had in writing, because he was always my champion. I had been thinking about starting a publishing endeavor for years. It became obvious to me that you have to go for the things you love in life. Even when it feels impossible and like the world is a dark void that you're throwing art into, you have to do it because you never know what will come back at you. I've been very blessed to meet so many amazing writers with the press. Our main goal (as a team of over 30+ writers and volunteers) is to support underrepresented genres and voices in publishing.

*You also teach many writing workshops, please tell us about these, and where writers can sign up?*

Sure, I have a free November NaNoWriMo workshop through Fairway Library that has four sessions. I also have two self-paced online courses: *Journaling for Poets* and *Writing Resistance* through Erasure Poetry. To find out more about my workshops, visit my website at [www.hlwalrath.com/appearances](http://www.hlwalrath.com/appearances).

*As a prolific writer of non-fiction, how has this changed your approaches to writing fiction and poetry?*

Most of my nonfiction is about the craft of writing, although I do write some book and movie reviews. I think I'm ultimately always trying to figure out the why's of things. I like to do what I call "meta writing" where I write about the craft, the process, and the ups and downs of the writing life. This is pretty much a learning process for me, because as I pick apart how my own writing works, I can share that with other writers! Also, as a freelance editor, I found there is a lack of simple resources for new writers, so I write about things that I think would help my clients.

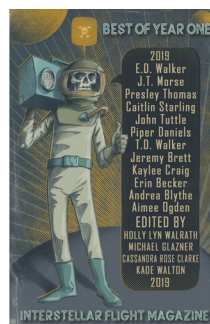
*What themes and issues do think will become increasingly important in science fiction?*

We're in a golden age of science fiction books and poetry right now. Writers are increasingly diving into the failings of our society and picking them apart, envisioning new worlds and new realities where inequality is disregarded as necessary and instead treated as anathema. It's a magical time where we're seeing this growth of writing by people of color, women, LGBTQ, and writers with disabilities. One topic that I feel will grow more and more pressing is climate change. In the words of Ursula K. Le Guin, we need "writers who can see alternatives to how we live now, can see through our fear-stricken society and its obsessive technologies to other ways of being, and even imagine real grounds for hope."

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

I'm finishing up a young adult novel that I hope to send out to agents soon. I'm also working on a new collection of 90s queer poetry inspired by pop culture icons like Princess Di and Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

<https://www.interstellarflightpress.com> - <http://www.hlwalrath.com/>







### Simultaneous Times Vol 2.5 - Free Ebook

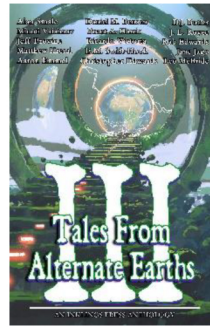
To celebrate the launch of our new website, Space Cowboy Books has created a free download ebook entitled *Simultaneous Times Vol. 2.5*. The book features writers and illustrators from Brazil, Germany, England, and the United States and serves as a companion piece to the *Simultaneous Times* science fiction podcast and paperback book series. The book features the science fiction writings of: Michael Butterworth, J. Jeff Jones, Cora Buhlert, Renan Bernardo, Brent A. Harris, Robin Rose Graves, Kim Martin, RedBlueBlackSilver, and Douglas A. Blanc – with illustrations by: Dante Luiz, Austin Hart, Douglas A. Blanc, Chynna DeSimone, and Zara Kand.

Get your free copy here: <https://spacecowboybooks.com/free-content/>

### Call for Submissions

We're looking for science fiction short story submissions for *Simultaneous Times* podcast. Please submit stories ranging from 500 to 2500 words, in standard manuscript format. Before submitting, please listen to a few episodes to hear how we produce stories and make sure that we are the right fit for you and your work. Upon acceptance we pay 2 cents a word, up to 1000 words. *Simultaneous Times* is released on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month – science fiction stories by contemporary authors, set to original soundtracks written by our team of composers. We're looking forward to reading your stories.

Submissions can be sent to [spacecowboybooks@gmail.com](mailto:spacecowboybooks@gmail.com)



### Tales From Alternate Earths 3

Have you ever asked the question “What if...?”

What if things had turned out differently, what if history had taken another turn, what if our world had gone another way?

That's the question at the heart of the genre of alternate history – and that powers the stories in the new Inklings Press anthology,

*Tales From Alternate Earths 3*.

Alternate history has had quite the renaissance in recent years – from TV shows such as *The Man in the High Castle*, an adaptation of the Philip K Dick novel, to the HBO series *Watchmen*, and more light-hearted adventures through history such as *Timeless* or *Legends of Tomorrow*. Even Disney is getting in on the action with their “What If?” series looking at what might have happened if key moments in the Marvel Cinematic Universe had gone differently.

That's the fun of it – there's so much range in the genre, but all so close to home that it could just be the slightest difference that takes us there.

That difference is usually called the point of departure, the moment when history departs from our own. That can be something huge – an alien ship arrives, say – or it can be a tiny difference. In one of the stories in the new anthology, it hinges on a man having a pair of boots.

Stories in the book span the world, from Hitchcock directing *Titanic* to a hunt for Jack The Ripper, from Cold War chicanery to a Roman Empire that never ended, from mythological beings turned real to post-World War Two genetic experiments. It's a big canvas and it's great to see what the authors involved bring to the table. And that's not even getting into stories where we wouldn't want to ruin the surprise!

There are stories by Alan Smale, Daniel M Bensen, DJ Butler, Minoti Vaishav, Brent A Harris, JL Royce, Jeff Provine, Ricardo Victoria, Rob Edwards, Matthew Kresal, Aaron Emmel, Christopher Edwards, EM Swift-Hook, Jane Jago and Leo McBride.

### Sirena By Gideon Marcus

One starship, six friends, 10,000 lives in the balance.

Young captain-for-hire Kitra Yilmaz has gotten her first contract: escort the mysterious Princess of Atlántida beyond the Frontier and find her a new world. It's a risky job, fraught with the threat of pirates, dangerous squatters, and rising romantic tensions.

Still, Kitra and her crew are up for anything — until they find a lush world, perfect for settlement...with an enormous ghost ship already in orbit.

What secret does the crippled vessel hide? And is Kitra ready to take responsibility for its precious cargo?

