



# Space Cowboy Books Presents: Simultaneous Times Newsletter

#24 April 2022

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## Letter from the Editor

Welcome to issue 24 of Simultaneous Times! What started as a pandemic project has stretched out into something so much more, and it has been a great pleasure to interview so many wonderful people in the field of SFF, to spotlight new releases from small presses, bring our readers poetry, news and more. In this issue we bring you an interview with Kay Allen from Sword & Kettle Press, and since we just celebrated the 4 year anniversary of our podcast Simultaneous Times we wanted to list all the amazing contributors that have made it possible to keep going, and producing great stories, for all this time. As always, we'd love to hear from you, so get in touch at [spacecowboybooks@gmail.com](mailto:spacecowboybooks@gmail.com) Jean-Paul L. Garnier



*What was the catalyst for starting Sword & Kettle Press, and what is the mission of the imprint?*

I started Sword & Kettle in college, while I was working on an English degree and submitting my writing around to other small venues. I got really excited about the possibility of curating and editing others' work, although it took me a little bit of time to find a niche in feminist fantasy. Along the way, we've gotten new staff members, released physical and digital publications, and successfully crowdfunded larger projects. Our mission has evolved into publishing inclusive feminist fantasy & speculative writing, creating resources for writers & publishers, and making beautiful books.

*Sword & Kettle also creates handmade books, can you tell us about this process?*

As a small press, we love that we can take the time to hand-sew limited editions of our smaller books. Not all of our projects have a handmade component, but we've done basic bookbinding since the beginning, and I think it does make our books stand out. Especially when a lot of our work is done online, it's fun to have physical items to work with. We enjoy the crafting aspect!

*You also run the online journal Corvid Queen, can you tell us about this project and how it compliments the rest of the work that Sword & Kettle does?*

With all that said about bookbinding, printed and handmade books do have a lot of limitations in terms of supply availability, crafting time, and shipping costs. We try to diversify the ways that readers can engage with our work.

*Corvid Queen* is our online journal of feminist fairy tales, folklore, and myths. We publish one new piece every Friday, all year round, and it's totally free to read. It lets us really examine how traditional tales can be changed and shaped to new purposes, as many different authors can interpret the same stories. No matter what other projects we have going on, *Corvid Queen* is always delivering new pieces.

*Sword & Kettle is run with a set of ethical standards, what are the most important of these and how are they implemented?*

My team read the book *Proposals for the Feminine Economy* together, which rethinks traditional business values through a feminist lens. We used the book as a jumping-off point to come up with our own core values as a feminist press, and we periodically set new goals for ourselves in each of those main areas.

We've been especially focused lately on increasing accessibility: making sure our websites are legible for low-vision readers, adding alt text to our web and social images, making digital versions of our print books that are screen-reader compatible, and adding sliding scale pricing to some of our offerings.

Our most important value is integrity: making decisions together that we feel good about, and figuring out how to do better next time when a decision doesn't work out the way we thought.

*As an independent press what are some of the greatest challenges you face?*

Time and money! We're all volunteers with other day jobs, so we try to find the line between keeping up momentum on our projects while not overwhelming ourselves with work.

We've been very fortunate to have steady book sales and incredibly generous support on our crowdfunding projects in recent years, but we can definitely always use more money to pay our contributors more, upgrade our tools, and market our publications. We launched a Patreon page last year for this reason, and share a mix of public and patrons-only posts there with writing and publishing resources, author interviews, behind-the-scenes looks, and more.

*In your opinion, what are some of the biggest differences and changes of concern in modern feminist speculative fiction versus that of the past?*

I think feminist speculative fiction has gotten much more expansive over the years. Even when I was a kid, the focus of a lot of feminist fantasy was proving that female authors and female characters could do fantasy as well as men could.

Although there are always exceptions and although I love these older books very dearly, when I think of classic feminist spec fic, I picture a fairly generic European-inspired secondary world fantasy with a white cis woman protagonist. Maybe she's becoming a knight or going on an epic quest, or maybe she has special magic that only women can access for some reason. Maybe there are barely any

women at all, and the author is trying to prove that fantasy by women doesn't need to only be about or for women.

These ideas are fine as first steps, but when you get out of "proving yourself" territory, you open up a lot more possibilities. Speculative genres today tell more types of stories about more types of people in more types of worlds. There's much more diversity in the races, genders, and sexualities of characters. There's much more room to be weird and messy and experimental!

*What's coming up next for Sword & Kettle, and what are you currently working on?*

We're currently reading submissions for New Cosmologies, our next mini-chapbook series, based around the beginnings and ends of worlds. Once we select those pieces, we'll be working on editing, designing, bookbinding, and setting up our next crowdfunding campaign!

We're also working on promoting our most recent full-length release: Jessie Ulmer's *Bewildered*, a chapbook that reimagines Hansel & Gretel. We have a great slate of stories coming to *Corvid Queen* this year as well!

<https://www.swordandkettlepress.com/>



## New from the Small Press



### **Martian Year One – ed. Eric Fomley**

Martian is a magazine of science fiction drabbles, stories told in exactly 100 words. This is the complete first year of Martian, containing all four of the first issues. This anthology features stories from Rich Larson, D.A. Xiaolin Spires, Lora Gray, Lettie Prell, Steve Rasnic Tem, Holly Schofield, Wendy Nickel, Liam Hogan, and many other writers from around the globe.

<https://shackleboundbooks.wordpress.com/>



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**Space Cowboy Books Presents:**  
**Simultaneous Times**  
**Episode #49**  
**Four Year Anniversary Special Ep.**  
**Featuring Stories from the Pages of**  
**Sci-Fi Lampoon Magazine**  
**Featuring Stories By**  
**Michael James & J.W. Allen**  
**www.spacecowboybooks.com**

Last month was the 4 year anniversary of our podcast, it's been a hell of a ride and *Space Cowboy Books Presents: Simultaneous Times* would like to thank all of our contributors over the years!

### Authors:

Michael James, J.W. Allen, F.J. Bergmann, Toshiya Kamei, Geoff Habiger, Guy Hasson, Adele Gardner, Jonathan Nevair, A.C. Wise, Renan Bernardo, Rodrigo Assis Mesquita, Robin Rose Graves, Mark D. Owen, Douglas A. Blanc, Cora Buhlert, S.Z. Attwell, Liam Hogan, Frank Slater, Joshua Green, Nicholas C. Smith, Gideon Marcus, Ben Coppin, Dain Luscombe, Julie Carpenter, Christopher Ruocchio, Brent A. Harris, Andy Dibble, RedBlueBlackSilver, Michael Butterworth, Susan Rukeyser, Bryan Thao Worra, Patti Jeane Pangborn, Aiden Kinsella, Kim Martin, Gabriel Hart, William Weiss, Gareth Jackson, David Brin, Rudy Rucker, Francene Kaplan, Holly Lyn Walrath, D.J. Butler, Anastasia Wasko, Jon Christopher, James C. Glass, Keith Howington, Weston Ochse, Mari Collier, Laura Bogner, Joe Hertel, Jakes Bayley

### Composers:

RedBlueBlackSilver, Phog Masheeen, Dain Luscombe, Julie Carpenter, Oneirothopter, Patrick Urn, Scott Smigel, Sisiutl, Jon Christopher

### Collaborators:

Hexagon Magazine, Sci-Fi Lampoon Magazine

### Voice Actors and Readers:

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