



Brought to you by: K.D. Wentworth, Uncle Guido and Simon McCaffery

Special "Where Are Our Flying Cars, Anyway?" Issue • January 1999

***** HELLO OSFW *****

Due to an ice storm, the January meeting has been rescheduled for Friday, Jan. 15th, 7:00 P.M., at the Wentworth/Kearns residence. Address: 6915 S. New Haven. Directions: Drive down 71st Street between Harvard and Yale, turn north at the light on Oswego, then left at the first street possible, and then left again. The house is gray stone and will be on your left. Phone: 523-9729.

REMINDER: 1999 OSFW dues are \$13.00 (\$18.00 per household), payable to KDW.

***** UNLOCAL NEWS *****

Stories and columns from DRAGON MAGAZINE are being reprinted in CD form without additional payment from Wizards of the Coast, the new owner. Since an additional payment was specified in most of the contracts signed over the years, writers have appealed to the SFWA Grievance Committee and steps are being taken to remedy this situation.

Recently reported on the Science Fiction Weekly website...

A recent report in the *New York Post* has revealed several secrets about a special two-part episode of *The X-Files* that will air in February, according to numerous online reports. Among the revelations comes word that Special Agent Dana Scully will finally begin believing in UFOs, and that Special Agent Fox Mulder will find out what *really* happened to his sister (*this was supposedly explained in the video release version, which included extra footage – S.M.*).

Files creator Chris Carter will also reportedly introduce a new race of faceless aliens into the series, but it's unclear whether they will help save humanity from the other extraterrestrials already on the scene. The *Post* also claims that two series regulars will die, and that viewers will learn who Agent Alex Krycek works for.

Jean-Claude Forest, the man who created the futuristic comic book vixen Barbarella, died Thursday, Dec. 31, 1998, at the age of 68, according to Associated Press. Barbarella made her first appearance in *V Magazine* in 1962, though she was the victim of censors in Forest's native land of France until the early 1970s.

Toymaker Hasbro paid Warner Bros. a seven-figure sum to settle a lawsuit over the similarity between Hasbro's Furby doll and the animatronic gremlins that starred in Warner's 1984 hit film *Gremlins*, according to *Variety*. As part of the agreement, Hasbro will reportedly be redesigning its Furby line, which has sold an estimated 2 million units since October.

Renowned SF&F author Michael Moorcock has signed a deal with publisher Warner Aspect to write three more novels in his famous Elric fantasy saga. The books--titled *The Dreamthief's Daughter*, *The Silverskin* and *Mournblade*--will be published in hardcover format beginning in late 2000 or early 2001.

Canadian SF author Robert J. Sawyer has resigned as president of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. SFWA vice president Paul Levinson will assume the vacated post.

Ed Neumeier, who adapted Robert Heinlein's classic SF novel *Starship Troopers* for the big screen, will next turn his hand to Roger Zelazny's fantasy novel *Nine Princes in Amber*, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*. Producer Mark Canton and *Batman Forever* writer Akiva Goldsman are teaming with Neumeier to turn *Nine Princes* into a feature film.

*** LOCAL NEWS ***

Brad Sinor is writing a regular review column titled "SF Books in Brief" for the TULSA WORLD. It will be published every six to eight weeks. The first one appeared Sunday, Nov. 30th.

Member Scott Cupp had two stories published last month, "Death Certificate" in HORRORS: 365 SCARY STORIES and "I Was a Teenaged Horny Toad" in CREATURE FEATURE: A CHAPBOOK. The latter will also be posted on the CREATURE FEATURE website. He has sold an additional story to TAILS FROM THE PET SHOP.

*** GOOD REJECTIONS ***

Michael Keller: WRITERS OF THE FUTURE

Barbara Thrower: ASIMOV'S, FASFF, SF AGE, REALMS OF FANTASY, ENDANGERED SPECIES anthology

Brad: CEMETERY SONATA, ZOTHIQUE, THE LAST CONTINENT, PULP ETERNITY

Greg Lower: WRITERS OF THE FUTURE

Paul Batteiger: WRITERS OF THE FUTURE

KDW: FASFF

*** CONTINUUM ***

November, 1998

by KDW

We had thirteen in November, not counting Sammie Dog. President Greg filled us in on the coming postal rate change, we had a nice visit with Rocky, and then we took a few minutes to plan the Christmas party. Afterwards, we got down to business and read stories.

Brad: Brad read "Location Shoot," a short story romp featuring a film crew, actors, and Bambi the Barbarian, not to mention the odd weredragon or two. I liked the humorous interplay between the two worlds, and the ending where we find out that nothing is quite as it appeared.

Rob: Rob read Chapter 7 of the Jerkin Ripper novel. Brother Robert tells the story of his childhood, when he was sold into prostitution by his mother and a tavern keeper. Fortunately, Raymond comes along to teach him the ways of the business and give him some self-esteem. I enjoyed the strong sense of voice as Robert reminisces, and also the character of Raymond, very strongly drawn. The chapter ended on an intriguing note that made me want to hear more.

KDW: KDW read "Hallah Iron-Thighs and the Five Unseemly Sorrows."

*** THE ICE PICK ***

by Diana Carolyn Ice

20 MASTER PLOTS AND HOW TO BUILD THEM

by Ronald Tobias.

Cincinnati, Writer's Digest Books.

ISBN 0-89879-595-8. \$16.95.

Whenever you mention you're writing a story, the first thing people usually ask is "What's your story about?"

Simplistically speaking, the answer you give (if you tell them) is the plot. But if an editor asked you, could you state the basic idea for your story in fifty words or less? Explain what the central aim of your story is? Tell your protagonist's goal? Motivation? Opposition?

When you get an idea for a story, do you know where to begin? Or how to maintain the momentum of the narrative? Plot is a dynamic process. It permeates and drives your story.

It "isn't an accessory that conveniently organizes your material according to some ritualistic magic. You don't just plug in a plot like a household appliance and expect it to do its job. Plot is organic. It takes hold of the writer and the work from the beginning."

This book is not simply a list of the twenty top plots of all time. It shows you how to create your plot and apply it to the subject matter you choose so that your story is developed evenly and effectively. In most stories we find that without tension there is no plot, and tension is created through opposition to the protagonist. This may be an external enemy or an internal character flaw. The tension generally increases as the climax of the story approaches, each roadblock the character faces becoming increasingly difficult, raising the stakes or escalating the complications, and eventually changing the protagonist's character for better . . . or worse.

There are action plots and mental plots, morality plays and stories where there is no clear right or wrong, and there are triangles and duos where character relationships are paramount, but Tobias has chosen the twenty most common plots. Then for each of them, from the quintessential "Quest" to the "Ascension" (Horatio Alger-type plots) and "Descension" (lo, how the mighty are fallen-type plots), Tobias defines and explains the plot, tells its advantages and dangers, explains how it can work for you, and gives a checklist of things to

keep in mind when trying to write a story using that plot.

He is straightforward about the pitfalls and gives a lot of practical hints and pointers. For example, in the checklist for the plot he calls "Wretched Excess," he warns, "Develop your character so that his decline evokes sympathy. Don't present him as a raving lunatic. . . . Don't hide anything that will keep your reader from being empathetic. . . . It's hard to be sympathetic with a person who's a rapist or a serial murderer. . . . At the crisis point of your story, move your character either toward complete destruction or redemption. Don't leave him swinging in the wind because your reader will definitely not be satisfied."

Having given all of these hard and fast plotting rules, Tobias goes on to say, "On the one hand, don't force your story to fit, and on the other hand, don't get so loose that nothing fits. Plot is the form your idea will take; give it shape and substance as you write. Whatever you do, however, don't be a slave to the plot. . . . Make it work for you." The index is very good and covers both the works he has drawn examples from as well as his own text.

This is not an easy book--although the text is clear, and the tone is light. It requires attention and thought. But the advice is excellent and well worth your time to investigate it.

***** UPDATED MARKET REPORT *****

(Many thanks, as always, to KDW for pulling this information together for GPIC readers)

CHANGES

There will be a CEMETERY SONATA 2.

Del Rey is no longer accepting queries from unagented writers.

BARDIC RUNES is closed.

NON-STOP is taking up to two years to reply to subs.

EPITAPH is dead.

NEW LISTINGS

THE AGE OF REASON: STORIES OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM, 12543 S. 25th Ave., Omaha, NE 68123-1725. Editor: Kurt Roth. Anthology buying "fiction dealing with the coming of age of mankind, sweeping stories of social change due to technological advances, the putting away of childish terrors, the facing of adult realities (as individuals or as a race, but if the former, extensible to the latter), growing up, becoming." Length: 3,000-5,000 words preferred, looking at up to 10,000 words. Payment: 4-7 cents/word, \$300 max, on acceptance. Reading period: Jan. 1-31. E-mail subs preferred to regular mail. Replace italics with underscores and send to darkfire@sff.net.

LC-39, P.O. Box 9307, Baltimore, MD 21228. Editor: Matthew Walls. New sf magazine which will premiere in Spring of '99. Buying "intelligent, character-driven fiction with scientifically plausible plots. LC-39 is committed to sf as literature and is more akin to an academic literary journal than the traditional pulp." Length: 20,000 words. Payment: 1-2 cents/word upon acceptance.

SUCH A PRETTY FACE: TALES OF POWER & ABUNDANCE, Attn. Such a Pretty Face, c/o Rump Parliament, P.O. Box 865137, Plano, TX 75086-5137. Editor: Ms. Lee Martindale. Anthology buying sf/f/df/h. "Size-positive stories that start with the premise that 'fat' is not a four-letter word, fat people in prominent, positive, and heroic roles, and well-crafted, non-stereotypical fat villains, not looking for stories about "miracle" or supernatural weight loss, deliberate weight gain, erotica, or fat-girl-loses-weight-and-gets-revenge stories, no promotion of diets or diet drugs (thinly-veiled or otherwise), of 'fat-gene' stories. Length: 5,000 words. Payment: 3-5 cents/word upon acceptance. Read guidelines before submitting and send cover letter with credits. Deadline: July 31, 1999.

THE THIRD ALTERNATIVE, 5 Martins Lane, Witcham, Ely, Cambs CB6 2LB, United Kingdom. Editor: Andy Cox. Buying sf/f/df. "Slipstream and crossgenre fiction. modern, literary, not easily categorized." Length: 10,000 words. Payment: L5/1000 words (max L20).

***** MANY THANKS TO *****

Warren
KDW & Guido
Diana Carolyn Ice
"MCI WorldCom Laptop
Deployment Dept."

***** SUBSCRIPTION
INFORMATION *****

A subscription to *Son of GPIC*, the official newsletter of the Oklahoma Science Fiction Writers, may be obtained by mailing a check or money order in the amount of \$13.00 (\$18 per household), prorated by quarter, to:

K.D. Wentworth, Treasurer
6915 New Haven
Tulsa, OK
(Checks should be made out to K.D. Wentworth)

Please note: An "X" on your mailing label indicates OSFW has no record of either 1999 dues or GPIC subscription renewal. This GPIC will be your last.

***** OSFW INFORMATION *****

The OSFW meets at members' homes the second Friday of every month to read, critique, and promote in general SF, Fantasy, and Horror writing. All willing to contribute and (after a couple of trial meetings) pay their dues are welcome. **There is no age limit but parents should understand that material with adult themes and language is read and discussed.** Membership dues are \$13.00 per year, adjusted by nearest quarter, which includes a subscription to GPIC. Checks should be made out to K.D. Wentworth, and may be sent to K.D. at the address above.

***** GPIC NEWS AND
ARTICLES *****

GPIC solicits news and articles from OSFW members. We prefer they be on disk or sent via e-mail. Pseudonyms are OK. We accept files on either a 3-inch Mac or PC disk. We like RTF files but we can convert most Word and Word Perfect files; always include a separate ASCII file just in case. Otherwise, arrange to send them by e-mail to Simon at:
simon.mccaffery@wcom.com.

You retain copyright on material. If this is of special concern you might let us know who you really are along with your pseudonym. We reserve the right to edit (although we try not to).

***** NEXT GPIC DEADLINE *****

Pesky deadline for February issue: January 27.

MONICAGATE THE NEVER-ENDING SAGA

Sister villains, classic
Soviet-style, hideous
creations, and yes, even
a princess — albeit one
with a bodice just the
size of Nebraska. The
White House speeds
and all the elements of a
sci-fi epic, except one —
there were no heroes.

STARR WARS

Not so long ago,
in a country
not so far away...

...this is a period of civil lawsuits. A heroic President
investigated by a relentless Special Prosecutor, claims
"I did not have sex with that woman, Miss Lewinsky."

During the tumultuous legal battle, the evil Special
Prosecutor managed to obtain lurid testimony from
Miss Lewinsky about the Commander-in-Chief's dark
side and THE DEATH CIGAR, a bizarre sexual prop
with enough power to destroy an entire Presidency.

Pursued by an ever-vigilant Republican Congress, the
embattled President desperately hides behind his
lawyers, custodians of the flimsy defense that he
hopes can save his political ass...