



## The Nameless Restaurant

By Tao Wong



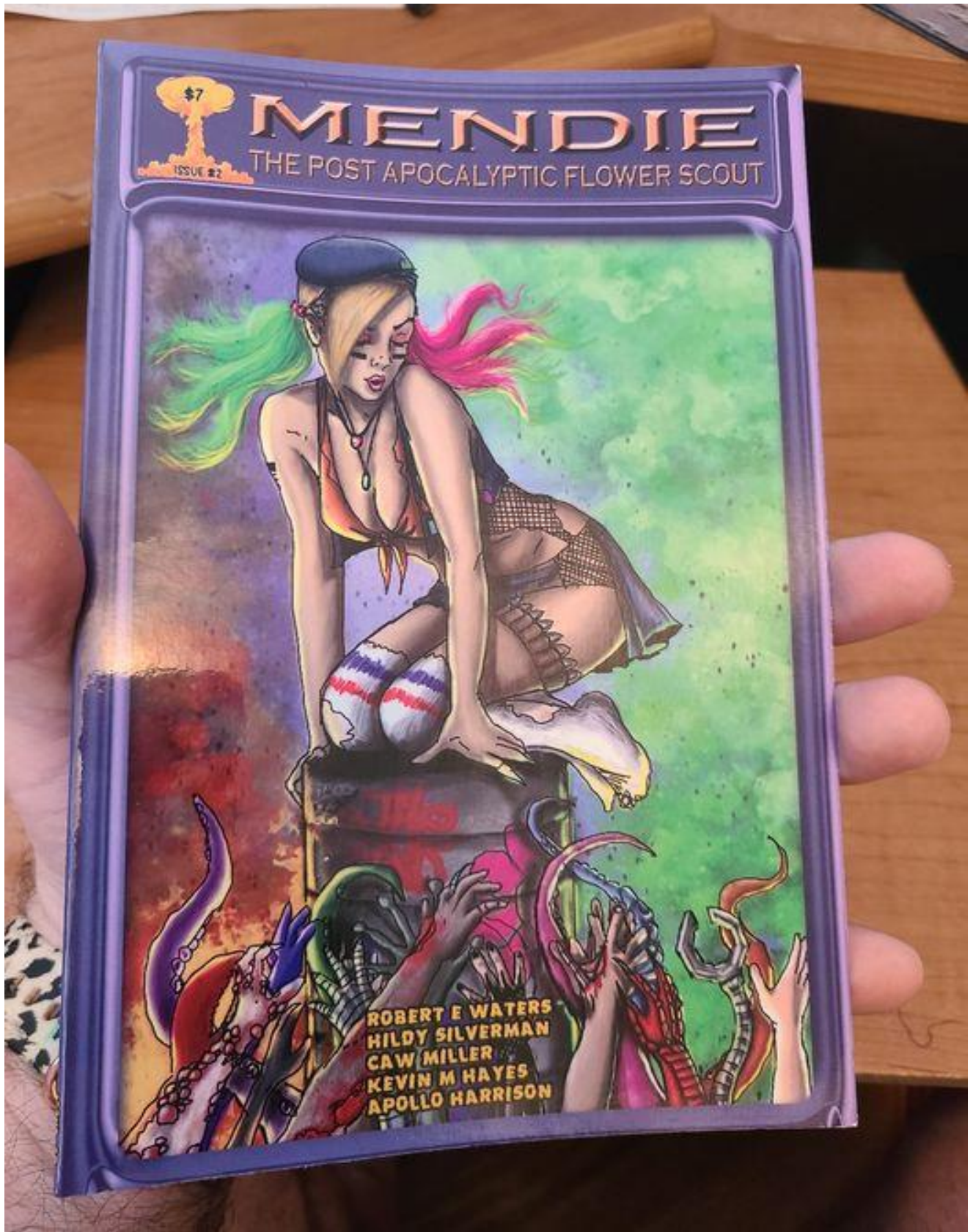
### 24.10

Mo Meng has everything that he desires in a restaurant after a long career of accumulating magic. Catering to a unique clientele, cooking what he desires, resisting being drawn into the modern world, things are quite good. That is until a magic showdown comes to a head inside. Can words of wisdom prevail or will the cook have to lay down his utensils and once again bring his magic to bear?

-November's meeting is on the 20th, in person, at the Simpson Library, Mechanicsburg (unless otherwise announced) and the book of the month is *The Black Company*– Glen Cook

-Cover art by Eric V. Hardenbrook

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# NEW RELEASES

NOVEMBER 2024

OGHENECHOVWE DONALD EKPEKI & CHINAZA EZIAGHIGHALA, EDS. –

*The Year's Best African Speculative Fiction - 2023*

ALLAN KASTER, ED. - *The Year's Best Science Fiction on Earth 2*

RAMSEY CAMPBELL - *The Incubations*

GREGORY FROST - *Beyond Here Be Monsters*

DAVID J. SCHOW - *Suite 13*

MAURICE BROADDUS - *Breath of Oblivion*

T.L. HUCHU - *The Legacy of Arniston House*

ISABEL IBAÑEZ - *Where the Library Hides*

L.E. MODESITT, JR. - *Overcaptain*

TAD WILLIAMS - *The Navigator's Children*

EUGEN BACON, ED. - *Afro-Centered Futurisms in Our Speculative Fiction*

MERCEDES LACKEY, ED. - *Feuds*

ELIANE BOEY - *Club Contango*

A.J. HACKWITH - *Toto*

KAT RICHARDSON - *Storm Waters*

DAVID SANDNER & JACOB WEISMAN - *Egyptian Motherlode*

TASHA SURI - *The Lotus Empire*

K.B. WAGERS - *And the Mighty Will Fall*

CORNELIA FUNKE - *Inkworld: The Color of Revenge*

PHILIP REEVE - *Thunder City*

# NEWS OF THE REALM

## Philcon 2024

87<sup>th</sup> convention, November 22-24, Double Tree by Hilton, Cherry Hill, NJ

Principle Speaker – Max Gladstone, Artist Guests Matthew Stewart and Gina Matarazzo, Special Guest Nghi Vo, and Musical Guest Cecilia Eng

“Started in 1936, Philcon features cutting-edge programming about literature, art, television, film, anime, comics, science, gaming, costuming and cosplay, music, and other topics of interest to fans of sci-fi, fantasy, and horror.”

## 2024 British Fantasy Awards Winners

-Best Fantasy Novel - the Robert Holdstock Award

*Talonsister* - Jen Williams

-Best Horror Novel - the August Derleth Award

*Don't Fear the Reaper* - Stephen Graham Jones

-Best Novella

*The Last Dragoners of Bowbazar* - Indra Das

-Best Short Fiction

“The Brazen Head of Westinghouse” - Tim Major

-Best Collection

*Jackal, Jackal* - Tobi Ogundiran

-Best Anthology

*Out There Screaming* - Jordan Peele & John Joseph Adams, eds.

-Best Independent Press

Flame Tree Press

-Best Non-Fiction

*Writing the Future* - Dan Coxon & Richard V. Hirst, eds.

-Best Magazine / Periodical

*Shoreline of Infinity*

-Best Artist

Asya Yordonova

-Best Audio

*The Tiny Bookcase*

-Best Newcomer - the Sydney J Bounds Award

Teika Marija Smits

-Legends of FantasyCon Award

Debbie Bennet

-Karl Edward Wagner Award

Ramsey Campbell

# THE STUDY OF FIRE



A COMPANION NOVEL TO *FIRE STUDY*

**MARIA V. SNYDER**

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

COMING 11/26

# Tillyer's News of the High Frontier

OCTOBER 2024

Going to Europa – the Europa Clipper mission is on its way at last and we can all settle in and get comfortable because it's not going to be there until 4/30. This is a highly anticipated mission designed to determine if an environment amenable to life exists under the ice in the oceans of Jupiter's moon. But before we delve into the mission itself, let's look at the wait time. Even with the powerful rockets we have right now, going out into the solar system takes time. But originally the trip was to only require three years? What exactly happened? Well, the three-year time frame was based on a rocket we didn't have at the time the mission was planned. In 2015, NASA was going to use the SLS, Space Launch System to boost the probe on its way. There was a small hitch there because of delays in developing the SLS and the fact that it was primarily designed for the Artemis Moon missions, meant that Clipper was going to move to the bottom of the priority list. NASA's budget indicated that the mission was to be launched by 2025, so using a commercial alternative was the best solution. The SpaceX Falcon Heavy which carried the probe on Monday 10/14/24 was running in what's known as its fully expendable mode, meaning that it did not conserve fuel to allow for a guided landing. The difference between the two rockets propulsion is just one reason for the additional time required for the flight. Without the extra velocity of the SLS, the Clipper mission will acquire more speed through several slingshot maneuvers. Clipper will flyby Mars in 2025 and then return to Earth for another flyby in 2026 in order to gain the necessary velocity.

Clipper itself is a very ambitious project. It's the biggest planetary probe built so far. Deployed, its solar panels extend almost 100 feet. It weighs in at 13,000 pounds. The Clipper is the beginning of the exploration of Europa in that its mission is to collect data about the moon. NASA expects the probe to measure the thickness of the moon's ice, look at the water in the ocean for evidence it could support life, review the surface to find areas where a recent breach could bring water to the surface. The mission's primary task is to look at the environment to see if it could sustain life. The next probe in line will probably be given the task of penetrating the surface to reach the ocean below. An extended series of flybys after arrival will allow scientists to first consider the side of the moon facing away from Jupiter in 2031. Two years later, Clipper will review the Jupiter side. The probe is expected to continue gathering data until 2034, at which point, NASA plans to decommission the probe by crashing it into Ganymede. Why there? Well, Ganymede is felt to be unlikely to have indigenous life and therefore safe to dispose of any potential contamination from Earth.

(It's probably a question of fuel, rather than dumping the probe into Jupiter itself.)

The Clipper probe also carries with it a message from Earth as part of the Message in a Bottle Program. A small chip was engraved with the names of 2.6 million people and the outside of a panel which protects the sensitive instruments of the probe has a poem on it. The poem is by the U.S. Poet Laureate, Ada Limon and is entitled "In Praise of Mystery." The words are etched onto the panel in Limon's own handwriting.

Clipper has already deployed its solar panel array, and scientists are very happy with the progress of its journey. So, back to waiting. In fact, if we truly consider this mission, another Presidential election will have come and gone before Clipper even makes it to Jupiter. Good things come to those who wait and perhaps the answers to some of our deep questions are waiting out there.

New lease on life – CAPSTONE – Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology – a lunar spacecraft about the size of a toaster oven has been approved for additional mission time. Weighing in at a little more than 50 lbs., the cubesat is owned by Advanced Space, Colorado and is in a near-rectilinear halo orbit about the Moon. Boasting a new AI system, CAPSTONE has put in more than a 100 orbits around the Moon. It will continue experiments in navigation now until 12/25 thanks to the extra funding. It's also in an important spot since NASA's Gateway station would also be placed in a similar orbit. The station would be a steppingstone to lunar exploration and the eventual construction of a base at the south pole.

In the aftermath of Helene and Milton, SpaceX has provided access to the Starlink satellite network to areas damaged by the hurricanes. 10K kits were distributed and monthly fees were waived for the service in order to allow residents to reconnect. The system also provides access to emergency alerts. Originally, planning on a month of free service after Helene and in the wake of Milton, SpaceX extended the service until the end of the year. (Service usually costs \$120/ month) Those who did receive a kit can purchase a receiver and still get the free service. Receivers cost about \$349. In a deal with T-Mobile, low band access texting for emergency service is also available. The Starlink constellation currently is comprised of around 6000 satellites.

