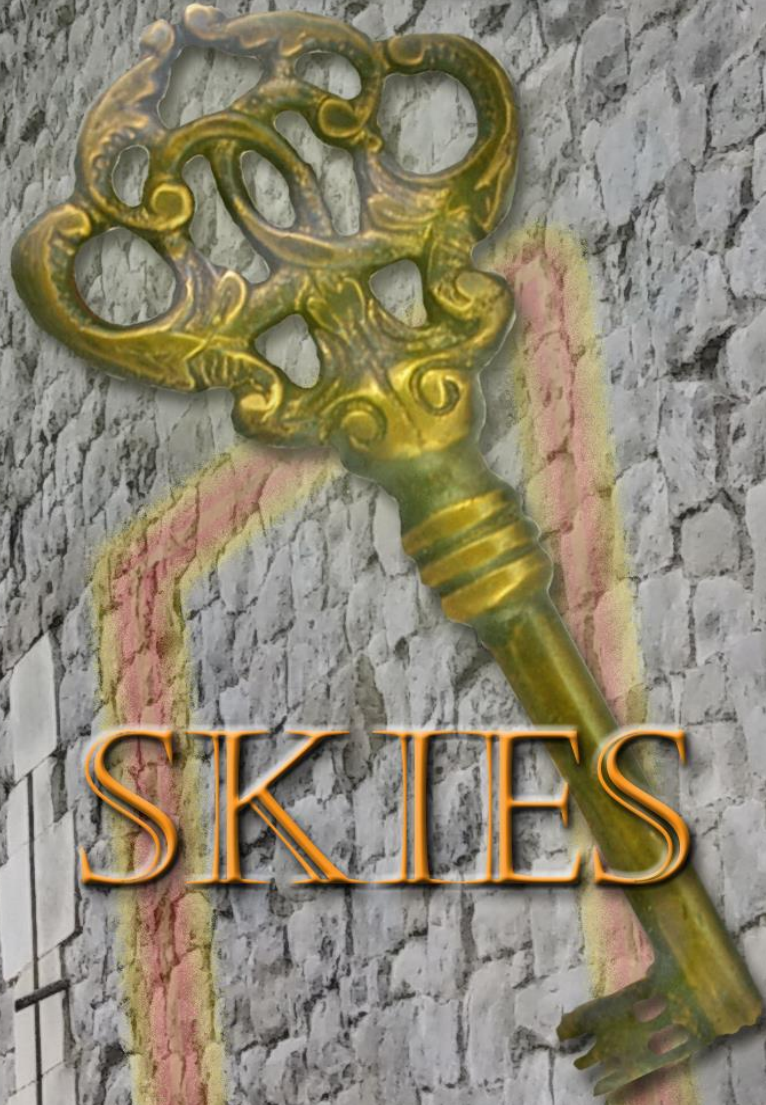


WATCH

THE



SKIES



Foundryside

By Robert Jackson Bennett

24.5

Sancia has learned to live with a talent that she never wished for – she can learn from every inanimate thing. For a thief it's an immense benefit since she can leverage this to pull off nearly impossible heists. As a person it means that if she eats meat, she can experience the animal's slaughter. It's hardly the best way to live in the city of Tevanne where the Founding families rule the city with their ability to convince objects to disobey reality. A clever thief will always find a solution and Sancia is given an opportunity that looks too good to be true. The score of a lifetime for a safe breaking job can get her the money she needs to have someone reverse her ability. After completing her task, Sancia possesses something that no thief should ever be given – a key to open anything. Before she can even consider what she could accomplish with such a tool, her life becomes a desperate run to survive as someone highly connected brings their might down on her. Desperate to obtain the key, her enemy will stop at nothing. Sancia, the persistent loner, falls in with an unlikely group of companions. Together they might survive if they use their talents and wits, but will the city survive as well?

-June's meeting is on the 19th, in person, at the Simpson Library, Mechanicsburg (unless otherwise announced) and the book of the month is Warbreaker – Brandon Sanderson

-Cover art by Eric V. Hardenbrook

Check out the website at: watchtheskies.org or
contact us at: wtsnewsletter@gmail.com

NEW RELEASES

JUNE 2024

TOMI ADEYEMI - Children of Anguish and Anarchy

PATRICIA BRIGGS - Winter Lost

M.R. CAREY - Echo of Worlds

VAJRA CHANDRASEKERA - Rakesfall

NEIL CLARKE, ED. - The Best Science Fiction of the Year • Volume 8

JULIE E. CZERNEDA - A Change of Place

LINDSAY ELLIS - Apostles of Mercy

KEVIN HEARNE - The Hermit Next Door

ALLAN KASTER, ED. - The Year's Top Hard Science Fiction Stories 8

YUME KITASEI - The Stardust Grail

MERCEDES LACKEY & LARRY DIXON - Gryphon's Valor

YOON HA LEE - Moonstorm

JOSH MALERMAN - Incidents Around the House

SEANAN MCGUIRE - Tidal Creatures

PREMEE MOHAMED - We Speak Through the Mountain

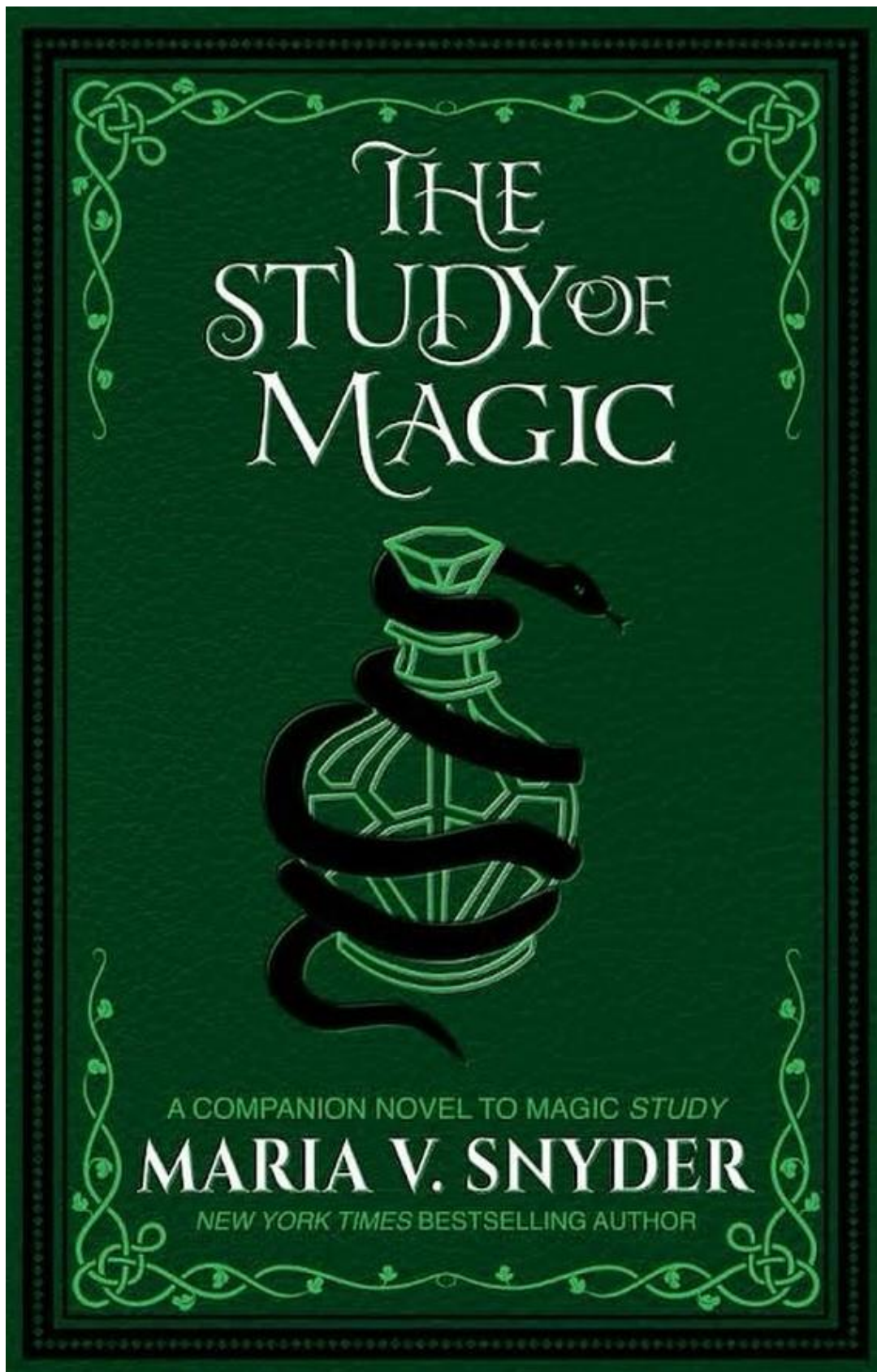
LILITH SAINTCROW - The Fall of Waterstone

JODI TAYLOR - Killing Time

ADRIAN TCHAIKOVSKY - Service Model

PAUL TREMBLAY - Horror Movie

REBECCA ZANETTI - One Cursed Rose



AVAILABLE NOW

NEWS OF THE REALM

2024 Compton Crook Award Winner

Kemi Ashing-Giwa has won the 42nd Compton Crook Award for the best new Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror book. The prize of \$1000 will be presented at this year's Balticon convention.

CONVENTIONS

-Registration and rooms are now available for Balticon 58 (May 24-27) to be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Baltimore Inner Harbor. Guests of honor L.E. Modesitt, Jr. and Sheila Williams. 300+ hours of programming, filk, film festival, cosplay Masquerade, Art Show and more await you.



-SciFi Valley Con, June 7th-9th will be at the Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA featuring Billy West, Phil Lamarr, Greg Baldwin, Lauren Tom, Steven Ogg, Ned Luke, and Shawn "Solo" Fonteno.



-Hershey Comicon – the sweetest Comic Con on Earth – will run from June 29th-30th at the Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA. Guests include Mark Morales, Bob McLeod, Scott Hanna, Geof Isherwood, Wayne Faucher, Deegan Puchkors and Chris Ring. Comic Sellers, Exhibitors, Cosplay, and more.

-Also, the same weekend – Horror on Main located at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, Harrisburg, PA. Guests include Oded Fehr, John Russo, Daniele Serra, Jeffrey Reddick, Jeff Goodwin, Chris Alexander, and Rio Youers.



-Shore Leave 44, July 26th-28th has relocated to the Wyndham Lancaster Resort, Lancaster, PA and features such guests as Amanda Tapping, Teryl Rothery, Greg Grunberg, and Ingvild Deila.



-And at exact the same time - Confluence – Pittsburg’s Literary Science Fiction and Fantasy convention will occur on July 26th-28th at the Sheraton Hotel Pittsburgh Airport Hotel in Coraopolis, PA. Guest of Honor will be New York Times Bestselling author, Richard Kadrey. Featured musical guest is Bonnie Gordon.



eSpec Books Available at Tell-Tale Steampunk Convention

Art Versus Reality

We've all heard that AI is coming for our jobs, but what they didn't warn you about was that it was coming for your perception of reality. In an era of fake news, the ability of AI programs to generate images that people perceive as real is a new problem. Let's start with the science and then move on to fashion. The eclipse was big news and there were tons of pictures online and people did what they typically do, they shared them. Sharing these images without any idea of the origin can create an issue. Plenty of people shared an image where the corona around the occluded Sun appeared to be swirling in a clockwise way. AI detection tools rated the image as 99.8% likely to be fake. But why? One of NASA's featured images holds the key. Here it's obviously that the corona radiates outward from the sun in a more "starlike" way. However, people loved sharing that fake.

It doesn't stop there, since another photo that made the rounds, which shows an appropriate corona, but also appears to have the surface of the Moon visible as it covers the Sun. This is actually some fantastic photography done by Dr. Sebastian Voltmer – not as many images claimed, captured by either the Hubble telescope or the James Webb telescope. Common sense should have indicated that these telescopes are located in space, so while it is possible that the Moon may pass in front of the Sun from their perspective, it will NOT happen at the same time as this occurs on the Earth and their orbits may even preclude that! Plenty of people once again shared this image as well with its misinformation. That is not all though, because this image is actually from 2017 and has been altered by computer. So, while it's not artificially generated, it is artificially enhanced, and all of its particulars were wrong.

But what you might ask does that have to do with Katie Perry's mother? Well, she like many others were taken in by images posted online of stars attending the Met Gala 2024. This fundraising event is known for its attendee's star power and their over-the-top fashion. 2024 did not disappoint. Dresses with massive trains were all the rage and Cardi B's was so big it flowed around her in a circle nearly 20 feet in diameter. The theme was "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion" and certainly the "Garden of Time" dress with its flowers and greens that Perry was shown wearing fit the theme. Here's the catch though – Katie was never there. Images proliferated through sharing while the event was in progress and the star declared them AI generated fakes on social media. Even her mother was taken in and commented that Perry looked "like her own Rose Bowl parade float". Perry has already been outspoken about the issues of AI art infringement, so it may have made her more of a target. This is the obvious incident; it should be noted that other stars such as Rhianna also

appeared in outfits that were clearly artificially created images. Again, all of these were happily shared around the web and in most cases, with no indication whatsoever about the nature of their provenance. Rhianna was pictured in a bizarre green dress with all sorts of plant outgrowths, and she was also not in attendance at the event. Of course, Lizzo's outfit, that was all on her.

So, it becomes clear that the thousand words that a picture is worth may all be lies. There are instances where we depend upon the veracity of images to determine certain information. Astronomers compare images to determine if there are planets in orbit around other stars, find asteroids against starfields, or search for Kuiper belt objects. How do they determine if these images and their information are real and accurate? Do we have to start watermarking things to establish their veracity? Images in the news are also possibly suspect as well. Could I fight a toll ticket if the DMV couldn't prove that the image of my license plate was real? Also, what happens when we start using AI assisted programs to review the images? Our ability to ascertain veracity of information has become more and more critical.

There is also another consideration, it is also our duty to think twice before sharing an image we do not know the particulars of. We should first do no harm by increasing the amount of disinformation present in the world. Think twice before hitting share despite the dopamine rush it represents since we've "participated". Is that cat really capable of doing what we are seeing? Does that really look like the politician in question is involved in something that would get them arrested in many states except Florida, and does Mars actually appear to be the same size as the full Moon in the picture? Just think twice before hammering the share button, you'll feel better about it and things will be a little less chaotic.



FYI – this is no place real

Tillyer's News of the High Frontier

May 2024

India wants a chunk of the Moon and their Chandrayaan-4 mission is set to grab it for them, with some help. The new mission which is aimed at returning the spot of Chandrayaan-3's successful lunar landing will be much more complex. In this case there will be two launch vehicles carrying the survey crafts and the return portions of the operation. A lunar lander and an ascender module will carry out the survey portion acquiring data and the actual samples, as well as returning the payload to orbit. The ascender will rendezvous with the other two elements the transporter and the reentry vehicle. From there the samples will be returned to Earth. In the process, there will be two hand offs of the samples from one element to the other by robot arms. The ISRO, Indian Space Research Organization has also announced that there will be many opportunities for involvement by the private sector. There are several companies in the country vying for opportunities for commercial launch and transport. As many as 30 launches are possible over the next year and a half. These reflect a new policy introduced in 2023 focusing on increasing India's presence in the space industry. The Chandrayaan-4 mission is not expected to launch before 2028. India has stated that it wishes to land astronauts on the surface of the Moon by 2040 and establish a moon base by 2047.

