

Lincroft-Holmdel Science Fiction Club
Club Notice - 8/28/85 -- Vol. 4, No. 9

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are on Wednesdays at noon.
LZ meetings are in LZ 3A-206; HO meetings are in HO 2N-523.

DATE	TOPIC
09/04	HO: CODE OF THE LIFE-MAKER by James G. Hogan (2N-529)
09/18	LZ: THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES by Ray Bradbury (Near Future History)
09/24	HO: JHEREG by Stephen Brust (*Tuesday*) (12:30PM)
10/02	MT: CONTINENT OF LIES by James Morrow & Organizational Mtg
10/09	LZ: THE SHEEP LOOK UP by John Brunner (Catastrophes)
10/16	HO: THRICE UPON A TIME by James G. Hogan (11:00AM)

HO Chair is Mark Leeper, HO 1E-412 (834-2657). LZ Chair is Rob Mitchell, LZ 1B-306 (576-6106). LZ Librarian is Lance Larsen, LZ 3C-219 (576-2668). HO Librarian is Tim Schroeder, HO 2G-427A (949-5866). Jill-of-all-trades is Evelyn Leeper, HO 1B-500A (834-4723).

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1. The time has to re-enlist or be dropped from our mailing list. Re-enlistment is as simple as ripping off this sheet, writing your company affiliation next to your address (ISL, BTL, IBM, IRS, A&P, B&D, S&M, etc.), folding it in half with this side in, stapling it shut with one staple, and dropping it into the interoffice mail. People who get only electronic copies can do the same with their crt screen, or if more convenient, just send us electronic mail saying you wish to remain a member and pledge us your life and your personal fortune. If the address below is incorrect, please correct it writing so that it can be read by someone who does not have a degree in cryptography. And for a limited time only, you can have an untarnished issue because you will be getting two copies of the first page. Everybody who has not reregistered already must reregister. (Except for me, of course. Rank hath its little privileges.) You can tell if you have NOT reregistered because your name will have an unattractive % in front of it on the address below. It will keep that % until you reregister or we eventually get sick of seeing the %.

2. Our next big science fiction discussion in Holmdel will be on CODE OF THE LIFEMAKER by James P. Hogan and, in general, about religion in science fiction. If you like we can also discuss science in religious fiction (if you can find much) and fiction in religious science (**WITTY COMMENT DELETED AT THE REQUEST OF AT&T LEGAL STAFF**). On second thought that might not be such a good idea. If we get into fiction in science religions must get into fiction in scientology. If we get into fiction in scientology we must get into BATTLEFIELD EARTH. If we get into BATTLEFIELD EARTH we must get into nasty aliens. If we get into nasty aliens we may not be able to get out again.

3. Please remember, Holmdel people, check your notice before coming to meetings. Rooms are hard to get and we have to schedule rooms where and when we can. You cannot always expect to show up at noon that pleasant little room we have been using and have much hope of finding the meeting were you expect it. They have offered to give us a permanant room at noon every three weeks, but we were unwilling to put up with the drawbacks: There are only three seats, people sitting down would not be able to see each other as they discussed the book, and we would have to limit attendance either to only males or only females. Even though we might be able to increase club membership with people who they say would be likely to wander into the meetings, I had to turn down their offer.

Mark Leeper
HO 1E-412 834-2657
...mtgzz!leeper

Book Reviews by Nigel

Every once in a while someone asks me what happened to the reviews I used to do, and asks for more. I could even be the same person each time. Anyway, I don't know what happened to them but here is another one.

Just for variety, I am putting a set of recommended books first.

THE HARP OF THE GREY ROSE by Charles de Lint

This claims to be the first of a series about Cerin Songweaver. It is set in the universe of The Riddle of the Wren (also recommended). Few of the ideas in this book are new. The base plot is common in fantasies, apprentice is given a quest, finds companions, wanders about the landscape, and eventually succeeds in his quest.

This tale is somewhat more interesting because of the universe and the nature of the individuals involved.

Now that I have got you curious, my copy of the book is a trade paperback that I got from Waldenbooks and I haven't seen any more copies.

FIVE-TWELFTHS OF HEAVEN by Melissa Scott

I bought this on the basis of her The Game Beyond and was not disappointed. The story has no relationship to the other book that I could see.

It does have a very interesting concept of space travel, albeit poorly developed, that is worth the price of the book. Just do not expect much of a story.

THE DOOR INTO FIRE by Diane Duane THE DOOR INTO SHADOW by Diane Duane

This is the first half of a series, which is above average so far. The authors note in the first book is that it was revised to fit better with the newly written second book. It seems that the concept of the series was refined during the gap between the two books.

I read the second first and so have a distorted view of things, but my impression is that the second is a better book than the first. Each book concentrates on one person and for one reason or another, the things that happen to Segnbora are more curious than those that happen to Herewiss.

This series emphasises the religious aspects of its world which is both unusual and good for the reader because it shows a faith in a goddess that frequently brings rewards in the disciples lifetime. Faith works wonders but how many of you have enough faith to work a wonder. Even if you do not accept this proposition, consider the effects on a culture which has good reason to accept the proposition.

Books good enough to be read at least once:

WALK THE MOON'S ROAD by Jim Aikin
A journey through a strange land
THE MISENCHANTED SWORD by Lawrence Watt-Evans
How to gain, be used by and use a curse
SENTENCED TO PRISM by Alan Dean Foster
A journey through a strange land
MASTERS OF GLASS by M. Coleman Easton
A quest and a novel approach to magic
HOUSE OF ZEOR by Jacqueline Lichtenberg
Introduction to Sime/Gen stories
MOLT BROTHER by Jacqueline Lichtenberg
A true quest. What you wanted turns out to be either
worthless or not what you really wanted.
THE EMPIRE OF TIME by Crawford Kilian
Who did what, to whom and what difference does it make?
THE SONG OF MAVIN MANYSHAPED by Sheri S. Tepper
THE FLIGHT OF MAVIN MANYSHAPED by Sheri S. Tepper
THE SEARCH OF MAVIN MANYSHAPED by Sheri S. Tepper
Three journeys through a strange land

Avoid at all cost:

WISHSONG Of SHANNARA by Terry Brooks

For those of you who are interested in the Black Cauldron:

THE BOOK OF THREE by Lloyd Alexander
THE BLACK CAULDRON by Lloyd Alexander
THE CASTLE OF LLYR by Lloyd Alexander
TARAN WANDERER by Lloyd Alexander
THE HIGH KING by Lloyd Alexander

As a series these books are very juvenile and suffer from the attacks of 'cute' that everyone has been blaming on Disney Studios.

The Book of Three: Taran is entrusted with Hen Wen. He loses her in the woods. He meets Gurgi, among others. He is captured and taken to the castle of the Enchantress Achren. He is imprisoned and released by Eilonwy. In the depths of the castle he finds a magic sword, which

Eilonwy takes. Eilonwy also releases the bard Fflewddur Fflam. Shortly after they leave the castle, it collapses courtesy of the magic sword. They try to take the sword to the High King. En route, they fall through a whirlpool into the kingdom of the fairies (o.k. Disney cutified them but they were in the book). Hen Wen is there and returned to them. They are given a guide, Doli, to aid them for the rest of their journey. They encounter the Horned King just before reaching the High King. Eilonwy wields the Magic Sword to kill the Horned King. The High King arrives to protect them from the Cauldron born and eventually sends them back to Caer Dallben, Eilonwy too.

Notes: The Cauldron born are deathless warriors taken from the Black Cauldron by Arawn. The Cauldron is in his hands and the warriors serve him alone. They are sometimes sent on missions and are at the service of his most honoured subjects. They weaken the further they get from the cauldron but cannot be killed. Eilonwy is a princess but as she has no surviving family, she is sent to live at Caer Dallben. The bard failed his exams but was given a magic harp by Taliesin, chief of all bards. The magic being that a string breaks whenever the owner tells a lie. The fairies live underground because the big people have taken their lands and jewels from them.

The Black Cauldron: Gwydion, heir to the High King decides to steal the Black Cauldron from Arawn by using the band of heroes from the previous book to make a raid into Arawn's land of Annuvin. They get there only to discover that the cauldron has been stolen already by the three witches. Taran leads his friends into the marsh to find them and it. Much of the byplay in the cottage is straight from the book. Taran trades his most valuable possession, not the sword but something acquired in this book, for the cauldron. The cauldron is eventually destroyed by a new party member climbing inside. He is not resurrected and the witches have no interest in the remains.

The Castle of Llyr: Eilonwy is captured by Achren who escaped the collapse of her castle in The Book of Three. She is rescued and in the process loses most of the inheritance of her lineage.

Taran Wanderer: Taran sets off to discover his parents and has a series of adventures getting to know the people of Prydain.

The High King: Arawn steals the Magic Sword that Eilonwy found. After many trials and tribulations, Taran finds it. He kills Arawn with it at which point Arawn's castle collapses. Taran gets appointed High King and gets to marry Eilonwy.

The books do have a little more depth than this precis shows. On the other hand 70% of the scenes of the film are true to the book. Gurgi is very accurately portrayed. Eilonwy should have been a little more domineering as befits a princess lording (ladying?) it over an orphan pig boy. Fflam should have been a little less of a fool. According to the book he was a king who would rather wander the countryside as a

bard. Having Gwydion appear in the film would probably have helped it by lending depth to the culture.

Following the book more closely would most likely have made a better film, left open the option of sequels and removed all meaning from the title.

If you get the opportunity, read the books, but only after seeing the film.

If you go to see the film, sit out the credits and pay attention to the borders. In my opinion, more artistry went into these than into the rest of the film.