

heroic fantasy quarterly

Heroic Fantasy Quarterly is a distinguished publication that has carved out a niche within the world of speculative fiction, captivating readers with its compelling tales of heroism, magic, and adventure. As a quarterly magazine, it offers a curated collection of stories, poetry, and artwork that celebrate the rich tapestry of heroic fantasy. This article explores the origins, content, significance, and impact of Heroic Fantasy Quarterly, providing readers with an in-depth understanding of what makes this publication a must-read for enthusiasts of the genre.

Introduction to Heroic Fantasy Quarterly

Heroic Fantasy Quarterly (HFQ) is a peer-reviewed magazine dedicated to showcasing high-quality heroic fantasy stories and artwork. Established in 2011, HFQ has become a prominent platform for both emerging and established writers and illustrators who are passionate about the genre. The magazine stands out for its commitment to quality, originality, and fostering a community of fans and creators.

The Origins and Evolution of Heroic Fantasy Quarterly

Founding Principles

Heroic Fantasy Quarterly was founded by a team of passionate fantasy enthusiasts who believed in the importance of maintaining the spirit of classic heroic tales while encouraging innovative storytelling. The founders aimed to create a magazine that combined traditional heroic fantasy elements—such as noble heroes, dark villains, and epic quests—with fresh perspectives and diverse voices.

Growth and Development

Since its inception, HFQ has grown steadily, expanding its readership and attracting submissions from a global pool of writers and artists. Its open submission policy, combined with rigorous editorial standards, ensures that only the best stories and artwork are published. Over time, HFQ has also embraced digital distribution, making its content accessible to a wider audience worldwide.

Content and Features of Heroic Fantasy Quarterly

Types of Content

HFQ offers a variety of content designed to entertain, inspire, and challenge readers:

- **Short Stories:** The core of HFQ, featuring original heroic fantasy narratives that range from sword-and-sorcery adventures to mythic epics.
- **Poetry:** Evocative poems that capture the themes and imagery of heroic fantasy worlds.
- **Artwork:** Illustrations and cover art that bring stories to life, often created by talented visual artists.
- **Interviews and Essays:** Insights from authors, artists, and scholars discussing the craft of fantasy storytelling.

Special Features and Thematic Issues

HFQ often explores specific themes through special issue editions, such as:

- Myth and Legend
- Heroism and Sacrifice
- Dark Fantasy and Horror
- Mythical Creatures and Beasts
- Ancient Cultures and Mythologies

These thematic issues allow for deeper exploration of particular aspects of heroic fantasy, providing readers with diverse perspectives and richer content.

Significance within the Genre

Preservation of Classic Elements

Heroic Fantasy Quarterly plays a vital role in preserving the traditional elements of heroic fantasy, reminiscent of classics like Robert E. Howard's Conan stories or J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth tales. By maintaining high standards and showcasing exemplary works, HFQ ensures that the core themes of heroism, courage, and adventure remain vibrant.

Promotion of New Voices

One of HFQ's most notable contributions is its support for emerging writers and artists. Its open submission policy and mentorship opportunities foster new talent, helping to

shape the future of heroic fantasy literature and art.

Encouragement of Diversity and Innovation

While rooted in traditional themes, HFQ actively seeks stories that challenge conventions and introduce diverse characters, settings, and cultural influences. This openness enriches the genre and broadens its appeal.

Community and Engagement

Reader Interaction

HFQ encourages community engagement through social media, reader polls, and forums. These platforms allow fans to discuss stories, share artwork, and connect with creators.

Conventions and Events

The magazine often participates in fantasy conventions and literary festivals, providing opportunities for face-to-face interaction with authors and illustrators. Such events foster a sense of community and promote the genre.

How to Access Heroic Fantasy Quarterly

Subscription Options

HFQ offers various subscription plans, including digital and print editions. Subscribers benefit from early access to issues, exclusive content, and discounts on merchandise.

Purchasing Individual Issues

Non-subscribers can purchase individual issues through the official website or select online retailers. This flexibility allows readers to explore specific editions or support the magazine on a one-time basis.

Contributing to HFQ

Aspiring writers and artists interested in submitting work can find submission guidelines on the official website. HFQ values originality, strong storytelling, and compelling visuals.

Impact and Recognition

Awards and Honors

Heroic Fantasy Quarterly has received numerous accolades within the fantasy community, including awards for best magazine and recognition for its outstanding stories and artwork.

Influence on the Genre

Many stories published in HFQ have gone on to become influential works, inspiring other writers and media adaptations. The magazine's emphasis on quality and innovation continues to shape trends within heroic fantasy.

Conclusion

Heroic Fantasy Quarterly remains a vital publication within the realm of speculative fiction, championing the timeless themes of heroism, adventure, and myth. Its dedication to quality content, support for new voices, and fostering of a passionate community make it an essential resource for fans and creators alike. Whether you are a seasoned fantasy aficionado or a newcomer eager to explore heroic tales, HFQ offers a treasure trove of stories and artwork that celebrate the enduring appeal of heroic fantasy.

For those interested in exploring or contributing to the genre, Heroic Fantasy Quarterly provides a welcoming platform that continues to inspire and elevate the art of heroic storytelling. As it evolves with the times while honoring its roots, HFQ ensures that the spirit of heroism will shine brightly in the worlds of fantasy for generations to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Heroic Fantasy Quarterly?

Heroic Fantasy Quarterly is a publication dedicated to showcasing high-quality stories, artwork, and articles within the heroic fantasy genre, often featuring tales of adventure, magic, and legendary heroes.

How often is Heroic Fantasy Quarterly published?

Heroic Fantasy Quarterly is published quarterly, with new issues released four times a year, typically in winter, spring, summer, and fall editions.

Where can I access Heroic Fantasy Quarterly?

You can access Heroic Fantasy Quarterly through their official website, where they offer digital copies for purchase or free download, as well as print editions for subscribers.

Are submissions open for Heroic Fantasy Quarterly?

Yes, Heroic Fantasy Quarterly accepts submissions from writers and artists interested in contributing to the genre, with submission guidelines available on their website.

What types of content are featured in Heroic Fantasy Quarterly?

The publication features short stories, poetry, artwork, and articles that explore themes of heroism, epic quests, mythical creatures, and fantastical worlds.

Is Heroic Fantasy Quarterly suitable for new writers and artists?

Absolutely, Heroic Fantasy Quarterly welcomes contributions from both seasoned and emerging creators who are passionate about the heroic fantasy genre.

How has Heroic Fantasy Quarterly influenced the heroic fantasy community?

Heroic Fantasy Quarterly has become a respected platform for showcasing innovative stories and art, fostering a vibrant community of fans, writers, and artists dedicated to the genre.

Can I subscribe to Heroic Fantasy Quarterly?

Yes, you can subscribe to Heroic Fantasy Quarterly to receive regular issues directly, often with options for digital or print copies.

What makes Heroic Fantasy Quarterly unique among fantasy publications?

Its focus on high-quality, original content that celebrates the classic and modern heroic fantasy themes, combined with a dedicated community and a reputation for excellence in storytelling and artwork.

Additional Resources

Heroic Fantasy Quarterly: A Deep Dive into the Quarterly's Impact on the Genre

Introduction

In the ever-evolving landscape of fantasy literature, niche publications have played a pivotal role in shaping and sustaining the genre's rich tapestry. Among these, Heroic Fantasy Quarterly (HFQ) has emerged as a compelling, influential platform dedicated to celebrating and advancing heroic fantasy storytelling. Since its inception, HFQ has

garnered a dedicated readership and critical acclaim, positioning itself as both a curator and innovator within the genre. This investigative review aims to dissect the quarterly's origins, editorial philosophy, content strategy, influence, and future prospects, providing a comprehensive understanding of its significance in the realm of heroic fantasy.

Origins and Evolution of Heroic Fantasy Quarterly

Founding Principles and Early Days

Heroic Fantasy Quarterly was launched in 2012 by a small team of passionate fantasy enthusiasts committed to revitalizing and promoting heroic fantasy narratives. The founders, whose identities remain relatively discreet, envisioned a publication that would serve as a dedicated space for both established and emerging writers exploring themes of heroism, myth, and adventure. The quarterly aimed to fill a perceived gap in the market—providing high-quality, story-driven content that balanced traditional heroic tropes with innovative storytelling.

Initially distributed as an online magazine, HFQ's early issues featured a mix of short stories, essays, and art. The editorial team prioritized inclusivity, encouraging submissions from diverse voices and perspectives, which was somewhat uncommon at the time in genre-specific publications.

Transition to a Recognized Genre Authority

Over the years, HFQ's reputation grew due to its meticulous curation, commitment to quality, and fostering of a community around heroic fantasy. By the third year, it had transitioned from a modest online publication to a semi-annual print magazine, further cementing its status in the genre. The print editions, with their high production values, became collector's items, appealing to both casual fans and serious scholars.

A key milestone was the publication of themed issues focusing on specific motifs—such as heroism in mythic cycles, the evolution of sword-and-sorcery, or regional mythologies—each garnering significant attention and sparking discourse within the community.

Editorial Philosophy and Content Strategy

Curatorial Focus

At its core, HFQ champions stories that exemplify heroism in its many forms—self-sacrifice, rebellion against tyranny, quests for justice, and personal growth amidst adversity. The editors seek narratives that are both rooted in classic heroic archetypes and those that challenge or expand upon them.

The publication emphasizes:

- High-quality storytelling with compelling characters
- Rich world-building and immersive settings
- Innovative takes on traditional heroic themes
- Artistic excellence in accompanying illustrations

Content Breakdown

A typical issue of HFQ includes:

- Short Stories: Ranging from 2,000 to 8,000 words, these stories often feature swords, sorcery, and epic quests. Notable examples include tales of unlikely heroes, mythic beasts, and legendary kingdoms.
- Poetry and Verse: Occasionally, the magazine features heroic poetry that captures the grandeur and tragedy of heroism.
- Essays and Articles: Critical discussions on heroic fantasy tropes, historical influences, and genre analysis.
- Artwork: Illustrations and cover art that visually embody the themes explored in the stories.

The publication maintains a rigorous submission and review process, ensuring only works of exceptional quality appear, which has contributed to its reputation for literary excellence.

Inclusivity and Diversity

In recent years, HFQ has made concerted efforts to diversify its content and contributor base. It actively seeks stories from underrepresented cultures and voices, enriching the genre with fresh perspectives and mythological influences. This approach has helped broaden the scope of heroic fantasy and foster a more inclusive community.

Influence and Reception in the Genre

Impact on Writers and Readers

HFQ has served as a launchpad for numerous writers who have gone on to publish novels, anthologies, and scholarly works. Its rigorous editorial standards and niche focus offer emerging authors a valuable platform to refine their craft and gain visibility.

Readers praise HFQ for its consistency in quality, its dedication to classic heroic themes, and its openness to innovative storytelling. Many see it as a touchstone for what heroic fantasy can be—epic, emotionally resonant, and narratively rich.

Critical Acclaim and Awards

While primarily a genre magazine, HFQ has received several accolades, including nominations for the British Fantasy Award and the Dragon Award for Best Magazine. Critics often highlight its curated content, artistic excellence, and its role in fostering a vibrant community of fans and creators.

Influence on the Genre's Evolution

The quarterly has influenced broader trends within heroic fantasy by:

- Encouraging subversion of traditional tropes
- Promoting cross-cultural mythological influences
- Emphasizing character-driven narratives over spectacle
- Supporting the growth of a diverse, global readership

In doing so, HFQ has helped keep heroic fantasy fresh and relevant amidst changing cultural landscapes.

Challenges and Criticisms

Despite its successes, HFQ faces challenges common to niche publications:

- Market Saturation: With the proliferation of online content and self-publishing platforms, standing out remains difficult.
- Financial Sustainability: Maintaining high production standards and paying contributors requires ongoing funding, often through subscriptions and limited advertising.
- Balancing Tradition and Innovation: Striking the right balance between honoring classic heroic themes and exploring new directions can be contentious among purists and progressives alike.

Some critics argue that HFQ's focus on literary quality can limit its appeal to casual fans,

but supporters counter that this depth elevates the genre.

Future Prospects and Opportunities

Digital Expansion and Multimedia

The magazine has begun exploring digital formats, podcasts, and interactive content, which could broaden its reach and adapt to new consumption habits. There's potential for:

- Audio versions of stories
- Video essays analyzing heroic themes
- Online forums and community engagement

Collaborations and Special Projects

Partnering with authors, artists, and academic institutions could lead to:

- Themed anthologies
- Academic symposiums
- Cross-genre projects blending heroic fantasy with other media

Globalization and Cultural Diversification

Continuing to diversify its contributor base and thematic scope will be crucial. Incorporating mythologies from Africa, Asia, and indigenous cultures can deepen the genre's richness and appeal.

Conclusion

Heroic Fantasy Quarterly stands as a testament to the enduring appeal and evolving nature of heroic fantasy. Its commitment to quality storytelling, artistic excellence, and inclusivity has cemented its place in the genre's landscape. While facing the challenges of modern publishing, HFQ's innovative spirit and dedication to the core themes of heroism suggest it will remain a vital force shaping heroic fantasy for years to come.

For fans, writers, and scholars alike, HFQ offers a treasure trove of stories that honor the past while forging new paths—ensuring that the mythic, adventurous spirit of heroism

continues to inspire generations.

Heroic Fantasy Quarterly

heroic fantasy quarterly: The Best of Heroic Fantasy Quarterly Charles Gramlich, Cesar Alcázar, Colleen Anderson, Djéli Clark, Cullen Groves, Adrian Simmons, 2019-10-27 Since 2009 Heroic Fantasy Quarterly ezine has been bringing great sword & sorcery and fantasy adventure to the world. This, the third best-of anthology, presents twenty-one works of fiction and poetry gathered from around the world, each boldly illustrated--the best from Heroic Fantasy Quarterly issues seventeen through twenty-four.

heroic fantasy quarterly: The Best of Heroic Fantasy Quarterly Adrian Simmons, Richard Marsden, Danny Adams, William Gerke, 2015-11-22 Tales gathered from frozen pre-history, sweltering jungles, and smoky mead halls, legends of this world and whispers of other worlds briefly glimpsed - here then are gathered works of adventure and danger, love and fury, seventeen of the best from the early days of Heroic Fantasy Quarterly.

heroic fantasy quarterly: Weirdbook #48 Adrian Cole, 2024-11-24 Weirdbook #48 celebrates Adrian Cole's 50-year writing career and his 75th birthday. This special issue features a collection of original stories (all by Adrian Cole), plus a rare reprint, showcasing Cole's popular characters like Nick Nightmare. Additionally, it includes a new interview with Cole conducted by Darrell Schweitzer and a comprehensive bibliography of Cole's work. Included are: FICTION ALL YOU CAN EAT THE HOARDER OF DANGEROUS SECRETS CURSE OF THE TOAD GOD MUST I GO DOWN TO THE SEA AGAIN? MY TEARS LIKE BLOOD A SONG OF PICTISH KINGS LOAD UP, LOAD UP, LOAD UP WITH SILVER BULLETS LOST ON THE DEVIL'S PLANET THE DUST OF ANCIENT STARS NONFICTION AN INTERVIEW WITH ADRIAN COLE ADRIAN COLE BIBLIOGRAPHY

heroic fantasy quarterly: The Year's Best Science Fiction: Twenty-Seventh Annual Collection Gardner Dozois, 2010-07-06 The thirty-two stories in this collection imaginatively take us far across the universe, into the very core of our beings, to the realm of the gods, and the moment just after now. Included here are the works of masters of the form and of bright new talents, including: John Barnes, Elizabeth Bear, Damien Broderick, Karl Bunker, Paul Cornell, Albert E. Cowdrey, Ian Creasey, Steven Gould, Dominic Green, Nicola Griffith, Alexander Irvine, John Kessel, Ted Kosmatka, Nancy Kress, Jay Lake, Rand B. Lee, Paul McAuley, Ian McDonald, Maureen F. McHugh, Sarah Monette, Michael Poore, Robert Reed, Adam Roberts, Chris Roberson, Mary Rosenblum, Geoff Ryman, Vandana Singh, Bruce Sterling, Lavie Tidhar, James Van Pelt, Jo Walton, Peter Watts, Robert Charles Wilson, and John C. Wright. Supplementing the stories are the editor's insightful summation of the year's events and a lengthy list of honorable mentions, making this book both a valuable resource and the single best place in the universe to find stories that stir the imagination, and the heart.

heroic fantasy quarterly: Dragon Gems, 2023-04-28 Let your imagination bloom with these mind-opening tales Featuring stories by Veronica L. Asay, Warren Benedetto, Jason P. Burnham, Michael D. Burnside, Laura J. Campbell, Arasibo Campeche, Jay Caselberg, Philip Brian Hall, Tom Howard, Tim Kane, Benjamin C. Kinney, Stephen McQuiggan, Mike Morgan, Sam Muller, Jason Restrict, and Elyse Russell.

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Daniel LeMoal, Catherine MacLeod, Michael Matheson, Susie Moloney, David Nickle, Ian Rogers, Douglas Smith, Simon Strantzas, Edo van Belkom, Halli Villegas, Bev Vincent, Robert J. Wiersema, and Rio Youers, with an introduction by Michael Kelly.

heroic fantasy quarterly: A Breviary of Fire Marie Brennan, 2024-05-21 "Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire." The words of composer Gustav Mahler animate this collection of sixteen tales from award-winning author Marie Brennan, inspired by mythological and folkloric traditions around the world. Here you will find flames of revenge, immortality, and grace, as a valkyrie seeks peace, a queen weaves and unweaves her own fate, and a goddess vanishes from mortal memory — but never from the page. TABLE OF CONTENTS * This Is How * Serpent, Wolf, and Half-Dead Thing * The Waking of Angantyr * Silence, Before the Horn * Daughter of Necessity * Your Body, My Prison, My Forge * For the Fairest * The Wives of Paris * The Me of Perfect Sight * The Gospel of Nachash * Salt Feels No Pain * At the Heart of Each Pearl Lies a Grain of Sand * Centuries of Kings * The Old Woman and the Tea * Ghost and Fox * Speak to the Moon * Story notes

heroic fantasy quarterly: Something Wicked Anthology of Speculative Fiction, Volume Two Joe Vaz, 2013-05-15 Over its twenty-issue and seven-year lifespan, Something Wicked magazine published over 150 stories from new and established authors across the world. Volume Two marks the official transition of Something Wicked from magazine to annual anthology. The contributors are seasoned veterans and first-timers brought together in a single book containing tales of post-apocalyptic dystopias, alternate realities, far-future science fiction and good old-fashioned blood-chilling horror, edited and compiled by the doting godparents of South African genre fiction, Joe Vaz and Vianne Venter. Let your mind wander across distant galaxies, down darkened alleys, and across oceans of floating cities and let Something Wicked be your guide. Let the journey begin.

heroic fantasy quarterly: The Year's Best Fantasy Paula Guran, 2024-08-20 Award-winning fantasy editor Paula Guran invites you to join an array of accomplished authors on an extraordinary and enchanting expedition. Seventeen fantastical stories weave a wonderful web of magic, revelation, and of course, adventure. The Year's Best Fantasy, Volume Three explores alternative realities that mirror a world much like our own, yet push the limits of one's imagination. Buckle up and enjoy the ride! This is a collection of tales fantasy fanatics won't want to miss.

heroic fantasy quarterly: The Mysterious Disappearance of Charlene Kerringer Marlena Frank, 2019-11-29 A satirical take on a noir detective story, filled with talking babies, bizarre magic, and troublesome trolls. Detective Harris is a private detective who is out of luck and out of cash. When a woman walks into his office in tears, he decides to take a gamble on what he assumes is an open and shut case. What he doesn't realize is that nothing about this case is normal.

heroic fantasy quarterly: Scaring and Daring Horror Writers Association, 2025-08-12 Abandon all hope, ye who enter here! Get ready for a terrifying spin on some of literature's most beloved tales—no story is safe! From Captain Hook's run-in with dark magic to Sherlock Holmes narrowly escaping graveyard spirits to a happily never after for Cinderella, this horror anthology is anything but a bedtime story. In this terrifying new collection for young readers, the best-loved stories from the literary canon are revisited and reimagined with a deadly twist by some of the top authors working in middle grade today. Featuring tales from New York Times bestselling authors Jonathan Maberry and Kelley Armstrong, Carlos Hernandez, Lisa Morton, Maurice Broaddus, and many others, this collection will haunt you long after you turn the last page. Read on—if you dare! The complete list of writers: Teel James Glenn, Maxwell I. Gold, Lisa Morton, Tanvir Ahmed, Kelley Armstrong, Maurice Broaddus, Delilah S. Dawson, Joe R. Lansdale, Kristi Petersen Schoonover, Carlos Hernandez, Sherrilyn Kenyon, Sarwat Chadda, Ai Jiang, Jonathan Maberry, Nancy Holder, Nathan Carson, and edited by Eric J. Guignard.

heroic fantasy quarterly: The Sign of the Dragon Mary Soon Lee, 2020-04-21 Winner of the Elgin Award! It's as close to perfect as a book can get... I already know this will be one of my favorites for the year. A favorite book, period. — Beth Cato, two-time Rhysling Award winner Drawing on Chinese and Mongolian elements, SFPA Grand Master Mary Soon Lee has penned an epic of politics, war, and the reach of dragons — perfect for fans of Game of Thrones and Beowulf.

As the fourth-born prince of Meqing, Xau was never supposed to be king. But when his brothers are deemed unfit to rule and eaten by a dragon, as is the custom, Xau finds himself on the throne. The early years of his reign are marred by earthquake, flood, and war. Then a demon thought long-dead returns, leaving devastation in its wake, and Xau must broker peace with his enemies. Can their combined strength vanquish the demon before it destroys them? In the tradition of the Iliad, the Epic of Gilgamesh, and Beowulf, *The Sign of the Dragon* is told in poetry. Many of the individual poems appeared in award-winning magazines such as Apex Magazine, The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, and Strange Horizons. This is the revised ebook edition of the entire epic and is accompanied by forty extraordinary full-page illustrations by Gary McCluskey. Praise for *The Sign of the Dragon*: What an utterly beautiful, impressive, & occasionally heartbreaking reading experience! — Ann K. Schwader, SFPA Grand Master This is an absolutely stunning work that I will read and reread. — T. Frohock, author of the Los Nefilim series

heroic fantasy quarterly: The Best Science Fiction of the Year: Volume 8 Naomi Kritzer, Grace Chan, S.L. Huang, Ai Jiang, Isabel J. Kim, A.T. Greenblatt, Marie Vibbert, M. Bennardo, Julianna Baggott, Tobias S. Buckell, Premee Mohamed, Ray Nayler, Suzanne Palmer, Sarah Gailey, Nian Yu, Rich Larson, R.S.A. Garcia, Alastair Reynolds, Wole Talabi, Congyun "Mu Ming" Gu, Greg Egan, J.C. Hsyu, Leonard Richardson, Yoon Ha Lee, Hannah Yang, Annalee Newitz, Chinelo Onwualu, Meg Elison, Jessica Reisman, 2024-09-10 For decades, science fiction has compelled us to imagine futures both inspiring and cautionary. Whether it's a cryptic message encountered by a survey ship, the discovery of alien life in the distant reaches of space, a window into a future Earth, or the adventures of well-meaning AI, science fiction inspires our imagination and delivers a lens through which we can view ourselves and the world around us. At the very heart of the genre is short fiction, the secret lab that has introduced many of the new ideas, techniques, and voices prominent across all other media. In *The Best Science Fiction of the Year: Volume Eight*, Hugo and Locus Award-winning editor Neil Clarke provides a comprehensive year-in-review of 2022's short fiction markets and selects thirty-one of its best stories from the wealth of magazines, anthologies, podcasts, and collections that make up the field. In these pages you'll find works by both the new and established authors who are setting the pace for science fiction today and into tomorrow. Start your journey here.

heroic fantasy quarterly: *Mr. Menace* R. Michael Burns, 2020-10-14 In this supernatural noir, a private detective is hired to find a woman's missing identity, and faces a crime boss whose business is beyond deadly. As soon as the mysterious woman walked into his office, PI Frank Orpheus knew she was trouble. She's rich and beautiful—and she needs Orpheus to find out who she is. It's an unusual case to say the least, but he can't say no to those haunting eyes. Even if tracking down her missing identity leads him into a corner of the criminal underworld he never knew existed. In no time, Orpheus finds himself entangled in a web of criminality, facing characters more dangerous than he could ever imagine. But all of them are mere puppets, controlled by a crime boss known only as Mr. Menace—a dark figure who traffics not just in drugs and booze, but—possibly—in souls.

heroic fantasy quarterly: *The Impostor and Other Dark Tales* Marlena Frank, 2021-09-28 The beautiful and the bizarre Something watches from the corner of the room, peeking through a crack, existing within an impossible space—what does it want? The ghost of a lover returns at the end of a lifetime, carrying a dark secret—what will she say? A woman struggling with identity finds herself in the arms of a dangerous woman with a mysterious curse—what will she find? The beautiful and the bizarre exist side by side in this collection of fantastic and strange tales by prolific short story author, Marlena Frank. From dark fantasy stories of sharp-toothed mermaids and bewitched sorceresses to horror stories with ferocious bird beasts and golden-eyed monsters that live in the peripheral of human existence, these stories bring to life the creatures that haunt the nightmare world. From heart-rending to heart-pounding, these tales will linger long after reading them.

heroic fantasy quarterly: *The Howl of Kanta* Marlena Frank, 2023-04-18 Mercy must bring justice to Kanta. After months of being held captive in her childhood home, Mercy returns to Farrell

Mill, expecting a warm welcome from her friends. But there is none. Farrell Mill has been raided and left to rot. Everyone she knows and loves is missing and even her research is gone. Thomas and Andrei have been arrested, accused of reselling werewolves, a crime they did not commit. But if they declare their innocence and reveal their true purpose at the mill of curing and freeing werewolves, they could put many lives in danger. Mercy will need to face her most terrifying opponent yet: the people of Kanta. She will need to rally the goodwill of the werewolves she has helped and hope it will be enough to turn the tide in her favor. This time without masks, without lies, and without a disguise. Can Mercy find her allies and free her friends without losing everything? The clock is ticking. An execution date looms closer and Mercy is scrambling to keep from losing the only family she has left. The Howl of Kanta is Book 5 in The Wolves of Kanta series.

heroic fantasy quarterly: The Violet Hour Magazine - Issue 1.2 -

"Relationships/Choices" Roger Nash, R.A. Allen, Terry Barr, Christine Brandel, R. Bremner, Ray Busler, Melissa Carl, Kendell Cochran, Robert Crisp, Melaina K. de la Cruz, Zev Lawson Edwards, Susan Sweetland Garay, Lily Gontard, Steve Klepetar, Mary Soon Lee, Nicole Melchionda, Don Noel, Richard King Perkins II, Alex Radison, Kristin Ryan, Neha Srivastava, 2016-11-07 This flash-submission third issue is launched in honour of The Violet Hour Magazine's first Halloween in print, and is based on the themes of Gothic and Macabre. It contains short fiction by Kevin M. Folliard and Alyson Faye, short non-fiction by Vivian Wagner, and poetry by Doc Wallace, Devon Balwit, Hannah Litvin, and many more.

heroic fantasy quarterly: No Shit, There I Was Matt Dovey, Stewart Baker, William Ledbetter, James Beamon, Rachael K Jones, Wren Wallis, Heather Morris, E. Catherine Tobler, Tyler Hayes, Darcie Little Badger, Premee Mohamed, Jo Robson, R. K. Duncan, Sarah Tchernev, Linda Tyler, Anne M. Gibson, Andrew Barton, David Jón Fuller, William Wood, Devyani Borade, Adrian Simmons, Frances Rowat, Lou J Berger, Alanna McFall, Sunil Patel, 2016-08-31 Is there a better phrase to start a story than No Shit, There I Was...? If you hear someone start with that phrase, you know it's going to be worth listening carefully. That's how all the craziest - and most interesting - stories start. And then we turned a bunch of speculative fiction authors loose on that phrase.

heroic fantasy quarterly: Night Feeders Marlena Frank, 2012-01-17 A weird western fantasy short story featuring vampires, magic, and a werewolf detective. There's a bad sheriff in town. It's a dangerous existence living out in the Old West, but it's even worse for supernatural entities. When a brothel of concerned vampires reaches out to the Agency for the Betterment of Supernatural Creatures for help, werewolf detective Colton Fen steps in to solve a disappearance. Sheriff Ritters keeps a ghastly group of monsters underground to keep the impoverished people of Clarkville in line. Anyone foolish enough to cross his path is thrown to the creatures. Even werewolf detective Colton Fen might be out-matched by this vicious murderer.

heroic fantasy quarterly: Out There Screaming Jordan Peele, John Joseph Adams, 2023-10-03 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • The visionary writer and director of *Get Out*, *Us*, and *Nope*, and founder of Monkeypaw Productions, curates this groundbreaking anthology of all-new stories of Black horror, exploring not only the terrors of the supernatural but the chilling reality of injustice that haunts our nation. "Every piece is strong and memorable, making this not only likely to be the best anthology of the year, but one for the ages."—The Guardian WINNER OF THE BRAM STOKER AWARD AND THE BRITISH FANTASY AWARD • FINALIST FOR THE WORLD FANTASY AWARD AND THE LOCUS AWARD • A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR: Esquire, Chicago Public Library, CrimeReads A cop begins seeing huge, blinking eyes where the headlights of cars should be that tell him who to pull over. Two freedom riders take a bus ride that leaves them stranded on a lonely road in Alabama where several unsettling somethings await them. A young girl dives into the depths of the Earth in search of the demon that killed her parents. These are just a few of the worlds of *Out There Screaming*, Jordan Peele's anthology of all-new horror stories by Black writers. Featuring an introduction by Peele and an all-star roster of beloved writers and new voices, *Out There Screaming* is a master class in horror, and—like his spine-chilling films—its stories prey on everything we think we know about our world . . . and redefine what it means to be afraid. Featuring stories by: Erin E.

Adams, Violet Allen, Lesley Nneka Arimah, Maurice Broaddus, Chesya Burke, P. Djèlí Clark, Ezra Clayton Daniels, Tananarive Due, Nalo Hopkinson, N. K. Jemisin, Justin C. Key, L. D. Lewis, Nnedi Okorafor, Tochi Onyebuchi, Rebecca Roanhorse, Nicole D. Sconiers, Rion Amilcar Scott, Terence Taylor, and Cadwell Turnbull.

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