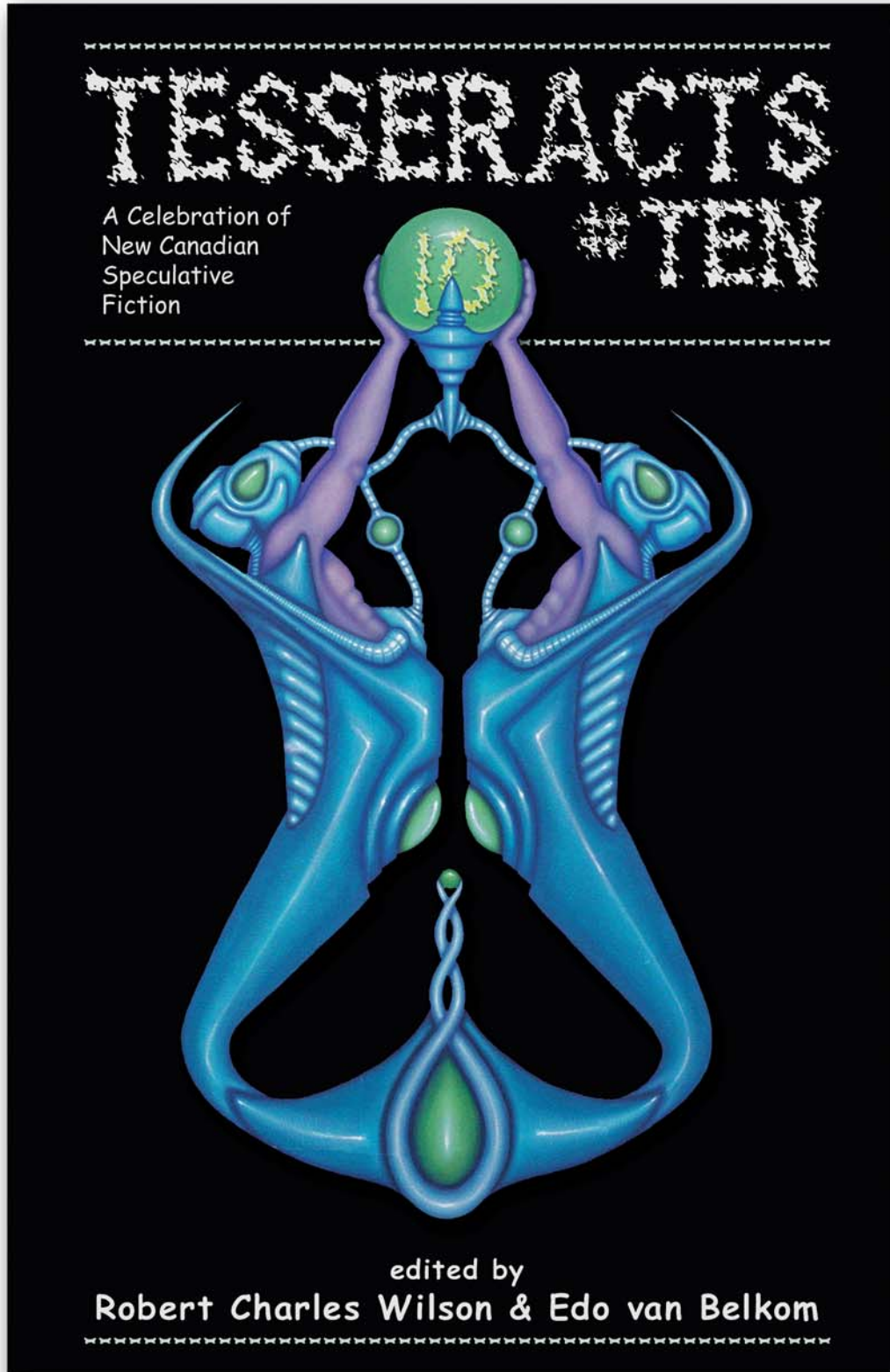


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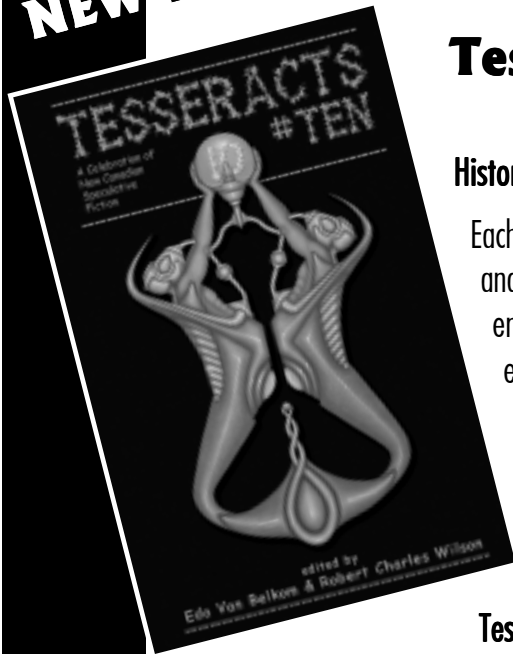
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SPECULATIVE FICTION - Short Story & Poetry Collection

Tesseracts Ten edited by Robert Charles Wilson and Edo van Belkom
ISBN-13: 978-1-894063-36-4 / ISBN-10: 1-894063-36-8
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NEW RELEASE



Tesseracts Ten

History

Each year a team of editors from amongst the best of Canada's writers, publishers and critics selects innovative and futuristic fiction and poetry from the leaders and emerging voices in Canadian speculative fiction. This year the Tesseracts Ten editorial team of Robert Charles Wilson and Edo van Belkom have hand picked a wonderful showcase of Canadian speculative fiction literature which includes short stories and poetry written by both English and French Canadian speculative fiction authors.

Tesseracts Ten proudly presents the work of:

Sandra Kasturi, Stephanie Bedwell-Grime, Wendy Waring, Allen Moore, Sarah Totton, Greg Bechtel, Jason Christie, Michèle Laframboise (translated by Sheryl Curtis), Matthew Johnson, Matt Hughes, Victoria Fisher, Nancy Bennett, Scott Mackay, Lisa Smedman, Susan Forest, Yvonne Pronovost, René Beaulieu (translated by Sheryl Curtis), Mark Dachuk, and Rhea Rose.

TESSERACTS TEN

Contents

A Nervous Look Down a Dark Road
by Robert Charles Wilson

Threshold of Perception
by Scott Mackay

Frankenstein's Monster's
Wife's Therapist
by Sandra Kasturi

Puss Reboots
by Stephanie Bedwell-Grime

Au pays des merveilles
by Wendy Waring

Donovan's Brain by Allen Moore

The Undoing by Sarah Totton

Blackbird Shuffle by Greg Bechtel

Ideo Radio Poem
by Jason Christie

Women are from Mars,
Men are from Venus
by Michèle Laframboise

Closing Time
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Go Tell The Phoenicians
by Matthew Hughes

Buttons
by Victoria Fisher

Findings at the Dump
by Nancy Bennett

The Girl From Ipanema
by Scott Mackay

The Intruder
by Lisa Smedman

Angel of Death
by Susan Forest

Transplant
by Yvonne Pronovost

Phantom Love
by René Beaulieu

Permission
by Mark Dachuk

Summer Silk
by Rhea Rose

Canadian SF Comes of Age
by Edo van Belkom

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Robert Charles Wilson

Robert Charles Wilson is the author of many short stories and twelve novels. His work has appeared in such publications as *Realms of Fantasy*, *F & SF*, and *Tesseracts 3, 4 & 6*, and his short story "The Inner, Inner City" was a World Fantasy Award finalist. His latest novel, *Spin*, now in paperback, won the 2006 Hugo Award. He has also received the John W. Campbell Award, three Aurora Awards, and the Philip K. Dick Award. Robert Charles Wilson was born in California in 1953, but moved to Canada when he was nine years old. He currently lives near Toronto.



Edo van Belkom

Edo van Belkom has won both the Bram Stoker and Silver Birch Awards and is a three-time winner of the Aurora Award, Canada's top prize for speculative writing. Among his novels are *Scream Queen*, *Blood Road*, *Martyrs* and *Teeth*. In addition to *Tesseracts 10*, Edo is the editor of four other anthologies including *Be Afraid!* and *Be Very Afraid!* His most recent work is a series of novels for young readers, *Wolf Pack*, *Lone Wolf*, and *Cry Wolf*. Born in 1962, he graduated from York University with an honors degree in Creative Writing and has worked as everything from school

bus driver to security guard, newspaper reporter to television horror movie host. The author of well over 200 short stories, Edo makes his home in Brampton, Ontario with his wife and son. Feel free to visit his website at www.vanbelkom.com

TESSERACTS TEN edited by Roberts Charles Wilson and Edo van Belkom

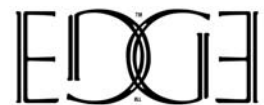
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René Beaulieu is a writer, anthologist, critic and translator (works by De Lint, Moorcock and Sturgeon). He is also a library technician and has been actively involved with SFQ since the early 1970s. He is the author of three collections of short stories, including *Légendes de Virnie* (Prix Boréal). His short story "Le Geai Bleu" won both the Dagon and Boréal awards. René is a former radio host, specialized librarian, and literary director (PTBGDA, L'ASSFQ), and member of the Board for the Grand Prix de la SFFQ. A half dozen of his short stories and articles have been translated and published in English. Recently, he has published articles and reviews in *KWS*, *Bifrost*, *Solaris* and elsewhere, but has never forgotten his love for short fiction. Upcoming publications include: "Sandra" (XYZ), a new version of "Un Fantôme D'Amour" (Solaris) and a new version of "Cendres" dans Les Anges Électriques (Les Moutons Électriques, A.-F. Ruaud).

He has a blog: <http://geaibleu.joueb.com/>



Greg Bechtel's stories have appeared in *Prairie Fire*, *On Spec*, *Challenging Destiny* and *Qwerty* magazines. He has recently moved to Edmonton, where he is pursuing a PhD in English literature and attempting to resurrect his first novel, which saw its original incarnation as his MA thesis in creative writing at the University of New Brunswick. At the moment of drafting this bio, "Blackbird Shuffle" has been nominated for the Journey Prize, a National Magazine Award, and a Western Magazine Award.



Stephanie Bedwell-Grime is a five-time Aurora Award finalist and the author of eight novels and over fifty short stories. Stephanie welcomes visitors to her website at www.feralmartian.com

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Nancy Bennett is an essayist, poet and fiction writer. Her work has appeared in such places as *Tales of the Unanticipated*, *Tesseract*, *Flesh and Blood* and *Not One of Us*. She has made the recommended reading list for the *Year's Best Fantasy and Horror* three times. Her latest achievement, a cinquain poem, appeared in *iln Fine Form* alongside the works of P. K. Page, Robert Service and Margaret Atwood.



Jason Christie is considered to be one of Canada's cutting-edge poets and is, perhaps, one of the most important poets of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. His avant-garde style challenges the status quo and questions what a poem may be. The robot poem included in this collection, from his *i-ROBOT Poetry by Jason Christie* collection, illuminates his unique and somewhat whimsical, alternative style.

Sheryl Curtis. With undergraduate and graduate degrees in translation from the Université de Montréal and a doctorate in interdisciplinary studies from Concordia University, Sheryl Curtis is a certified member of the Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec (OTTIAQ) and works as a professional translator. During the course of her career, she also taught translation over a period of 20 years as a member of the part-time faculty at Concordia University, in Montreal, Quebec. She is also a member of the Literary Translators' Association of Canada and is devoting more and more of her time to literary translation. Since 1998, her translations of short stories have appeared in *Interzone*, *Year's Best Science Fiction 4*, *Year's Best Fantasy and Horror 15*, *On Spec*, *Altair*, *Tesseract 8*, *Tesseract 9*, and elsewhere.

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Mark Dachuk is a lifetime resident of Toronto, and makes his living as a carpenter. He is also a raging gamer, often pitching multiple card and board game ideas to friends, or boring them with various exploits in his online universe. He is currently in the process of forming a game company with a group of friends. "Permission" is his first published short story. Serious inquiries can be sent to Mark Dachuk at: markdachuk@gmail.com



Victoria Fisher was born in England but now divides her year between Ottawa and Toronto, where she is currently studying English, History and Politics at the University of Toronto. She is distracted from her studies by her first love — a fascination for stories of all kinds.



Susan Forest's first novel for young adults, *The Dragon Prince*, (Gage Educational Publishers) was awarded the Children's Circle Book Choice Award, and was chosen by Gage as one of two young adult novels to represent the company at a book fair in Berlin. Her short story, "Playing Games" appeared in the 2006 Winter issue of *ON SPEC magazine*, and her story, "Immunity" will be included in the December 2006 issue of *Asimov's Science Fiction*.



Matthew Hughes writes science fiction and science-fantasy. His alter ego, Matt Hughes, writes suspense fiction. He has published four novels, thirty short stories, one collection and two non-fiction books.

His latest sf novel is *Majestrum* (Night Shade, 2006), the fourth set in the Archonate universe. The first three were *Fools Errant*, *Fool Me Twice* and *Black Brillion*. His short sf stories have appeared in *Asimov's*, *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Interzone* and *Postscripts*. His web page is at <http://www.archonate.com/>

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Matthew Johnson is a writer and teacher who lives in Ottawa with his wife Megan. He has published stories in *Asimov's Science Fiction*, *On Spec*, and *Space and Time*, as well as the anthologies *Time for Bedlam* and *Deathgrip: Exit Laughing*. He has written two novels, both of which reside currently in Slush Pile Limbo, and is at work on a third. "Closing Time" was workshopped in its early stages by the Stone Stories workshop group at Queen's University, to whom many thanks are due. You can find more information on his website: www.zatrikion.blogspot.com.



Sandra Kasturi is the co-creator (along with Jason Taniguchi) of the animated children's TV series, *Adventures of the Sinister Horde*. She recently won the prestigious *ARC magazine* annual Poem of the Year award for her poem "Old Men, Smoking." Sandra edited the SF poetry anthology, *The Stars As Seen from this Particular Angle of Night*. She has three chapbooks published and her work has also appeared in magazines (*Prairie Fire*, *ON SPEC*, *TransVersions*, *Star*Line* and others) and anthologies, including several of the *Tesseracts* series, *2001: A Science Fiction Poetry Anthology*, *Northern Frights 4*, and *Girls Who Bite Back*. Her first full-length poetry collection, tentatively titled *Animal Bridegrooms*, will appear in 2007 from Tightrope Books. Sandra is the grant administrator and a judge for the Speculative Literature Foundation's Older Writers' Grant, and is a founding member of the Algonquin Square Table poetry workshop. She runs her own imprint, Kelp Queen Press, and has won a Bram Stoker Award for her editorial work at the on-line magazine, *ChiZine*. During the day, Sandra works as a production coordinator at YTV.

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Michèle Laframboise. A science-fiction lover since childhood, Michèle Laframboise juggles her time between drawing comics, writing stories, and caring for her family. With an academic background in geography and civil engineering, she began to draw and write SF. She has published six SF books so far, two of which have won awards: *Les Nuages de Phoenix*, a YA novel, received a general literature award in Québec and *Les Mémoires de l'Arc* was awarded a 2005 Aurora Award. She has published several short stories. She is currently working on two comic book projects and one YA novel, in addition to translating her novels into English.



Scott Mackay has published over forty short stories in magazines such as *Science Fiction Age*, *On Spec*, *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, *Interzone*, *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, and *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*. He's winner of the Arthur Ellis Award for best mystery short story, as well as the Okanagan Award for best literary short fiction. He's the author of nine novels, including *Outpost* (Tor 1998), *The Meek* (Roc 2001), *Orbis* (Roc 2002), and *Omniflix* (Roc 2004), which was listed at Number 6 on the Locus bestsellers list. *The Meek* was a John W. Campbell Memorial Award finalist for best SF novel of 2001. Prometheus Books published his latest SF novel, *Tides*, under the Pyr imprint in fall of 2005. Recently, he sold two new novels to Roc: *Phytosphere*, which will appear in 2007; and *Omega Sol*, which will appear some time after. His books have appeared in six languages.



Colleen McDonald is a graduate of the Alberta College of Art & Design. She is a fine artist, illustrator and creature designer. Born in Vancouver, British Columbia, she now lives and works on her designs in Weymouth, Nova Scotia. Examples of her work can be seen on: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/colleen.mcdonald

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Allen Moore worked for two decades in high technology. He designed laser writing equipment for the printing industry and instrumentation for astrophysics. Allen is now a volunteer in his community, providing support to people with life-threatening illnesses. He also tutors both math and physics to street youth in downtown Vancouver.



Yvonne Pronovost is a twenty-something living in Edmonton, Alberta, whose work has appeared in *Neo-Opis Magazine*, *NFG*, *Beyond Centauri*, and the *Darkness Rising 2005* horror anthology from Prime Books. She likes tea, pina colodas, and getting caught in the rain, but isn't very fond of onions. Neither of her thumbs are green.



Rhea Rose was born in Etobicoke, Ontario and rode the CN rails for 3 days to move to BC when she was twelve (she took her parents with her), writing almost continuously before and since then. She nearly didn't attend Clarion West in Seattle in 1984 when, at the US border, they asked her if she had a student visa to study at Seattle Central College? She said no and so did they. So she promised that she would just go shopping in Bellingham and they let her in. Six weeks later, she was a born again SF and F writer. She also writes nonfiction and fiction. Her speculative short stories have been published in *Northwest Passages: A Cascadian Anthology*, *TaleBones*, *Tesseracts*, *Tesseracts 2*, *ON SPEC*, and *Christmas Forever*, edited by David Hartwell. Stories from both these latter publications made the preliminary nebula award list. Her speculative poetry has appeared in *Tesseracts 9*, *Tesseracts 6* (poem nominated for a Rhysling award), *TaleBones*, *Transversions*, *Mythic Circle*, *Olympic View* anthology, and *T.S. Elliot Remembered*. She is an active member of The Lonely Cry (a writers' performance group) and the Helix writers' group. She has organized many local writers' workshops, has had the opportunity to do extra work in local movies, and has participated in the Vancouver Fringe Festival. To support her writing habit she teaches senior English at an alternate school in Coquitlam.

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Lisa Smedman is a writer and game designer, with a dozen novels published to date. She has designed adventures for the Advanced Dungeons and Dragons game, as well as a number of other roleplaying games. She wrote *The Apparition Trail*, an alternate-history science fiction novel, is the creator of three one-act plays, and the author of numerous short stories. A journalist for more than 20 years, she currently splits her week between her "day job" as an editor and historical columnist at a Vancouver newspaper and writing fiction. She facilitates a bi-weekly writers' workshop and has been active in organizing science fiction conventions. Lisa Smedman's website is located at www.lisasmedman.topcities.com.



Sarah Totton has sold stories to *Realms of Fantasy*, *Polyphony 5*, *The Nine Muses* (Wheatland Press), *Tesseracts Nine*, and *Tales of the Unanticipated*. She is a Third Place winner in the 2005 L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future Contest.



Wendy Waring is a translator, editor, lecturer and writer who lives in Sydney, Australia whenever she gets the chance. She's currently finishing a fantasy novel, *Empire of the Pure*. A survivor of Clarion South, "Au pays" is her first genre specific publication. Her second, "Stonework", will appear in *Interzone*.

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Welcome to the Tesseracts Series...

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Award Winners...

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The anniversary collection – *Tesseracts Ten* – was edited by two award winning authors, Robert Charles Wilson, who won the 2006 Hugo award for his book *Spin*, and Edo van Belkom, who previously won both the *Bram Stoker* and *Silver Birch* awards, and is also a 3 time winner of an *Aurora* award.

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From unknown to known ... Tesseracts features the best.

Many of Canada's best known writers have contributed in one or more Tesseracts collection, either as writers or as editors. A few names you might recognize include Robert J. Sawyer, Margaret Atwood, and the afore mentioned international award winning Élisabeth Vonarburg and Hugo and Nebula award winning authors Spider Robinson, and William Gibson – just to name a few.

All in all, 191 Canadian authors, editors and translators, and 322 short stories and poems have contributed to the Tesseracts Series.

The A to Z of the Tesseracts series.

Here is the list of contributors of all the Tesseracts series to date. What names do you recognize? We would like to recognize each of these people and their contributions to the series' success.

Colleen Anderson, Timothy J. Anderson, David Annandale, Jean Pierre April, M. Arnott, Phyllis Aronoff, Margaret Atwood, Douglas Barbour, Edward Barnosky, Natasha Beaulieu, René Beaulieu, Greg Bechtel, Stephanie Bedwell-Grime, Ven Begamudré, Nancy Bennett, Jocko Benoit, Sylvie Bérard, Alain Bergeron, Bertrand Bergeron, Neil B. Bishop, Peter Bloch-Hansen, Bob Boyczuk, Jane Brierley, Michael Bullock, Cliff Burns, Mick Burrs, Andre Carpentier, Joël Champetier, E. L. Chen, Eric Choi, Mary Choo, Lesley Choyce, Jason Christie, Carolyn Clink, John Clute, John Robert Colombo, Michael G. Coney, Dorothy Corbett Gentleman, Denis Côté, Sheryl Curtis, Mark Dachuk, Charles de Lint, Marlene Dean, A.M. Dellamonica, Roger Des Roches, A.K.Dewdney, Christopher Dewdney, Jean Dion, Cory Doctorow, Candace Jane Dorsey, Ian Driscoll, Dave Duncan, Gary Eikenberry, Scott Ellis, Marian Engel, M.A.C. Farrant, M.W. Field, Victoria Fisher, Pat Forde, Susan Forest, Eduardo Frank, Heather Fraser, Benjamin Freedman, Leslie

Gadallah, James Alan Gardner, William Gibson, Marg Gilks, David Godfrey, Charles Shelby Goerlitz, Leona Gom, Phyllis Gotlieb, Kelly Graves, Terence M. Green, John Greene, Wendy Greene, Agnès Guitard, Tracey Halford, Katie Harse, Tom Henighan, Robyn Herrington, Nalo Hopkinson, Laura Houghton, Matthew Hughes, Aaron Humphrey, Jan Lars Jensen, Paula Johanson, Matthew Johnson, Nancy Johnston, Sandra Kasturi, Sansoucy Kathenor, Eileen Kernaghan, Nancy Kilpatrick, David Kirkpatrick, E.B. Klassen, Dora Knez, Aliocha Kondratiev, Michèle Laframboise, Claude Lalumière, Marie-Claire Lamaire, Michel Lamontagne, M.Travis Lane, Lydia Langstaff, Scott Mackay, Catherine MacLeod, Susan A. Manchester, Michel Martin, Laurent McAllister, Margaret McBride, Judy McCrosky, Donald McGrath, Jason Mehmel, Shirley Meier, Judith Merrill, Yves Meynard, Michael Mirolla, Allen Moore, Derryl Murphy, Lucille Nelson, David Nickle, P.K. Page, John Park, Lia Pas,

Jacqueline Pearce, Wendy G. Pearson, Francine Pelletier, Annick Perrot-Bishop, Jean Pettigrew, Ursula Pflug, J.Marc Piché, Teresa Plowright, Claude-Michel Prévost, D.M. Price, Robert Priest, Yvonne Pronovost, Clélie Rich, Spider Robinson, Esther Rochon, Stan Rogal, Leon Rooke, RheaRose, Dan Rubin, Robert Runté, Geoff Ryman, Robert J. Sawyer, Karl Schroeder, Howard Scott, Keith Scott, Daniel Sernine, Marc Sévigny, Carl Sieber, Leah Silverman, Sara Simmons, Katherine Sinclair, Michael Skeet, Lisa Smedman, Douglas Smith, Gena Snyder, Pierre Sormany, Heather Spears, Hugh A.D. Spencer, Dave Sproule, Steve Stanton, Richard Stevens, Paul Stockton, Jerome Stueart, Peter Such, Susan Swan, Robert Sward, Lorna Toolis, Sarah Totton, Mildred Tremblay, Hayden Trenholm, Jean-Louis Trudel, Gerry Truscott, Edo van Belkom, Michael Vance, Élisabeth Vonarburg, Wendy Warring, Peter Watts, Andrew Weiner, Allan Weiss, Alette J. Willis, Robert Charles Wilson, Casey June Wolf, Tim Wynne-Jones, J.Michael Yates, Melissa Yuan-Innes, and Robert Zend.

Tesseracts Ten

Reviewed by Jillian Bell

I am ashamed, perhaps, to admit that I have never belonged to a book club. I did not receive regular pointers from Oprah about what was good, what made her cry, or which book her next guest authored. I never subscribed to Penguin Classics series, and have never really had a standing order with book publishers. I don't even go to the library as much as I should. Most relevant here is the fact that I was never a member of the Science Fiction Book Club, and I know that I've missed out on a great many new authors and anthologies because of it.

I am, however, a great taker of recommendations, and very nearly all of my friends were (and still are) members of the Science Fiction Book Club, and thanks to them I had, in my younger days, at least a smattering of previously-unknown authors and famous anthologies. When someone tells me 'you should really read this book', I usually do. And when someone gasps in astonishment and says, 'how can you be a Sci-Fi fan and NOT have read [insert title of relatively obscure S/F title here]!?', I at least try to track the thing down and immerse myself.

When Tesseracts 10 arrived in my hands, I couldn't wait to dig in. I have read and re-read Tesseracts 9 probably six or seven times. Inherently, I love anthologies. I love the variety, the span of style and voice. I like that the only rule is that sometimes there are no rules, and if there are, they ought to be broken. I love finding new authors, I love reading contributions from more established writers. Most of all, what titillates me is that someone can imagine something and write it, then so can you read it and see via their words.

Tesseracts 10 is all of this, and more. Inasmuch as any anthology has a 'unifying theme', as I read the stories and poems, many of them are about self-discovery. They are about something new, something born or reborn or refreshed or just ...new. Whether on a grand scale, trying to communicate with another world or race, or on a small scale trying to figure out what the new predator is (the one with its face inside its skull), Tesseracts 10 delivers page after page, author after author, story after story, of top-quality fiction.

The book is a treat to hold, polished and attractive. From the Giger-esque figures on the front to the simple yet elegant page design, the whole experience of Tesseracts 10 was sheer joy. Individual stories seem to flow from one to the next.

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Well-chosen words and realistic characters and believable situations (no matter how unreal and unbelievable they may be) make you wonder “what if”, and you carry on their stories, long after you’ve put down the book. In just seven lines, for example, Sandra Kasturi tells an entire novel; a post-modern tale following up Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. The poem, at once darkly comic and disturbing, is representative of the essence of discovery that is presented throughout “the Dix”. In those seven lines, you’ve remembered an old acquaintance, renewed your uneasy relationship, and find yourself thinking about their future. In just seven lines. Brilliant.

A backwards society has retirement fully figured out. Elsewhere, a comet approaches amid doubt and disbelief. Not far away, a new consciousness emerges, learns, and grows. In one of my favourite stories in this anthology of new Canadian Speculative Fiction, *Puss Reboots* by Stephanie Bedwell-Grime, an old theory about the plague is revisited. Bedwell-Grimes’ plague, though, is perhaps more subtle and intriguingly threatening.

Another favourite, *Buttons*, by Victoria Fisher, which I have already read four times, is reminiscent of some of the best storytelling I’ve heard or read in recent years. I want to see this story revisited in a graphic novel; in a full-length collection of short stories. I want to read more. Fisher’s characters are mournful and melancholy and richly and darkly beautiful. This is a Victorian retelling of the French Revolution, from an unheard viewpoint. Fisher’s style recalls Neil Gaiman’s “Sandman” series; she is dark and intelligent, captivating and spell-binding, and above all, a keen teller of stories.

If you only read one anthology this year, be it Science-Fiction, Fantasy, Speculative Fiction, Poetry, Short Fiction, or Literature, it should be *Tesseract 10*. There are no unforgettable stories in this collection, and it will be interesting to follow each of the authors through their other works. I don’t know if I would have been better off belonging to book clubs. I may or may not have come across *Tesseract 10* if I had; I don’t know. Anthologies make me happy, and this one in particular has made me very, very happy.

TESSERACTS TEN edited by Roberts Charles Wilson and Edo van Belkom

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