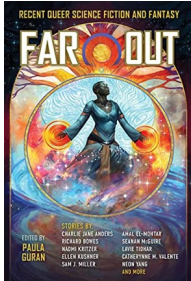




# Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians



Far Out: Recent Queer Science Fiction and Fantasy  
Edited By Paula Guran  
*Discussed January 2022*

## Contents

- "Destroyed by the Waters" by Rachel Swirsky – A gay couple in a relationship for over 50 years visit what is left of New Orleans (underwater).
- "The Sea Troll's Daughter" by Caitlin R. Kiernan – A variation on Beowulf.
- "And If the Body Were Not the Soul" by A.C. Wise – Ro (non-binary asexual) cannot abide physical contact with other humans and is jarred by an accidental touch by an alien.
- "Imago" by Tristan Alice Nieto – A murder victim is brought temporarily back to life to help catch her killer and finds her memories and identity have been shattered.
- "Paranormal Romance" by Christopher Barzak – Sheila runs a dating service to bring paranormals together.
- "Three Points Masculine" by An Owomoyela – A soldier deals with a man he believes is faking his gender in order to serve in the Women's Volunteer Corps.
- "Das Steingeschöpf" by G.V. Anderson – A young stone restorationist received his first commission to repair a living statue in Bavaria.
- "The Deepwater Bride" by Tamsyn Muir – A "ghastly abyssal intelligence" rises to overwhelm humanity.
- "The Shape of My Name" by Nino Cipri – A time-travel love story.
- "Otherwise" by Nisi Shawl – "A queer poly teen romance" in a world where all adults have succumbed to a drug craze and disappeared.
- "The Night Train" by Lavie Tidhar – A bio-medically modified bodyguard attempts to protect her crime lord boss from assassination aboard a train bound for Laos.
- "Ours Is the Prettiest" by Nalo Hopkinson – A romance in Bordertown (between Elfland and the World).
- "Don't Press Charges and I Won't Sue" by Charlie Jane Anders – A trans woman is seized by an agency that forces detransition via brain transplant.
- "Driving Jenny Home" by Seanan McGuire – A grieving young woman cannot let go of the ghost of her girlfriend.
- "I'm Alive, I Love You, I'll See You in Reno" by Vylar Kaftan – "A story of love, loss, and physics" – a complicated relationship across time and space.
- "In the Eyes of Jack Saul" by Richard Bowes – Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, as seen through the eyes of a member of a Victorian male brothel.

- "Secondhand Bodies" by Neon Yang – A woman pays for an illegal body trade rather than waiting for a new body to be grown.
- "Seasons of Glass and Iron" by Amal El-Mohtar – A mash-up of two fairytales: the girl in the iron shoes and the princess on the glass mountain.
- "Né le!" by Darcie Little Badger – An Apache veterinarian is awakened from stasis mid-way to Mars when 40 chihuahuas and a husky need care.
- "The Duke of Riverside" by Ellen Kushner – The story of how scholar Alec met swordsman Richard St. Vier in a Riverside tavern.
- "Cat Pictures Please" by Naomi Kritzer – An AI wants to help humans and enjoys viewing cat pictures.
- "The Lily and the Horn" by Catherynne M. Valente – Feuding houses settle their disputes by engaging in a deadly dinner party.
- "Calved" by Sam J. Miller – An illegal ice-hauler tries to show his estranged son how much he loves him, with disastrous results.
- "The River's Children" by Shweta Narayan – A gender-non-confirming prince marries his dearest friend, a gender-fluid river goddess.

## Discussion Questions

1. What's your overall impression of this anthology? Did you like it?
2. Guran says: "...for this anthology I decided the stories should feature queer characters important to the plot, usually but not necessarily as the central actors. Stories might feature an LGBTQ+ character or characters or a queer perspective or point of view." Do you think she achieved her goal?
3. What did you think about Guran's introductory essay about the history of queer anthologies?
4. There's a wide range of interpretations of "Queer" included in this anthology. Which ones did you find most interesting? Most challenging?
5. Did you have a favorite story?
6. Anthologies are often critiqued on the "inconsistent quality" of the stories they contain. What's your opinion of the quality of the stories in this anthology?
7. Several of the authors presented here have also published novels – for example: Caitlin Kiernan, Christopher Barzak, Nisi Shawl, Nalo Hopkinson, Seanan McGuire, Ellen Kushner, and Catherine Valente. If you have read a novel by one of these authors, how would you compare it against the short story in this anthology?
8. What do you think about including anthologies in our book discussions? Do you enjoy reading a variety of stories with a common theme? Do you find anthologies more difficult to discuss than novels? Should we continue to include anthologies (or collections by a single author) in our book discussion?