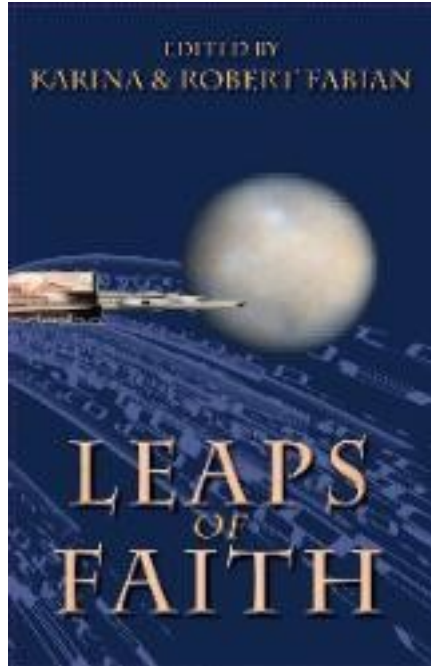


Time with Tannia
(timewithtannia.tripod.com)

November 2008 - Blog Tour Featured Anthology Book:



Leap of Faith

Synopsis for Leaps of Faith

Edited by Robert and Karina Fabian

What's your vision of the future?

In both Christian and mainstream science fiction, either religion or science always seems to take a back seat. In mainstream SF, religion may be portrayed as something mankind has “outgrown” or that has become as alien as the worlds visited; or only one faith is represented, as if the great tapestry of Judeo-Christian faiths has been bleached into a colorless whole. By the same token, in Christian fiction, accurate, plausible science may be downplayed to the point of device than vital story element.

Yet, in reality, faith and science have always nurtured each other. Mendel, the father of genetics, was a monk, and some physicists have said the more they delve into quantum

mechanics, the more they are convinced in a higher power as Creator. Where is the SF to reflect the truer relationship between faith and science?

Here, in Leaps of Faith.

The 15 stories in Leaps of Faith cover the entire spectrum of the SF genre, showing the positive relationship between science and religion.

Space Exploration: In “High Hopes for The Dead,” we see Christian evangelism through faithful example of Luke “High Hopes” Kittery, a member of a band of space explorers for whom every trip is potential suicide. “Quantum Express” examines the status of one’s soul when the body is destroyed and reassembled through teleportation. In “God’s Gift,” faith is the key to preventing insanity brought on by a new method of interstellar travel. “Leaps of Faith” highlights the new industry of space search and rescue through the intrepid nuns of Our Lady of the Rescue. In “Confirmation,” harvesters of an exotic space fuel suspect they’re harvesting intelligent life--or perhaps the angels themselves.

Encountering Alien Life: “Lost in the Translation” chronicles the trials of a monk trying to evangelize to an alien species for which death results in corporeal rebirth. In “Lost Rythar,” evangelists seek to bring the Word of God to long-forgotten human colonies. In “Sometimes We Lie,” evangelism takes a bizarre turn when a native born being tries to spread an ancient human faith. Fr. Wren wonders if a sentient tree-creature can marry into the Catholic Faith in “The Convert,” while Fr. Travener faces persecution by ministering to sentient androids in “Comprehending It Not.”

Hard SF: An astrophysicist finds the face of God in the stars of the universe in “The Smile.” God is a proven fact in “The Faith Equation,” leaving the question of the role of belief. “The Relics of Venice” combines genetic engineering and love to create a miracle.

Time travel: In “Tampering with God’s Time,” time travelers find they cannot change the timeline, but are themselves changed as they encounter Christ personally, while in “Moses Disposes,” King Solomon deliberately uses time travelers to bring the Bible to future generations in an idiom they can understand.

THE AUTHORS ' INTERVIEW



Karina Fabian, author of the story, "Leap of Faith."

Karina Fabian has written everything from radio news stories, to personality features to science fiction. She's been in over 50 periodicals and has four books published. Her latest, *Infinite Space, Infinite God*, she wrote for and edited with her husband Rob. *Infinite Space, Infinite God* (August 2007, Twilight Times Books) features fifteen stories of the Catholics dealing with the challenges of the future--from time travel to genetic engineering. (<http://isigsf.com/>). She publishes the quarterly e-zine *Faith Filled Fiction*, an educational resource for writers who incorporate religion into their stories. She is writing a Catholic science fiction novel and crafting a fantasy noir stories and novels involving a dragon detective, Vern, and is partner, the nun and mage Sister Grace. (Read more about Vern the Dragon and Sister Grace at www.dragoneyepi.net). She's President of the Catholic Writers' Guild. She also teaches writing seminars on-line. With four kids, five pets and a very understanding husband who is an officer in the Air Force, she tends to sleep in her "spare" time. Learn more at <http://www.fabianspace.com/>

1. How do the themes of the stories reflect upon the title of the anthology Leap of Faith?

The title of the book actually came from the title of one of Rob's and my stories, *Leap of Faith*. The e-book publisher, Kathryn Lively, who's since moved to more profitable pastures at Mundania, came up with the title and we loved it.

In "*Leap of Faith*," Sister Ann makes a physical as well as spiritual leap. Although a member of an order specializing in space search and rescue, she's deathly afraid of extravehicular activity. While doing some pilot training, she and her instructor come upon a distress signal and she needs to EVA to rescue a stranded astronaut. Many of the stories, however, center around some kind of leap of faith by the character, whether it's the priest that comes to see a tree-like being as created in God's image, too or the scientist who finds faith is the only way to survive the trauma of interstellar flight.

2. Do you consider Christian Science Fiction a more acceptable venue to share your faith with non-believers? If yes, how? If not, why not?

That's an interesting question, and one I can't answer. I don't use my writing as an evangelization tool--I'm not that talented. I simply write the stories and the characters that come to my mind. One thing I do know, however, is that Leaps of Faith appeals to Christians and non-Christians alike. As an e-book, it was a finalist for the 2004 EPPIE awards for best anthology. It also got several wonderful reviews--including one from a woman who was an atheist and didn't like sci-fi in general.

3. What do you all want to accomplish by means of this anthology?

I want people to read it, enjoy it, and look for more. That's why the new Introduction includes several publishers and magazines that specialize in Christian speculative fiction. (That's sci-fi, fantasy and horror.) We also put website addresses for the contributors as we knew them, so if you like their stuff, you go discover their other works.

4. Where was the idea for this book conceived? Please share with our readers the behind the scene story for this anthology.

The original Introduction in the book covers this in full, but essentially, Rob and I write stories when we go on dates. (It beats talking about the kids or work.) One day, we came up with an order of nuns who specialize in space search and rescue. We wrote a couple of stories and when we met Kathryn through an on-line group, she suggested the anthology. Leaps of Faith was born.

It took over a year to find stories that had both strong faith and strong sci-fi, but it was a lot of fun. I'd read them first and if I liked them or wasn't sure, I'd pass them on to Rob. He invariably narrows in on what my doubts were and put them at ease or shines a clear light on them, so he makes the second-read process easy. Then we came up with some snappy intros and voila!

After Franciscan e-press went out of business, we searched for years to find a print publisher. I just really believed this book deserved that second chance. I still love re-reading these stories, and I thought others would, too. I'm ecstatic that The Writers' Café Press picked it up. Cynthia McKinnon is a joy to work with.

5. How were the stories chosen?

No. 1. Good read. You had to capture my interest and hold Rob's. Not an easy task.
No. 2. Plausible science (within the universe of the story)
No. 3. Positive interaction of faith and science. No evil atheist bad guy vs. noble Christian.

6. Where can our readers purchase this anthology?

www.leapsoffaihsf.com has more information including purchase links.

You can order directly from The Writers Café Press:

<http://www.thewriterscafe.com/authorandbooks/leapsoffaihsf.html>

7. Do you consider Christian Science Fiction a counteract of dark fantasy books so attractive to young readers?

I think it provides readers with an entertaining alternative. Too often science fiction has disregarded religion or treated it patronizingly. The fact is, humankind has a need to believe; faith is hardwired into us as a species. We won't "outgrow that" just because we go to a new place and get some cool tech toys.

8. How do you prevent preaching in your story?

I stay true to the story and the character. If I want to preach, I'll write an essay.

Susanne Marie Knight, author of the story, "The Convert"

Susanne Marie Knight is the author of 21 novels and one anthology. Her book, *The Coming*, won the 2004 Dream Realm Award for best speculative fiction. She also is a six-time EPPIE finalist and writes in such diverse genres as science fiction, Regency, paranormal, mystery, suspense, time-travel, and contemporaries. Among her science fiction romance novels are award-winner *Janus Is A Two-Headed God*, the sequel *Janus Is A Two-Faced Moon*, (Earthling Press/Awe-Struck eBooks, Inc.) and best-seller *Alien Heat* (Wings ePress, Inc.) Find out more about her works at <http://www.susanneknight.com/>

1. How does the theme of the stories reflect upon the title of the anthology Leap of Faith?

In my story, "[The Convert](#)"--one of the stories included in LEAPS OF FAITH--the main character, Father Wren, needs to step outside his existing beliefs. He must take a leap of faith in order to help not only his flock but himself as well.

2. Do you consider Christian Science Fiction a more acceptable venue to share your faith with non-believers? If yes, how? If not, why not?

My idea of good storytelling is to entertain the reader. Perhaps also to give the reader something to think about. I take pleasure in combining genres to create an unusual tale.

3. What do you all want to accomplish by means of this anthology?

My hope is that readers will enjoy my story. An added bonus would be if readers find "[The Convert](#)" thought provoking.

4. Where was the idea for your story conceived? Please share with our readers your behind the scene story for this anthology.

As the author of "[The Convert](#)", I'll talk about how I conceived this tale. The idea for "The Convert" started with the phrase "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned." If this was to be the beginning of my story, I then wondered why the speaker needed God's forgiveness or blessing. To give the tale a science fiction twist, I created an unusual dilemma for the main character, Father Wren. The question "The Convert" asks is: who is the real convert in this story?

5. How where the stories chosen?

I hope my story was chosen because it is entertaining with a bit of a twist!

6. Where can our readers purchase this anthology?

LEAPS OF FAITH can be ordered from the publisher, The Writers Café Press at <http://www.thewriterscafe.com/authorandbooks/leapsoffait.html>

7. Do you consider Christian Science Fiction a counteract of dark fantasy books so attractive to young readers?

I really couldn't say. Reading stimulates the mind, and combining Christian fiction with science fiction creates a very imaginative mix.

8. How do you prevent preaching in your story?

My job as a writer is to tell the story, not to have a hidden agenda. Fingers crossed my fiction is never preachy!



Leslie Brown, author of the story, "The Relics of Venice"

Leslie Brown is a Canadian writer, born in a small town in Northern Ontario. I have a Bachelor's in Microbiology and ending up working at the National Research Council in Ottawa. Right now I'm working in the Alzheimer's field doing protein chemistry. I started writing science fiction and fantasy in the 1990's when I finally got a home computer and made my first sale to On Spec, the Canadian Magazine of Fantastic Fiction. Since then, I've sold about 13 stories to anthologies and Strange Horizons. The whole list can be found at <http://www.leslie-brown.com/>. I'm single and am the servant of a Welsh Cardigan Corgi named Danny.

1. How does the theme of the stories reflect upon the title of the anthology Leap of Faith?

In my story "*The Relics of Venice*", the protagonist is a scientist. She looks at the world empirically and religion does not play a large role in her life. Further more, she's lost faith in herself and others. When confronted with the inexplicable- a true miracle-she has to make her own leap of faith and believe in it.

2. Do you consider Christian Science Fiction a more acceptable venue to share your faith with non-believers? If yes, how? If not, why not?

I have to confess that while I consider myself a Christian, I am not strongly religious, despite singing in a couple of church choirs! I am a scientist working in the field of Alzheimer's and while I do not believe in intelligent design, I am not adverse to the concept of a supreme being winding everything up and then setting it loose.

3. What do you all want to accomplish by means of this anthology?

I want people to read my stories and the niche of Christian SF is certainly a valid genre. I like the interest this collection of stories has generated from its initial online publication.

4. Where was the idea for your story conceived? Please share with our readers your behind the scene story for this anthology.

I spent three days by myself in Venice and walked all over the island, feeling quite safe

in the process. I discovered that you could buy a church pass to multiple churches so I got one and checked out all the churches on the list. One had been made into a relic museum with all the pews removed and cases of relics put in their place. I wondered how many were real and if the fake ones could be sanctified by the amount of belief people put in them. What would happen if you put a whole bunch of relics in close proximity? Would some sort of critical chain reaction occur? It was a small step to transfer all that into a test tube.

5. Do you consider Christian Science Fiction a counteract of dark fantasy books so attractive to young readers?

I read a lot of those dark fantasy young adult books and I find that the basic theme is always of good eventually triumphing over evil. I think our society's definition of good is still a Christian one and that the protagonists in these books still strive to do the right thing by themselves, their friends and the world. Christian Science Fiction can include those dark elements as well while adding the surety that good does indeed exist.

6. How do you prevent preaching in your story?

I think I dodge the whole issue by taking the scientific approach and having my miracle generated by scientific methods (and love and faith).

Barton Paul Levenson, author of "Sometimes We Lie"

Barton Paul Levenson has a degree in physics. Happily married to the genre poet Elizabeth Penrose, his being both a born-again Christian and a liberal Democrat seems to confuse everybody. His work has appeared in Marion Zimmer Bradley's Fantasy Magazine, Cricket, Cicada, the New York Review of Science Fiction and many small press markets. Three of his novels will appear in 2008 or 2009, and a novella will appear as an e-book in March. He was prohibited from entering the Confluence Short Story Contest again after winning first prize two years in a row.

1. How does the theme of the stories reflects upon the title of the anthology Leap of Faith?

They illustrate people making important choices, rather than being passively swept along.

2. Do you consider Christian Science Fiction a more acceptable venue to share your faith with non-believers? If yes, how? If not, why not?

It's more likely to take stories with a Christian message. But I'd like it if more Christian readers weren't stuck in the Christian ghetto.

3. What do you all wants to accomplish by means of this anthology?

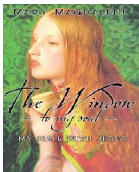
To get my story out where people will read it.

4. Do you consider Christian Science Fiction a counteract of dark fantasy books so attractive to young readers?

I sincerely hope so, but I'd feel better about it if more non-Christians read the former.

5. How do you prevent preaching in your story?

By just telling the story and not giving my protagonist set-piece speeches.



Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés, author of *The Window To My Soul; My Walk With Jesus* (ISBN 0975393359; 2004 Tate Publishing; www.tatepublishing.com). Author's websites: timewithtannia.tripod.com., www.shoutlife.com/tanniaortizlopes, www.myspace.com/tanniaortizlopes, and www.myspace.com/tanniaortizlopesmusic. The author also has a blog at www.amazon.com

AUTHOR'S COMMENTS:

Name: Susanne Marie Knight Date: November 5, 2008 12:02:19 PM EST
Email Address: (optional) knight2writer@yahoo.com
Web site URL: (optional) www.susanneknight.com

Comments: Tannia, thanks so much for interviewing me! I hope you enjoyed the stories in Leaps of Faith. I've certainly enjoyed my "Sci-Fi experience!" Thanks, again. Susanne

Name: Linda J Hutchinson Date: November 5, 2008 7:52:03 AM EST
Email Address: (optional) linda@lindajhutchinson.com
Web site URL: (optional) www.lindajhutchinson.com

Comments: Bravo! Well done, Tannia. Great glimpses feed the need for more.

Name: Karina Fabian Date: November 3, 2008 8:57:07 AM EST
Email Address: (optional) karina@fabianspace.com
Web site URL: (optional) www.fabianspace.com

Comments: Thanks, Tannia, for posting these. I enjoy reading what the contributors have to say about their stories and the anthology. I will say this: each story was chosen because it was unique, well-told and faith-filled. Blessings, Karina Fabian

Name: Leslie Brown Date: November 7, 2008 3:42:08 PM EST
Web site URL: www.leslie-brown.com

Comments: Thank you for helping spread the word about Leaps of Faith!