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Happy New Year! May all of you, and especially me, have a much better year in 2013, than you and me did in 2012.

This is a perzine combined with a reviewzine combined with a LoC sub. Paper copies will go from me to those folks who have sent me something that I write about in here; a couple of relatives; a couple of friends and the original will go to my friend Chuck in the UK, who will post it in a slightly different format on www.efanzines.com, and possibly send paper copies to some folks. Redistribution in any form, by any method, is encouraged – no strings attached (see below re Creative Commons etc.)

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Barring the death of myself, or this machine, or bankruptcy, I anticipate issue #4 will appear after I have 10 pages composed and can find the time and money to get some copies made. If you want one, send something to the above address. Letters of comment on the contents of this issue would be welcome; please note I am not sending copies of this thing in exchange for letters.

GUN NUT FUNNIES #3 is a smallish digest comic like thing which has a lot of words and many panels. It is very well drawn. The message has to do with carrying guns, gun control, cops and the legal system in the US. It is © 2011 so it was done before that creature murdered all the children and the NRA started promoting putting armed guards in schools. I did not find much amusing in it; the message appears to be all too true and thus sad and frightening. Have a good lawyer. I'm going to pass this along to lawyer and comics fan Guy Lillian and see what he has to say about it, if anything. Lots of comics available he says on the back page. Is he still around in 2013? I'm going to send something to Kjartan Arnorsson. Those of you with email can try: kjartana@comcast.com.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HART by Bruce Hart, published by ECW Press in 2011. The second eldest of the legendary Hart family from Calgary and the umteenth member of the family to write a book about “my dad”, the wrestler and promoter, Stu Hart – and other family members. Bret is the most famous and the most prolific in books, and the richest. I had long felt that Bruce was over-pushed as a wrestler but was never fully recognised for his abilities as a booker; a pro wrestling term for someone who basically created the matches and shows and controlled the wrestlers back in the days before there were scriptwriters. Bruce is not quite as vitriolic as some of his siblings; I think he is off a bit on some dates, although it could well be that I am. This is a very good look at one of my all time favourite wrestling promotions with lots of insights into the ups and downs. It is a very good book for anyone interested in Stampede wrestling or the Hart family. Probably of no interest whatever to anyone else. Which likely means every person reading this. So that is all I shall write about this book.

Book is listed at Can\$22.95, \$19.95 in the US, and I have no idea how much it will cost you, Dan, if you want a copy. I think there is an electronic version.

GUN NUT FUNNIES #3 has a list price of \$1.50, back page says Trade, fan mail or to get more comics, a lot of which are Adults Only. I am going to send a copy of #2 and a short note I just wrote and see what happens.

Jan.3. Brrrr! The winter issue of THE MATCH, #111, arrived today. I sent the order for this twice; first time it came back for some reason unknown to anyone.

Jan. 11. Went and got some copies of #2 yesterday along with spending too much money and looking for government buildings and other things. Copies came out well. I got them stapled in the wrong corner for some reason.

So I have read all the SFanzines I had and although I have a bunch of books which I have read some portion of and a lot I have yet to crack and magazines I was in one of those moods; didn't see anything I wanted to read. Pulled a book of the middle of the pile. Turned out to be #13 in the Stephanie Plum series by Janet Evanovich and was fairly amusing; in spite of everything after some success Stephanie is still a klutz, still getting into all kinds of scrapes; still causing all types of mayhem and breaking lots of laws with no consequences and is now balancing 2 guys, albeit only screwing one. Quite enjoyable book, I did revert to one chapter followed by something else after a bit which seems to be my reading method of late but I did enjoy this one.

Sometime in the not too distant past a bunch of DVDs flew in, bunches of movies, 5 or 6 to a disc. I kind of looked at the first of most and then, well... one was ONE FOR THE MONEY which is the first Stephanie Plum novel. I watched about a third of it and then quit for some reason. Watched the rest of it last night. Enjoyable movie. Really hot chick portrayed Stephanie which

follows the character in the books; the naked in the shower scene was annoying since they made it PG-13 when it could have been a legitimate reason to show us those fabulous tits for a while. It has been some time since I read the novel but as far as I can recall, they followed the book reasonably closely; skipped a couple of things. Fun movie.

The winter edition of CHRISTIAN NEW AGE QUARTERLY, Vol. 20 # 4, arrived this week. Editor Catherine Groves starts off with an exploration of Sophia, one of the Goddesses of ancient history, as well as other things, and moves into a dissertation on New Thought vis-à-vis New Age. A review of a book by Karen Speerstra entitled SOPHIA:THE FEMINE FACE OF GOD is basically a declaration that God is female. Just as Blackie Ryan says. The bulk of this issue is a long scholarly treatise by Robert M. Price, entitled Sophia's Stepchild, The Gnostic Sources of New Thought. Thing is about 15 pages long and has 50 footnotes! Rich, you should get a copy. An exposition of Gnostic thought turning into New Thought, I found a lot of it rather pedantic but it is in fact a scholarly thesis rather than a fanzine article. Then again: sometimes fanzines publish such things. I found this, a quote from Jesus: "And if you pray, you will be damned." Ah, it comes from the Gospel of Thomas, which some Christians consider lies and bullshit. "And if you give alms you will only do your spirit harm." Good thing for church goers that not many believed this one! There are a lot of words ending in -ism in this article; religious sects about. Towards the end he starts comparing Biblical texts. New Thought is something different. Very interesting article albeit I think he could have done without some of the research revelations or I should say the article could have done without them. There is also a short piece about a happy dog with good humans and the values we could learn from hi, and a bit on native dance and some letters. This is an excellent publication for people interested in religious matters and discussion; of those who will see a paper copy of this issue, I strongly believe Rich would really like it, I intend to save it for my sister who may well throw it at me, and I know that Fred, if he is reading this, will be disgusted. But that's okay. Women are great, right. This one, Catherine, is confusing me! I have three different statements re rates; I will write her and see if I can get this clarified. Address: PO BOX 276, Clifton, NJ, USA 07015-0276. Website: www.christiannewage.com. \$3.50 in the US, and US\$5.00 everywhere else for a sample.

SFanzines of 2013

#1 arrived Jan. 22. OPUNTIA#258. Dale wastes some pages with photos of subways. Excellent article on old time radio shows heard on tape; I never heard any on radio but can recall OUR MISS BROOKS and THE LIFE OF RILEY on TV. Short bit on FAPA #301, interesting review of a book about the first veterinarian in Alberta, and some LoCs. 16 page digest, read it all except the transit part. \$3 cash, trade or LoC. Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, AB, Canada, T2P 2E7

#2 arrived Jan. 29. VANAMONDE #1080. As usual I read everything in the 2 pages; it was mostly interesting.

#3 was one of those items that came p.m., Feb. 12. Mailed on Feb. 4. in VA. JOMP. Jr. #31. Hiawatha, opera, more opera, skipped most of that one, LoCs. 24 pages this size (US Letter), Richard Dengrove, 2651 Arlington Drive #302, Alexandria, VA, USA 22306. Dunno what the availability is. rich22426@aol.com. Email addresses are weird!

#4. We appear to have a new mail carrier. Last year Chuck inundated me with webzines; in a 6 week period I think I read 100 of the things. Now that he has taken a vacation from me; 4 in 6 weeks is not quite enough. Feb 13. A MEARA FOR OBSERVERS #14 is laid out something like this except Mike has a computer and all those gadgets and chops his sheets up into columns...3 columns are on too damn many! ..and also does layout and includes photos. And artwork. Colour everywhere. Pictures everywhere; frogs, animals, creatures big and small. A tale of cutting up firewood c/w photos is hilarious. Almost prompts a LoC. Mike sent his address but being that I was not planning on writing LoCs I didn't keep it. Hmmm. Letter section is probably not unique, I seem to recall seeing other such columns in which all folks are intermingled as at a cocktail party. I like reading these. Ken and wife, Pat, and friends spend time in Italy and the UK. They also spend time in France. 20 pages a tad larger than this (UK A4 size). Those of you with computer gear can contact him at meara810@virginmedia.com. Part of Richard Branson's Empire*. Like my cellphone that I never use. (*Virgin Media has since been bought out by some American conglomerate. Only the name hasn't been changed so as to protect their profit margin.)

#5. DATA DUMP. 4 page digest handwritten zine all about poetry. Nothing in it of interest to me. #181; thing has been going since 1991. \$2; Steve Sneyd, 4 Nowell Place, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD5 8PB, UK – that, as well as the next 2, arrived Feb 19.

#6 OPUNTIA #259. Bulk of this issue is reviews of movies and tv shows based on earthquakes; nothing I would have wanted to watch, but it was amusing reading Dale's reviews of them. Part 1 of what looks to be a scholarly refutation of the global warming hysteria and a list of fanzines received for last year and preceding years. Dale doesn't differentiate between SFanzines and other zines; in 2012 he received 139 non FAPA zines. Wonder how many of them were SF?

#7 ALEXIAD, Feb 2013, Vol. 12 #1 which makes it issue #73 I think. 14 pages of LoCs from 21 writers. Joe and Lisa travel around in various types of weather in Dec.; Joe reads many books and comment on some of them as well as a cartoon he watched; some dyke lover of vampire fiction provides a look at some of her reading, some news and notes and zine listings and such. 30 pages US Letter. Sample on request from Lisa & Joseth Major, 1409 Christy Ave, Louisville, KY. USA 40204-2040. jtmajor@iglou.com

#8. OPUNTIA #260. Part 2 of Dale's review of evolution, review of a book by old radio guy Max Ferguson and a book on the stupid movie things; a look at some items and events from the day of his birth and early childhood, including a photo of baby Dale and Mom and some mailing comments to half a dozen zines in FAPA #302. I pay much higher taxes; Alberta only has 5% GST; we have 15% HST. This issue arrived Mar. 27.

#9. ASKEW #3, a 4-page mini zine published by John Purcell while his big zine is on hiatus so he can get a degree, attend numerous cons and other things. History of his publishing and an article about ezines vs so-called dead tree zines. Actually most pulp companies won't take dead trees any longer. Article is basically the same one I wrote in DETRITUS with an emphasis on LoCs. I have written 2 of those things already this year; that's likely enough. Says he's going to publish this one on paper and then put it on the net later. John wonders if anyone is reading the ezines, just as many other folks have done, just like I do periodically. Who knows? Chuck thinks it's worthwhile putting my zine on the net; doesn't cost me anything and I know of one person who reads it there and one person who printed off a copy not long ago. Says monthly or so. Also arrived Mar. 27 - John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX, USA, 77845 - j.purcell54@yahoo.com

BOTH SIDES NOW doesn't qualify as a SFzine I don't think, in spite of the fact it has a beautiful piece of art on the front page, and article entitled: 'Do Aliens Guide Us to New Spiritual Insights Balanced With Logical Behaviour.' Also a lot of talk about climate change and some other things, such as the publication arrived folded in two with a couple of pieces of tape a la some SFanzines. Lot of reading in the 22 pages. Listed as #119-120, I am not sure if that means this is a double or something else. Listed as quarterly, the front

page proclaims it is right on time... 3 months late. They give some reasons; they wanted to see if the Mayans were right; new computer, stuff like that. Practical matters box says: 'a journal of spiritual, cultural and political alternatives' and: 'BSN's editorial policies include pluralistic spirituality, nonviolence, social responsibility, ecological consciousness and grass roots democracy.' Which vanished eons ago. Starts off with a very cool essay on the 'Holy Fool', with a revered being in the Russian Orthodox church. There are some funny little toons, some art; Diane Tessman, the author of the Alien piece loves aliens, starships and UFOs; a very serious article on planetary initiation is about how humanity has changed the world and all the systems; change for the better or die out; article about the magical Findhorn Gardens in Scotland connected to major weather activities; an essay by a monk suggesting we all accept choice and peace within ourselves and a comment on that Zero Dark Thirty movie. Seen lots of that in SFanzines. This lady thinks it's an anti-war movie. And a longish essay on the United States Empire and war on various small nations; starting with Vietnam and then Iran and on and on. Author Nick Turse has published a book about that horror. It is a sad indictment of the U.S. governments and leaders. Some book reviews, some contact info, some other things. On page 3: 'If the Four Horsemen arrive, Offer Beer.' Maybe the thing is an SFzine after all. Editor says issues should arrive closer together so as to get back on track. Listed price is \$2. Postage to 10547 State Hwy, 110N, Tyler, TX, 75704, USA.

Contacts page lists a couple of booklets this publisher has done, including one on reincarnation and the Bible. Gonna send for that. Getting close to time for my next life; I should prepare, right?

THE MATCH #111 is 72 densely packed pages which range from the too boring for me material of technological matters to the fascinating article on office politics and idiocy in the work place by Samantha Price... Lots of letters; 14 pages of them. Articles on Jonestown and other cults. Lots of material on bad cops, bad things done by cops and that sort of thing. From page 2: 'Published since 1969, this journal exists solely to criticise authoritarian society and religion in order to argue for the many humane advantages of freedom and rationality... we have no telephone; no email so either write or forget communicating with us.' Listed as free but donations of US cash or stamps would be appreciated. I sent off the note and sample copy to the GUN NUT guy one day; wondered if he and Fred knew one another; following day brought THE MATCH c/w praise for Karno's work, the news that Fred printed some of it and a different address. Of course, the letter I sent bounced back. I sent something different yesterday. He has some strips in THE MATCH.

Address listed in there is: 1505 West St. Mary's Road, Tucson, AZ 85745
THE MATCH: PO Box 3012 Tucson, AZ 85702, USA.

THE KEN CHRONICLES#26 has an editorial, some letters, a long report on a trip Ken and wife and friends took to Europe as well as a couple of pages on an oak tree that topped on his garage during Sandy and some short pieces on some of the things he has been reading, watching and listening to. Good enjoyable perzine, 32 page digest, published quarterly. \$2/Trade/LoC. Ken Bausert, 2140 Erma Drive, East Meadow, NY USA 11554-1120 – passscribe@aol.com

MACLEAN's sent me 3 renewal notices and I decided to renew it; works out to about \$1.40 per issue which is not too much. I do read a fair bit in them.

March 15. Today I received a response from Mary McCray telling me that the CHER Zines are available. She has offered to send me copies and when they arrive I will happily read them and write something about each one. I think this is the first time ever I have gotten a response to a letter of enquiry to a small press person. If she sends me copies of all 3 issues I will likely split them into 3 issues of this thing which will answer the question of whether to call it quits in July. Woman sent me some poems called I HATE POETRY. I didn't bother reading them. I wonder if she knows Steve Sneyd. mary@cherscholar.com

Hardly any point in her sending me a copy of #3 when I have one right here. THIS IS CHER, a Cher zine #3 is obviously a labour of love. At 80 pages it is a good size and contains a lot of material. Could have done with some editing, truthfully. Such as, there is a forum conducted by Mary McCray in which she interviews a number of females about Cher and feminism and such topics which is all interesting except that she asks all the women the same questions and prints these question and then their answers; she could have saved herself a couple of pages and me some annoyance by cobbling the interviews all together. A section entitled Video Marathon describes 26 Cher videos which a bunch of folks watched in one night and some guy described each one followed by Cher Scholar and her views and then the opinions of 6 other folks including Mr. Cher Scholar and friends, obviously not Cher fans. Having seen about 24 of these videos I was very interested in this section. Mary's friend Swank, described as a long-time Cher appreciator, is terribly annoying. I understand the idea of reporting the comments of everyone and liked the portions of Mary and Jeffrey; Mr. Mary is quite good here and Julie was not bad. Swank definitely should have been booted if not out of the party at least out of the zine. And the others were a waste of space...Just like the poems. But that's just my view. I really liked this fanzine. There are lots and lots of photos, even some topless shots; there are some sections on Sonny, that lovable old fool; I found the sections on the movie, CHASTITY, of great interest having actually watched the thing years ago, ditto MASK. There is a long article about Cher's career, life and loves entitled The Casablanca Years which is apparently even longer than the 18 pages in the zine; computer folk could go to www.cherscholar.com/casablanca.htm and read it.

What you should do, everyone, is send \$6 and get a paper copy of this splendid fanzine. I am not going to recommend the first 2 issues yet, but if they are anything like this one, buying a package of one copy of each would be a good idea. Perhaps she will come up with a package deal. Contact Mary McCray, 116 Verano Loop, Santa Fe, NM, USA, 87508, or email as above.

Actually I think I have seen 22 of the 26 videos. Reading this over it seems like I am crabbing too much; I could have filled this page with writing about this fanzine. Dan, in his review in ZINE WORLD, stated that the zine did the near impossible and got him interested in Cher. As someone who has been a Cher fan for 40 some years I found this to be a great fanzine and I look forward to the first 2 issues.

April 8. Isn't it interesting how things come together sometimes? Connections of sorts. The last time I visited my aunt I brought home a stack of newspapers, mostly to get them out of her way but also I intended to look through them. Dumped them in a pile on the living room floor and they ehty sat. I have never been much of a movie watcher but I do watch some. I have only read a few of Roger Ebert's reviews but I was aware of him and noted his passing not too long ago. I recall reading in various SFanzines commentary about a movie called JOHN CARTER. Some sort of SF thing about Mars based on a Burroughs novel. So my friend who provides me with about 75% of my entertainment has been having some troubles and only shows up in my mailbox sporadically as opposed to 6 or 7 times a month, but the latest package contained some DVD-Rs. One has a good Bruce Springsteen concert; one has the first six episodes of SMASH which is kind of interesting. Listed on one is JOHN CARTER. Huh. Well, I don't watch everything he sends me; I will take a look at it sometime. I put small softwood trees around the base of my house for the winter and about this time I haul them off and burn them. Feeling lazy today I was putting a bit and decided to take a could of trees and set them alight. Grabbed one of the papers; it's more than a year old, I likely won't find anything in it. Crumpling it up to set light to I noted the puzzle, hell, I should take that back and do it. It is on the back of the secontion entitled Arts and Life. On the front, which I happened to note when I picked it up, is an Ebert review of...JOHN CARTER!

Didn't exactly inspire me to want to watch it. But I thought that was a cool number of trivia coming together.

April 10. I am calling this issue done as of now. Kind of a mess in places; so be it. Next one is started with part 2 of Books Read. I am going to try listing SFanzines separately starting with the next one to arrive. And I think I will try Other Fanzines. If I reach close to 10 pages before mid July I will wrap it up and make that issue #4; possibly will run that to the day after my birthday. Thinking I will abandon the title after that; do reviews/listings for books, SFanzines and other zines and maybe ship them separately so that folks who

have no interest in SFazines don't get a couple or 4 pages of stuff they don't want.

April 11. I brought the latest CNAQ and a bundle of comics and things from Kjartan Arnorsson who says that Canada Post is the worst he has ever had to deal with! I read one so far. Unless the machine dies or something, #4 may be sooner than anticipated. Almost definitely 2 more. And, well, I am thinking I should do the thing until I can't do it. Just switch the year part every July. Story of my life.

BOOKS READ in 2013 – Part 1

1... LEAN MEAN THIRTEEN by Janet Evanovitch. A 330 page paperback of hilarious Stephanie Plum novel. Babe is weird and wacky and fun.

2... TEN BIG ONES by Janet Evanovitch. 319 pages in this one; broad is even crazier and there is some filler. Very fun book.

3... THE CONCRETE BLONDE by Michael Connelly. A Harry Bosch novel in which Det. Bosch kills a guy, is sued by his widow and her female lawyer, and it is discovered that the guy he killed was a serial killer but he did not kill all the women the cops thought he did; another guy killed a couple of them plus some more and so there is a hunt for a killer alongside the trial. One of the suspects was another cop; Fred Woodworth would find the description of what they did to him hilarious. And there is some romance as well. Pretty good book; 397 pages.

4... TWELVE SHARP by Janet Evanovitch. #12 in the Stephanie Plum series; partway in I realised I had read this one before but finished it anyway. Stephanie is nuts. Not to mention silly and hot and amusing and fun and she would likely drive me up the wall in real life but I enjoyed reading the book. 322 page paperback.

5... WICKED GAME by Lisa Jackson & Nancy Bush. Listed as Romantic Suspense, it is a thriller with a bunch of romance; some crappy sex scenes but not too many; ghosts; visions, a coven of witches who produce a couple of horny daughters and an avenger from God, so he thinks. Some very good action; not too much filler. Well plotted. Good story. 443 pages. Everything is paperback unless noted otherwise.

6... MIDNIGHT RAIN by Holly Lisle. A novel of romance, suspense and may other things packed into 325 pages. Back bio says she has had 20 novels published which makes the 180 degree plot turns seem weird. Two folk who have suffered much come together; Alan has lost his cheating wife and his little

girl. She shows up quite a bit. Phoebe has a hard life, lost her folks and sister in an accident and married a real freak who later murdered a couple of kids and tried to kill her, and a couple of years later arrived again. And the little girl provided the conduit for some divine intervention to insure that they got together to have a happy life. Alan died first and was sent back by the kid. Some really weird stuff; Alan who had had no sex for 5 or 6 years and Phoebe who had never had good sex, had 4 or 5 lengthy porn movie type sex scenes. Cops were made to look bad or worse; FBI were made to look incompetent; riveting suspense and action sequence worthy of Dean Koontz at his best. First book I have picked up in some time that I wanted to read a long portion of it non stop. Still, it goes to the post office charity table.

7... DESK JOB by Rod Marsden. This is a really strange book. It's an over sized paperback of about 245 pages. But it is divided into many chapters with a page or two of quotes from other books between each chapter. Novel itself is divided into 2; part one is a treatise on political correctness and office politics with a bit of a murder mystery aspect and some paranormal material; part 2 is a Lewis Carroll pastiche; Alice has a lot of companions in Wonderland. I started this one some time in 2012; read about half of the quotes and then gave up on those; read the entire story... really they are 2 different stories ...one chapter at a time. Off to the p.o. with it.

8... THE HUMINGBIRD WIZARD by Meredith Blevins. A wacky novel of Gypsies, murder, mayhem, weird relationships, colourful folks and places and lunacy. Very funny novel; the author has a delightful way of expressing things. Quite good characterisation. Some stupidity; the central character is rather a wimp and a klutz with weird morals. Then again: story is set in and around San Francisco. 393 pages, almost fantasy, not quite Mystery although that is what the spine says.

9... is actually a book I started ages ago, like in about this time last year. CRIMES OF PASSION by Howard Engel is a book about real life crime, murder caused by passion; love lost, love denied, lust and other such conditions of the human being. It's only a couple of hundred pages. I read almost all of it and found it of interest. Albeit I read one chapter and then other things and it was on the stand for almost a year with a bookmark partway through. Off to the charity table with it.

10... SPEAKS THE NIGHTBIRD by Robert McCammon. Sent to me ages ago by Rich who calls it a blockbuster. Large size paperback; a 2 part novel completed in one book – 792 pages. There is praise on the front cover by Stephen King; it is kind of like a King opus. Set in Carolina or thereabouts in the 1600s, it is mostly a story of a young man named Matthew who goes from bad place to bad place and later on from adventure to other things; Matthew is

20 and described as a boy; most males in those days were men long before that age. There is a witch who is not a witch; buried treasure, well, actually pirate treasure dumped down a spring. A town called Fount Royal, 30 miles from what would no be Charleston. There are weird scenes; murder, treachery, some very childish type things and then there are vivid detailed descriptions of a blacksmith making love to his favourite mare and what Indians do to thieves. Kind of a Hardy Boys type saga with some very adults-only content. There is even a sex scene. Not a tale I have any desire to ever read again, but I did enjoy reading it.

11... FEARLESS FOURTEEN – the 14th tale in the manic life of wacky Stephanie Plum and her crazy cast of characters. 310 pages Hardcover, got it at the charity table for \$3. I have fallen in love with this nutjob, or perhaps the stories make me laugh.

12... DIVINE BY BLOOD by P. C. Cast. A YA Fantasy, I think. Maybe a bit too much violence for that. Romantic tale of 2 worlds; one being dry old Oklahoma and the other the mystical land of Partholon in which magic abounds, there are Goddesses and centaurs and evil Gods; love, lust and deceit. Story covers a number of years and generations and is a bit silly in spots and totally silly at the end. Albeit it turns into a religious treatise. I have often thought there might be different levels of life within the universe with a portion of each spirit in a number of totally separate entities, all of whom look alike but have different lives and levels of success and such. This is part of the thesis of this story and thus was rather fun. 392 oversized pages. Not sure if there is any point in keeping track of that; books come in lots of sizes.

13... GHOUL by Michael Slade. Huh. What are the odds that a Horror novel would be #13! This one is a Lovecraft type thing with the annoying feature of numerous info-dumps and a shotgun approach. What appears to be numerous plots eventually coalesce into a tale of multiple personalities, insanity and gruesome horror. Alice Cooper not only provides a blurb on the cover but appears in the novel briefly; there is a plain clothes RCMP officer who is not that good; sex; adventure; really detailed depictions of murder and worse; the Cooper blurb calls it Psycho Horror which is accurate; also says he couldn't put it down which was not a problem I had; I actually read parts of it twice and abandoned it and then started it again; final 50 pages were good. Kind of like one of the poorer Dean Koontz novels with much more physical details. One of the more amusing bits was that he threw in an info-dump on Lovecraft. Couple pages of atrocities from real life in the back.

14... FRACTURED by Karin Slaughter. Excellent novel of crime and passion with some interesting twists and unusual aspects; lead police officer is an orphan who cannot read or write; father of the girl thought to be murdered but

actually abducted turns out to be one of the older boys in the orphanage who abused him; abductor turns out to be another orphan who can't read. A lot of twists and turns, some personal stuff, much of the crap that people do to other people and themselves; rotten police officers; a really nasty teacher; messed up college kids; read most of the 510 pages straight through with few breaks.

15... COLD CASE by Kate Wilhelm. A mystery novel with a defence attorney as a primary character, her father and associates and a bunch of other folks. Story covers many weeks and starts with a party/fight/murder in chapter one and then goes to the main story set 22 years later with no prologue or anything. Quite a good story; I picked it up because this woman is one of those SFans, not one that I have had any contact with but I knew her name. I liked it enough to pick up other books by her – there is apparently a series about this Barbara Holloway character – but not enough to keep it. Off to the charity table, back it goes. 362 standard sized pages.

16... THE POISONWOOD BIBLE by Barbara Kingsolver. The most despicable of God's creatures, a Baptist minister who fashions himself the image of the tyrannical despotic Old Testament wife and child beating God, takes his wife and 4 daughters from Georgia, USA to the Congo, Africa, in 1959, determined to baptise all the kids come hell or crocodiles. The epic take covers the 16 months they were there, some of the beginnings of the tragedy and carries on for generations. Told in the voices of the daughters with a few sections by the wife/mother, the reverend appears mostly as a bully and a fool; in his zeal he loses a daughter to a poisonous snake; the other 3 lose all the Christianity they had and he ends up burned up. The 15 year old airhead blonde becomes a bimbo with numerous men and a fair amount of money; the 14 year old tomboy becomes the wife of a native, mother of 4 boys, dirt poor farmer in a land of corruption and deceit; her crippled twin becomes cured, a doctor who finds cures and a believer in things her father would smite her for, were he still alive. And the mother loses her mind, mostly. Quite a bit of political material; Kingsolver thinks that Africa should remain as it was centuries ago; perhaps she is correct. At 543 oversized pages there is a lot of reading, some informational but little boring. In 1998 she lived in Arizona; some of her previous works are about Tucson residents. Recommended novel.

17... WORST CASE by James Patterson & Michael Ledwidge. Patterson did some cameos on CASTLE, where he was a poker playing buddy of Ricky's. The lead character in this novel, NYPD detective Mike Bennett, reminded me of Castle somewhat; always has to be the central figure. Token female is also a cop. FBI version. Bennett has 10 kids; his wife died 2 years ago; some guy is kidnapping and murdering rich kids, and Mike and FBI partner race across and through NYC chasing their tails for pages and then they are flirting, eating, ordinary stuff. Plot was okay, writing was not great. Not the worst Patterson

novel I have read, but the charity table gets it.

18... THE PRO WRESTLING HALL OF FAME: Heroes and Icons by Greg Oliver & Steve Johnson, with help from Mike Mooneyham. A huge compilation of pro wrestlers from the beginning of time to the almost present who performed as 'faces'. Good guys. The biographical pieces on each wrestler vary considerably, from quite short to too long. I even learned some things. The authors list and describe the guys they consider the top 20 babyfaces of all time. All such things are rather subjective and open to criticism and dissent; there is no way in hell that Steve Austin belongs above Ricky Steamboat; listed at #10. I would have put him at #4. On the other hand: Bret Hart should be higher than #15, ahead of personal faves Ed Carpentier and Whipper Watson. But the bio sections are all good. Next section is called The Next Five, and starts with Junkyard Dog! Jesus guys! Then there are sections: Pre-World War II with 10 guys, I confess to skipping all these except Yvon Roberts, as they were before my time. There are 7 African-Americans of which 2 are Canadians; N.S. born Rocky Johnson gets a decent report; Thunderbolt Patterson has no business in here. The section entitled Post War Territorial Era covers, I guess, 1945 to 1985, about. 15 wrestlers. What in the hell Sweet Daddy Siki is doing in here is beyond me. Ethnic Heroes has the Guerresos as a family plus 7 Hispanic guys. Hometown Heroes has local legend Leo Burke, probably the best Maritime pro wrestler ever and 14 other guys who spent much of their career in one place or, like Leo, came home for a while every year. Cowboys & Indians lists 7, 4 Indians, one of whom actually was one, and 3 cowboys including gangly old Tex MacKenzie. National Era starts off with John Cena, Magnum T.A. who wrestled about 4 years, Rick Martel, Shawn Michaels who should have been in the top 25, about 22 in my view, Sgt Slaughter who has no business in here, Tommy Rich ditto and 4 others. I disliked this section; disagreed with a lot of it. Final selection is entitled Anti-Heroes and starts off with Bruiser Brody and includes, strangely, The Rock and The Undertaker. Also some writings, preface by J. J. Dillon, may photos and lots of info. Oversized; 550 pages. Published last year by ECW Press; listed at \$22.95, it's likely cheaper than that on Amazon. Ebook version is free to folks who buy the paper edition. I did not think this was as good as the other 3 books in this series these guys have produced, but it is an excellent compendium of some of the guys who have entertained wrestling fans over the years and I recommend it to any wrestling fan.

19... THIS IS MY GOD by Herman Wouk, purchased for \$1 at the charity table, started sometime in 2012 and finished just now – Mar. 18. This exploration of the Jewish faith and history and laws is at times dry, sometimes amusing; sometimes scholastic, and sometimes like a novel. I read the 230 pages of the book itself more or less at one shot and then set the book aside for no better reason than that this happens to me. There is a section entitled note

which is 46 pages, which consists of further explanation of sections of the book. And a glossary of terms which I admit to skipping; not much concerned about kosher or trefe.

Look for more exciting commentaries on books in the next issue, coming ere long, unless this old machine calls it quits.

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Note

Cher-exclusive video material is not as easy to come by as you might think. There has been a lot of tight control, and a lot of the 'mixing desk' recordings do not surface, or are simply not allowed to be made. Despite what the 'music industry' may say, the release of an 'unofficial bootleg' is often used in order to gauge an artist or band popularity.

Cher's films are listed as:-

1965 Wild on the Beach

1967 Good Times

1969 Chastity 1

1982 Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean

1983 Silkwood

1985 Mask

1987 Suspect

1987 The Witches of Eastwick

1987 Moonstruck

1990 Mermaids

1992 The Player

1994 Prêt-à-Porter aka Ready to Wear

1996 Faithful

1996 9: The Last Resort

1999 Tea with Mussolini

2003 Stuck on You

2010 Burlesque

2011 Zookeeper

(Some are as voice artists in regard to animations)