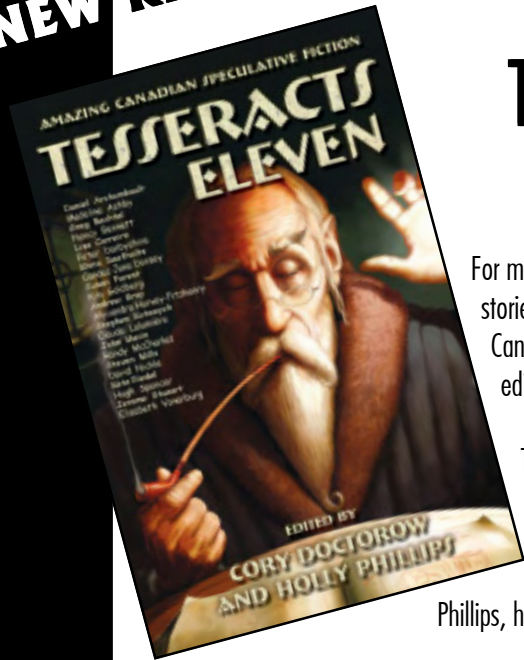


Tesseracts Eleven
ABOUT THE
COLLECTION

NEW RELEASE



Tesseracts Eleven

For more than 20 years, lovers of short fiction from around the world have savored the stories and poems of the Tesseracts series. This unique collection has featured the work of Canada's finest speculative fiction writers, selected by an ever changing combination of editors, hand picked for each edition.

Tesseracts Eleven brings the series to a new height, with a delightful blend of past and present writers, each with a unique vision of the future.

Two of Canada's finest writers, award winning authors Cory Doctorow and Holly Phillips, have selected a powerful combination of works for this volume.

The authors featured here are:

Daniel Archambault, Madeline Ashby, Greg Bechtel, Nancy Bennett, Lisa Carreiro, Peter Darbyshire, Khria Deefholts, Cory Doctorow, Candas Jane Dorsey, Susan Forest, Kim Goldberg, Andrew Gray, Alyxandra Harvey-Fitzhenry, Stephen Kotowych, Claude Lalumière, John Mavin, Randy McCharles, Steven Mills, David Nickle, Holly Phillips, Kate Riedel, Hugh Spencer, Jerome Stueart and Élisabeth Vonarburg.

All told, Tesseracts Eleven contains 24 speculative fiction delights for your reading pleasure. And though you may want to consume them in a single sitting, we strongly suggest that you take some time to savor each and every exquisite offering.

Tesseracts Eleven

Tesseracts Eleven edited by Cory Doctorow and Holly Phillips

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Tesseracts Eleven
ABOUT THE
EDITORS

NEW RELEASE

Cory Doctorow and Holly Phillips



Cory Doctorow is a science fiction novelist, blogger and technology activist. He is the co-editor of the popular weblog *Boing Boing* (boingboing.net), and a contributor to *Wired*, *Popular Science*, *Make*, *the New York Times*, and many other newspapers, magazines and websites. He was formerly Director of European Affairs for the Electronic Frontier Foundation (eff.org), a non-profit civil liberties group that defends freedom in technology law, policy, standards and treaties.

Presently, he serves as the Fulbright Chair at the Annenberg Center for Public Diplomacy at the University of Southern California.

Holly Phillips was born on Christmas Day, 1969. She lived most of her early life in the West Kootenay region of southern British Columbia, Canada, and after a couple of stints at university, interrupted by jaunts to Ontario, England, and West Africa, she returned to the West Kootenay and enrolled in the creative writing program at the Kootenay School of the Arts.

Holly then sold her first short story, "No Such Thing as an Ex-Con," which appeared in the Summer 2000 issue of *On Spec*. Since that first sale, Holly has sold short fiction / poetry to **Alchemy**, **Asimov's**, **Black Gate**, **HP Lovecraft's Magazine of Horror**, **Jabberwocky**, **Land/Space** (Tesseract Books), **Low Port** (Meisha Merlin), and **Talebones**. In the fall of 2001, she was invited to join the editorial board at *On Spec*, and since then has had the considerable, if occasionally schizophrenic, pleasure of switching between her writing and her editorial hats.



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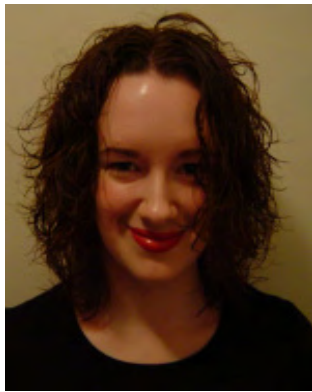
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D. W. Archambault has made competitive sport an important part of his life for many years. When he's not studying computer science at the University of British Columbia or writing, he can be found skating, playing ultimate frisbee, or running. Dan would also like to apologize for the language and actions of his characters in this one. They were kids who didn't know any better. The "Recorded Testimony of Eric and Julie Francis" is his third fiction sale. If you'd like to know what the author is up to, visit him at www.sff.net/people/danw-arch.



Madeline Ashby has lived on the outskirts of Los Angeles, Seattle, New York, and Toronto. She immigrated to Canada in 2006. She joined the Cecil Street Irregulars soon after, and in 2007 was a runner-up for the SF Idol competition at Ad Astra. (Her pal David Nickle won.) Madeline is a contributor to *Frames Per Second Magazine* and *Kokoro Media*, where she blogs about Japanese animation when not volunteering for the Sprockets division of the Toronto International Film Festival. This story is her first published in Canada.



Greg Bechtel's stories have appeared in *Prairie Fire*, *On Spec*, *Tesseracts*, *Challenging Destiny* and *Qwerty* magazines. He has moved to Edmonton, where he pursued a PhD in English literature. His first novel saw its original incarnation as his MA thesis in creative writing at the University of New Brunswick. "Blackbird Shuffle" (**Tesseracts Ten**) has been nominated for the Journey Prize, a National Magazine Award, and a Western Magazine Award.

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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*, *Tesseracts*, and *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. She has been published alongside the works of P. K. Page, Robert Service and Margaret Atwood.

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*, *Tesseracts Eight*, *Tesseracts Nine*, *Tesseracts Ten* and elsewhere.



Lisa Carreiro is a writer and editor whose fiction has appeared in *Strange Horizons* and *On Spec*. She lives in Toronto with her partner and their small menagerie.

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Peter Darbyshire is the author of the award-winning novel *Please* and numerous short stories. He is also the books editor of **The Province newspaper**. His fiction and columns have appeared in publications across North America and online. For more details, visit www.peterdarbyshire.com.



Khria Deefholts was born in India to bi-racial parents. She grew up in Canada, and later lived in Japan, where she studied such arcane subjects as the tea ceremony and Japanese calligraphy. She has worked on a film in Germany, had close encounters with snakes and crocodiles in Australia and taught ballroom dancing. She speaks six languages with varied degrees of fluency and has published numerous shorter pieces of fiction and non-fiction. She lives in Ontario, with her husband and two cats.



Cory Doctorow is a science fiction novelist, blogger and technology activist. He is the co-editor of the popular weblog *Boing Boing* (boingboing.net), and a contributor to *Wired*, *Popular Science*, *Make*, *the New York Times*, and many other newspapers, magazines and websites. He was formerly Director of European Affairs for the Electronic Frontier Foundation (eff.org), a non-profit civil liberties group that defends freedom in technology law, policy, standards and treaties. Presently, he serves as the Fulbright Chair at the Annenberg Center for Public Diplomacy at the University of Southern California.

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Tesseracts Eleven



Candas Jane Dorsey's novel *Black Wine* won the Tiptree, Crawford and Aurora Awards. Her fiction includes *Vanilla and other stories*, *A Paradigm of Earth*, *Machine Sex and other stories* and *Dark Earth Dreams*. Her poetry includes: *Leaving Marks*, *This is for you*, *Orion rising*, and *Results of the Ring Toss*. She edited or co-edited four SF collections, served on boards/committees for several Canadian writers organisations, co-founded/edited **The Edmonton Bullet** arts newspaper 1983-1993, and in 1992 co-founded literary publisher **The Books Collective** and its imprint **River Books**. From 1994-2003 she was editor-in-chief and co-publisher, with Timothy J. Anderson, of Tesseract Books from 1994 to 2003.



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 stories, "Playing Games" (ONSPEC Magazine), "Angel of Death" (Tesseracts Ten) and "Immunity," (Asimov's Science Fiction) were published in 2006. This year, "Tomorrow and Tomorrow" is in Tesseracts Eleven and "Paid in Full" will be published in Asimov's Science Fiction. You can check out her website at <http://www.speculative-fiction.ca>



Kim Goldberg was a political journalist for twenty years. She is the author of four nonfiction books. Her articles have appeared in *Macleans*, *Canadian Geographic*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *The Progressive*, and many other magazines in North America and England. Her output has been poetry and short fiction, much of it speculative, appearing in *PRISM International*, *Dalhousie Review*, *On Spec*, *filling Station*, *Chimera* and elsewhere. Her first full-length collection of poems, *Ride Backwards On Dragon*, tracing her journey through an alien landscape of inner alchemy, will be released September 2007 by Leaf Press. She lives in Nanaimo where she periodically co-hosts an Urban Poetry Café on Radio CHLY.

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Andrew Gray's stories and poetry have appeared in numerous publications, including *On Spec*, *The Malahat Review*, *Prairie Fire*, *Event*, *Grain*, *Fiddlehead* and *Chatelaine*. He was awarded *On Spec's* Lydia Langstaff Memorial Prize in 1996, was nominated for the National Magazine Award for Fiction in 2000 and has been shortlisted several times for the CBC/Saturday Night Literary Award. He was a finalist for the 2000 Journey Prize for his short story "Heart of the Land". His first collection of short fiction, *Small Accidents*, was published by Raincoast in the fall of 2001 and was shortlisted for the Ethel Wilson award in BC and an IPPY independent publisher's award in the US.



Alyxandra Harvey-Fitzhenry's first novel *Waking* (Orca Books) is a Young Adult modern-day retelling of *Sleeping Beauty*. She has had poetry published in such magazines as *OnSpec*, *Room of One's Own* and *The Antigone Review*. When not writing, she is a bellydancer and bellydance instructor. She lives in an old farmhouse with her husband, two dogs and hawk.



Stephen Kotowych won a first-place in the Writers of the Future competition in 2006. His stories have appeared in *Under Cover of Darkness* (DAW Books), and the forthcoming anthologies *Writers of the Future XXIII* (Galaxy Press, 2007), and *North of Infinity III* (Mosaic Press, 2008). He is a member of the Fledglings, a Toronto-area writer's group brought together by Robert J. Sawyer in 2003. Stephen lives in Toronto and enjoys guitar, tropical fish, and writing about himself in the third person. Check out his blog at <http://kotowych.blogspot.com/>.

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Claude Lalumière's fiction has appeared in *Year's Best SF 12*, *Year's Best Fantasy 6*, *SciFiction*, *Interzone*, *On Spec*, *Tesseract's Nine*, *Electric Velocipede*, and others. He has edited six anthologies, including *Witpunk* (with Marty Halpern), *Island Dreams*, *Open Space*, and *Lust for Life* (with Elise Moser). His website is lostpages.net, and he blogs at lostpagesfoundpages.blogspot.com. Claude lives in Montreal and is currently editing *Tesseract's Twelve*.



John Mavin lives in Vancouver with his wife and two children, where he's enrolled in the University of British Columbia's MFA program. His fiction has appeared in *Spinning Whirl* and *Apex Online*. His website is www.johnmavin.com.



Randy McCharles is an avid reader of epic fantasy and science fiction. He regularly writes short stories for public readings and has several novels in various stages of development. He also helps organize literary events and SF & F conventions in his home town, Calgary, Alberta. In 2005 he co-chaired the first Calgary Westercon, and is currently chairing the upcoming 2008 World Fantasy Convention. Randy is a long-time member of IFWA, the Imaginative Fiction Writers Association.

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Steve Mills lives in Kelowna, BC, and would like you to read his novel, **Burning Stones**, published by a small US press with terrible distribution and no publicity. Look for it online at your favourite bookseller. Currently he is getting over the death of one of his four cats and a non-fatal occlusion of the mid left anterior descending artery (his, not the cat's). Messages of sympathy (for him or the cat) can be sent through his website at www.stevenmills.com.



David Nickle is the author of numerous short stories and co-author of one novel ("The Claus Effect," with Karl Schroeder). His stories have appeared in several of the *Tesseracts anthologies*, and also in places like *Cemetery Dance*, *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror*, *the Northern Frights anthologies* and *the Queer Fear anthologies*. He's a past winner of the Bram Stoker Award (for the 1997 short story "Rat Food," with Edo Van Belkom).



Holly Phillips was born on Christmas Day, 1969. She lived most of her early life in the West Kootenay region of southern British Columbia, Canada, and after a couple of stints at university, interrupted by jaunts to Ontario, England, and West Africa, she returned to the West Kootenay and enrolled in the creative writing program at the Kootenay School of the Arts.

Holly currently resides in a crooked old house on a hillside above Trail, BC.

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Kate Riedel was born and raised in Minnesota, but is now a card-carrying Canadian and lives in Etobicoke, Ontario. Publication credits include *Not One of Us* (including the recent anthology, *Best of Not One of Us*), *On Spec*, *Realms of Fantasy*, and *Weird Tales* (story later included in Hartwell's anthology *Year's Best Fantasy 2*).



Hugh Spencer was born in Saskatoon, lives in Toronto and has worked as a cultural consultant in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong and Mainland China, Korea, Australia, Germany, the United States and Singapore. Hugh has published stories in magazines such as *On Spec*, *Interzone* and *Descant* and has twice been nominated for the Aurora award — the first time for his story “Why I Hunt Flying Saucers” the second for his work as co-curator for the National Library of Canada’s exhibition on Canadian fantasy and science fiction. Hugh has also adapted many of his stories for the Satellite Network of National Public Radio as well as the original plays “21st Century Scientific Romance” and “Amazing Struggles, Astonishing Failures and Disappointing Success.”



Jerome Stueart is a Canadian in training, processing through immigration as you read this. He has been published in *Ice-Floe*, *Urban Coyote*, *Out of Service* and the *Missouri Folklore Society Journal*. As a cartoonist he was featured in the Yukon News and an issue of **Up North**, Air North’s in-flight magazine. He has also flirted with journalism and teaching. Hailing from Missouri and West Texas, Jerome came up to the Yukon to work on a book of Kate’s adventures with bears and lemmings. He fell hard for the place and the people, and stayed for three years. Now, while waiting for Canada to let him return permanently to the north, he finishes a writing degree at Texas Tech University.

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Tesseracts Eleven

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ABOUT THE
AUTHORS



Élisabeth Vonarburg was born in 1947 (France), and to science fiction in 1964. She teaches French literature and creative writing on and off at various universities in Québec (since immigration, in 1973). A “Fulltime writer” since 1990, (despite Ph.D. in Creative Writing, 1987), i.e. translator, SF convention organiser, literary editor (*Solaris* magazine), and essayist.

This year, Elisabeth was awarded the Prix d'excellence pour la création en région, (5000 \$), given by the Conseil des Arts et Lettres du Québec ; this rewards creation of any kind (all the arts, literature included) for quality, involvement in all things cultural and being well-known outside Canada. She was also awarded the French Prix Cyrano. *Reine de Mémoire* 3 & 4 received the Boréal Award for best novel(s).

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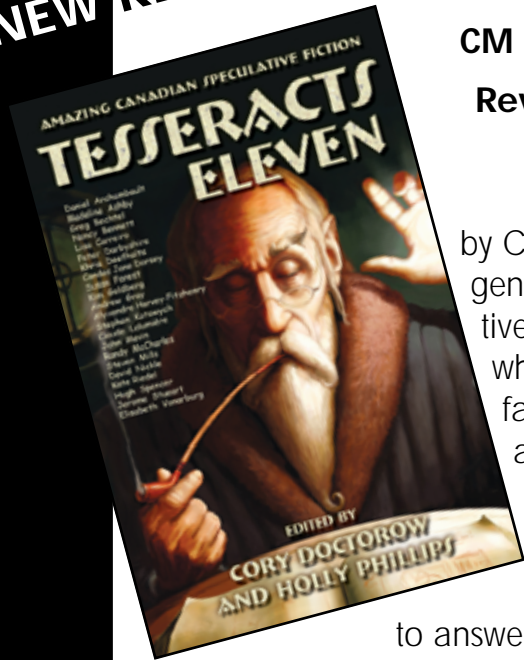
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EDGE

NEW RELEASE



CM Volume XIV Number 10 January 11, 2008

Review by Ronald Hore. ***½ /4

Tesseracts Eleven is an anthology of 24 short stories by Canadian, or Canadian-connected authors, in the genres broadly covered by anything relating to imaginative literature, which gives the editors a wide range from which to choose. In this volume, we have science fiction, fantasy, humour, and romance. It also includes poetry and a translation of a work from the French language.

The book opens with an introduction which starts with a question: "Does the world need "Canadian" science fiction," and then one of the editors attempts to answer it.

The first short story, "In Which Joe and Laurie Save Rock N' Roll," is a twist on time travel while the second tale, "Swamp Witch and the Tea-Drinking Man," is a fantasy that may have dealings with the Devil. "The Recorded Testimony of Eric and Julia Francis" takes the reader into some dark dealings by a government agency. The next item, "Rainmaker," is a short poem.

"The Azure Sky" is straight science fiction with a story of life on a station in the Kuiper belt, complete with an AI in charge, and pirates. This is followed by "Persephone's Library" and a world where you can fall off the edge, or jump, if you are so inclined.

Next we have "If Giants Are Thunder," a tale of little folk who make their homes out of the skulls of giants, and another short poem, "On Company Time".

"Vampires of the Rockies" is the next selection. It is a story about a slightly different kind of National Park. "Recursion" is a story that may be about searching for a missing child. "Tomorrow and Tomorrow" is a tale about the ultimate survival of the human race and what one mother is prepared to do about it. "After He's Eaten..." is another short poem.

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"Seven in a Boat, No Dog" takes the reader on a sea voyage with a collection of strange characters, while "Pheobus 'Gins' Arise" tells of a strict school-teacher with a temper. "Bear With Me" takes the long distance romance to unusual lengths when the young lady discovers her correspondent actually is a bear. "Citius, Altius, Fortius" leads us to Africa and experiments in human engineering.

The next story, "Beat the Geeks," is game shows taken to the extreme, while "Nanabush Negotiations: Brantford Ontario" brings an aboriginal deity into the household of Joseph Brant.

"Urban Getaway," a two-page poem, is followed by "The Object of Worship" in which almost everyone believes in personal gods. "Tofino" takes us on a journey to the edge of the continent with a man searching for something. In "Language of the Night," we follow an explorer stranded on an unexplored planet.

The penultimate story, "[Coping With] Norm Deviation," shows us the life of two boys making a science fiction movie as a school project. The "Afterward," by the second editor, makes some comments about the genre and "Grand Ideas".

This volume contains 315 pages plus seven pages of author's biographies and three and a half pages from the publisher's catalogue of books in these genres. The contents of the stories vary in length from half a page for one poem, up to 25 pages for the longest short story. There is a good gender balance of authors, with 12 male and 12 female, and the same holds true for the protagonists in the stories, themselves.

Tesseract Eleven is an excellent way of keeping a handle on what is current in this type of fiction, at least from a Canadian point of view, and would be of value to both the fan and the budding writer.

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Locus Online

The latest in this long-running original anthology series is one of the stronger entries. Tesseracts, of course, collects only new stories by Canadian writers (Canadian sometimes defined a bit loosely). Any such volume insists on the question: is there anything different, unique, about Canadian SF? Each editor suggests, tentatively, an answer. Cory Doctorow, after admitting a certain skepticism about the necessity for a separate Canadian (or, in context, Australian) SF, opines that Canadian SF gets other cultures right more often than American SF. This is, if true (and I remain unconvinced on a smallish sample), likely due to Canadians perceiving themselves as slightly outside the mainstream relative to their huge neighbor. Perhaps more telling is a phrase from the opening paragraph of Doctorow's introduction, when he notes (self-deprecatingly) that "Canadian-ness... [was] nearly always defined in ways that we were not like Americans."

Holly Phillips suggests — less definitely — that "writers these days seem to be bring those grand ideas, those, dare I say it, moral strivings, home." "Is this a Canadian thing?", she asks, and wisely does not insist on an answer. Here she is on solid ground describing this anthology — the book does include a preponderance of stories that seem to be focused on bringing grand ideas home.

Tesseracts Eleven is a very solid anthology, full of enjoyable and thoughtful stories. Alas, no story here rocked my world, so to speak.

One story with a sure 'nuff Canadian setting is Jerome Stueart's "Bear With Me", in which a woman goes to the Yukon to visit her long-distance boyfriend for the first time. And, of course, he's a bear — a real bear, at least some of the time. Stueart plays the story completely straight, and it works well. D. W. Archambault's "The Recorded Testimony of Eric and Julie Francis" is ultimately very scary, as Eric's first person narration starts us with no idea what's going on — he and Julie are some sort of foot messengers, for an obscure government, and only very slowly do we learn what has been done to them, and we only get hints of why. Effective stuff.

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The funniest piece is Randy McCharles's "Vampires of the Rockies", which treats vampires as a tourist attraction, giving his vapid tourist couple the obvious names Bram and Mina. A one-joke story, perhaps, but well done. The most straightforward SF is "Citius, Altius, Fortius", by Stephen Kotowych, about a failed sprinter with some talent who is lured to a fictional African country for a radical program of bodily alteration that makes him an Olympic champion. No real surprises here, but a solid look at an athlete's obsessions. Also nice SF is Lisa Carreiro's "The Azure Sky", about a decaying Kuiper belt station and its human derived AI controller, and pirates of a sort, and a young woman growing up in the outer system.

Kate Riedel "Phoebus 'Gins Arise" is an off-center story of middle-aged schoolteacher — dare one say spinster? — with high standards and a temper. After one particularly serious episode, she meets an odd man who seems to know more about her than he should — and about her failed ambitions. It's one of those quiet stories that seems not to be about too much, but that sticks with you. And one of the best, and most original, stories is the closing one, "(Coping With) Norm Deviation", by Hugh A.D. Spencer, in which a boy and two friends make a science fiction movie for a high-school project. The movie project — a very '70s-ish dystopian thing — is just the backdrop for a convincing look at an ordinary enough but affecting teen aged life story (complete with parents' divorce).

Bloginhood

I'm sad to say that this latest addition to the usually strong Tesseracts anthology series was a big yawn. I look forward to these fairly regular compilations of Canadian SF because for years they've been a hallmark of good storytelling — some of the best of what this country produces, some of it original and published for the first time as part of the anthology, some stories previously published in the various home-grown SF magazines, but generally, very high caliber stuff. This time around, not so much. I won't say that the stories in this volume were bad, merely unengaging and not worth the \$20 cover price. Really, there were only two worth-while reads in the lot: Kim Gold-

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berg's poem "Urban Getaway" was a tumble of moving images and Claude Lalumiere's short story "The Object of Worship" was gripping (although, Lalumiere always writes top-notch stuff – I've never read a story of his that wasn't impressive). In a generous mood I could give a bare nod to the opening tale "In Which Joe and Laurie Save Rock N' Roll" by Madeline Ashby, but the rest were completely forgettable. Not a good average for a book with 24 submissions. Especially not with Doctorow and Phillips editing.

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