

# **Writers for Relief**

An Anthology to Benefit the Survivors of Katrina

Edited By  
Davey Beauchamp

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This book is dedicated to all of those  
Who survived the tragedy that occurred on,  
August 29, 2005  
Hurricane Katrina

To all of you who purchase this book to help those effected by  
the hurricane.

And lastly to all those that helped make this anthology possible  
with their contributions.



All the proceeds from the sale of this book will go to help those who survived Hurricane Katrina. The proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross for short and long term hurricane relief in the Gulf Coast Region.



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## Foreword

I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I started this project. Or to put it better, I never realized how receptive the writing community in general would be to jump aboard this project to help the survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

The seeds for this anthology were born after reading a friend's LiveJournal. Earl Newton (of Southern Ronin) said that he wanted to do something to help. I read this before my appearance at Dragon Con (2005). That Thursday night before the con started I got a phone call from a friend who was not going to be able to make it to Dragon because she was going to stay in Mobile, AL, to help out friends who were survivors of the Katrina. It was then when I got my first real first-hand account about how bad it really was down there in New Orleans and the surrounding Gulf Coast.

Living where I do, I am no stranger to hurricanes. They are something I have to deal with from time to time. We thought that we had been hit fairly bad from time to time but it was nothing compared to the devastation that occurred down in the Gulf Coast. Places I have been to in that region for conventions are just gone. I watched a street I have driven on in Biloxi vanish under the waves of the Gulf as Katrina moved in. Needless to say, I personally know many people affected by this hurricane and it really hit home. I was lucky; everyone I know made it out alive and in one piece. Many of them, though, have the audacious challenge of starting over, having lost everything to Katrina.

So, after the phone call, I knew I had to do something to help out, and I had the idea for this anthology. At the time I was thinking it was going to be an auspicious endeavor on my part; I had no idea how receptive other authors I knew would be to the idea. So I put it out of my mind as a crazy idea that was not feasible. But then came an IM from artist Steve Bennett and we talked about what he was doing to help with the hurricane. I told him about my idea and he loved it and was on board before I even had a single story for the anthology. That was the moment I knew I had to do this.

I was no stranger to doing charity events, having done charity auctions for years. So I figured, how much different could this be? Where I was used to asking my friends and others for auction

items, this time I was asking them for stories. Honestly, it couldn't have gone better. I had authors giving me other authors' contact info. I had stories from the moment I sent out my queries.

What you are reading in this anthology are works by writers from all genera, from fiction to nonfiction to poetry. I hope there is something in this anthology for everyone; that was what I was aiming for. I wanted people from all different walks of life to be able to pick this anthology up and find a story, poem, or essay and just enjoy it, all while knowing that they are helping out their fellow Americans who were affected by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast. That is why all proceeds from the sales of this anthology will go to the American Red Cross.

I hope you enjoy this collaboration of authors and writers as much as I enjoyed putting it together.

Davey Beauchamp  
September 19, 2005

## Contributors Bios

**Brian W. Aldiss:** I have been writing and publishing for over fifty years, and remain productive. This year, for instance, I have had two books published. I am not into self-promotion. My main happiness lies with my neighbours in Oxford, including a beloved lady; and in my family, which now includes grandchildren. I have received many awards, including being elected a Grand Master of Science Fiction, and the Queen's award of an O.B.E. for 'services to Literature'.

Grateful though one is for such recognition, it is wise to recall a verse from the *Bhagavad Gita*:

"Set thy heart upon thy work, but never on its reward. Work not for a reward: but never cease to do thy work."

**Davey Beauchamp** is an author who has no idea what he is doing at any given moment, as he is being pulled in numerous directions at once. He graduated college with a B.A. in English with emphasis in Creative and Professional writing. While there, he learned he could write, and write effectively, stirring emotions in his readers. However, he learned nothing about the industry itself, especially in regard to getting published, and in the end he had to teach himself. Davey has made mistakes along the way but he has also learned a great deal by breaking the rules and being himself, which stands him apart from other writers. With that being said, he still wouldn't

recommend his approach to everyone because it has hurt him as much as help him.

After college, he did write a book that was published, but he considers it his college horror film because it was that bad. Next he published the first book in his Agency 32 series, *Agency 32: The Cheltenham Affair*.

The next book in the Agency 32 series will be released by a brand new publisher who understands the energy and excitement Davey possesses. In addition, he has been writing original audio dramas based on *Amazing Pulp Adventures, Starring Mister Adventure*, a young adult novel which is being shopped around at this time. The audio dramas are being produced by Outcast Media. Just recently, Davey was tapped to write various horror screenplays for both film and TV.

When hurricane Katrina hit he knew that he had to do something to help. If you are reading this, you hold that endeavor in your hands.

When he isn't writing or attending conventions promoting his books and just having an amazingly fun time, he works as a mild-mannered librarian in Wilmington, NC.

To find out more about Davey's projects and audio works, check out Livejournal user name, JackZodiac. Or his website at <http://www.members.aol.com/daviddraven/>

**Glenda Boozer:** My name is Glenda Boozer. I have been writing bits and pieces for about 35 years, but

haven't published other than a couple of poems. I teach online classes at Kaplan University, the University of Phoenix Online, and Axia College. My degrees are in mathematics and operations research. In case it makes any difference, the day on which the story is based took place in Baton Rouge.

**Cathy Chandler**, a native of the Gulf Coast, lives in Mobile, Ala., with her husband Dennis, a dog and a cat. She spent four-and-a-half years in college earning a degree she doesn't use, but she had a hell of a time doing it. When not traveling to the middle of nowhere on a regular basis, she enjoys reading, collecting television shows, drumming and tormenting weaker minds with her sharp wit and intellect.

**Stephen Euin Cobb** Author of "Bones Burnt Black" and "Plague at Redhook," Stephen Euin Cobb has been actively promoting his novels at various cons in the Southeast for several years.

Stephen has been a bank teller, a construction worker in a nuclear facility, a computer programmer and a long-haul truck driver. Two of his novels were written on a notebook computer while in the sleeper of his eighteen-wheeled "big-rig." These two novels have the distinction of having been written in every state in the union except Hawaii, Alaska, North Dakota and Vermont.

As a child Stephen showed a special talent in art. Drawing during the wrong classes got him in trouble a

few times, but when he was a teenager he won a scholarship to study at the world famous Art Institute of Chicago...not once, but twice. He felt honored and a little overwhelmed to be taking art classes in the same building which housed paintings by Rembrandt, van Gogh and Renoir.

Despite the attention it brought him, however, art was not his true passion—that was science. Even when very young, long before he learned to read, he had his mother read him books—especially books about dinosaurs. A decade before he learned the word, he dreamed of being a paleontologist.

Later—thanks to daily reruns of Star Trek as well as NASA's widely televised lunar landings and a few dozen second-hand science fiction books—Stephen developed a lifelong fascination with astronomy. He considers himself to have become an amateur astronomer at the age of thirteen; when, on a cold fall night in 1968 he propped his father's little thirty-power spotting telescope on the hood of the family Buick and found his first planet. It was the ringed planet: Saturn. "It looked cold and pale and very small," he says, "but it was clearly another world—an *alien* world."

During the ensuing years he has enjoyed many other interests: chemistry, psychology, theoretical physics, computer programming, the internet, the list goes on; but he has always returned to astronomy like an old friend. He sees it as foundational to all

other sciences since they all exist within its huge bounds.

Sample chapters of "Bones Burnt Black" may be read, and Stephen's ongoing adventures in book promotion followed in both pictures and words, at his official website: [www.SteveCobb.com](http://www.SteveCobb.com)

**Gardner Dozois** was the editor of *Asimov's Science Fiction* magazine for almost twenty years (which, under his editorship, won the Locus Award as Best Magazine an unprecedented fifteen years in a row), and also edits the annual anthology series *The Year's Best Science Fiction*, now up to its *Twenty-Second Annual Collection* (and which has won the Locus Award for Best Anthology sixteen times, more than any other anthology series in history). He's won the Hugo Award fifteen times as the year's Best Editor, won the *Locus* Award thirty times, including an unprecedented sixteen times in a row as Best Editor, and has won the Nebula Award twice for his own short fiction. He is the author or editor of more than a hundred books, the most recent of which are *The Best of the Best: Twenty Years of The Year's Best Science Fiction*, *Galileo's Children: Tales of Science vs. Superstition*, a reissue of his novel *Strangers*, and a new collection of his own short fiction, *Morning Child and Other Stories*. He has been called both "the most imaginative editor in science fiction" (by *The Village Voice*) and "One of the finest writers of short fiction in SF's history" (by *Locus Online*). Born in

Salem, Massachusetts, he has now lived for thirty-four years in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Richy Ferrell** lives in Atlanta. He is an illustrator/retoucher at LandMind Studios, a high-end retouching studio based in Detroit that mainly services the automotive advertising industry.

[www.landmindstudios.com](http://www.landmindstudios.com)

**Glenda C. Finkelstein** is a passionate, award-winning writer of both fiction and non-fiction incorporating her love of history and exploration into the tapestry of her work. She loves hiking, white-water rafting, and swimming. Glenda is also a trained musician and enjoys singing. She is first and foremost a woman of faith and family, and lives in rural Florida with her husband, children, and two precocious cats. [www.glendas-books.com](http://www.glendas-books.com)

**Eugie Foster** is an active member of the SFWA, winner of the Phobos Award, and has an M.A. in Developmental Psychology. She shares her writing space in Metro Atlanta with her husband, Matthew, and has been seen occasionally with a brown-and-white skunk named Hobkin, trotting at her heels. When asked about her unusual companion, her reply is inevitably "he likes broccoli."

Eugie's fiction runs the gamut from children's folktales to science fiction to erotic horror. She has sold over sixty stories, and her publication credits include tales in *Realms of Fantasy*, *The Third*

, Brigham-Young's *Leading Edge*, *Cricket*, and the anthology *Hitting the Skids in Pixeltown*, edited by Orson Scott Card. Her works have been translated into French, Hungarian, Polish, and Greek. Eugie is also the managing editor and a fiction reviewer for the four-time Hugo-nominated publication, *Tangent*. For her complete bibliography and current updates, visit her online at [www.eugiefoster.com](http://www.eugiefoster.com).

**Joe Haldeman's** earliest memory is of New Orleans. He and his brother were in costume for the first Mardi Gras after the end of WWII -- the future author, dressed as Mickey Mouse, being pulled in a little red wagon by his brother, dressed as Donald Duck.

He sold his first story in 1969, while he was still in the army, post-Vietnam, and has been a constant writer ever since, with a little time off for teaching. He's written about two dozen novels and five collections of short stories and poetry, and appears in about twenty languages, including Klingon, which he suspects will generate letters he won't want to answer.

Since 1983, he and his wife Gay have spent the fall semester in Cambridge, MA, teaching at MIT. He is an associate professor (adjunct) in the Department of Writing and Humanistic Studies.

His novels *The Forever War* and *Forever Peace* won both the Nebula and Hugo Awards; *Forever Peace* also won the John W. Campbell Award, the

first such "triple crown" since Pohl's Gateway, 22 years earlier. He's won several other Nebulas and Hugos, and three times the Rhysling Award for science fiction poetry, as well as the World Fantasy Award. His latest novel, Camouflage, won the James Tiptree Award for gender exploration.

He also paints and plays guitar, both as a devoted amateur, and bicycles whenever the weather allows. He and his wife recently bicycled across America, 3050 miles, from Florida to California. When he can, he seeks out dark skies for his 12" telescope.

**Anthony Karnowski:** Born in the shadow of the Smoky Mountains, Anthony R. Karnowski has studied English and Jazz Performance at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He lives in a small town outside Knoxville with his wife, Leslie, and their three dogs, Ender, Petra, and Arya.  
[www.anthonyrkarnowski.com](http://www.anthonyrkarnowski.com)

**Nancy Kress** is the author of 24 books, most recently the science fiction novels CROSSFIRE and CRUCIBLE (Tor) and a book on writing fiction, CHARACTERS, EMOTION, AND VIEWPOINT (Writers Digest Books). She has won three Nebulas, a Hugo, and a John W. Campbell Memorial award, the last for her novel PROBABILITY SPACE. She also writes a column for WRITERS DIGEST MAGAZINE and frequently teaches fiction writing.

Nancy lives in Rochester, New York, with a spoiled and high-strung toy poodle.

**Tony Ruggiero** has been publishing fiction since 1998. His science fiction, fantasy, and horror stories and novels have appeared in both print and electronic mediums.

His published novels include:

*Team of Darkness.* The US military has developed a new weapon to be added to its arsenal—the creatures known as vampires. Tony uses his Naval experience to write this dark fantasy thriller about vampires being used by the Navy Seals. Ground breaking and fast paced, the novel is a characteristic mixture of the vampire lore of Anne Rice and the clandestine secrets of the military found in Tom Clancy novels.

*Aliens and Satanic Creatures Wanted: Humans Need Not Apply.* Aliens, Satanic Creatures, and other alternate life forms have gathered together to make a stand for literary fairness. Move over pesky human...a change is coming. An anthology of short stories where the center character is not human; includes the award winning story, *Lucky Lucifer's Car Emporium*, as well as *Electronic Bliss*, *Invasion or Subversion*, and *Going up?*

Tony is also a contributing author to *The Fantasy Writers' Companion* from Dragon Moon Press. The Companion picks up where *The Complete Guide to Writing Fantasy* leaves off. *The Fantasy Writers' Companion* takes on more advanced topics

of writing, such as incorporating horror, incorporating mystery, developing a story in your favorite RPG universe, and exploring alternative cultures for world building. Tony's contribution is a chapter on the effective use of horror in fantasy.

Coming in 2006 from Dragon Moon Press: Tony's longtime favorite of space opera adventure debuts in a two book series: *Alien Deception*: Nothing is as it appears...nothing. Your whole life you think you understand who and what you are and then one day you learn that it is all a lie. So what do you do? You have lunch with the leading candidate for President of the United States...you and your alien friends. *Alien Revelation*: Death has many meanings. For some it is an end, while for others it is a beginning. Yet, for one human/alien hybrid, it is a way to have one final chance to try and save his home, Earth, a son he has never seen, and find an enemy that just won't stay dead.

Tony retired from the United States Navy in 2001 after twenty-three years of service. He and his family currently reside in Suffolk, Virginia. While continuing to write, Tony teaches at Old Dominion University and Tidewater Community College in Norfolk, VA. Visit his webpage at: <http://www.tonyruggiero.com>

**Earl Newton** is an award-winning writer and filmmaker. At twenty-four, he already has a nationally-recognized short film and several feature screenplays to his name. He currently lives in

Pensacola, Florida, where he's finishing his bachelor's degree at the University of West Florida and his fourth screenplay. You can follow his exploits at: [SouthernRonin.com](http://SouthernRonin.com). [en@southernronin.com](mailto:en@southernronin.com)

**Larry Niven:** The NIVEN file  
Born April 30, 1938, in Los Angeles, California, USA, to Waldemar Van Cott Niven and Lucy Estelle Doheny Niven (now Washington.)

Raised in Beverly Hills, California. Hawthorne Public School (Beverly Hills,) Cate School (Carpinteria.)

California Institute of Technology, September 1956 to February 1958. Flunked out after discovering a book store jammed with used science fiction magazines.

Honest employment: gas station attendant, summer 1960.

Graduated Washburn University, Kansas, June 1962: BA in Mathematics with a Minor in Psychology. Half the university was scattered to the winds by a tornado a month after I left. They later gave me a D. Litt., an honorary doctorate in Letters.

First story publication: "The Coldest Place", Worlds of If, December 1964.

Met Marilyn Joyce Wisowaty at the Nycon World Science Fiction Convention, 1967. Married September 6, 1969. No children. We reside in Chatsworth, California.

I have written fiction at every length, and speculative articles, speeches for high schools and

colleges and conventions, television scripts, political action in support of the conquest of space, graphic novels, and a couple of comic book universes. I've collaborated with a wide variety of writers.

My interests:

Science fiction conventions. Role playing games, live and computer. AAAS meetings and other gatherings of people at the cutting edges of science. Comics. Filk singing. Yoga and other approaches to longevity. Hiking and racquetball.

Saving civilization and making a little money. Moving mankind into space by any means, but particularly by making space endeavors attractive to commercial interests.

In 1980 Jerry Pournelle talked me and Marilyn into hosting a gathering of the top minds in the space industry in an attempt to write a space program for the Reagan government, with goals, timetables, and costs. The Citizens Advisory Council for a National Space Policy met four times during the Reagan Administration, and twice since, for harrowing three day weekends. Attendees have included spacecraft designers, businessmen, NASA personnel, astronauts, lawyers. Adding science fiction writers turns out to be stunningly effective. We can translate! We can force these guys to speak English.

We've had some effect on the space program. SDI (Space Defense Initiative, or Star Wars) was drafted at our house in Tarzana. In '93 we watched the DC-X1 fly. It was a toy version of a single-stage ground-to-orbit spacecraft, and the Council generated

it. Our design lost out to the current Skunk Works X-33, but the Council caused the revival of the X Program itself.

I grew up with dogs: Keeshonds, the breed my mother raised and shaped for sixty years. I live with a cat, and borrow dogs to hike with. I have passing acquaintance with raccoons and ferrets. Associating with nonhumans has certainly gained me insight into alien intelligences.

I've written on computers since 1978.

### ***Awards***

*Hugos* (or Science Fiction Achievement Awards) for "Neutron Star", 1966; RINGWORLD, 1970; "Inconstant Moon", 1971; "The Hole Man", 1974; and "The Borderland of Sol", 1975. *Nebula* for Best Novel: RINGWORLD, 1970. *Ditmars* (Best International Science Fiction, Australian) for RINGWORLD, 1972, and PROTECTOR, 1974. Japanese awards for RINGWORLD and "Inconstant Moon", both 1979. *Inkpot*, 1979, from the San Diego Comic Convention.

### ***On the stands:***

SCATTERBRAIN, a retrospective anthology

### ***forthcoming:***

***BURNING TOWER with Jerry Pournelle***

CREATION MYTH with Brenda Cooper

RINGWORLD'S CHILD

## THE DRACO TAVERN, 21 ultrashort stories

Other work clamors to be written, as if I had the time. Greg Benford has challenged me to return to short stories, and I've done that.

**Jolie Simmons** was born under an auspicious sign on Long Island, in June of 1967. Guilty of an eclectic background, she writes, designs, photographs, illustrates, prints, sings... and reads everything she can get her hands on. Having written her first poem at the age of four, Jolie has been writing all her life and has published a fair amount of poetry and short dark fiction, most notably in Gravity and Stillwaters Journal. She has performed her poetry at readings all over Atlanta both solo and with The Usual Suspects and has had a hand in several anthologies with Fahrenheit 452 Press, Newton's Baby Private Press and the Dark River Writers. The latest in a long tradition of late bloomers, she plans to live a long life as it may take a while for her to find time for everything. She hopes to be catching a nap sometime soon. To check out her visual work, her portfolios can be found at: <http://public.fotki.com/Moonbird/>

**Joshua Smith** is a student in political science and history at Troy University in Troy, Alabama. He has been featured on CNN and Fox News for his work with the Democratic Party, and currently works as producer for Southern Ronin Productions. Currently,

Joshua is currently writing a feature-length script titled Working at Love, with many more scripts in early development. [joshua38@dfsi.net](mailto:joshua38@dfsi.net)

**Toni Stauffer** lives near Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband and children. Her stories have appeared in Small Bites, Flashshot: Year One, Cyberpulp's Halloween Anthology 3.0, and Nevermore.

**Daniel Waller** was born in Rome, NY, however, calls Auburn, Alabama his home. He's performed as a stage actor for many years with such groups as Seaside Repertory Theatre, The Layman Theatre and the Interborough Repertory Theatre of NY. He also held a principle position with the Ayolowa West African Dance Company. His passion for writing began at seventeen years of age when he discovered poetry. [dweller@southernronin.com](mailto:dweller@southernronin.com)

**Debbora A. Wiles** describes her career as a three-headed dragon. She has been published in almost every writing market there is. She has worked as a newspaper reporter and photographer, freelance writer for national magazines, has co-written scripts for Star Trek, has written stage plays and done pieces for television and radio. Her books include; the children's book The Adventures of HB and Prize and many science fiction novelettes that have appeared in national magazines such as Watercolor Dreams, The Alchemy and Lavender. Her current books include The Secrets of Best Sellers: A Workshop and Touch

Healing for Plants, Animals and People. Her full-length paranormal, science fiction romance novel, *The Soul Bonder* is currently being marketed.

She is also an award winning watercolor artist who has done illustrations, maps and art for many books and magazines, like Avon books, Serendipity magazine, Goldfish Society of America and Realities Escape magazine. Her fat little dragon-fly paintings are a popular item at science fiction and fantasy convention art shows and she has sold prints all over the world on eBay. Her dragonflies are currently being auditioned for two full-length children's animated films in Hollywood.

When Debbora is not doing writing or art, she works as publisher and editor at Integrity Tech Publishing ([IntegrityTech.com](http://IntegrityTech.com)) where she publishes and promotes writers online and in CD format. Her greatest delight and passion is appearing at science fiction and fantasy conventions where she teaches young writers and artists how to get their work published and where she also teaches basic metaphysics in the esoteric arts.

She lives in Florida with her husband Jack who she has been happily married to for 34 years. She loves to hear from readers. E-mail her at: [DebboraWil@aol.com](mailto:DebboraWil@aol.com)