



## August 2009 Newsletter

### **Modern Fantasy - A Grimm Outlook**

#### **Special Activity**

**Saturday, August 1, 2009 – 12-4p**

Borders Express, Paramus Park Mall  
Author signing w/ Jackie Kessler & SC Butler

#### **That's Science Fiction**

**Tuesday, August 4 – 7p**

Hillsdale Public Library  
*Enchanted*

#### **Whispers From Beyond & Face the Fiction**

**Saturday, August 8, 2009**

Borders Ramsey  
*E.F. Watkins - author*

#### **Suspense Central**

**Monday, August 10, 2009 – 8p**

Panera Bread Restaurant  
165 Rt. 4 West  
Paramus, NJ 07652  
*Into the Wild by Sarah Beth Durst*

#### **Drawing A Crowd**

**Wednesday, August 12, 2009 – 8p**

New Moon Comics  
([www.newmooncomics.com](http://www.newmooncomics.com))  
Swords and Sorcery - A look at how comics treat the occult and mysticism.

#### **Fantasy Gamers Group**

**Saturday, August 15, 2009**

2:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Todd's - directions available upon request/contact  
**Todd**

Join us for terror, monsters, madness and more as GM BJ Pehush explores the city of Arkham MA with our monthly Call of Cthulu (Chaosium 6th edition) game.

#### **Films to Come**

**Wednesday, August 19, 2009 – 7p**

Borders Ramsey (Interstate Shopping Center)

#### **4-Star Movie Discussion Group**

If it deals with entertainment, our Master of Entertainment Moderator will cover it.

#### **Infinite Chaos: A Temnia Campaign**

**Saturday, August 22, 2009**

2:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Ehrenfels Manor - directions available upon request/contact **Todd**

Welcome to the Western Nations of Temnia, a brutal and vicious tyranny ruled by the Immortal Emperor, the illustrious Naram'tzin, your boss. This game explores life in the far West, where powerful Samurai serve demon-worshipping madmen, and expediency and survival are balanced by honor and horror. A new day in the Yenxhai Dominions is dawning, and the peaceful nations of the East should beware!

#### **Themes of the Fantastic**

**Tuesday, August 25, 2009 – 8p**

New Moon Comics  
463 Main Street  
Little Falls, NJ  
973.81.COMIC or 973.812.6642

#### **Modern Masters**

**Friday, August 28, 2009 – 8p**

Borders Ramsey  
*Queen Ferris by S.C. Butler*

#### **Medium Screen Classics**

**Saturday, August 29, 2009 – 12p**

Hillsdale Library  
Frankenhooker & ReAnimator

please visit [www.sfsnnj.com](http://www.sfsnnj.com) for full details

# SFSNNJ

## Face the Fiction- August 8, 2009

### E. F. Watkins

Saturday, August 8, 2009, 8p  
**Borders Books, Music & Cafe**  
Ramsey, NJ 07446  
201.760.1967

Growing up in Cranford, NJ, Eileen always aspired to write novels. As soon as she could print, she began folding sheets of letter-sized paper in half, drawing cover illustrations and attempting to write "books." Her earliest efforts involved adventure stories about horses. During her high school years at Benedictine Academy in Elizabeth, NJ, she moved on to Nancy Drew-type mysteries.

In her freshman year at Marywood College in Scranton, PA, Eileen won first place in a college-wide short story contest. The real turning point occurred later that year, when a friend lent her a paperback of *DRACULA*. Eileen read it by flashlight during a thunderstorm and blackout in the dorm, and instantly knew that was the kind of book she wanted to write. More contemporary horror and suspense authors who have influenced her work since then include Ira Levin, Dean Koontz and Barbara Michaels.

Since 2003, Eileen has published four novels with Amber Quill Press LLC, three of them paranormal thrillers under the name "E. F. Watkins." Her first, *DANCE WITH THE DRAGON*, received a 2004 EPPIE Award from the national organization EPIC (Electronically Published Internet Connection.) as Best Horror Novel. Next came the "straight" romantic mystery *RIDE A DANCING HORSE* (as "Eileen Watkins"). Her third book, *BLACK FLOWERS*, made it to the finals in the Thriller category in both the 2006 EPPIE Awards and the 2007 Indie Excellence Book Awards. Her latest is *PARAGON*.

Watkins is a founding member of the **Garden State Horror Writers**, and also belongs to the mystery-writers' group Sisters in Crime/Central Jersey and The Writer's Workshop of Bergen County, NJ. She has taught fiction-writing seminars for the adult school in Wayne, NJ. A professional journalist for more than 30 years, Eileen has written about art, architecture, fine crafts and interior design for daily newspapers and local, national and international magazines. She shares her 1922 house in northern New Jersey with two cats--Bela and Harley--and decorates it with furniture, fabrics and accessories from the 1930s-40s.

Visit Eileen's website at [www.efwatkins.com](http://www.efwatkins.com).

## **July Meeting Recaps**

### **That's Science Fiction! – Tuesday – 7/7/09**

July's theme of *The Devil made Me Do It/Hell on Earth* started off excellently with F.W. Murnau's silent 1926 film *Faust*. The attendees had much fun with this film.

For those not familiar with the story of Faust – basically, man invokes Mephisto aka the devil, runs away when he appears (three or four times), gets fooled into making a deal by a master manipulator, continues to get fooled by manipulator with some serious results, finds happiness, loses happiness and other mayhem.

Faust only wants to help end the plague ravishing his town and find a small modicum of happiness for himself. Mephisto has other plans. Not even close plans. He tells Faust he will give him the ability to help the plague victims. What he doesn't tell him is that he has sold his soul to the devil and will be unable to look upon anything sacred. Faust sets out to cure the victims. He helps several victims and then comes across a young girl in dire need of healing. She is holding a crucifix. Faust makes several attempts to heal her, but is unable to each time. The crowd sees this, shouts that he is in league with the devil and begins to stone him. Faust flees and confronts Mephisto who laughs in his face and distracts Faust by promptly fooling him into another deal – this time for youth.

The newly invigorated Faust demands to be taken to a beautiful young woman he sees in Mephisto's magic mirror. Off they go to interrupt the woman's wedding of all things. Faust kidnaps bride, uses bride, and gets bored and moves on...he cannot find happiness.

They aimlessly travel about until Faust demands to be taken home where he meets another woman, Gretchen. Yeah, things do not go well. Faust falls in love, woos woman, gets woman. What Faust doesn't know is while he's getting busy, Mephisto wakes up mom – mom walks in on the 'busy' and immediately falls over dead from the shock. Mephisto then runs off to the local tavern and enrages the brother by calling sister a wanton harlot. Brother runs home to fight for his sister's honor only to find the lover sneaking out of the window – they sword fight. Faust is losing big time until Mephisto stabs brother in the back then shouts "muder" "murder" – isn't Mephisto a swell guy?

Faust flees; Gretchen is left alone and with child, shunned by her village. A sad chain of events occurs and brings Gretchen to be burned at the stake. Will her Faust save her? Will Mephisto allow him?

We had fun with the awesome high-tech special effects from 1926. Gene's, "Look, Bela Lugosi", Mike's, "Did Chris pick this movie?" were some of the MST moments of the night. Good fun.

Join us next month for Enchanted.

### **Drawing A Crowd – Wednesday – 7/8/09**

This month saw a very special presentation of *Drawing a Crowd* featuring a premier SFSNNJ screening of *Visioneers*. The hour and a half leading up to the film was filled with discussion of *Hellboy*, *Spawn*, *Mephisto*, and a slew of other nefarious and hell-spawned kinds of villains and heroes. This all paled in comparison to the film itself though.

What is *Visioneers*, you might ask? Well it is the story of a mid-level corporate drone named George Washington-Winsterhammerman (Zach Galifianakis) who is deathly afraid of exploding (yes, you read that right) after one of his fellow Level 3 Tunts explodes on the way to work in the morning. Apparently, the future is controlled by the Jeffers Corporation, and its commitment to productivity. In fact, they are so dedicated to productivity that they make sure workers remain productive by constantly reminding people to be productive ("Today is Thursday and there are one thousand two hundred minutes of productivity remaining before the weekend."). That being said, we never actually see anyone actually doing any work, so we can only speculate as to what the employees are meant to be producing, but that is just one of the many charms of this film. Outside the office, George's home life with wife Michelle (Judy Greer) and son Howard (who we never actually see) is as fraught with stress and pressure as his job, although there seems to be a lot more butter at home than at the office. As his life melts down around him, and George feels the pandemic of explosiveness intruding on his life, the plot unfolds and we learn to laugh at the horror of this man's own personal corporate hell, as well as his own personal salvation at the hands of Charisma, an enigmatic woman who is featured through much of the film as simply a voice on the other end of the phone.

Now that I have told you what the film is essentially about in rather broad strokes, it is time to actually talk about the film itself. Watching this movie I found myself thinking back to Orwell's 1984 and Gilliam's *Brazil*, heady company to

keep to say the least, and I found myself thinking that in this version Winston Smith, Julia, and O'Brian were all so elegantly drawn and accessible. George is a man who dreams in a society where dreams and joy are dead, much like Winston Smith, however unlike Smith he is not, essentially a loner, and he really is trying to fit in. This makes the dynamic of the story move really well, and allows us to feel a bit more of a connection to George than we might otherwise feel. Why? Winston Smith works for a government. as does Sam Lowery in Brazil, however George has a mind-numbing corporate job that is easily recognized by pretty much anyone who has ever held a job. The fact that we never see him doing any work reinforces this, since we can imagine ourselves doing our own jobs in this miserable environment.

The acting is outstanding, the writing is brilliant. and the story just burrows into your brain and hatches eggs. Amazingly, this little independent film has captured not only our attention, but our hearts as well. In the days since our screening, several of us have started greeting each other the standard Jeffers Company greeting, and oft have I heard "There are only 1199 minutes of productivity remaining until the weekend." After the credits rolled, many of us continued on to discuss the film and our impressions for nearly an hour, quoting and comparing and generally lauding this excellent cinema presentation. I, personally, am lobbying to have this shown again at Hillsdale, as I really want to see it again and share it with another great audience, who I am sure will want to talk about the Visioneers experience as much as we did after the Drawing a Crowd screening.

### **Face the Fiction Dinner & Guest – Saturday – 7/11/9**

This was one great night – the food was spectacular, the guest was great and we all had a great time – so much so, that we were still chatting at closing time and stood in the rain for a bit to continue talking!

The evening started off with a lovely spread of food for us to enjoy. Our guest, Joe Madia, author of Jester-Knight, arrived with Dan Cooney, Director of Media & Special Projects for New Mystics Enterprises, Inc. Group members introduced themselves and enjoyed chatting with our guests.

Food was placed out; we lined up, filled our plates and sat down for a wonderful meal. We all moved around from table to table talking with everyone at other tables.

At 9:30 Steve S noticed the time and quickly told Todd. Oops! We were all having such a great time talking that we lost track of time. In fact, one of the things that we were talking about with our guests, Joe and Dan, was the movie *Haunted Hayride!* Not kidding. In fact, several of the cast members were friends of our guests and had studied film/acting with them. How's that for not only a cool coincidence, but also awesome follow-up! We had much fun discussing the actors, different scenes and other various topics that we forgot Joe was supposed to speak to the group!

We shifted seats and gave our guest the floor. Joey Madia is an actor-educator, playwright and poet in addition to author. He is editor of [www.newmystics.com](http://www.newmystics.com). **New Mystics** is an online Arts community founded in 2002 by Joey Madia as a way to promote the work of a group of cutting edge writers and artists active in the Small and Independent Press.

Mr. Madia spoke about his start and how it was a 22-year labor love for Jester-Knight. The six books that make up the "Ambir Dragon Tales" began in 1988 as a series of metaphorical poems written while Mr. Madia was in college. "I have always seen myself as having a dual personality and this became the starting point for the main character in the first book, Alde (later called Aldemere) who is born the son of a Jester and later becomes a Jester-Knight. In creating the Kingdom of Glittereye and the world of which it is a part (called Mynoweth) I have been able to bring together all my varied interests."

"The books begin as a series of poems, and draw heavily on ancient and medieval history and the study of different religions/spiritual systems for the minute details I use to create a three-dimensional world of different races and edgy politics. The creation of a new mythology for Jesters, for the dragons of the world, and for many of the traditional fantasy and totally original races has been a terrific journey."

Mr. Madia wove facts with funny asides while presenting to the group assemble. One of our favorites that became the running gag of the evening was, "and my name comes out of the dragons mouth!" This was one fun guest who was entertaining, humble and a lot of fun.

Joey talked to us about the process of writing, his personal journey and his other interests such as playwriting. He spoke at length about the creation of his 'worlds' and character development. He gave insight into editors, rejection letters and knowing your work. He gave helpful suggestions for the aspiring writers present and kept the non-writers entertained as well.

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When Mr. Madia finished, he opened the floor to questions. Mike P and BJ quickly started firing off questions. Joey answered each question at length and made sure people were satisfied with their answers. Deena, Thom, Todd, Steve S and a few others followed. We were very interested in hearing about the plays Joey writes. Deena was particularly interested in the social awareness plays for teens.

Mr. Madia is very busy! Books, plays, teaching, his current book tour, and editor – he wears many hats. He was engaging, informative and fun. He wrapped up, signed books (yeah, Todd beat everyone up to the front of the line) and thanked us for a great time! He thanked us! What a nice guy. Big thanks to Joey and Dan for joining us at Iron Horse (beware the palm tree Dan!). Much success to two very nice guys who deserve it.

Thanks also to all of our friends who joined us for this special night.

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### **Suspense Central – Monday – 7/13/09**

Suspense Central met last night to discuss Jackie Kessler's *The Road to Hell* as part of our The Devil made Me Do It theme for July. It was decided that it would be best if Todd did not do the recap - you had to be there :)

Jackie Kessler is a favorite, friend and past Face the Fiction guest. We've been following Jackie's work since her debut *Hell's Belles*. *The Road to Hell* is the sequel and picks up telling the often-sordid story of the characters Jesse, Paul, Daunuan and others. The book, much like Jackie herself, is lots of fun.

In *The Road to Hell*, Jesse, the former soul-stealing succubus from Hell, is still learning to adapt to being mortal. She's still with mortal boyfriend Paul (much to Aurelia's dismay), and still working at Spice (strip club). Still a source of humor for readers. Her ex-boyfriend Daunuan still pops in for visits (no pun intended). Aurelia, while guiding us through the discussion, kept referring to how much she prefers Daun to Paul.

Since Hell's first attempt to get demon-on-the-run Jesse back to Hell (in *Hell's Belles*) failed miserably the stakes are higher this time. Lilith, Hell's uber bad girl, decides swiping Jesse's beloved Paul might be the incentive they need to get Jesse back to Hell. Will Jesse save Paul's immortal soul or ditch him for Daun? Lilith underestimates Jesse and mayhem is the result. There's a cute tag line on the back cover, "payback's a bit\*%, and this bit\*% is about to rock Hell like a hurricane" - yep, that about covers *The Road to Hell*. The story hits the ground running and doesn't let up.

*The Road to Hell* is literally that – Jesse must travel the roads to Hell in order to save Paul. Sort of a modern Faust-like journey results with a large helping of humor thrown in. This is a funny book. Kessler has a knack for using humor at all the times.

It was agreed that we all enjoyed the sequel. Aurelia does not like Paul with Jesse and had some issue with the storyline of his dead ex-fiancé. Aurelia seems to feel that Jesse isn't truly the love of Paul's life - she's the placeholder. Todd also did not like Paul in this story and had some harsh words for Jesse's boyfriend (which is why Chris declared, "OK, so you're doing the write up, not Todd!!). Let's just say Todd had some colorful adjectives for Paul.

Jesse's journey to Hell and back provided an in-depth look into Jackie's vision of Hell - they still have tons of paperwork, long lines at the Lake of Fire check-in, and a rather unique Mile High Club. While Kessler has a fresh vision of Hell, it is obvious to the reader that time & research went into Kessler's 'Hell'. It is a mix of literary Hell, Biblical Hell and Kessler's own version.

Aurelia got a huge kick out of a scene in the book where Jesse, following a fight with Paul, decides she's going to get fall-down drunk. Her list of drinks is as hysterical as the contents are repulsive (gin/rum/bourbon/lime/bitters/ginger ale/brandy - all together).

*The Road to Hell* does a nice job of developing the characters you're introduced to in *Hell's Belles* while showing you a few new rivals/friends. Jackie continues to deliver fun stories that keep you turning the pages. We look forward to welcoming Jackie in March 2010 as a Face the Fiction guest. She'll be sorry, Aurelia has quite a list of questions for her already!

### **Films to Come –Wednesday – 7/15/09**

We had a nice double-digit turnout for Films to Come on Wednesday, 7/15/09. We discussed the movies attendees had seen, movies we were anticipating, some TV, and a few assorted tidbits.

First up was a brief recap of June. What did we see? What did we like? What did we not like?

July was up next. Being that we're only in the middle of the month, this provided some entertaining moments. It's always fun to hear group member reviews of films and how their reviews often differ from critics. As we worked our way through the July list, our moderator told the group to chime in with comments. Some movies had been released and others were either being looked forward to or not of interest at all.

One July movie that offered differing member reviews to the critics was *Public Enemies*. Critics are pushing this one - big time. Both Todd and Barry were not overly impressed.

Another movie leaving members not completely satisfied was *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Craig and Chris both felt the movie acted as more of a bridge for *Deathly Hollows* than as a solid stand alone film. When asked to rate the film, Craig gave it 'one magic wand up'.

Also on the July list was *The Ugly Truth* from Robert Luketic. It was pointed out by Craig that this is *Cyrano* with a twist. Another movie putting a spin on a classic - *They Came From Upstairs*. This summer film has a group of young tweens fighting an alien invasion in their attic. It's being likened to E.T and Gremlins.

While working through the July list, Todd, Chris H and Mike P once again were called upon to read from Maltin Guide and Entertainment Weekly as additional information to the moderator generated list. Todd and Mike read from the Maltin Guide and Chris from Entertainment Weekly. Well, Chris was supposed to be reading from EW, but everything he read sounded more like Penthouse Forum material - lol. At one point, our moderator called a halt to the reading with, "um, Chris, what is it with you and the sex! Next month, please bring Entertainment Weekly!" Too funny. Chris maintains he was just reading what was in the magazine - yeah, sure Chris-of-the-uplifting-holiday-selections, we believe you ;)

After completing July, the group moved on to August. *The Time Travelers Wife*, *District Nine*, *G.I. Joe*, *Inglorious Basterds* and *Ponyo* were a few of the upcoming releases discussed.

While discussing *G.I. Joe*, Bill asked how many genre films has Dennis Quaid been in. While we all started naming movies, our moderator whipped out his almighty doohickey to find the answer. We were close. There were 7 films. Still not satisfied, Bill lobbied for *The Right Stuff* (not really genre, we pretended to consider it - it seemed to appease him) ;0

We had to wrap up the meeting so Barry asked if there was one last movie we'd like to go over before ending the meeting. Craig requested we finish with the Hayao Miyazaki upcoming release *Ponyo*. Miyazaki is a group favorite. We talked about his films (even ones not on Barry's list) and how influential his work has been.

We ended the meeting and continued chatting outside for some time before a group of us headed over to the diner. Talk at the diner was lively and interesting: Barry's *ShamWow* addiction, Chris and the 'same cottage that gets turned around', being banned from HSN, *Sherlock Holmes*, music and the fact the *Monster Quest* is awesome. Awesome I tell you!

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### **Modern Masters – Friday – 7/24/09**

Modern Masters met on Friday, 7/24 to discuss author Paulo Coelho and his book, *The Devil and Miss Prym*. We had a nice meeting led by Aurelia Long (stepping in for Todd) complete with handouts, copies of Coelho's books and in true Aurelia style, lots of humor.

Aurelia started off by passing out handouts about Coelho and *The Devil and Miss Prym*. She discussed the author at length and answered any questions asked. Liz B pointed out that she had read Coelho might have started his own religion.

Author Paulo Coelho was born in Rio and knew at an early age that he wanted to write. His parents did not agree with his choice of vocation and saw his desire to write as a sign of mental illness. They even had the poor man committed – twice! Coelho stuck to his guns, joined a theater group and embraced his nonconformist ways.

Coelho sought spiritual experiences, had a strong interest in progressive politics and continued working in theater. He launched an alternative magazine called *2001*. Coelho joined a group, the Alternative Society in 1973. The group defended freedom of expression. This got him kidnapped and tortured by paramilitaries. Upon his release, Coelho decided he'd had enough of living on the edge and "normal" was the way to go. His return to "normal" was a journey that produced *The Pilgrimage* and a year later *The Alchemist*. He's continued to produce top bestsellers ever since. His novel *Eleven Minutes* was the world's best selling fiction title in 2003. You can find more about Paulo Coelho at [www.paulocoelho.blog.com](http://www.paulocoelho.blog.com). Liz B had visited the site and offered up some details about the site.



Aurelia then moved on to *The Devil and Miss Prym*. Several of us had read the book – Barry did not read the book (this newsflash was to become the running gag of the evening). Chris enjoyed the book and had a small issue with the final resolution. Liz, Aurelia and I had issues with a few more things. Overall, we liked that the book lent itself to a great discussion of good/evil and choices.

*The Devil and Miss Prym* is a moral compass. The book is about 'a stranger' who visits a small, remote village to experiment with good and evil. The village, Viscos, is the kind of town that people fantasize about as being 'perfect' but can also be perceived as a dead-end, lifeless town. The stranger enters the town and turns things upside down. He tells one resident, the village outcast Chantal, that he will give the town 12 gold bars if they kill one resident of the town. Will they do it? Will greed prevail? The story makes some very interesting points and lends itself to discussion quite well.

Aurelia, Liz and I felt some of the reactions/situations didn't ring true. Barry, who announced before each of his numerous inputs that he hadn't read the book, made the excellent point that the issues we had with the book might be deliberate. He felt that Coelho may have written the story as more of a parable which would explain why certain situations didn't ring true – they weren't supposed to be true so much as examples. Good point. After a few "well, I didn't read this book," moments, Liz B quipped, "Barry, are you telling us you didn't the book!"

We continued discussing the book and how good and evil exists in everyone. Coelho seems to be telling us that experiences are what make us "us" – evil instincts are present and our experiences are what helps us choose good or evil. This was one of the issues Liz B and I had some problems with. Some of the characters seemed so one-dimensional that making a choice would be beyond their limited scope. Aurelia and Chris agreed. Barry felt that while he agrees with the concept of good & evil existing in everyone, he feels that it does not exist to the same capacity/degree in everyone. Hmmmmmm, astute.

Aurelia had to call an end to the meeting at 10p to head home. The rest of us continued talking and then continued the night at the diner.

Big thanks to Aurelia for a great job. Thanks to Chris for his additional handouts. Good meeting. Join us next month for SC Butler's *Queen Ferris*.

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### **Themes of the Fantastic – Tuesday – 7/28/09**

We started this month's Themes with a nice pre-meeting gathering at New Moon. We ordered in pizza from Sun Ray and had an informal, relaxing dinner. Nice idea that we'd like to repeat.

At 8p, moderator Bill Wagner, opened the meeting with the 1965 Shatner movie *Incubus*. Apparently this film was in Esperanto. We should have known what kind of night it would be. The month's theme, The Devil Made Me Do it: Hell on Earth provided Bill a broad topic of good vs. evil, heaven, hell, and everything in between dealing with related concepts.

After giving us *Incubus*, Bill went around the table asking each person for input.

Bill: *Incubus, The World, The Flesh & the Devil*

Dave: *Angel Heart, The Rapture, Prophecy, HellBoy*

Barry: *Drag Me to Hell to Hell, Devil's Advocate*

Todd: *To Reign in Hell, Book of Job, Something Wicked This Way Comes, Witches of Eastwick, Dead Man's Gun*

Chris: *Faust*

Craig: Charlie Daniel band/Devil went Down to Georgia, *Spawn, Damn Yankees*, King James Bible and the Jesus temptation story

Brett: The Darkness comic book series, *Hell Raiser, Hell Blazer, Monkey's paw, Wish Givers, The Godfather* (Pacino's character is tempted to the dark side).

Gene: Homer Simpson and the Forbidden Donut, *Dogma*

Me: *The Devil and Miss Prym, Crossroads, Jekyll & Hyde, Purgatory, Brimstone*

Jo: *Ghost Rider, Thief of Always, The Angels Game*

Steve R: story w/ Larry Niven and the pentagram, *Sopranos, Event Horizon*

Art: *Wish Master* (Wes Craven), Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> TV series, Little Mermaid (deal w/ Ursula the Sea Witch), Elric

This is a sample of the plethora of answers given. Anyone notice anything left out, please add it in. Our newcomers Brett and Art offered great answers and fit right in. Bill did a good job of moving things along and asking about the books/movies/etc. he was not familiar with.

Todd tossed out *The Devil and Daniel Webster* and Chris responded that he felt this was a 'fine film'.

We had much fun coming up with stories, movies, books and anything we could think of that contained the idea of good/evil/heaven/hell/the devil/decisions employing good and evil. Barry's "the road to heaven is paved with good intention" summed things up nicely (that and he told me I had to write it down – lol). It was very interesting to see what people came up with and how they explained their choices.

Bill called the meeting to a close and we headed out – to the parking lot to continue talking ;) Join us next month when we tackle the original concept of Grimm's fairytales – dark and not so nice. Sword and sorcery fantasy – Grimm-style.

## **SFSNNJ Member Movie Reviews**

### **Moon – Chris Hasselkus**

After Barry introduced this at Films To Come and Bill had seen it, I saw two sterling reviews; The Record gave it 4 of 4 stars, while the Daily News gave it 5 of 5 stars. I went to see it up at the Palisades Center on Saturday, July 11th, at the 11:50 AM showing. I wouldn't give it quite that high a rating, but it was certainly interesting to view. Grade: B+

### **Event Horizon – Chris Hasselkus**

On Saturday, July 18, 2009, Anthony from the Hi-Way Hobby shop showed Event Horizon. Liz, Barry and I watched it, and then discussed the film at Chilli's afterward. It looked great on Blu-Ray, but we felt it was a poor man's Alien. Not bad, but nothing to really recommend it.

### **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince – Chris Hasselkus**

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince was an excellent film. I had read the sixth book a few months ago, but reread the last 95 pages, when the real important hijinks ensue. The three kids are better than ever, and Michael Gambon as Dumbledore is especially effective. Grade: A

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