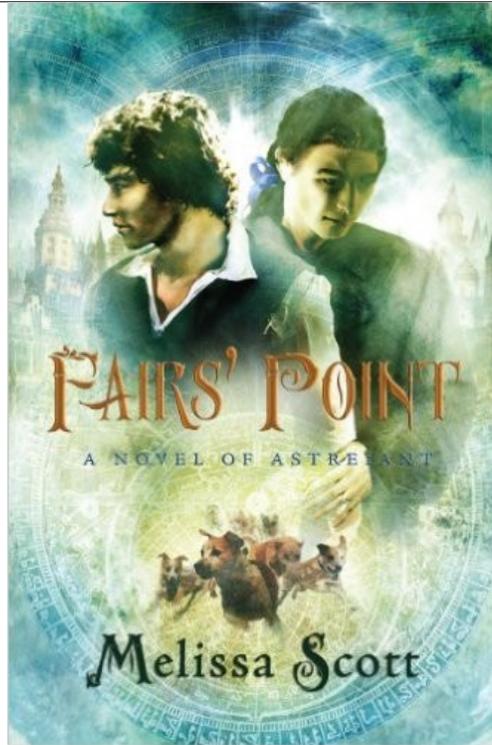


*2015 Gaylactic Spectrum Awards – for 2014 Titles*  
**Best Novel**

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***Winner***

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***Fairs' Point***  
**by Melissa Scott**

Lethe Press

ISBN13: 978-1590211885

In this fourth novel set in the city of Astreiant, astrology works, the working of magic is a profession, and the dead (human and animal) return at Ghost Tide. Nico and Philip once again find themselves embroiled in a mystery. It is Dog Moon, and the chief entertainment for nobles and commoners alike is the basket-terrier races at New Fair. This year, things are a bit different: a young nobleman's bankruptcy has economically rocked Astreiant, leading to suicides, widespread loss of employment, and inconvenient new laws. And a rash of mysterious burglaries seems to suggest a magical conspiracy.

Pointsman Nico Rathe is in the middle of all this, as is Philip, to whom the dead nobleman owned money. When the deceased's goods are divided among his creditors, Philip receives a basket-terrier puppy. He decides to have the dog trained for the races—a decision that draws both Nico and Philip deeper into a mystery that somehow involved dog racing, burglaries, silver coins embedded in a city wall, and strangely-done murders. Something weird is definitely happening with the silver in Astreiant. Complications ensue.

Scott once again is in top form in the ongoing world-building and exploration of this fantastical city. Details are rich and true, from the careful construction of a matriarchal society in which men don't own property and a Queen is always on the throne, from the food sold at Wicked's to how an alchemist examines a dead body. The mystery driving this police procedural is well-plotted, and the relationship that is the heart of the novel (that of Nico and Philip) is realistic and honest.

## 2015 Gaylactic Spectrum Awards - Recommended List – 2014 Novels



***A Case of Possession / Flight of Magpies* by KJ Charles**  
Samhain ISBN13: 978-1619223028 / 978-1619227552

The second and third “Charm of Magpies” novels. In an alternative Victorian England, where magic exists, Lord Crane and his “practitioner” lover Stephen Day are threatened with public exposure of their relationship (which would lead to prosecution and a prison term). Meanwhile, they face supernatural attacks by a cabal of dark magicians.

***Daughter of Mystery* by Heather Rose Jones**  
Bella Books ISBN13: 978-1594933806

An adventurous tale of political intrigues, dastardly plots, mysterious parentage, swordplay, and the growing love between two women – a wealthy heiress and a penniless bodyguard. Set in early 19th Century Europe in fictional Alpennia, the plot includes a unique magical system based on religious ceremony and the intercession of Saints.

***The Future Falls* by Tanya Huff**  
DAW ISBN13: 978-0756407544

The latest novel in the “Enchantment Emporium” series. As always, sexual orientations in the extended Gale Family are various and accepted. This time they must literally face the end of the world, as they learn of a huge “planet buster” asteroid on its way to destroy the Earth in the near future. Can even the Gale’s powers avert this disaster?

***King of Dublin* by Lisa Henry & Heidi Belleau**  
Riptide Publishing ISBN13: 978-1626490963

In a post-apocalypse Ireland ravaged by plague and economic collapse, Darragh must travel to Dublin in search of medicine to help the people of his village survive. He is conscripted into the forces of a powerful gangster, the self-proclaimed “King of Dublin”. Darragh falls in love with Ciaran, the King’s sex-slave. Definitely a gut-wrenching narrative from time to time, as Darragh and Ciaran plot the fall of the King.

***Necropolis / Bloodline* by Jordan L. Hawk**  
Widdershins ISBN13: 978-1499153521 / 978-1502323934

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> “Whyborne and Griffin” adventures. The lovers Perceval Whyborne (introverted comparative philologist) and Griffin Flaherty (ex-Pinkerton agent, turned PI) face new supernatural threats: in 1890s Egypt, they face Nitocris, undead Queen of the Ghuls; and back home in New England, they get involved with a monstrous undersea race.

***Pathfinder Tales: The Redemption Engine* by James L Sutter**  
Paizo Publishing ISBN13: 978-1601256188

An atheist warrior forced to serve a god of death finds himself bound up in the plots of Heaven and Hell as he investigates some missing souls in this RPG-based novel. His companions include a pair of “Theban band” type men in a clearly sexual and romantic relationship – who play a critical role in resolving the central threat in the story.

***Wind Raker* by Melissa Scott & Jo Graham**  
Crossroad Press ISBN13: 978-1941408056

The fourth “Order of the Air” novel. It’s 1935, and the folks at Gilchrist Aviation have been hired to test out the Catalina seaplane in Hawaii. On Oahu, the Americans run afoul of an American Nazi – and his German backers – who want to use the “Chinese connection” (and other means) to advance their occult conspiracies. Meanwhile, team member Dr. Ballard meets another male archaeologist and the two of them become “an item”.

*Gaylactic Spectrum Awards*  
<http://www.spectrumawards.org/>

***The Dark Defiles* by Richard K. Morgan**  
Del Rey ISBN13: 978-0345493101

A dark fantasy featuring two major queer characters: Ringil Eskiath, a reluctant hero viewed as a corrupt degenerate by the people who need his help, and Archeth, the last of a race of vanished trans-dimensional techno-mages. This final book in the “Land Fit for Heroes” trilogy concludes Ringil’s quest to face the Illwrack Changeling, a deathless sorcerer and pawn of the former rulers of the world.

***A Death at the Dionysus Club* by Melissa Scott & Amy Griswold**  
Lethe Press ISBN13: 978-1590215302

A sequel to *Death by Silver*. Historical fantasy set in Victorian London. Metaphysician Ned Mathey is recruited by Scotland Yard to assist the Metaphysical Crimes Squad investigate a corpse with its heart removed by magic that doesn’t conform to modern metaphysics. Meanwhile, his partner/lover Julian Lynes investigates blackmailers preying on London’s gay demimonde. Eventually, their investigations intersect.

***Heirs of Grace* by Tim Pratt**  
47North ISBN13: 978-1477823644

Bekah, a poor art school graduate, has unexpectedly inherited a small fortune and a huge house in the mountains of North Carolina. Once there, she is beset by monsters and rival family claimants to the fabulous magical powers contained in the house. Bekah is happily bisexual.

***The Mercury Waltz* by Kathe Koja**  
Roadswell Editions ISBN13: 978-1938263088

Sequel to *Under the Poppy*. Rupert and Istvan – lovers, business partners, and magical entertainers *par excellence* – have fled town, left the Poppy (their brothel-and-theater) behind, and set up shop in a new venue: The Mercury Theatre. Their stormy (but fascinating) relationship brings new entertainers and entertainments into the mix, as well as potential new lovers and new and old enemies.

***Red Delicious* by Kathleen Tierney (Caitlin Kiernan)**  
Roc ISBN13: 978-0451416537

The second “Siobhan Quinn” novel. This time, her “boss” has assigned her to locate the missing sister of a powerful witch. But there’s more going on than she first thought – including a heist that goes horribly wrong – and Siobhan is up to her neck in supernatural bad-guys.

***Shards of Time* by Lynn Flewelling**  
Del Rey ISBN13: 978-0345522313

Possibly the last novel in the long-running “Nightrunners” series. Master spies (and long-time lovers) Alec and Seregil are sent by the Queen to the sacred island of Koros to investigate the mysterious (and gory) deaths of the island’s governor and his mistress. They face an ancient evil that has been awakened and now threatens all that live.