



## A Celebration of Indigenous American Fantasists

*Rebecca Roanhorse , Jason Sizemore (Editor) , Allison Mills , Pamela Rentz , Mari Kurisato , Daniel Heath  
Justice , Russell Dickerson , Amy H. Sturgis (editor)*

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**A Celebration of Indigenous American Fantasists** Rebecca Roanhorse , Jason Sizemore (Editor) , Allison Mills , Pamela Rentz , Mari Kurisato , Daniel Heath Justice , Russell Dickerson , Amy H. Sturgis (editor) Apex Magazine is a monthly science fiction, fantasy, and horror magazine featuring original, mind-bending short fiction from many of the top pros of the field. New issues are released the first Tuesday of every month.

This month we celebrate Indigenous American fantasists with guest editor Amy H. Sturgis.

### A Celebration of Indigenous American Fantasists Details

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## From Reader Review A Celebration of Indigenous American Fantasists for online ebook

**carol. says**

<https://www.apex-magazine.com/welcome...>

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**Cheryl says**

Read online - not flash fiction but short enough. Anyway, moving & enlightening story. I will look for more by the author.

Discussing in the SF group here: <https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/...>

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**Bradley says**

'18 Hugo nom for Short Stories.

This was a surprising stand-out for me. I was at first disgusted by the tourism bit, but as things progressed, I realized it was building up into something quite nasty. When the twist came, I was kicked in the gut.

Delicious.

The best part is the fact that PoV IS giving us an Authentic Indian Experience while never quite seeing it for himself.

Two thumbs way up! :)

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**Jen says**

I've gotten dumb and complacent. As a teen, I would have eaten this up and begged for more. So heavy, so deep, what real anyway?

Now? Just give me clarity. I don't have time or the imagination to interpret things.

Not bad, but not for me. 3 stars.

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**Lori says**

<https://www.apex-magazine.com/welcome...>

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### **Silvana says**

{this review is not for the whole issue}

Welcome to Your Authentic Indian Experience is my first story with an Indian POV. Nothing new with the plot and conclusion but the perspective is quite unique and kind of made me sad.

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### **Dawn Christoffersen says**

Like a creepy, mind bending Black Mirror episode, this story is eerily relevant.

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### **Ashley \*Hufflepuff Kitten\* says**

5 stars to Rebecca Roanhorse's WELCOME TO YOUR AUTHENTIC INDIAN EXPERIENCE.

Still trying to wrap my mind around it. Definitely reading it again soon. Shades of Westworld and Jurassic Park. The ending knocked me for a total loop. If you have a few minutes, definitely check this one out.

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### **Christa Schönmann Abbühl says**

It is really good. And I hated every minute of it. Leaves me lost and with a horrible feeling in my belly. This lady sure can write.

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### **Sr3yas says**

*This is the review for **Welcome to Your Authentic Indian Experience TM**, a 2018 Nebula/Hugo nominee for Best Short Story!*

*Total recall meets All about Eve? Who knew!*

Jesse works as a guide who goes inside virtual stimulations with tourists to provide them authentic Indian (Native American, not India's citizens to my dismay) Experience TM, varying from spiritual experience to the real deal. Things are a bit rocky at home and at work, but he is the best guy at what he does.

But then he meets White Wolf.

I'm a big fan of virtual simulation type stories, but this one doesn't go deep into that(view spoiler). One of the best things about the story is its ever-changing moods: Initially, you see a regular man and his colleagues, which give way to Sci-Fi, then to loneliness and friendship, and finally full on

Read it here -----> <https://www.apex-magazine.com/welcome...>

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## **XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says**

This **?2017 Nebula Award winner for Best Short Story?** is available for **free** here.

- ① **Surprise, surprise!** Everyone but me read this story ~~wrong~~ right! Or is it ~~right~~ wrong? I forget.
- ② This short should have been called **Welcome to Your Totally Deadly Second Person Narrative of Doom Experience (WtYTDSPNoDE)<sup>TM</sup>**.
- ③ The author obviously doesn't know I **trademarked<sup>TM</sup> the word trademark<sup>TM</sup>** and the corresponding **trademark<sup>TM</sup> symbol<sup>TM</sup>** centuries ago.
- ④ **Virtual reality** meets tourism meets **Native American heritage** = most excellent premise but most **excellent premise** promptly turned into...

**Yeah yeah yeah**, I know, this is an allegedly gripping, brutal tale reportedly full of super deep thoughts about **identity and reality and all that erap stuff**, but it's nothing that hasn't been done two hundred million times before, **Supposedly Super Clever Final Twist (SSCFT<sup>TM</sup>)** included.

**Granted**, the **Native American setting** and underlying **cultural appropriation** theme were interesting and fresh and stuff, but it doesn't change the fact that **impressed by this story, I was not**. Because I read it ~~wrong~~ **right**, obviously. Or is it because I read it **right** wrong? I forget.

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## **Justine says**

Completely excellent story. This has me really excited to read Roanhorse's upcoming novel, Trail of Lightning.

This short story is available to read for free here: <https://www.apex-magazine.com/welcome...>

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## **Dennis says**

### **Review of Rebecca Roanhorse's Welcome to your Authentic Indian Experience<sup>TM</sup>**

Winner of the 2017 Nebula Award and 2018 Hugo Award for Best Short Story

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Reminiscent of Philip K. Dick's We can remember it for you wholesale, this is a story about identity and perception of reality.

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It was okay. But I was not wowed. My vote would have gone to Caroline M. Yoachim's *Carnival Nine* instead.

You can read it here.

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## 2018 Hugo Awards Finalists

### Best Novel

- *The Collapsing Empire* by John Scalzi (Tor)
- *New York 2140* by Kim Stanley Robinson (Orbit)
- *Provenance* by Ann Leckie (Orbit)
- *Raven Stratagem* by Yoon Ha Lee (Solaris)
- *Six Wakes* by Mur Lafferty (Orbit)
- ***The Stone Sky* by N.K. Jemisin (Orbit)**

### Best Novella

- ***All Systems Red* by Martha Wells (Tor.com Publishing)**
- *And Then There Were* (N-One) by Sarah Pinsker (Uncanny, March/April 2017)
- *Binti: Home* by Nnedi Okorafor (Tor.com Publishing)
- *The Black Tides of Heaven* by JY Yang (Tor.com Publishing)
- *Down Among the Sticks and Bones* by Seanan McGuire (Tor.com Publishing)
- *River of Teeth* by Sarah Gailey (Tor.com Publishing)

### Best Novelette

- *Children of Thorns, Children of Water* by Aliette de Bodard (Uncanny, July-August 2017)
- *Extracurricular Activities* by Yoon Ha Lee (Tor.com, February 15, 2017)
- ***The Secret Life of Bots* by Suzanne Palmer (Clarkesworld, September 2017)**
- *A Series of Steaks* by Vina Jie-Min Prasad (Clarkesworld, January 2017)
- *Small Changes Over Long Periods of Time* by K.M. Szpara (Uncanny, May/June 2017)
- *Wind Will Rove* by Sarah Pinsker (Asimov's, September/October 2017)

### Best Short Story

- *Carnival Nine* by Caroline M. Yoachim (*Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, May 2017)
- *Clearly Lettered in a Mostly Steady Hand* by Fran Wilde (Uncanny, September 2017)
- *Fandom for Robots* by Vina Jie-Min Prasad (Uncanny, September/October 2017)
- *The Martian Obelisk* by Linda Nagata (Tor.com, July 19, 2017)
- *Sun, Moon, Dust* by Ursula Vernon, (Uncanny, May/June 2017) by Ursula Vernon, (Uncanny, May/June 2017)
- ***Welcome to your Authentic Indian Experience™* by Rebecca Roanhorse (Apex, August 2017)**

### Best Related Work

- *Crash Override: How Gamergate (Nearly) Destroyed My Life, and How We Can Win the Fight Against Online Hate* by Zoe Quinn (PublicAffairs)
- *Iain M. Banks (Modern Masters of Science Fiction)* by Paul Kincaid (University of Illinois Press)
- *A Lit Fuse: The Provocative Life of Harlan Ellison* by Nat Segaloff (NESFA Press)
- *Luminescent Threads: Connections to Octavia E. Butler* edited by Alexandra Pierce and Mimi Mondal (Twelfth Planet Press)
- ***No Time to Spare: Thinking About What Matters* by Ursula K. Le Guin (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)**

- **Sleeping with Monsters: Readings and Reactions in Science Fiction and Fantasy** by Liz Bourke (Aqueduct Press)

### **Best Graphic Story**

- **Black Bolt, Volume 1: Hard Time** written by Saladin Ahmed, illustrated by Christian Ward, lettered by Clayton Cowles (Marvel)
- **Bitch Planet, Volume 2: President Bitch** written by Kelly Sue DeConnick, illustrated by Valentine De Landro and Taki Soma, colored by Kelly Fitzpatrick, lettered by Clayton Cowles (Image Comics)
- **Monstress, Volume 2: The Blood** written by Marjorie M. Liu, illustrated by Sana Takeda (Image Comics)
- **My Favorite Thing is Monsters** written and illustrated by Emil Ferris (Fantagraphics)
- **Paper Girls, Volume 3** written by Brian K. Vaughan, illustrated by Cliff Chiang, colored by Matthew Wilson, lettered by Jared Fletcher (Image Comics)
- **Saga, Volume 7** written by Brian K. Vaughan, illustrated by Fiona Staples (Image Comics)

### **Best Series**

- **The Books of the Raksura**, by Martha Wells (Night Shade)
  - **The Divine Cities**, by Robert Jackson Bennett (Broadway)
  - **InCryptid**, by Seanan McGuire (DAW)
  - **The Memoirs of Lady Trent**, by Marie Brennan (Tor US / Titan UK)
  - **The Stormlight Archive**, by Brandon Sanderson (Tor US / Gollancz UK)
  - **World of the Five Gods**, by Lois McMaster Bujold (Harper Voyager / Spectrum Literary Agency)
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## **2017 Nebula Award Nominees**

### **Best Novel**

- **Amberlough** by Lara Elena Donnelly (Tor)
- **The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter** by Theodora Goss (Saga)
- **Spoonbenders** by Daryl Gregory (Knopf; riverrun)
- **The Stone Sky** by **N.K. Jemisin (Orbit US; Orbit UK)**
- **Six Wakes** by Mur Lafferty (Orbit US)
- **Jade City** by Fonda Lee (Orbit US; Orbit UK)
- **Autonomous** by Annalee Newitz (Tor; Orbit UK 2018)

### **Best Novella**

- **River of Teeth** by Sarah Gailey (Tor.com Publishing)
- **Passing Strange** by Ellen Klages (Tor.com Publishing)
- **And Then There Were (N-One)** by Sarah Pinsker (Uncanny 3-4/17)
- **Barry's Deal** by Lawrence M. Schoen (NobleFusion Press)
- **All Systems Red** by **Martha Wells (Tor.com Publishing)**
- **The Black Tides of Heaven** by JY Yang (Tor.com Publishing)

### **Best Novelette**

- **Dirty Old Town** by Richard Bowes (Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction 5-6/17)
- **Weaponized Math** by Jonathan P. Brazee (The Expanding Universe, Vol. 3)
- **Wind Will Rove** by Sarah Pinsker (Asimov's 9-10/17)
- **A Series of Steaks** by Vina Jie-Min Prasad (Clarkesworld 1/17)
- **A Human Stain** by **Kelly Robson (Tor.com 1/4/17)**
- **Small Changes Over Long Periods of Time** by K.M. Szpara (Uncanny 5-6/17)

### **Best Short Story**

- Fandom for Robots by Vina Jie-Min Prasad (Uncanny 9-10/17)
- **Welcome to your Authentic Indian Experience™ by Rebecca Roanhorse (Apex 8/17)**
- Utopia, LOL? by Jamie Wahls (Strange Horizons 6/5/17)
- Clearly Lettered in a Mostly Steady Hand by Fran Wilde (Uncanny 9-10/17)
- The Last Novelist (or A Dead Lizard in the Yard) by Matthew Kressel (Tor.com 3/15/17)
- Carnival Nine by Caroline M. Yoachim (Beneath Ceaseless Skies 5/11/17)

### **Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy**

- Exo by Fonda Lee (Scholastic Press)
  - Weave a Circle Round by Kari Maaren (Tor)
  - **The Art of Starving by Sam J. Miller (HarperTeen)**
  - Want by Cindy Pon (Simon Pulse)
- 

### **Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says**

Note: This review is just for the award-winning story “Welcome to Your Authentic Indian Experience.” The ever-vigilant GR librarians merged its review space into this anthology.

All the stars! Final review, first posted on Fantasy Literature. This story is free online here at Apex Magazine.

Accolades have been pouring down on this 2017 SF short story, which won both the Hugo and Nebula awards, and is also a Sturgeon Award nominee, a Locus Recommended Short Story, a Apex Magazine Reader’s Choice Winner. Additionally, Rebecca Roanhorse won the Hugo’s John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer.

On my first read of “Welcome to Your Authentic Indian Experience”, several months ago, I thought it was a solid story but riding somewhat on the coattails of the popularity and currency of the cultural appropriation theme. However, its win of the Hugo Award prompted me to give it a reread, and the story actually hit me a lot harder the second time around.

Jesse is a Native American, working a virtual reality type of job that pushes him to sell his culture in dishonest ways that cheapen it. He acts mostly as the native guide for tourists’ “Vision Quest” virtual reality journeys. (At least it’s better than the demeaning “Squaw Fantasy” that the women employees are forced to engage in.) But a small hope comes into Jesse’s life when he meets a virtual tourist ? Jesse gives him the spirit name “White Wolf” ? who is truly interested in Jesse and his actual experiences. A little too interested, perhaps ...

The theme of cultural appropriation is at the forefront here, impossible to miss, but the layers and subtleties in the story ? including the dual meaning of the story’s title and the symbolism of White Wolf’s name ? impressed me. The ending is a knife twist in the gut, and meta in a way that casts new light on the entire story. It meshes well with the unusual second person narration of the story, pulling you into Jesse’s experience. Highly recommended!

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### **Veronique says**

3.75\*

Very thought-provoking short story. I did have a problem with the use of the second person, but the author's narrative still won me over with the way she wraps it all up, echoing history.

Hugo Awards 2018 Short Story Nominee

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