



## Deep Magic October 2016

*Brendon Taylor (Editor) , Jeff Wheeler , Kieth Merrill , T.E. Bradford , Brock Poulsen , Wendy Nikel , Amy Power Jansen , Christopher Baxter , more... Charlie N. Holmberg , Tais Teng (Illustrator, Contributor) , Angela Polidoro , Eldon Thompson , Agent Marlene Stringer ...less*

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If you want to read gripping stories that don't rely on sex, swearing, and graphic violence—you've come to the right place!

DEEP MAGIC is a bi-monthly electronic magazine that publishes clean short fiction in the fantasy and science fiction genres (epic, paranormal, steampunk, etc). Our issues are also filled with author interviews, art features, book reviews and tips for writers.

In this issue you'll find "Salt & Water," a short story written by Charlie N Holmberg, author of the Amazon-bestselling Paper Magician Series. If you like mermaid lore, this story is for you! We also T.E. Bradford's debut story "The Dragon Between Worlds" (hint: we loved it!), Christopher Baxter's history-bending story "The Wizard's Granddaughter", and a steampunk story we all went crazy for called "Juliet Silver and the Realm of Impossibility." We also feature some science fiction pieces this month from Brock Poulsen, "The Drawer" and Amy Power Jansen's "On the Other Side."

We also include the first chapters of a novel from Hollywood director-turned-writer Kieth Merrill from his debut epic fantasy novel "The Immortal Crown" published by Shadow Mountain. There is also a wonderful article by professional dev editor Angela Polidoro (she's the brilliant editor who helps get Jeff's and Charlie's novels up to snuff), and an interview with literary agent Marlene Stringer. You'll want to pay attention to both of their advice. Finally, we include a writing craft article by author Eldon Thompson and an interview with cover artist Tais Teng from the Netherlands.

## Deep Magic October 2016 Details

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Brendon Taylor (Editor) , Jeff Wheeler , Kieth Merrill , T.E. Bradford , Brock Poulsen , Wendy Nikel , Amy Power Jansen , Christopher Baxter , more... Charlie N. Holmberg , Tais Teng (Illustrator, Contributor) , Angela Polidoro , Eldon Thompson , Agent Marlene Stringer ...less

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# **From Reader Review Deep Magic October 2016 for online ebook**

## **Helen says**

### **Fantasy vs SciFi**

Six totally different stories. Each an enjoyable read. You get to sample six totally different world's from steampunk, to dragons, wizards and much more. I thoroughly enjoyed each story, some more than others. Also I felt some of these shorts could have been full books. I will have to explore what else the authors have written to see if there is more about some of these characters. This is worth reading if you like a mixed bag of short SciFi and fantasy stories. Something to dip the toes of your imagination into without tying your mind down to a huge volume, or book saga that seems never ending.

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## **KyneWynn says**

I only read the story by Christopher Baxter - I loved the way the story developed and the characters and how they interacted, and how the problems was solved, and I knew going into it that it was a short story - but I wanted the story to continue. I was left wondering what would happen next, and now he needs to write a whole book about it!

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## **Magen says**

This will be where I track all the short stories I have read from the Deep Magic issues.

### **October 2016 issue**

I read the short story Salt and Water by Charlie Holmberg. As with most of her works, I was sucked in and couldn't stop reading. Sadly, it ended too soon. I need to know what happens next!

### **Spring 2018 issue**

The Ten Suns by Ken Liu

### **Summer 2018 issue**

The War and The Riddle by Charlie Holmberg

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## **Jeff Wheeler says**

I've been a fan of Charlie Holmberg's novels since Paper Magician. When I asked her to join the Board of Deep Magic, she mentioned she had a story she had previously published but was getting the rights back to. You'll find it in this month's issue: "Salt and Water" a kind of dark mermaid tale. I loved it. I also really like TE Bradford's "The Dragon Between Worlds". Let me tell you a little about the author. She's a big fan of my Muirwood books which inspired her to start writing her first novel. I've read her work and loved this short story which is set in the world she created. Some other fine authors included is a great steampunk adventure

called "Juliet Silver and the Realm of Possibility". I'm not big on steampunk myself but this story really grabbed me. There was also an alternative history story about Wizards and World War II era England called "The Wizard's Granddaughter". Wow, it was amazingly written.

We also include some articles and interviews as well. Marlene Stringer (who is Charlie's agent) granted an interview with us that all budding writers should read. Seriously. It's great advice and a peek at the publishing world today. What struck me was that the quality of writing is going up. We see very good submissions at Deep Magic. The technical craft is good. But creating something new and interesting is still difficult. Marlene offers some great advice. We also feature a piece by Angela Polidoro who is Charlie and my "dev editor". Dev editors play a crucial role in my work and Angela is one of the best.

There's more in the issue. I just focused on some of the highlights. Even more good stuff coming in the next issue.

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### **Jonathan says**

This is the first deep magic magazine i have ever read. I took a chance on this Magazine because i liked books from Jeff Wheeler. i had not read any samples of the book before downloading so I was not sure the ratio of short stories to articles about writing. so when i say i took a chance i meant it. Disclaimer I am not an author my self which is why I mentioned that. I still thoroughly enjoyed i loved 5/6 of the short stories in this magazine. Although I wont use the tips for authors, it was a good insight into what they go through. If you are like me and are not an author this magazine is still worth it. The Short stories in here are of high quality and are enough on their own to make it 5 stars alone. I really hope this magazine continues with so many stories approved it has enough content for a full year plus. Give it a try. tell anyone you can about it. Make this magazine a success it deserves it. Thanks to the authors that made it a great magazine.

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### **Patrick Barnes says**

**OK**

I guess that I've not been in the mood for short stories these last two weeks. I only can seem to get interested in full length stories.

No more collections for awhile at least. The little that I read was entertaining but not what I'm interested in just now.

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### **Brian says**

I read Salt and Water by Charlie N. Holmberg from this edition of Deep Magic and it was great. it was short, heart breaking, and satisfying. Loved it. I've read the Paper Magician series and look forward to more stories from Charlie.

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## Leonore Winterer says

I mostly picked this up for Charlie Holmberg's short story 'Salt and Water', but decided to read the rest of this anyway, and I'm so glad I did! All the shortstories in this were great, and if I have any 'complaint', it's that for most of them, I just want to read more of the world and characters.

Some notes I took while reading, plus individual ratings:

- I really enjoyed "Juliet Silver and the Realm of Impossibility" by Wendy Nickel - could have been a little longer, though. I think about 10k words would have been better than just 6k - I feel like some scenes should have been drawn out a little longer, some things could have used more detailed descriptions, and one or two loose ends could have been tied up better. Still, definitively an author to look out for! 4/5
- "The Drawer" by Brock Poulsen felt like a modern take on a Lovecraftian tale with some humouristic elements. Very enjoyable to read, although it's not my favourite kind of story." 3/5
- In 'Salt & Water', Charlie N Holmberg once again delivers a story that captured me within just a few pages. I absolutely adored her take on Mermaid lore. I just wish it was a full book, or at least not this open ended - I fell in love with the characters and desperately want happy ends for them! 4/5
- 'The Wizard's Granddaughter' by Christopher Baxter is an amazing fantastical take on an alternate history, and a granddaughter caring for her elderly grandfather. (Helping to take care of my own grandparents, I'm both sad and relieved they don't have any supernatural abilities!). I absolutely loved this unusual approach and very sincerely hope Mr. Baxter will sit down and write a full novel someday! 5/5
- Now that's a real short story! 'On the other side' by Amy Power Jansen is short and sweet, not dwelling on details too much but still painting a very clear picture. Not that the idea of traveling between worlds through simple doors would not leave room for more...I really enjoyed it! 4/5
- I liked the first 2/3rd of 'The Dragon between Worlds', but wasn't too fond of the end. I guess T. E. Bradford's style of 'fantasy with a breath of spirituality' just isn't my cup of tea. 3/5

The articles were quite interesting to read as well, but I wouldn't have picked this up just for them. I also read (and mostly enjoyed) the excerpt of 'The Immortal Crown', but I'm unsure whether to pick up the full book - after two and a half years, there still seems to be no signs of the second one, and I'd hate to start into an abandoned series.

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## Greg Garguilo says

Anthology, with all that that entails - some good, some very good. T.E. Bradford's "The Dragon Between Worlds", though firmly rooted in familiar tropes, was well told and enjoyable, in spite of its relatively straight forward plot. "The Wizard's Granddaughter" (Christopher Baxter) a lovely and toughening alternate history, is definitely worth savoring. The excerpt from the "Immortal Crown" has me tempted to pick that book up, as soon as I've finished my pile of other readings. Last mention, but not least, Charlie N. Holmberg again delivers with "Salt & Water" with masterful word choices, evoking imagery well beyond that found in stories of this length.

There are some articles, no doubt of interest to other writers, which I don't find as engaging, but they aren't uninteresting, just not the fiction I crave.

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## **Audrey says**

I had put off downloading this magazine for quite some time, but the other day decided to give it a go. I'm glad I did.

There are some really good short stories and articles in Deep Magic, I enjoyed a few of the fantasy stories and as a result have bought some new ebooks. The only problem with some of the short stories is that I wanted more of them, just as I was getting hooked, the story finished :(

If you are interested in fantasy, and science fiction, try this magazine.

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## **Esther says**

Lots of "comfort" stories in here. This is definitely a magazine for when you want a reliable type of story that resonates with those very first stories that drew you into speculative fiction. More than just clean, it speaks to that part of you that wants stories to dazzle and delight. Deep Magic is a good name. The definition of science fiction remains a bit hazy.

Perfect for me

"The Wizard's Grand-daughter" by Christopher Baxter - Fantastical alternative history of World War Two. What a gorgeous ending.

"On the Other Side" by Amy Power Jansen

Enjoyable, worked for me

"Juliet Silver and the Realm of Impossibility" by Wendy Nickel - Fun steampunk.

"The Drawer" by Brock Poulsen - The closest to dark that this magazine gets. A man gets drawn into an alternative universe through a drawer.

"Salt and Water" by Charlie N. Holmberg [reprint]

Fine, but didn't speak to me

"The Dragon between Worlds" by T.E. Bradford

Not my Cup of Tea

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## **Martin says**

As I read "Deep Magic - October 2016" I discovered a steampunk short story by Wendy Nickel. I hope she writes more, I was enchanted by the prose. I will now follow, go to her web site and enjoy more

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## **Angela Richter says**

### **Disappointing**

This compilation of short stories was disappointing for me. Some stories were fairly good, others so poorly written. Wasted time.

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## **K says**

I loved this magazine! The stories were engaging and I would love to see them developed further. Juliet Silver and the Realm of Impossibility captured my imagination and left me daydreaming about air ships and the dangers that they could encounter. Salt and Water brought up interesting ethical conundrums, which are as pertinent in our reality as they are in this new world which Charlie Holmberg has created. I am completely intrigued by Kieth Merrill's work in progress, The Immortal Crown: Saga of Kings, Book One. I think that it has a very interesting premise. The first six chapters held me in thrall. I am looking forward to reading more of this book and to seeing where Mr. Merrill chooses to take us.

The articles written by the professional writers were my favorite part of the magazine. I had a tiny idea regarding the difference between writing for a novel and writing for a screenplay. The article by Eldon Thompson made me realize how much work goes into a screenplay and how difficult it must be to translate a beloved novel onto the screen. The articles by Marlene Stringer and Angela Polidoro have inspired me to take a new look at my own writing and to incorporate some of their suggestions into my own works. Perhaps, if I ever work up the nerve to send my book to an agent, their words will have helped.

I must say that I have finally found a magazine worth purchasing. You won't find the answer to your boy troubles or fashion do's and don'ts. You will find new windows into imagination and words of wisdom to help your artistic journey.

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## **Kevin says**

Many of the short stories seemed as if they were the start of novels I'd love to read. They mostly featured death or sadness.

Juliet Silver: a woman is recruited to pilot an airship.

The Drawer: a man hits his head, and what follows may be a hallucination.

Salt & Water: A woman is held captive to steal her healing tears. A guard shows her pity, and it ends with only the promise of a better future. I skimmed a little.

The Wizard's Granddaughter: Just what the title says. At the conclusion, she sacrifices for her grandfather's reputation.

On the Other Side: People who can travel across dimensions. Not very interesting to me.

The Dragon Between Worlds: My favorite of this set.

There are also some interviews and a book excerpt that I skimmed and found uninteresting.

I only found one typo: in Salt & Water. 'Why are they here?' She asked, almost shouted."

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