



Newsletter 005, 2022Q2

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This newsletter is going out a bit earlier than expected because I have some news: I'll be participating in a live interview in April! (See the lead story for more information.) And there are still new blog posts and book reviews for your reading pleasure. As always, thank you to everyone who takes the time to read this newsletter and support me in my writing!

## News & Notes



### Instagram *Live*: An Interview with Matthew Cushing - [April 19, 1:00pm ET](#)

In support of up-and-coming authors, White Tale Coffee is hosting the first in a series of virtual book readings and author interviews. Live on Tuesday, April 19 at 1:00pm Eastern, their first guest will be... me!

Tune in on White Tale Coffee's Instagram page for a reading of the first chapter of my debut novel *The Osect Indiscretion* followed by an interactive Q&A. If there's anything you've ever wanted to ask me, now's your chance!

If you miss it, I should have it posted to my website in the upcoming weeks. Also, please visit [www.whitetalecoffee.com](http://www.whitetalecoffee.com) for information on their tasty coffee subscriptions. Hope to see you there!



## Second Law Paperback Now Available

The second anthology from [Speculative Fiction Writers](#), an online critique group associated with [Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers](#), *Second Law* focuses on the lesser known edicts that affect society every bit as much as the main ones.

From robot labor laws and corporate espionage, to gods and immortals asking “What is just?,” to aliens and faeries trying to understand the motivations of humans. The book includes my story *The Beacon* about space pirates who forget a basic tenet of frontier justice.

[Purchase \*Second Law\*](#)



### Climate Fiction Short Story Contest

A rising area of speculative fiction is climate fiction. Often with sprinklings of solarpunk, artificial intelligence, or utopian societies, climate fiction can help portray a vision of the future we'd like to see.

Grist, Inc. and the Fix Solutions lab is sponsoring their second annual climate fiction short story contest. I'll be submitting a piece for consideration, and the completed anthology should be available in the fall.

### Recent Blog Posts

- Not only does music soothe the savage beast, it helps provide the perfect writing environment. See which [music helps me write different genres](#).
- If you're interested in becoming a writer, my first piece of advice is to [start small](#). Hone your craft on short stories before tackling a great American novel.
- Keeping it periodically updated, check out my list of the [top ten speculative fiction books](#) I have read. Ever.

### Writing Excerpt - *Legacy*

Proot burst onto the bridge, slamming the hatch against the wall with a loud bang. “Are we there yet?” She looked from face to annoyed face, settling on that of Captain Tileen who slowly exhaled and shook her head.

“I don’t know why you are so eager to get to Earth.” The captain crinkled her noses as though she had eaten a Regalian slugworm. “Everything we’ve seen in their transmissions suggests they are a violent, untrusting, and divisive species. And the state of their planet is a disgrace.”

“But they strive for something better,” Proot countered. “An ideal. That’s why we decided to make contact. We can learn so much from them.”

Their planet had received earthly radio-wave transmissions for over a century, though the content hadn’t changed in decades. Fascinated with human behavior, Proot had focused her education on learning about Earth.

The captain rolled all four eyes. “We’ll see soon enough. We’ve passed the orbits of the planetary gas giants and should arrive soon.”

A klaxon sounded.

Proot, lead anthropologist for the mission, shuffled across the bridge, her four primary tentacles gracefully gripping handles protruding from the floor. She sidled up next to Tileen, leaning in cheek-to-cheek to better view the captain's monitor. "What is it?"

Tileen nudged Proot out of her personal space and pointed to a science station. "Multiple signals are scanning the ship. They've finally noticed our approach."

## A Writing Perspective

I asked a literary agent what type of writing makes the most money. She said 'ransom notes.' Ba-dum-bum.

Please check out my website at [www.matthewcushing.com](http://www.matthewcushing.com) for the latest and greatest information on my stories and novels, in-person events, my reading list, and blog posts on any and all topics concerning science fiction, fantasy, horror, or the supernatural.

Follow me on Twitter at [@mhcushing](https://twitter.com/mhcushing). Comments and retweets are always welcome! And if you know someone who loves speculative fiction, please forward them a copy of this newsletter and encourage them to sign up!

Klaatu Barada Nikto, Live Long and Prosper, and Nanoo Nanoo!

**Matthew Cushing**

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