

Tensor Flow 2.2 Contest Entry Born to Storms

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TensorFlowEntryymmddyy.docx

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/xBju0PASarQ>
Project Web site: <http://bigmoondig.com/Stories/BMDStories.html>

200 Characters:

To build a sustainable society for Earth we need stories for future generations featuring believable characters in plausible situations.

Entry Text:

Born to Storms, A climate fiction novel for young adults

Professor Joseph Campbell taught us that the key ideas of a society are passed from generation to generation by stories. We need to pass the new ideas for a sustainable society for Earth to future generations in this way.

AI:

One key concept that must be included is the relationships between humans and Artificial Intelligences (AIs). Currently the most common relationship is Master/Slave. This arrangement is easy to program and works acceptably when the AI is a worker in a human society.

Master/Slave however has a major failure mode: who is master and who is slave can flip. This flip has been the major plot point in numerous movies ("Terminator" etc.). Present society appears to have a deep seeded fear of this happening.

Our novel, *Born to Storms*, explores a second possibility. Here a human and an AI form a symbiotic pair. This concept is defined in the novel's logline (a one-sentence description):

Born to Storms Logline:

Set in the 2020s, a young woman, supported by an Artificial Intelligence, driven from her home by storms and rising seas embarks on a life affirming struggle to find and support so many people in action on our climate crisis.

Please note that the protagonists are an Afro-American teenager and an AI without a specific body but presented as an image in any monitor. The AI, JanetA, commonly appears as a sister to the young person, but often wears feathers.

Magic:

These days any story for young people must have some magic. For our story, we have relied on:

Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

*** Arthur C. Clarke

The two key technology elements of this magic in our story are (1) AI chip sets (Deep Learning) that enormously enlarging AI's capability, and (2) rechargeable batteries that are four times better than present technologies.

Our Climate Crisis:

The plot of this book is about our two protagonists meeting, working with, and collecting the stories of people working to address the problems of our climate crisis.

Most of the literature currently on the market are dystopias that are of not use at all to our young people.

Design Practice:

Good design work requires both work at the bottom and work at the top.

Here the work at the bottom is about understanding the possible relationships between the next generation AI and people (symbiosis vs. Master/Slave).

Here the top-level design work is about how this could affect society as a whole. The necessarily for society to address our climate crisis being the key effort discussed.

We feel that any major project requires work at both the top and bottom until the efforts meet. At this moment in the development process, it is necessary to define both design efforts in words before we will be ready to code. Our novel does propose a major game be coded but a design in words is first needed.

Hero's Journey:

The story of *Born to Storms* is of the type defined Joseph Campbell is a hero's journey. The best-known stories of this type are the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, but *Star Wars* is also written specifically to be a hero's journey.

The difference here is that the plots of these classics were very much for their society. What we are attempting to do is write just such a story for a Sustainable Earth, for our new society

Supporting Files:

The following files support of our entry:

1. **YouTube Video** -- This is a short introduction to our project.
(<https://youtu.be/xBju0PASarQ>)
2. **Short Story** – SouthernIce043020.pdf This short story, “Southern Ice”, is a postscript to our novel and highlights two AI characters, one a Symbiont, one a Slave. A review copy of this story is available free on request:
TomRiley@bigmoondig.com.

Schedule:

Born to Storms was stated in December 2019 and is currently in a rough draft (53,000 words) that is being proofed. We expect to be able to submit it to publishers in July 2020.

Enjoy,

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Whole Story Entry Box:

Inspiration

I am a technical designer and worked for NASA for 30 years designing scientific instruments for studying Earth. I favor a design approach that jumps back and forth from the bottom (what technology can now do) and the top (the big picture). Often I have found it very hard to define the highest level of the top of a design. So it is with our climate crisis.

One way to do this is to study the life’s work of a beloved professor, in this case Joseph Campbell, and apply that work to the new problem. Here we are applying “Hero’s Journey” to providing our young people with a foundation for action.

Since we needed some punch, we followed Arthur C. Clark’s advice and added an Artificial Intelligence as a main character, JanetA.

What it does

The values of a civilization are transmitted through the generations by stories. We are working on stories for a sustainable Earth.

How I built it

This effort is build out of words in Microsoft Word.

Challenges I ran into

Most of the available Climate Fiction is pure dystopia and senseless violence. It worse than useless for our young people.

Accomplishments that I'm proud of

This is my second proper book.

What I learned

What you know how to do is not always what is needed. Learn something new.

What's next for Born to Storms

We have a draft of 53,000 words. We are currently in a month long proof period.

This is a rare learning element in the very top level of design and in communication on technology.