METAMORPHOSIS
How do characters change during writing?
Elizabeth Bear (moderator), Steven Brust, Marissa Lingen, and Seanan McGuire

- Usually a given
- Most thrillers feature a reset back to status quo
- most sci fi and fantasy reject this to keep change and move forward

- Check for pge 2 flashback - disrupts flow by hooking on first page and then back to 3 days ago.
- Building the world and creating the world is the same as revealing the world, details through action and story that show characteristics of the world

- Readers have to engage with characters
- Use conflict, have character want something or forced into something
- Change in wants, evolution from what they want originally, maybe change to new want or else need
- Story starts at corner of want and need and can't

- If the only character changing is the protagonist... doing it wrong

- Bechdel test, Mako Mori test - misuse of simple test re females in media, guidelines not rules
- Agency is the ability to make choices, have wants, pursue them
- Fridging of female character - Green Arrow, end up dead to motivate hero, only purpose in life, female takes no part in her own death - Gwen Stacy vs Jean Grey
    - don't go there because we want you to have careers are writers - Elizabeth Bear
- Cliches are your friends because you know where the reader's head is going and can screw with it - Steven Brust
- Bring something in that's new as well as the cliches and regurgitated tropes

- 3rd artist problem - 1st artist is original source, 2nd artist is a reaction to it, 3rd artist just does it again

- Write what you like so you can connect with the right audience or it will lack passion and sincerity
- Write because something pissed you off, because you love something
- Start with wish fulfillment and then look at consequences

- It has been 1100 for the past thousand years, all of this magic and no one has progressed, wtf, bad fantasy or bad writing?
- Is it deliberate or laziness?
- Never say science doesn't work because that's saying indisputable laws don't exist

- - science doesn't care if you believe in it.
    - Play with levels of science and tech - justify why some exists and not others. Do research.
  - Let characters be wrong
  - Reality is unreal, there are people with skills outside the baseline, reality doesn't have to follow rules but fiction does
  - Art and presentation vs reality
  - Tiffany Problem - Tiffany actually is a medieval name but it throws the reader out of your story, you have to pick your battles
    - ex popular names and variations of the same base names not accepted by readers as too confusing, ex Matt 1 and Matt 2, Two Stacys
  - Why go to the duplicate trouble? In fiction, it needs a reason and justification
  - YA is often a closed environment where you know everyone you look at

How does style change over time?

- Learn to trust your readers, trust yourself
- Telling too much, telling too little
- Style and voice
  - style is the thing you can't leave out or help doing
  - Gain more control over style, learn to go back and touch up

- Dialect, organization of words to hint at background
- Respectful to the group, regionalism done right
- Construct language based on the culture, world - building profanity against the culture's dislikes, frog aliens who eat their babies have no swears based on reproduction, metaphors based on the culture, how they views the world
- Using swears as punctuation and with purpose, used as unconscious control ie not swearing in front of a lady is more keeping woman in place and not consideration
- Now that swearing is more common, it could be more impactful to leave it out, more nuanced
- Tell a lot about character by the words they use