Calendar

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Jan 2021-4

Science Fiction | Fantasy | Romance

**Gail Daley**

Women In Fiction

‘Everyone’ says that until the 1970’s women appearing in Science Fiction books were either sex objects, damsels in distress, or sometimes a villainess. ‘Everyone’ also claims that women who wrote Sci-Fi wrote under men’s names in order to get published. This is certainly true of Grandmaster Alice Mary Norton (Andre Norton).

Is this true? Well, sort of. Women in Classic Science Fiction books (and I include comic books and graphic novels in this) usually were not portrayed as physically or mentally formidable. (For instance, ALL the mad scientists I’ve read about from the pulp era were men). What we need to remember: Classic Science fiction was written just after WWII. Women had only been considered legal entities since 1922 when married women were able to inherit property control it. We’ve come a long way baby!

If you are interested in reading more on this subject, I can recommend: <https://www.theguardian.com/money/us-money-blog/2014/aug/11/women-rights-money-timeline-history>

And

<https://www.wired.com/2019/02/geeks-guide-history-women-sci-fi/>

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