

Plans for the Future

We will eventually move back to Washtenaw County, or at least a lot closer to it. The housing market in Washtenaw county is problematic (warning: PDF link). We own a home (well, at least a mortgage) in Saginaw. It is not clear if we might be able to get any money back out of the house at all. The home market in Saginaw does not seem to have improved since 2010. The differential in housing prices is pretty dramatic, so even if we could get our down payment back, it would probably not suffice for a down payment on a home (even a much smaller home) in Washtenaw County. We need to be open to possible creative solutions. Meanwhile, I'll be commuting again this week while we try to figure this out.

The Long Ships by Frans Gunnar Bengtsson

So I have not gotten a lot of reading done. I did chip away a little bit at *The Long Ships* by Frans Gunnar Bengtsson. It's a funny, imaginative pseudo-historical tale about Vikings. I don't have a lot to say about it yet.

Slow Bullets by Alastair Reynolds

I also had a line-jumper; I found, at Nicola's Books, a copy of Alastair Reynolds' new novella *Slow Bullets* <https://tachyonpublications.com/product/slow-bullets/>. At about 40,000 words, it's a quick read. I enjoyed this dark but hopeful story, but I admit the setup is slightly hackneyed (the passengers in hibernation wake up only to discover their journey has lasted far longer than they ever expected). It has some of Reynolds' signature Revelation Space body-horror: <http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/BodyHorror> moments, so if you're not used to that, you might not like this work. The print edition is marred by a couple of glaring typos. If you are already a Reynolds fan, you will have to read this one. If you aren't, you might want to start with one of his story collections. I particularly recommend *Zima Blue and Other Stories*.

Saginaw, Michigan
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