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Stephan Martiniere who has done another remarkable cover – I am grateful to them all. I am also grateful to each and every one of the book's contributors who have been far kinder and more patient than I had any right to hope.

Finally, as always, I would like to thank my wife Marianne and my daughters Jessica and Sophie, who allow me to steal time from them to do books like this one. It's a gift I try to repay every day.

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Introduction: Beyond the Gernsback Continuum...

Jonathan Strahan

I was in a bar. I think it was in Calgary in Canada. And it was the middle of winter. Or it might have been the bar in Denver in the United States, a little earlier in the same winter. Wherever it was, it was the winter of 2008 somewhere in North America and George Mann and the Solaris team had asked me to join them for a drink. I don't drink often and I don't drink heavily, but I do drink at science fiction conventions, especially when a publisher has invited me to join him. It seemed that Solaris would like me to edit an anthology for them, a hard science fiction anthology or something similar, the book that has become the one