

### ***The Green Glass Sea: History stranger than (science) fiction***

Ellen Klages's *The Green Glass Sea* (2006) tells of 11-year-old Dewey Kerrigan whose father is assigned to work on developing the atomic bomb in Los Alamos, New Mexico, during the second half of World War II. The book earned the 2007 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction for its depiction of the community of people—adults and children—who lived at Los Alamos during the mid-1940s. But little attention has been paid to aspects of the book that suggest it also is a work of science fiction. This oversight may be because readers who live on the future side of Dewey Kerrigan's present don't see the science underlying the book's plot as speculative but instead see it as part of a dated and historic past.

Before *TGGS*, Klages was known primarily for her science fiction work. In her April 2007 O'Dell acceptance speech, for instance, Klages said, "Up until last October" – meaning October 2006 when the book was published, but not when the book was written – "I was primarily a science fiction writer." Klages also said her perspective as a science fiction writer helped her view all historical fiction as a sort of "time machine" taking readers into past times and places. But Klages's work does more than give readers insight into a slice of history. This paper examines *TGGS* as a work in which the reader enters a time warp where past, present, and future mingle, creating an historic science fiction that is unsettling in its foreshadowing of present-day realities and of future uncertainties.