



BIOGRAPHY

MARYELIZABETH HART, co-owner/publicity and events manager

Books have played a catalytic role in some of Maryelizabeth Hart's most important relationships, whether the titles were found as a child on family library trips or at Comic-Con International with a bookseller – one she married during the event two years after they met.

So it only makes sense that Hart, co-owner and publicity and events manager for Mysterious Galaxy, would fashion herself a career that helps match hungry readers with the books that fit them best.

"I have always been a reader," she says. "I have no memory of *not* reading. And I was fortunate enough to discover in my late teens that I not only had a passion for books, but also a pretty good retention of plots, titles, and authors – and an ability to share my enthusiasm for the works and writers I liked with others."

Hart's early job in an independent children's bookstore helped hone those skills, as did several years managing B. Dalton locations in Southern California. It was at a B. Dalton branch in San Diego that Hart met customer and fellow "bookworm" Terry Louchheim Gilman, with whom she and husband Jeff Mariotte founded Mysterious Galaxy in May 1993.

She and Mariotte moved from San Diego to southeastern Arizona in 2004, but Hart still spends her days organizing Mysterious Galaxy's in-store and off-site special events; managing the store's print newsletter, website content, and Facebook page; handling trade and consumer publicity; and representing Mysterious Galaxy at book festivals across the West. She is a frequent moderator and contributor on panels at Comic-Con International, the Tucson Festival of Books, and other regional conferences.

Hart, who also reviews books for *Publishers Weekly*, has co-authored two pop-culture television series companions with Mariotte and Nancy Holder: *Buffy the Vampire Slayer: The Watcher's Guide, Volume 2* and *Angel: The Casefiles, Volume 1*. She contributed to *Coffee at Luke's*, a collection of essays

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about characters in the television show “Gilmore Girls,” and co-authored several entries in the academic reference work, *Women in Science Fiction and Fantasy*, with her sister, Alexis Hart.

She also edited *San Diego Noir*, a crime fiction anthology that will be published by Akashic Books in June 2011, and served as an officer on the board of her local Friends of the Library.

It is a busy schedule, but the daily rewards of her work make a full calendar worth it. “I spend my workday involved with other people who are engaged, enthused, and passionate about the same books I am,” she says.

Her non-working hours, when not spent reading or watching movies, are enjoyed with her family, including Mariotte and children Holly and David, on their Flying M Ranch in the desert scrub area of rural Arizona. Their three dogs – and plenty of native wildlife – keep them company there.

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