

The Plot Thins

mysterious
galaxy

BOOKS OF MARTIANS, MURDER, MAGIC, MAYHEM & MORE

FROM YOUR PARTNERS IN CRIME AND IMAGINATION

Buzz Books

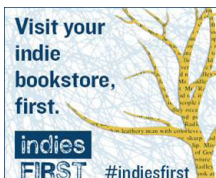
December 2015 • mystgalaxy.com

Events

Small Business Saturday Indies First Day 2015

Saturday, November 28, all day

The Indies First program is a year-round campaign in support of independent bookstores. For 2015, author Cheryl Strayed led the call to authors to support their local indies by spending part of their day working in a store as a bookseller. Mysterious Galaxy's featured author booksellers this year are Kathy Aarons, Lisa Brackmann, Vernor Vinge, Greg Van Eekhout, Leah Thomas, Kat Rocha, Livia Blackburne, and Matt Coyle. Find out what these great authors are reading, writing and recommending!

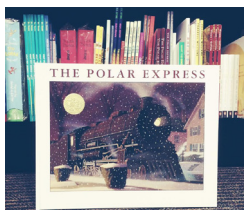


To reward readers shopping on Indies First Day/ Small Business Saturday, Mysterious Galaxy will issue a \$5.00 coupon for every purchase over \$5.00. The coupon may be used from November 29, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

Indies First Day also marks the first day of distribution of our traditional Mysterious Galaxy New Year's Day Sale coupons with every in-store purchase. Earn your coupon through December 31 with any purchase.

Take Your Child to a Bookstore Day Saturday, December 5, 12:00 PM

The first Saturday in December is the sixth annual Take Your Child to a Bookstore Day. Bring your little ones in to experience the magic of bookstores! We'll be celebrating with a special holiday story-time, stickers, activities, and a raffle to win prizes, including this beautiful oversized edition of Chris Van Allsburg's classic tale of Christmas magic, *The Polar Express*!



Eat! Read! Party! In San Diego! Saturday, December 5, 3:00 PM

Our yearly tradition continues with the MG Holiday Party! Starting at 3:00 PM, come mingle with authors whose works meet a variety of genre and gift-giving needs, for readers of picture books to complex prose. Staff will be on-hand to make recommendations of books and creative gift items.



Authors include Steve Zmina (*Don't Let the Dead Bugs Bite*); Tania del Rio and Wilhelm Staehle (*Warren the 13th and the All-Seeing Eye*); Cindy Pon (*Serpentine*); Selina Jones (*Doomsday Strikes Again*); Marie Andreas (*The Obsidian Chimera*); Sue Ann Jaffarian (*A Body to Spare*); S.W. Lauden (*Bad Citizen Corporation*); and Kathy Aarons (*Truffled to Death*).

The Writers Coffeehouse

With Jonathan Maberry
Sunday, December 6, 3:00 PM

Are you an aspiring author or lover of all things writing? Join *New York Times* bestselling author Jonathan Maberry for November's Writers' Coffeehouse on Sunday, November 1st, from 12-3PM. The Writers' Coffeehouse is open to all and meets the first Sunday of every month. Participants talk about their own work, about the craft of writing, about trends in the publishing industry – no agenda, just coffee and writers. Join the free online message board, and we hope to see you there!

Adam Korenman

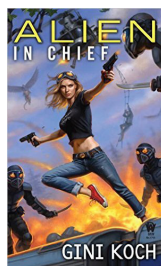
Launch Party for *When the Stars Fade*
Friday, December 11, 7:30 PM

Local author Adam Korenman is an officer with the United States Army, an avid Netflix viewer, and a collector of strange looks. A contributor to the *Occupied Earth* first contact anthology, Adam first wrote *The Gray Wars* in High School, but returned to it after a ten-year hiatus to make it a full-length novel. In its current incarnation, Adam's original trilogy has been split, and now the series will run to six books. The first two, *When the Stars Fade* and *When the Skies Fall*, will cover events from the ebook release, but with all new content and expansion of scenes. Join us as we celebrate the launch of *When the Stars Fade*.

Gini Koch

Signs *Alien in Chief*
Saturday, December 12, 2:00 PM

Hail to the Chief! Gini Koch, who braved the fates and was the first author hosted for a signing at Mysterious Galaxy's Balboa location in December 2014, mere hours after we opened the doors to readers, returns with fun, cake, Poofs, and prizes, to discuss the 12th entry in her Kitty Katt-Martini Alien series, *Alien in Chief* – and maybe offer hints of *Camp Alien*. Mastermind vs. Kitty & Company. Place Your Bets. It's not another Operation As Usual. This time, the Mastermind's made it very personal and either he's going down...or Kitty is.



Celebrate Community

Local Author Meet & Greet
Sunday, December 13, 3:00 PM

Mysterious Galaxy brings you the local talent of more than a dozen authors — in our genres and beyond — who are enthused to share their work. We will mingle, hear about each author's work with some holiday refreshments to top off the afternoon. There will be a variety of genres and subjects ranging from pixies to ghosts, from memoirs to mystery, and from pictures books to novels to non-fiction. These fun gatherings are a great opportunity to meet new people and support our local authors. You might just be the first to support a future best-selling author of our time! Participants so far include: Dennis Greenhill, Lauri Taylor, Fraser C. Heston, Heather J. McAdams, Cindy

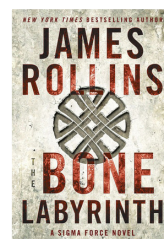
C. Murray, William Anthony, Marcia Berneger, David J. Schmidt, Janet Elizabeth Lynn, Will Zeilinger, Dick Holt, Jill G. Hall, Leslie Johansen Nack, Elizabeth Comer, and Lynn Lipinski.

The event will also feature local publisher Richard Hansen, and his Poems For All project. Richard started the Poems for All project in 2001, creating miniature books of poetry and distributing them for free. He has produced more than 1,000 titles and has made tens of thousands of copies. He incorporates the work of both amateur and professional writers, and designs the covers himself.

James Rollins

Signs *The Bone Labyrinth*:
A Sigma Force Novel
Wednesday, December 16, 7:30 PM

Whet your appetite for *The Bone Labyrinth* with bestselling author James Rollins's eBook short story "The Midnight Watch." As explosive events at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History lead to the latest Sigma Force uber-adventure. James is the author of ten thrillers in the bestselling Sigma Force series; six individual adventure thrillers; two middle grade adventures in the Jake Ransom series; co-authored work with Grant Blackwood in two bestselling Tucker Wayne series adventures; and co-authored work with Rebecca Cantrell in the bestselling Sanguines series.



Movie Time in the Galaxy

Viewing: "ORiGiN: Beyond the Impact"
Saturday, December 19, 2:00 PM

Producer Jeff Patton and some of the cast of speculative fiction web series "ORiGiN: Beyond the Impact" will screen the movie and host a Q&A with viewers. In 1962, a large object breaches the Earth's atmosphere and impacts a remote mountain range in Death Valley, CA. A half-century later, the web series "Beyond The impact" tells the story of Crowe Corporation's secret, multi-national plan to harness the mysteries found at the impact site, and the lives of the individuals most deeply affected.

When a Senior Crowe scientist with direct ties to the impact site goes missing, a rookie FBI agent is teamed up with an experienced Russian operative in the race to find him. The two investigators encounter a young woman whose love for a lost one helps uncover perhaps the greatest secret of the 20th century.

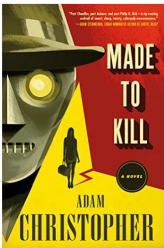
Looking into 2016!

January 1; Adam Lewis Schroeder – January 2; The Writers Coffeehouse – January 3; Elizabeth Heiter – January 8; Amber Benson – January 9; Ryan Britt – January 11; Seventh Street Mystery event – January 14; Thomas Perry – January 16; Val McDermid – January 19; Ryan Dalton – January 23; Ian Rankin – January 28; Charlie Jane Anders – January 29; A.R. Baumann – January 30; Corey Lynn Fayman – January 30; Kali Wallace – January 30; and Gigi Pandian – January 31 ... with much more to come in our 23rd year!



FROM OUR STAFF

SF
Made to Kill by Adam Christopher



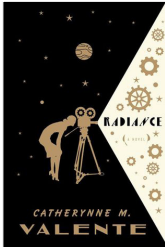
Made to Kill is a hard-boiled, pulp SF thriller with Ray Electromatic, the last sentient robot, cast as an analog Philip Marlowe, who solves cases by day and turns hitman at night, when his memory tape gets switched by his boss, a chain-smoking supercomputer named Ada.

Rip off your E-ticket and take this thrill ride, filled with black comedy, sultry femmes fatales, Soviet spies, and secret weapons of mind control. At stake is nothing less than the American Dream, cast in false light upon a silver screen. I loved the way Christopher took the retro SF tropes and filtered them through the lens of Raymond Chandler, parodying Chandler’s language and gritty noir style while capturing its essence in his weird comic love note. The odd choice of setting the book in alt-’65, despite the fact that everything but the date screams 1940s, makes cold war fears and McCarthyism’s chilling effect on Hollywood the real boogeymen of the story. As Ray hurtles down the Boulevard of Broken Dreams, the grit and glitter blow back from existential themes of moral culpability and identity, making this pulp fiction a worthy read. – Rob

What I found most interesting was a comment from Adam Christopher. When asked what lost manuscript he would most like to find, his response was “Raymond Chandler’s long-lost, and quite nonexistent science fiction novel.” Despite Chandler’s documented disdain for the genre, Christopher’s quest to write such a book made reading the novel even more interesting to me. – Linda
Tor, \$24.99. Our November Speculative Fiction Fantastic Firsts Pick.

Radiance by Catherynne Valente

Radiance is not your run of the mill SF. The story is set in an alternate history that spans across the early to mid-1900s, when space travel is possible and every planet in our solar system is habitable. Unlike many SF epics, Radiance is highly character-driven. The story revolves around Severin Unck, the daughter of a famous film director. Severin grows up under the Hollywood spotlight and eventually starts directing her own movies. While filming her latest documentary on the planet Venus, Severin goes missing. What follows is an intriguing search for one woman across an entire solar system. Radiance is beautifully written, with a poetic style that I have come to expect from the author. I really liked the novel’s intricate use of Hollywood gossip magazines, film scripts, and recorded conversations as a means to piecing together the puzzle of Severin’s story. Radiance is a truly unique novel. – Jared
Tor Book, \$24.99.



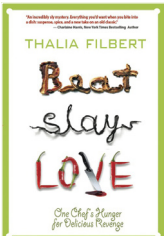
Mystery & Suspense
What She Knew by Gilly Macmillan

There have been numerous psychological thrillers that center around a missing child and the devastating toll it takes on the family. Therefore, it takes a lot for me to pay attention to a debut that utilizes this exact concept, but with Gilly Macmillan’s book, I was hooked from the start. There are expected plot devices, like the strained family dynamics and vicious social media attacks, but it’s done with such skill and confidence that I



was completely sucked in. The story jumps between two POVs: Rachel, the distraught mother who loses her eight-year-old child, Ben, in the woods, and DI Jim Clemo, the primary investigator who shoulders the blame for the case’s misguided efforts. Both storylines are equally gripping and expertly-plotted. This is a suspenseful debut that fans of Linwood Barclay and Paula Hawkins will love. – Sarah
William Morrow trade paper original, \$15.99.

Beat, Slay, Love by “Thalia Gilbert”



You’ll never watch the Food Network shows the same way after reading Beat, Slay, Love, as the members of the Thalia Press Author Co-Op (Lise McClendon, Katy Munger, Kate Flora, Gary Phillips, and Taffy Cannon) mix together a heady mixture of reality television, misbehaving foodies, murder most-creatively-foul, and determined sleuths. Some of my favorite scenes took place in a fictional La Jolla eatery, but I might be just a bit biased. Delicious over-the-top fun! – Maryelizabeth
Thalia Press trade paper original, \$14.99

New Year, Great Savings!
Special Sales Day
Friday, January 1, 2016!
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Remember to make an in-store purchase any time in December to receive a coupon for our special sale on New Year’s Day from 10:00am to 2:00pm.



With the holidays upon us, we want to thank you for the loyalty and support you have shown Mysterious Galaxy for over 22 years.

We wish you and yours a happy, peaceful holiday season.

Loyalty Loot
Distribution Begins
Saturday, December 5
at 3:00 PM



Mysterious Galaxy is continuing the tradition of giving back a portion of your purchases at our store. For every \$100 spent this year at Mysterious Galaxy, customers will receive \$10 in Loyalty Loot.
Come by the store any time beginning December 5 and collect your spendable bucks ... just in time for the holiday season!

A Fantastic First Book Club Subscription
Makes a Fantastic Gift!

Our Fantastic Firsts Book Clubs help you be the first to know about the next fabulous author/book in your favorite genre. MG has a proven track record of picking the next award-winning, collectable book in Speculative Fiction, Mystery & Suspense, Women’s Literary Fiction, Cozy Mysteries, Young Adult, and more! Every month we will send a debut novel or first book in a new series for the genre of your choice, with great savings. This is the perfect gift for the avid reader in your life, and a way to keep on giving the gift of great fiction all year long! Contact us for more information on pricing and delivery.

More Help for the Holidays!

We look forward to making book recommendations to fit your holiday list. Please don’t hesitate to ask us.

And for almost everyone on your list, we think Mysterious Galaxy gift certificates make a great gift! (Available in any denomination with no expiration date!)



Two locations in Southern California

San Diego
5943 Balboa Ave., Suite 100
San Diego, California 92111
858-268-4747

Redondo Beach Outside Events Office
2810 Artesia Blvd.
Redondo Beach, California 90278
310-542-6000