

The Plot Thins

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BOOKS OF MARTIANS, MURDER, MAGIC, MAYHEM & MORE

San Diego

February 2015 • mystgalaxy.com

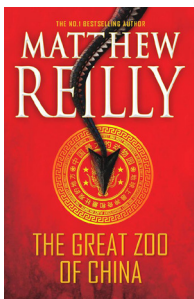
Events

Matthew Reilly

Signs *The Great Zoo of China*

Thursday, February 5, 7:30 PM

Australian thriller and young adult author Matthew Reilly has written more than a dozen novels, multiple titles of which have been best-selling novels in his home country. *The Great Zoo of China* is perfect for fans of Preston & Child, James Rollins, and Michael Crichton, providing action on a gigantic scale, as the Chinese government prepares to introduce their extraordinary discovery to the world ... with drastic results.



Local Author Meet & Greet

Saturday, February 7, 12:00 PM

Once again, we bring you the local talent of more than a dozen authors who are enthused to share their works with us. We will mingle for a bit, then hear a little about each author's work, and have some light refreshments to top off the afternoon. There will be a variety of choices ranging from young adult to graphic novels and mystery to fantasy. These fun gatherings are a great opportunity to meet new people and have a chance to support our local authors. You just might be the first to support a future best-selling author of our time! Participants at press time include: Better Hero Army, Sandra Levy Ceren, Susan Chan, Matt Coyle, Tameri Etherton, Selena Falk, Kevin Gerard, Nazli Ghassemi, F. James Greco, Sabina Griggs, Kent Hinckley, Michael Hudson, William Labarge, George LeBeau, Shirley Martin, James Raney, Kat Rocha, Luis Serrano, and Ariel Toto.

Patricia Bracewell

Signs *The Price of Blood*

Wednesday, February 11, 7:30 PM

In *Shadow on the Crown*, Patricia Bracewell introduced readers to Emma of Normandy, who was a queen in England and a power behind the throne for nearly four decades. In *The Price of Blood*, Bracewell returns to 1006 when England's beleaguered King Aethelred, still haunted by his brother's ghost, governs with an iron fist and a royal policy that embraces murder. As tensions escalate and enmities solidify, Emma forges alliances to protect her young son from ambitious men — even from the man she loves. In the north there is treachery brewing, and when Viking armies ravage England, loyalties are shattered and no one is safe from the sword.

Victoria Aveyard

Signs *Red Queen*

Friday, February 13, 7:30 PM

We're delighted to welcome this local author with the launch of her debut YA novel *Red Queen*. There's already a lot of buzz about this book which has been optioned to become a film, quite appropriate for this recent USC screenwriting graduate. Not only that, but *Red Queen* is an Indies Introduce: New Voices pick for Winter/Spring 2015. This dystopian fantasy has elements of *Hunger Games* and *Graceling* but is so much more. It's a world divided by the color of your blood; Silvers are the elites and Reds are the commoners who serve the superhuman Silvers. Teenage Mare is a Red but at a most inopportune moment in front of the Silver court, she unleashes a power that rivals any Silver. What unfolds is an epic tale of betrayal, dangerous love, and rebellion.

Southern California Writers Conference

Crowne Plaza Hanalei San Diego

Friday, February 13 – Monday, February 16

Writers in progress should join MG at the 29th Annual Southern California Writers' Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hanalei in Mission Valley from Friday, February 13 to Monday, February 16. Instructors at this year's intensive workshop convention include (subject to change): **Kathy Aarons, David Putnam, T. Greenwood, Barrie Summy, Linda Thomas-Sundstrom**, and many more familiar names from the literary field.

SFWA Southern California Reading Series

Meets in the Mysterious Galaxy Redondo Beach Storefront

Sunday, February 15, 2:00 PM

The SFWA Southern California Reading Series are free quarterly events that allow the Science Fiction and Fantasy community a chance to gather, network, and enjoy readings from local and visiting authors. Each event features three authors who read from their latest work, followed by a question and answer session and a signing. Presenters at the

February 2015 event are playwright and author Robert Levy, whose debut novel is *The Glittering World*, a contemporary dark fairy tale; Carrie Patel, whose debut cross-genre SF mystery, *The Buried Life*, releases in March; and "Mystery Reader Three." Cookies will be served at the readings.

Tunnel Tour – YA event!

Susan Adrian, Maggie Hall, Stephanie Diaz, Shannon Messenger, and Kiersten White

Tuesday, February 17, 7:30 PM

Please join us for the San Diego stop of the Tunnel Tour, with Susan Adrian, author of *Tunnel Vision*; Stephanie Diaz, author of *Rebellion*; Shannon Messenger, author of *Everblaze*; Maggie Hall, author of *The Conspiracy of Us*; and Kiersten White, author of *Illusions of Fate*. *Publishers Weekly* described Susan's debut thriller as "a refreshing spin on the suspenseful spy novel with brisk scenes, adrenaline-fueled cliffhangers, and a sympathetic protagonist." Debut author Maggie's thriller is filled with forbidden love and code-breaking, masked balls and explosions, destiny, and dark secrets. Local author Stephanie's second novel of science fiction, romance and adventure, was praised for its "...non-stop action, appealing heroine, stirring romance, and shifting alliances and loyalties." The Keeper of the Lost Cities novels by Shannon are a middle grade fantasy adventure series; Shannon may offer a teaser about fall's fourth volume, *Neverseen*. And Kiersten's diverse body of work includes her Fall 2014 romantic fantasy, described as "Downton Abbey meets Cassandra Clare and Libba Bray."

San Diego Book Discussion

Discussing Simone St. James's *Silence for the Dead*

Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 PM

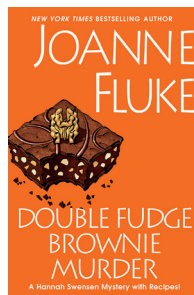
The San Diego Book Discussion Group is the perfect opportunity for readers to branch out and find new favorites. On February 18, join our discussion of *Silence for the Dead* and explore the haunted environs of Portis House in 1919 in this vivid, eerie and atmospheric novel. Attendees receive 20% off of the current book club selection.

Joanne Fluke

Signs *Double Fudge Brownie Murder*

Saturday, February 21, 1:00 PM

It couldn't be more appropriate that we have *New York Times* bestselling author, Joanne Fluke, launching her deliciously popular Hannah Swenson Mystery, *Double Fudge Brownie Murder*, in the month of February, which is National Chocolate Lovers Month. In this 18th title, Hannah is anxious about an upcoming trial where she must recount her involvement in a tragic accident. She wants to clear her name but when the judge is found bludgeoned to death and Hannah becomes the number one suspect, she realizes her troubles have just doubled. It's up to Hannah to find the killer which isn't an easy task with a victim who's had his share of enemies. There are plenty of delectable recipes in the latest book, including what else, one for double fudge brownies.



Henry, Josh, and Harrison Herz

Sign *Monster Goose Nursery Rhymes*

Sunday, February 22, 2:30 PM

Henry Herz writes fantasy and science fiction for children. Henry and his sons have also indie-published four children's books, including picture book *Nimpentoad*, which they co-authored, and *Beyond the Pale* a young adult anthology with short stories by award-winning and New York Times bestselling authors Peter S. Beagle, Heather Brewer, Jim Butcher, Rachel Caine, Kami Garcia, Nancy Holder, & Jane Yolen, which Henry edited. Their latest collaboration is *Monster Goose Nursery Rhymes*, a fresh look at mythical beasts.

Laurie R. King Speaking in Mission Viejo

Norman P. Murray Community Center, with Tea and Cookies!

Sunday, February 22, 3:00 PM

With nearly three million copies in print, *New York Times* bestselling author Laurie R. King's award-winning Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes series is one of the most successful detective series in history. Winner of the Edgar, the Nero, the Macavity and the John Creasey Awards, she's celebrated on both sides of the Atlantic, time and again. In King's highly anticipated new suspense mystery, *Dreaming Spies*, detectives Russell and Holmes navigate the exquisite



yet perilous royal hallways of a politically unstable Japan and are confronted with an old acquaintance in Oxford whose rare skills may surpass their own.

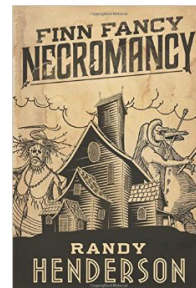
Dreaming Spies will be celebrated with tea and Japanese cookies at 2:45 PM. Laurie will begin speaking at 3:00 PM. Call to reserve your seat at 949 830-7100 extension 5105.

Randy Henderson

Signs *Finn Fancy Necromancy*

Wednesday, February 25, 7:30 PM

From debut author Randy Henderson's website, a brief description of *Finn Fancy Necromancy*, MG's February Fantastic Firsts Pick: "It is more humorous than dark, and is a contemporary fantasy for adults, but could easily be read as YA. The main character, Finn, was exiled at the age of 15 from our world into a kind of Fey limbo and is returning to his body now at age 40. He's dealing with the changes of Sudden Onset Adulthood, the fact that his plans to code BASIC games for the Commodore 64 are a bit outdated in a world where a phone has more computing power than the WOPR, and is still hoping to get together with his high school crush of course, so between that and the snarky tone, I think it will appeal equally to both YA and adult readers." Intrigued? Read Patrick's review on the reverse of this newsletter.

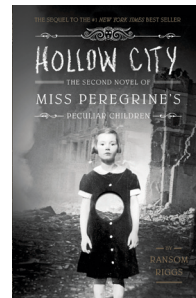


Ransom Riggs

Signs *Hollow City*

Friday, February 27, 7:30 PM

Writer and filmmaker Ransom Riggs returns to the Galaxy for the paperback release of *Hollow City*, sequel to the international best-selling novel of vintage photographs and prose. In 2015, Twentieth Century Fox and director Tim Burton will bring *Miss Peregrine* to the big screen. *Hollow City: The Second Novel of Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children*, contains a special Q&A with Ransom, never before seen photos, and an excerpt from the forthcoming third novel in the series.



Robert S. Levinson

Signs *The Evil Deeds We Do*

Saturday, February 28, 1:00 PM

Robert S. Levinson is the bestselling author of more than a dozen mystery novels and numerous short stories, including the Derringer Award winner *The Quick Brown Fox*. He's a Shamus Award nominee as well as *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine's* Readers Award choice three years in a row. In his latest stand-alone novel, *The Evil Deeds We Do*, we meet former music industry powerhouse Lainie Davis Gardner who, along with her teenage daughter, witnessed her mobster husband's murder. Now the assistant district attorney is convinced that she put the hit out on her husband. When her former mentor pressures her into hooking up with a ruthless businessman to uncover the truth, Lainie must stay one step ahead in order to protect not only herself but also her daughter.

Linda Thomas-Sundstrom

Parties and Signs *Wolf Born*

Saturday, February 28, 3:00 PM

Local author Linda Thomas-Sundstrom hosts a paranormal party to celebrate her latest supernatural romance, *Wolf Born*. Joining her party will be local authors Lisa Kessler (*Blood Moon*) and S.J. Harper (*Reckoning*). This award-winning author of both light and dark paranormal romance and urban fantasy has dozens of published works, most of which involve romance with a bit of bite, either vampiric or shape shifter. You can also see Linda at the Southern California Writers Conference in San Diego over Presidents' Day weekend.

Looking Ahead to March:

In San Diego: Patricia Briggs – March 5; Anne Bishop – March 5; Carrie Patel – March 7; Glen Erik Hamilton – March 8; Gail Carriger – March 17; J.A. Jance – March 18; "Girls Gone Sci-Fi" Event with Jessica Brody, Jessica Khoury, Melissa Landers, Claudia Gray and Debra Driza – March 20; Dennis Lehane – March 24; Ian Caldwell – March 26 ... and more as spring continues...

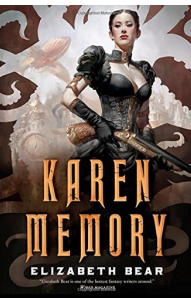
In Our Southern CA Community: ConDor 22: Geek Chic with Guest of Honor S.M. Stirling & Special Guests Drake & McTrowell – March 13 - 15; watch for more literary events in our web calendar and social media!



FROM OUR STAFF

Speculative Fiction

Karen Memory by Elizabeth Bear



Karen Memery (like memory, but not spelt the same) ain’t your average seamstress. Oh, she sews, sure, (and oh what a sewing machine it is!) but most of her nightly work involves men and is more horizontal-like. When her normal life gets set all asunder by nefarious happenstance, she bucks tradition and takes life by the reins ... and no bastard and his mind control machine, nor no murdering psychopath is gonna stop her from protecting hers. Life in Rapid City ain’t easy for a woman, especially one friends with a pants-wearing female liberator, a black marshal and his Indian (Comanche) posse man, and an Indian (from India) girlfriend.

Karen Memory (the novel) is quite a fun ride. A sort of Deadwood meets Jack the Ripper in a steam-powered gold rush old west era version of the Parasol Protectorate. And Karen Memery herself is a little piece of colorful awesomeness. – Patrick
Tor, \$25.99.

A Darker Shade of Magic by V.E. Schwab

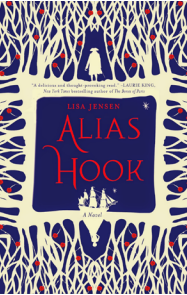
Schwab imagines four Londons, that differ by their distance from magic’s dark heart. Farthest away is Grey London, of our 18th-century. Next is Red London, where magic proliferates, followed by White London, where magic is power, and the strong prey upon the weak. Finally there is Black London, an unimaginable horror the other worlds have shut out for their own safety.

The story follows Kell, a magician who can travel between Londons. When he is tricked into smuggling a stone originally from Black London via White London into Red London, a terrifying cascade of events follows, as black magic begins to pour across worlds. Kell’s only help is Lila, a wonderfully brave and resourceful thief. Together, they must face down the dark magic that threatens to destroy everything.

Featuring appealing main characters, splendidly wicked villains, and a horrifying conception of magic, Schwab’s fantasy will shock you and thrill you. Highly recommended! – David
Tor, \$25.99.



Alias Hook by Lisa Jensen



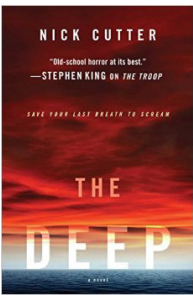
One of the most lush and lively retellings I’ve read in a long time. *Alias Hook* tells the story of Captain James Hookbridge, a man who sailed into Neverland one day destined to never leave—and never die. Trapped in Pan’s eternal game, Hook only wishes for escape. He seems hopelessly fated to forever stay in Neverland until one day he finds a woman aboard his ship, about whom Pan knows nothing. In a world where Pan’s will rules all, this woman just might be the key to Hook’s escape from Neverland.

Dark and dangerous faeries, magnificent but terrifying mermaids, and fresh characterization of Pan and Hook all make this an outstanding *Peter Pan* retelling. Jensen deftly weaves faerie with fairy tale, mortality with hope, children’s games and bitter reality, all the while moving elegantly between the present events of Neverland and Hook’s past. An interesting and thought-provoking novel from start to finish. – Kelly
Thomas Dunne Books \$24.99.

The Deep by Nick Cutter

What Ridley Scott did for outer space, Nick Cutter does for the ocean, in his iron lung of a horror novel, *The Deep*. A devastating plague is ravaging humanity, scarring its victims’ skin with ulcers like mold spots before eroding their minds like

Alzheimer’s disease. Eight miles down in the Marina trench, a research station built to harvest a “miracle cure” goes silent. A submersible rises to the surface, containing the partially regenerated body of a mutilated scientist. Luke Nelson takes the plunge to investigate what happened to the research team, which was headed by his brilliant, narcissistic brother. We descend with Luke into a permanent midnight of relentless claustrophobia, body horror and madness, hitting bottom in a monster maelstrom where regenerative medicine is the disease. Fans of hardcore horror—this grue is for you. (Warning: contains a few scenes of animal cruelty). – Robert
Gallery Books, \$26.00.



Finn Fancy Necromancy by Randy Henderson

Finn Gramaraye is a necromancer. And a Talker ... he can talk to the dead. But, as everyone knows, all magic comes with a price. And before he could really even figure it all out, he was tossed into fey jail by the Arcana Ruling Council for a crime he didn’t commit. Now, twenty-five years later, he’s out, in trouble up to his third eye, and on the hunt to clear his name. No easy task. How does one conquer the modern world when one’s knowledge comes from the 80s? He’s going to need help and lots of it. Only trouble here is that help comes from his motley family, and a former Arcane Enforcer who doesn’t believe he’s innocent. Take a Harry Potter-like *sub rosa* magic world, sprinkle in a bunch of Harry Dresden, a pinch of Sandman Slim ... and then add a dash of *Ready Player One*. A February Fantastic Firsts Pick. – Patrick
Tor, \$25.99.

Mystery & Suspense

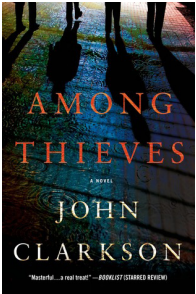
Cat Out of Hell by Lynne Truss

Do cats have nine lives, and what does that really mean? *Cat Out of Hell* pursues this idea in a most unique way. Part Sherlock Holmes investigation, part gothic tale, a bit of *Interview with a Vampire*, *Cat Out of Hell* is a wickedly funny, creepy, can’t put down tale (tail?). Our story begins at a seaside cottage in England with a cat and a man facing each other across a kitchen table. The cat says “Shall we begin?” This is the story of Roger, who has become immortal by the paw of Captain, killed repeatedly until he becomes the companion Captain has been craving. Captain, a big black tomcat, can be a bit jealous of others, man and beast, who enter the pairs’ lives. Mysterious deaths occur. Lots of mysterious deaths. A thriller for both cat lovers and cat haters. Not for those who hate to read of murders of animals (and people). Definitely for those who will enjoy a wickedly funny, sarcastic, scary story full of quirky characters, both human and beast. Two paws up (‘cause I’d fall over if I tried to hold up four). Mewow! – Linda
Melville House Publishing, \$24.95.



Among Thieves by John Clarkson

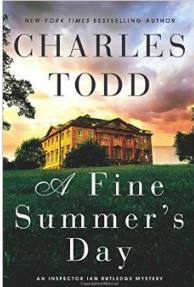
There are a bunch of very bad guys in and around New York City and the surrounding boroughs. “Our” bad guys met in prison serving time for a range of illegal activities which have prepared them to arm and protect themselves to ensure that they don’t return to a life behind bars. James Beck, Demarco Jones, Manny Guzman, and Ciro Baldassare live off the grid and on guard, as a close knit family in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Red Hook. Their relatively peaceful existence comes to a grinding halt when Manny’s niece calls in for protection after she is threatened and fired from her job in a securities firm. At first it seems like a simple matter getting justice for her, but quickly turns into



something quite different when a Russian arms dealer enters the picture. And then things get complicated and messy ... and worse. *Among Thieves* is for fans of Lee Child, *Ocean’s 11*, and books with lots of action, and not a little bloodshed. This is a great kickoff for what we hope will become a series, with smart plotting and characters we would like to know better. – Terry
A Fantastic Firsts Pick for February from Minotaur Books, \$25.99.

A Fine Summer’s Day by Charles Todd

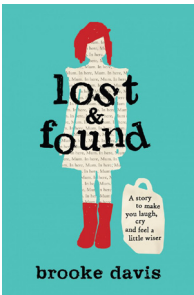
This is an Inspector Ian Rutledge mystery that will satisfy all who love a historical British whodunnit. On Sunday, June twenty-eighth of 1914, three events occur: Ian Rutledge asks Jean Gordon to marry him; Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, are assassinated in Sarajevo; and Henry Dobson buries his mother, deciding that revenge is the only answer to his sadness. These three events unwind and entwine to present a marvelous murder mystery. With the first episodes of World War I rumbling in the background, Rutledge is struggling to convince Scotland Yard that the deaths of three older gentlemen are related and a serial killer might be on the loose; however, his engagement is hampering him and his superiors at the Yard are not listening. Meanwhile, a killer, bent on finishing what he started, is roaming about systematically accomplishing his goal. The clock is ticking on all fronts of this interesting story. – Bunny
Harper Collins \$26.99



Curated Literature

Lost & Found by Brooke Davis

This is literally the story of life and death. Life following death. Death following life. It centers on seven-year-old Mille Bird who contemplates death ... a lot. The death of her dog, Rambo, is only the first entry in her “List of Dead Things.” Unfortunately, her father is also on her list, which results in a journey that begins with abandonment, turns into an adventure (of sorts), and introduces her to Karl the Touch Typist and Agatha Pantha, two elderly citizens in her town who have suffered losses of their own. As Millie tries to uncover the truth about death, she ultimately helps Karl and Agatha find more life in their lives. This promising debut has some life (and death) lessons for all of us. A Fantastic Firsts Pick in February. – Terry
Dutton, \$26.95.



Young Adult

Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

This YA debut (and Indies Introduce New Voices pick!) has everything I could possibly want in a dystopian fantasy: a rebellious heroine, a dangerous love triangle, and seemingly impossible odds. It all takes place in a world where the color of your blood determines your fate; the superhuman Silvers lord over the common Reds. 17-year-old Mare Barrows bleeds red. She’s a thief who, through a twist of fate, unleashes a power that shocks not only herself but an entire Silver court. Mare is forced to take on the identity of a long-lost Silver princess until the king and queen can figure out what to do with her. It’s a deadly game of double crossings as Mare finds herself caught between the Red rebellion and a Silver prince. Part love story and part revolutionary saga, this is the first in a trilogy with the sequel not coming out soon enough. – Sarah
A February Fantastic Firsts Pick from HarperTeen, \$17.99.



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