

The Plot Thins

FROM YOUR PARTNERS IN CRIME AND IMAGINATION

mysterious
galaxy

BOOKS OF MARTIANS, MURDER, MAGIC, MAYHEM & MORE

San Diego

January 2015 • mystgalaxy.com

Events

New Year's Day Sale

Thursday, January 1
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

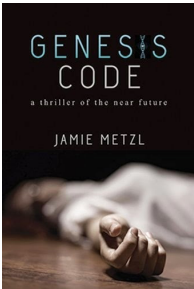
Our New Year's Day Sale takes place on Thursday, January 1, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Customers must make an in-store purchase during the month of December to receive a special coupon entitling them to some great discounts and bargains! On New Year's Day, start things off right by joining us at our new San Diego store for our store-wide sale! Coupons are required to participate and are honored for in-store sales only. (Offer excludes reserved books, gift certificates, and Kobo ebooks and e-readers.)

Jamie Metzel

Signs *Genesis Code*

Monday, January 5, 7:30 PM

Publishers Weekly's review of *Genesis Code* by Jamie Metzel notes: "Metzl, a former member of the U.S. National Security Council, offers up a tense vision of the near future with this science fiction thriller...Metzl enhances it with a philosophical protagonist, scientific plausibility, and a keen sense of mood." This futuristic thriller offers a frightening look at a new kind of superpower race—of humans. As women unknowingly impregnated with genetically enhanced embryos are murdered, Rich Azadian, a historically-burdened Armenian-American reporter for the *Kansas City Star*, begins the fight of his life, under growing danger, to try to figure out who is killing these women and why, and whether any others like them may still be alive.



Amie Kaufman and Meagan Spooner

Sign *This Shattered World*

Tuesday, January 6, 5:00 PM

Longtime friends and co-authors Amie Kaufman and Meagan Spooner return to their Starbound universe science fiction romance trilogy with *This Shattered World*. Corporate captain Jubilee "Lee" Chase has a personal as well as professional dedication to crushing the rebellious colonists of planet Avon before outright war breaks out again after a decade. Rebel Flynn Cormac, driven by the loss of his sister to the corporation's tactics, takes "Lee" prisoner, seeking vital information about a secret facility. When they question the war as a whole, they place themselves in conflict with former allies on both sides. With its fully developed worlds and complex characters, Amie and Meagan's series will appeal to young adult and adult SF readers.

Amber Benson

Launch Party for *The Witches of Echo Park*

Tuesday, January 6, 7:30 PM

Amber Benson launches her new contemporary fantasy tales of the bonds among women and a complex network of witches with *The Witches of Echo Park*. Elyse MacAllister inherits her great-aunt's Los Angeles estate, and her place in the local coven, part of an international community of magic-wielders whose efforts keep all of the world's inhabitants from harm. But powerful adversaries are on the attack, and if the witches lose their battle, the balance of the whole world may be the price.



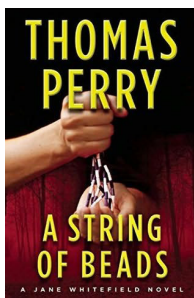
Jo Perry and Thomas Perry

Sign *Dead is Better* and *A String of Beads*

Friday, January 9, 7:30 PM

It's double the dead bodies as we welcome a crime fiction powerhouse couple! Jo Perry has a PhD in English and taught college literature and writing. She also produced and wrote episodic television for such shows as *Simon & Simon*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, and *21 Jump Street* with her husband and fellow mystery novelist, Thomas Perry. *Dead is Better* is Jo's debut mystery novel featuring Charlie Stone, a successful businessman, who discovers there is life after death, even for dogs. When he wakes up on the "other side" with a strange dog by his side and bullets in his chest, he vows to find out who killed him and why. His return to the world of the living is filled with unexpected twists, dark humor, and bittersweet charm.

Thomas Perry continues to be one of the most praised and critically acclaimed thriller writers today. He is the author of 22 novels including the popular Jane Whitefield series. He won the Edgar for *The Butcher's Boy* and the Barry for *The Informant*. Come meet the author whom *The Boston Globe* called "the best suspense writer in the business" as he discusses *A String of Beads*, the eighth title in the Jane Whitefield series, which fans have been eagerly anticipating. Jane has settled into a quiet life as a housewife in Amherst, NY until she learns a childhood friend is on the run and wanted for murder. She promises the clan mothers she'll track her friend down, but the chase intensifies when she learns the police aren't the only ones on the hunt.

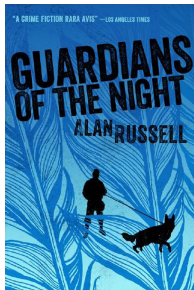


Alan Russell

Signs *Guardians of the Night*

Saturday, January 10, 2:00 PM

A former basketball player turned award-winning mystery author, this native Californian has written a wide range of crime fiction from comic capers to suspense. In his tenth novel, *Guardians of the Night*, we return to the LAPD Special Cases Unit which has Detective Michael Gideon and his K-9 partner Sirius investigating all things strange. However, their latest assignment may be their strangest case yet as a homeless man swears he witnessed the murder of an angel. Gideon and Sirius are already in the midst of trying to determine the identity of a "Reluctant Hero" who magically turned up at a shootout, tackled the shooter, and then disappeared. Things heat up when the homeless man turns up dead, and Gideon and Sirius must once again explore the thin line between the real and surreal.

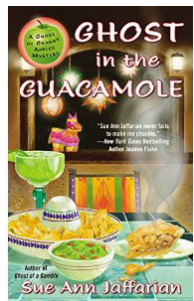


Sue Ann Jaffarian

Signs *Ghost in the Guacamole* and *Hell on Wheels*

Sunday, January 11, 2:00 PM

The incredibly talented and seemingly tireless Sue Ann Jaffarian will be visiting us to discuss not one, but two new mystery titles. Her fifth book in the Ghost of Granny Apples series, *Ghost in the Guacamole*, tells the story of two sisters who are feuding over the family business. It's up to Emma, a medium, and the Ghost of Granny Apples to save the family business as well as stop a killer from coming back for seconds. If the delightful paralegal Odelia Grey is more your style, then grab a copy of the ninth book in the series, *Hell on Wheels*. When Odelia and her husband, Greg, attend a quadriplegic rugby match, they unwittingly witness a murder on the court. Things get complicated when the prime suspect is a friend of theirs.



Pierce Brown

Signs *Golden Son*

Sunday, January 11, 4:00 PM

The Golds founded the Colors of Society, spreading their color-coded class hierarchy from the moon throughout the Solar System. Pierce Brown introduced readers to his universe with *Red Rising*, praised extensively by Patrick Heffernan, and deemed a "gripping tale of revenge and class warfare in a dystopian future" by Shelf Awareness. Darrow's quest to fulfil his deceased wife's dream of infiltration and dismantling the system continues in *Golden Son*. (See Patrick's review on the back of this newsletter.)

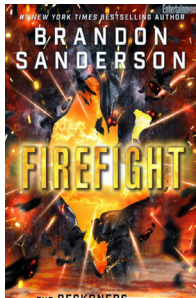


This is a numbered event – numbers for the signing line are free with the purchase of *Golden Son* from Mysterious Galaxy, available January 6.

Brandon Sanderson

Signs *Firefight*

Tuesday, January 20, 7:30 PM



Brandon Sanderson's *Steelheart*, the first book in the Reckoners series, hailed as "A straight-up Marvel Comics-style action drama." By *Kirkus Reviews*, was a #1 *New York Times* bestseller, joining his internationally bestselling books in the Stormlight Archive and the Mistborn series. Having vanquished *Steelheart's* titular villain, David seeks a new quest in



Babylon Restored, previously known as Manhattan. And check out "Mitsos: A Reckoner's Story," set in the time between *Steelheart* and *Firefight*.

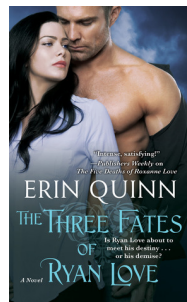
This is a numbered event – numbers for the signing line are free with the purchase of *Firefight* from Mysterious Galaxy, available January 6.

Erin Quinn and Gini Koch

Sign *The Three Fates of Ryan Love* and *Universal Alien*

Thursday, January 22, 7:30 PM

In advance of the 31st San Diego State University Writers' Conference, Arizona authors and instructors Erin Quinn and Gini Koch are visiting the Galaxy. Former San Diego resident Erin is a best-selling author of "dark paranormal romance for the thinking reader." *Publishers Weekly* hailed the first in the series, *The Five Deaths of Roxane Love*, as "intense and satisfying sex scenes... hope and pure animal attraction. Nicely resolved plot tangles and interesting characters bode well for future books." The future has arrived, with *The Three Fates of Ryan Love*, as he is perplexed by the mysterious oracle, Sabelle.



Gini's *Universal Alien* offers double the Kitty with double the fun... and mayhem, as alternate realities and alternate Kitties collide, with Kitty Katt-Martini suddenly existing in another world -- one where she's been married to Charles Reynolds for years and aliens don't exist.

Sharon Skinner and Robert Nelson

Sign *Mirabella & the Faded Phantom* and discuss

Tavara Tinker: Sounds of Time

Saturday, January 24, 2:00 PM

Mysterious Galaxy has supported multi-faceted Arizona author Sharon Skinner at a number of conventions over the past few years, but 2015 marks her first in-store event. Sharon's most recent novel is middle grade ghost story *Mirabella & the Faded Phantom*. Sharon's body of fiction also includes middle grade fantasy, epic fantasy, and poetry. Brick Cave publisher and co-author Robert Nelson joins Sharon to talk about indie press matters, and their steampunk ebook adventures, the latest of which is *Tavara Tinker: Sounds of Time*.

Mysterious Galaxy Writing Group

Featuring Guest Speaker Sharon Skinner

Monday, January 26, 7:00 PM

Award-winning author Sharon Skinner will discuss her authorial career and why "Plot isn't just a Four Letter Word" with members of the Mysterious Galaxy Writing Group. Sharon is a writer of middle grade fantasy and paranormal fiction, steampunk, epic fantasy, and poetry, as well as her time serving as the Executive Editor of *Anthology*, a small press literary magazine, and hosting Radiant Readings, an internet radio show featuring the works and lives of classic and contemporary authors.

Greg Van Eekhout

Launch Party for *Pacific Fire*

Tuesday, January 27, 7:30 PM

You're invited to Mysterious Galaxy's party for Southern CA native, San Diego author, and former Changing Hands bookseller Greg Van Eekhout, on the publication date for *Pacific Fire*, the sequel to *California Bones*, which introduced readers to the darkly fantastic Kingdom of Southern California and Daniel Blackland and golem Sam. (See Patrick's review on the back page.) And check out Greg's short electronic story, "As Far As You Can Go," which previously appeared in *Gardner Dozois' Year's Best Science Fiction 24th Annual Collection*. Greg will discuss writing, snacks, gardening, dogs, and osteomancy.



Looking Ahead

Into February 2015:

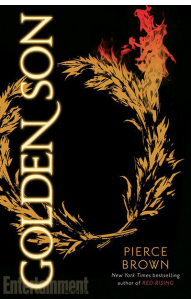
We welcome these authors into our new home in 2015:

Victoria Aveyard – February 13; Tunnel Tour authors Susan Adrian, Stephanie Diaz, Shannon Messenger and Kiersten White – February 17; Joanne Fluke Launch Party – February 21; Henry, Josh, and Harrison Herz – February 22; Ransom Riggs – February 25; Robert S. Levinson – February 28.



FROM OUR STAFF

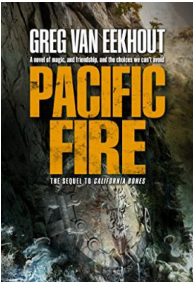
Speculative Fiction
Golden Son by Pierce Brown



Bloody-gory-damn hell! Where does one begin? As anyone I’ve talked to in the past year knows, I loved Red Rising. So how in the seven hells could Pierce possibly top it? I won’t go into great detail here lest I ruin your surprise, but he did it. Really. In short and spoiler-free, our Darrow continues his quest to make Eo’s dream a reality, and no one, not even himself, nor any Machiavellian/Arrakeen/Westerosi plot, will stop him. Golden Son starts with a bang. Then the action builds and builds and builds, never letting up, page after relentless page. Just when you think you might get a breather, Pierce kicks it up a notch. Glorious. Laugh, cry, cheer, then curse the author for making you wait for the inevitable resolution/revolution. I’m sorry I can’t put this book in your hands now, and I envy you reading it for the first time. Gorydamn brilliant. – Patrick Del Rey, \$25.00.

Pacific Fire by Greg van Eekhout

Ten years later. Ten years following the death of the Hierarch. Ten years after Daniel Blackland ate half of the Hierarch’s heart. Ten years after escaping with the Hierarch’s golem, a golem now known as Sam, and an osteomancer in his own right. He and Daniel have been on the run since then, never in one place long enough to be caught. Always on the lookout for those who would consume Sam for his power. But strange things are afoot in the Kingdom of Southern California and a quest is in the offing. Nothing will keep our young heroes from their appointed rounds. It seems that Daniel and Sam can no longer fight their destinies. Here there be dragon! I loved California Bones, the first in the series, and its sequel doesn’t disappoint. Yum! I can’t wait for number three. For fans of Jim Butcher, Ben Aaronovich, and Richard Kadrey. – Patrick Tor, \$24.99.



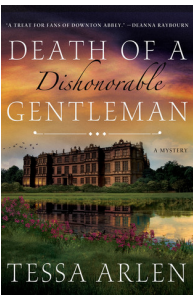
Unbreakable by W. C. Bauers



Comparisons to Starship Troopers are inevitable, so let’s get them out of the way. Yes, Unbreakable is quite similar to the Heinlein classic, less the bugs, but it is also so much more. Aside from the obvious gender swap, Promise Paen’s sensibilities are a bit deeper than those of Heinlein’s Johnny Rico, and her motivations are far more personal. After witnessing her father’s murder at the hands of raiders on the colony planet Montana, Promise joins the Republic of Aligned Words Marine Corp ... and swiftly becomes a serious bad-ass, and a leader of marines. When duty takes her to her home planet, Promise is hailed as a hero, but she is not one to rest on any laurels, especially when she’s outnumbered and outgunned and in more than considerable harm’s way ... and haunted by the ghost of her long-dead mother. Military science fiction at its best, with shades of Scalzi’s Old Man’s War and a dash of awesome tech ... and a significant amount of mayhem. – Patrick Tor, \$25.99.

Mystery & Suspense
Death of a Dishonorable Gentleman by Tessa Arlen

A little bit of history, a tad of Downtown Abbey, and a smattering of the childhood game “Clue” combine to make this debut novel an entertaining adventure for the traditional mystery lover. Arlen’s “it’s the butler, in the library, with the candlestick” style is just



plain fun. Set in England in 1912, the tale is of the privileged Montfort family, who at their annual summer costume ball find that their degenerate nephew has been murdered. Inspector Valentine has ordered all of the guests to remain at the estate as he interrogates them all. Lady Montfort, a bit ahead of her time in social etiquette, employs the help of her pragmatic housekeeper, Mrs. Jackson, to solve the murder when she feels the police inquiry is being driven off track and could point toward her cherished son. Arlen provides a lesson in the class struggles of the Edwardian era, an insight into the struggle for women’s suffrage, and a deliciously gruesome murder with unlikely suspects. – Bunny Minotaur Books, \$25.99.

Empty Rooms by Jeffrey J. Mariotte

The best suspense novels are often leavened with the writer’s sense of unease, a reflection of some of their darkest fears and imaginings. Jeffrey sets Empty Rooms in the bleakness of Detroit’s abandoned buildings and urban decay. The exterior landscape reflects the emotional psyches of the thriller’s antagonists, and even that of its troubled protagonists, as the latter seek to bring light to the case of a young woman reported missing years earlier. Michael Connelly and T. Jefferson Parker gave early praise to Jeffrey’s disturbing and evocative fictional exploration of topical concerns, touching on aging, the infrastructure, comics, and predators, and how we choose to respond. – Maryelizabeth WordFire Press trade paper original, \$16.99.

Curated Literature
The Magician’s Lie by Greer Macallister

The Magician’s Lie is a compelling old-fashioned story with a magical twist from debut author Greer Macallister. Told in two timelines set 13 years apart, the story draws readers into the lives of the most famous female illusionist of her day, The Amazing Arden, and Virgil Holt, a young policeman who is fighting for his livelihood after suffering the aftermath of being shot in the back. The story begins with Virgil attending the performance of the illusionist; shortly thereafter, Arden’s husband is found dead and Virgil encounters the performer just as he is leaving a neighborhood tavern. They proceed to his police station where through the course of one evening she tells him the story of her life, and he has to make a determination of her guilt or innocence. The Magician’s Lie is an intriguing, and engrossing journey beginning in 1892 New York that travels around turn of the century America at a hypnotic pace. – Terry Sourcebooks Landmark, \$23.99.



Y-factor
Jackaby by William Ritter

You will be charmed by this initial entry into the world of magic and mayhem in New Fiddleham, New England, 1892. Abigail Rook’s travels abroad looking for adventure, far from her beginnings in England, bring her to this bustling American town. She is penniless and looking for a job when she sees an advertisement for an investigative assistant to R. F. Jackaby. But Jackaby is not your typical detective. He is a “seer” who has the ability to see supernatural beings no one else can see. Abigail’s adventuresome spirit is intrigued, and she begins her job immediately despite much grumbling from her new boss. This leads directly to her first case involving murder, Jackaby’s not very conventional home/office, and some new friends who are magical in their own right. All of the characters are charming and the setting is just right for high adventure, magic, mayhem, and more ... for kids of all ages. – Terry Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, \$16.95.



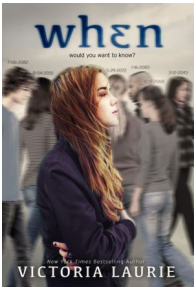
Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy by Karen Foxlee

When Ophelia, a girl who believes anything is possible “if you think scientifically,” stumbles upon a magical boy held

prisoner in a museum, she must find her courage and open her heart up to magic in order to help free him and defeat the evil Snow Queen. Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy is an enchanting reshaping of the classic fairy tale, “The Snow Queen” and though it’s aimed at a middle grade audience, it does not disappoint even the well-seasoned fairy tale reader. With mysterious, intelligent characters and a well-paced plot, Karen Foxlee does a fantastic job of telling her own story. A delightful read for winter. Ages 8+. – Kelly Knopf Books for Young Readers \$16.99.

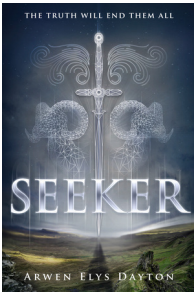
When by Victoria Laurie

Laurie’s first entry into the world of young adults brings her trademark psychic sensibilities to a contemporary high school setting featuring a young teen who tries to stay under the radar, but instead finds herself a target for more than just the local school bullies. Madelyn (Maddie) Fynn is the sixteen year-old daughter of an alcoholic mother, whose father was killed on the job, but those are _ not her biggest problems. It is her ability to perceive “death dates” printed on people’s foreheads that cause her no end of distress. When she reads the death date of a child in a picture a visiting client shows her, and the child in the picture turns up murdered, her problems begin in earnest. When the body count rises and Maddie herself is a possible suspect, her life becomes even more unbearable. Laurie’s breathless pacing will keep you glued to the pages as Maddie fights for her life and for who she is ... in the midst of a sea of relentless odds stacked against her. This is a protagonist that you will root for ... and feel for ... and fear for ... up until the very last page. And then you will miss reading her ... and hope that she will return. A Fantastic First pick for January 2015. – Terry Hyperion, \$17.99.



Seeker by Arwen Elys Dayton

This may be the first book I have ever read with universal appeal for everyone. It has elements that will attract any age group, both genders, and readers of all genres. Like romance? Two boys and a girl in a classic triangle. Like Steampunk? Ancient weaponry such as swords or daggers mixed with guns and disrupters. Horses versus flying fortresses. Like action? Battles? Epic fantasy? Time and space disruption? Quin, Shinobu, and John are teenagers trained in the art of combat. Trained to be Seekers, a legacy passed from generation to generation, they are scheduled to take their oaths. Then comes betrayal. Lies. Murder. The teens realize nothing they learned about their families and legacy is true. The real battle begins. Father against child. Family against family. Boyfriend against girlfriend. This book, the first in a trilogy, introduces readers to flawed characters who are frustrating, sympathetic, and likeable. I couldn’t put the novel down, can’t wait for the second volume, and recommend it to everyone. – Sandra Hale, guest reviewer Delacorte Press, Age 14 and up, February, 2015, \$21.99



The MG Staff

Wishes you
A Happy Healthy New Year
and
Many Great Reads in 2015



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