

# The Plot Thins

FROM YOUR PARTNERS IN CRIME AND IMAGINATION

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BOOKS OF MARTIANS, MURDER, MAGIC, MAYHEM & MORE

San Diego

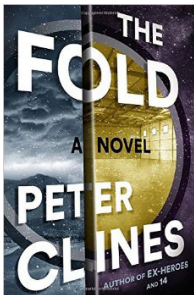
June 2015 • mystgalaxy.com

## Events

### Peter Clines

Launch Party for *The Fold*  
Tuesday, June 2, 7:30 PM

“Peter Clines grew up in the Stephen King fallout zone of Maine and—inspired by comic books, Star Wars, and Saturday morning cartoons—started writing at the age of eight with his first epic novel, *Lizard Men from the Center of the Earth*,” per his website bio. The *Publishers Weekly* review of *The Fold* notes: “Clines (the Ex-Heroes series) adds to the comfort-read shelves with this fun, character-driven techno-thriller. Clines lays the groundwork nicely as the tale evolves from a scientific mystery into a thriller with elements of horror and adventure.”



### W. Craig Reed

Signs *Cold War III*  
Thursday, June 4, 7:00 PM

*Cold War III* asks, “Why have our gas prices been so low? What is going on with the Petro-Dollar, and how might that impact our economy and the political scene? Why did Putin really invade the Ukraine and what is his plan? What do we Americans need to know about the basis of the real *Cold War III*?” Join *New York Times* bestselling author W. Craig Reed for a compelling discussion of facts sure to inspire techno-thrillers.

### Kathy Aarons

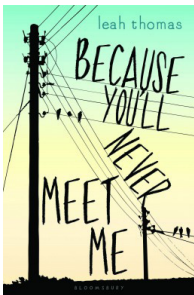
Signs *Truffled to Death*  
Saturday, June 6, 12:00 noon

Join Mysterious Galaxy and author of *Death is Like a Box of Chocolates*, Kathy Aarons, in celebrating her latest novel in the Chocolate Covered Mystery series, *Truffled to Death*. Best friends Michelle and Erica run a shop selling books and chocolate; in order to spice up sales, they host a reception with a new museum display of ancient Mayan pottery. But things turn bitter when the ancient artifacts go missing and the museum’s curator turns up dead. Michelle and Erica must work together to find the real killer in this fast-paced and delightful mystery.

### Leah Thomas

Signs *Because You’ll Never Meet Me*  
Saturday, June 6, 2:00 PM

Come help us celebrate the launch of Leah Thomas’ quirky debut YA novel, *Because You’ll Never Meet Me*. This Indies Introduces pick tells the story of two teenage boys, Ollie and Moritz, who are isolated from society for different reasons: Ollie is allergic to electricity and Moritz is sightless with a weak heart. They can never meet since Ollie would have seizures due to Moritz’s pacemaker. The story unfolds through their letters to one another, and it’s Thomas’ science fiction spin on such things as bullying and first love that makes this story so engaging. Thomas is a Clarion graduate who writes short stories for various speculative fiction magazines. (See Sarah’s rave review on the back page.)



### The Writers Coffeehouse

With Jonathan Maberry  
Sunday, June 7, noon

The Writers Coffeehouse is open to everyone. There is no agenda ... just chat about the latest trends in the industry, about the craft of writing, about markets, about pitching and selling, about conquering frustration and defeating writers block, and about all of the good things that come from the community of writers. No previous publishing experience necessary ... The Writers Coffeehouse attracts everyone from absolute beginner to award-winners and bestsellers. We’re all writers. The Coffeehouse will be a regular event that meets on the first Sunday of every month from noon to 3pm. And join the free Message Board online: [groups.yahoo.com/group/WritersCoffeehouseOnline/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WritersCoffeehouseOnline/)

### Paolo Bacigalupi

Signs *The Water Knife*  
Monday, June 8, 7:30 PM

Lee Child on *The Water Knife*, a near-future thriller about climate change and drought in the southwestern United States.: “These days are coming, and as always fiction explains them better than fact. This is a spectacular thriller, wonderfully imagined and written, and racing through it will make you think—and make you thirsty.” *Publishers Weekly*

described the “epic, visionary novel” by multiple award-winning author Paolo Bacigalupi as containing “elements of Philip K. Dick and Charles Bowden.” (See MaryElizabeth’s review on the back page.) Paolo’s fall young adult thriller, *The Doubt Factory*, was a nominee for the Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America.

### Nelson DeMille

Signs *Radiant Angel*  
Wednesday, June 10, 7:30 PM

Join us in welcoming *New York Times* bestselling author Nelson DeMille, as he signs and discusses his latest John Corey novel, *Radiant Angel*. Former NYPD detective John Corey is contracted to the Diplomatic Surveillance Group. He and his team keep an eye on Russian diplomat Col. Vasily Petrov whom they suspect is a member of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service. When Petrov gives the DSG the slip, Corey fears the Russians have planned an attack on America of epic proportions and it’s up to him and rookie agent, Tess Faraday, to stop it. This is a numbered event. Numbers for the signing are free with the purchase of *Radiant Angel* from Mysterious Galaxy.



### High Tech High SF Anthology Release Party

With Guest Host Stephanie Diaz  
Thursday, June 11, 5:30 PM

Junior students from High Tech High Chula Vista wrote an anthology of science fiction short stories called *Pandora’s Book* as a project. You can be the first to hear a selection of these stories as read by the authors. Local SF author Stephanie Diaz will guest host. From the school’s website: “We emphasize projects at High Tech High Chula Vista because we believe they represent an effective pedagogy, offering multiple entry points for students with varying learning styles and academic experience ... [projects] address essential questions that are relevant not only in the academic arena, but also in the world beyond school and in students’ lives. They culminate in a product or performance, with intermediate products or ‘checkpoints’ along the way. And finally, they all involve lots of reflection on the part of teachers and students.”

### Stephanie Diaz and Lindsay Cummings

Sign *Rebellion* and *The Death Code*  
Friday, June 12, 7:30 PM

Mysterious Galaxy is excited to welcome stellar YA authors Stephanie Diaz and Lindsay Cummings in celebration of their latest novels. Following her futuristic debut thriller, *The Murder Complex*, is Cummings’ action packed and compelling sequel, *The Murder Complex*. Meadow has been trained by her father to fight, to kill, and to survive in any situation. Now that her father is missing, along with her brother and little sister, she is desperate to find her family and determined to fight fearlessly to the end, even if it means sacrificing herself and her friends, new and old.

Continuing the saga that started with *Extraction*, Stephanie Diaz’s latest novel, *Rebellion*, delivers an epic, romantic, and gripping science-fiction tale. As Clementine and Logan enter a desperate race against time to defeat Commander Charlie, they find themselves in a terrifying endgame that pits them against a brutal enemy — and each other. With every step, Clementine draws closer to losing Logan ... and losing control of herself. Join us for this futuristic and thrilling YA event.

### Kris Calvin

Signs *One Murder More*  
Saturday, June 13, 2:00 PM

Debut author Kris Calvin will be joining us to sign and discuss her political mystery novel, *One Murder More*, featuring California lobbyist Maren Kane. When Maren’s colleague is arrested for the murder of a beautiful legislative aide, Maren is certain they have the wrong man. The only way to save her friend is to find the real killer, and Maren is forced to hone her detective skills before the killer finds her first. Kris is familiar with the halls of the Capitol building herself as a former local elected official. She has been honored by the State Assembly and Governor’s office for her leadership in political advocacy on behalf of children.

### Robert Rotstein

Signs *The Bomb Maker’s Son*  
Sunday, June 14, 2:00 PM

Author Robert Rotstein has worked as an entertainment industry lawyer for decades – both his career choices are likely influenced by an early passion for televised legal dramas. Los Angeles attorney Parker Stern, introduced in *Corrupt Practices*, returns in *The Bomb*



*Maker’s Son*. *Publishers Weekly* described the new novel as “an explosive legal thriller set largely in Southern California that will keep readers guessing until the end.” Stern is coerced by his 70’s rebel mother into representing a friend — a fugitive radical accused of a deadly bombing four decades ago.

### Noir at the Bar San Diego

La Jolla Brewing Company  
Sunday, June 14, 7:00 PM

Noir at the Bar San Diego — a place for San Diego mystery writers and fans to get together, read from their work, tell stories, eat, drink, and be merry ... in a dark sort of way. — has another stellar line-up scheduled for June! Join fellow mystery lovers on Sunday, June 14 at 7:00 PM at the La Jolla Brewing Company to mingle with talented authors and drink some great beer! Our featured authors are Eric Beetner (*The Year I Died Seven Times*, *Rumrunners*), Matt Coyle (*Night Tremors*), Neal Griffin (*Benefit of the Doubt*), Caitlin Rother (*Naked Addiction*), and Terry Shames (*A Deadly Affair at Bobtail Ridge*)!

### John Rector and Sean Chercover

Sign *Ruthless* and *The Devil’s Game*  
Wednesday, June 17, 7:30 PM

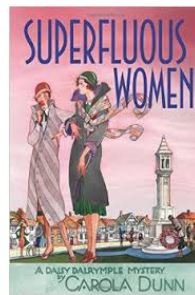
Help us welcome two *Wall Street Journal* bestselling authors and Thriller Award finalists, John Rector and Sean Chercover, as they sign and discuss their latest novels, *Ruthless* and *The Devil’s Game*, respectively. In Rector’s latest thriller, Nick White is mistaken for a hired killer. With the help of his ex-cop father, he discovers that Abigail Pierce is the intended target which puts him in the crosshairs of the real killers. He uncovers a deadly conspiracy and it’s a race against the clock to save both himself and Abigail.

In Chercover’s sequel to *Trinity Game*, former Vatican investigator Daniel Byrne joins a secretive group that investigates the Trinity Phenomena where people can suddenly speak foreign languages as well as see the future. Daniel traces this to a new strain of plague, and he must stop a nefarious council from using it to their advantage.

### Carola Dunn

Signs *Superfluous Women*  
Friday, June 19, 7:30 PM

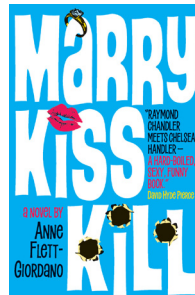
Carola Dunn follows in the footsteps of Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers in her Daisy Dalrymple Mysteries series. Her latest novel, *Superfluous Women* is no exception. Set in 1927 England, the Honourable Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher goes on a convalescent trip to the countryside and visits three old school friends in the area who turn out to be are a part of the generation of “superfluous women” — those who were brought up expecting marriage and a family, but left without any prospects after more than 700,000 British men were killed in the Great War. When the three women become the prime suspects in a murder, Daisy becomes determined to solve the mystery behind the crime. Join us in celebrating the latest in Dunn’s historical mystery series!



### Anne Flett-Giordano

Signs *Marry, Kiss, Kill*  
Saturday June 21, 2:00 PM

Help us welcome debut mystery author Anne Flett-Giordano and her new novel that *Publishers Weekly* calls “A delightful combination of snark, sass, and sunshine.” Set in Santa Barbara during the weekend’s film festival, movie stars and powerful business interests are at stake. Detective Nola MacIntire and her partner, Tony Angelotti, must solve the complicated puzzle behind three seemingly unrelated deaths in this idyllic beach town. Join us for a night exploring Flett-Giordano’s snappy dialogue, memorable characters, and exciting twists.



### Clarion Instructor Christopher Barzak

Discusses the Writing Process  
Wednesday, June 24, 7:30 PM

Established in 1968, the Clarion Writers’ Workshop is the oldest workshop of its kind and is widely recognized as a premier proving and training ground for aspiring writers of fantasy and science fiction. As we do each summer, we will be hosting many of the visiting instructors at our store. Christoherp Barzak will open this popular summer series by discussing the influence of Shirley Jackson on his work, the experience of seeing his work made into a movie, and the inspiration for the forthcoming *Wonders of the Invisible World*.

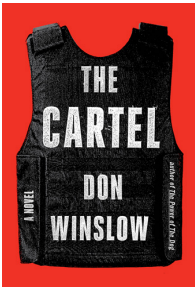


**Melissa Buell**  
Tea and Discussion of *Holidays with Jane: Spring Fever*  
**Saturday, June 27, 2:00 PM**

You are most cordially invited to join local author Melissa Buell and other authoresses and fans of the extraordinary Jane Austen at an Austenesque Tea Party. Dress up in your Regency best! We'll have a meet-and-greet time, costume prizes, and talk about all things Austen. And, of course, sign books, including *Holidays with Jane: Spring Fever*. Melissa's contribution, "Whine and Wineries," is a contemporary *Sense and Sensibility* story, updating the two centuries old work for the 21st Century.

**Don Winslow**  
Signs *The Cartel*  
**Sunday, June 28, 2:00 PM**

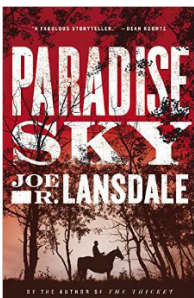
Michael Connolly on *The Cartel*: "*The Cartel* is a first rate edge-of-your-seat thriller for sure, but it also continues Winslow's incisive reporting on the dangers and intricacies of the world we live in. There is no higher mark for a



storyteller than to both educate and entertain. With Winslow these aspects are entwined like strands of DNA. He's a master and this book proves it once again." This sequel to *The Power of the Dog* continues Don Winslow's epic story of the Mexican drug war, and the United States "war on drugs" of the past four-plus decades. Don will discuss the futility of the drug war, and his film work in progress with Shane Salerno.

**Joe R. Lansdale**  
Signs *Paradise Sky*  
**Tuesday, June 30, 7:30 PM**

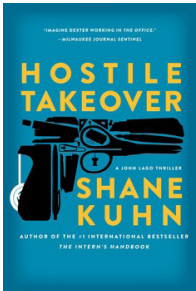
Champion Mojo Storyteller Joe R. Lansdale is the author of over forty novels and numerous short stories, including "Fishing for Dinosaurs," which recently received the Bram Stoker Award for Long Fiction. SundanceTV has picked up the rights to a short series based on Joe's work; "Hap and Leonard" which examines race, class and friendship through the eyes of unlikely best friends Hap Collins and Leonard Pine in 1980s East Texas. *Paradise Sky* is a fictional memoir that



tells the story of a man who was born a slave before the Civil War but grew up to become the legendary Deadwood Dick. *Publishers Weekly's* starred review notes that Joe "fills his pages with true-hearted heroes, dastardly scoundrels, and rollicking adventures."

Looking Ahead at July In-Store:

July 1 – Clarion Instructor Saladin Ahmed; July 7 – Clarion Instructor James Patrick Kelly; July 11 – Summer Reading Story Time with Jennifer Gray Olson, Rodolfo Montalvo, and Christina Forshay; July 12 – Wesley Chu; July 12 – Carrie Patel; July 14 – Michael B. Koep; July 15 – Clarion Instructor Karen Joy Fowler; July 16 – Robert Brockway; July 17 – Gretchen McNeil July 17 – Robin Benway; July 17 – Jessi Kirby; July 18 – Hope Schenk-de Michele and Paul Marquez; July 19 – Phoebe Sutton; July 20 – Shane Kuhn; July 29 – Clarion Instructors Maureen McHugh and Margo Lanagan; July 30 – Linwood Barclay ...



Reviews

Speculative Fiction

**The Water Knife by Paolo Bacigalupi**  
*The Water Knife* takes readers on a grim look at an all too likely future of the American Southwest, concentrated in what remains of Phoenix, AZ, examining water management responsibilities in an effective thriller that will have readers thinking twice before casually refilling their next glass from the faucet. While Paolo clearly feels passionately about the facts of the arid overpopulated landscape and the consequences of a society that is largely disconnected from the infrastructures that support it, his story of running out of water in the West, and the extremes individuals will go to to control the flow of water and power, has enough action and emotional quandaries to satisfy the most demanding reader. – Maryelizabeth Knopf, \$25.95.

**The Grace of Kings Book One of the Dandelion Dynasty by Ken Liu**  
The Emperor is dead. The empire he built on blood and fire is crumbling. Many vie for control of what remains. From this maelstrom, two legendary figures emerge: one a giant warlord, the other a schemer of the highest rank. Once they were like brothers, but now jealousy, ambition, and differing views on what constitutes a leader have divided them. *The Grace of Kings* is a fantastic retelling of the rebellions and wars that led to the founding of the Han Dynasty in ancient China, a fantastic world where gods walk amongst mortals, and where those very mortals fight for power, or to simply live their lives in peace. Liu has a very visual style, using prose to paint vivid characters and action. Moreover, he's an excellent storyteller. I could well imagine a grandfather telling this story over a campfire over many successive nights. Can't wait for the next volume! – Patrick Saga Press, \$27.99.

Mystery & Suspense  
**A First Date with Death by Diana Orgain**  
*A First Date with Death* is an entertaining look behind the scenes of a reality dating show, featuring ex-cop Georgia Thornton as a woman looking for love. Talked into doing the show by her BFF, show assistant producer Becca, Georgia immediately regrets her decision, and not just because the first date is a disaster with dire consequences. Additionally, her ex-fiancé enters the show, she spots a crew member that may just be someone she sent to prison, and one of her dates commits suicide. She is convinced that there is a homicide (or two) that needs investigating as she struggles her way through the show,

FROM OUR STAFF

where the guys are keeping her guessing. She also has to figure out who is on the show to find love, since half the guys are only there playing for money. It's a fast-paced romp with an enduring female lead we look forward to seeing again in the next installment. A March Fantastic First Pick. – Terry Berkley Prime Crime mass market original, \$7.99.

**Crash and Burn by Lisa Gardner**  
I enjoy reading Lisa Gardner because she writes the best psychological thrillers ever and you can always count on being immensely entertained. Her latest novel is no different. Sergeant Wyatt Foster begins his day with a routine inspection of a car accident which then escalates to a search for a missing child and intensifies to a full blown investigation of bazaar circumstances. The driver of the car, Nicole Frank, has suffered numerous brain injuries lately and the child she has them searching for does not even exist. Her husband seems overprotective yet she has been "falling" a lot lately. It seems impossible to get through the jumble of Nicole's (if that is even her name) ravings and brief, if outlandish, recollections of a peculiar past. Wyatt is determined to get to the bottom of it and thus a fantastic story is born. – Bunny Dutton Books, \$27.95.

**Pleasantville by Attica Locke**  
I'd been wishing for a sequel to *Black Water Rising* and when I finally got my hands on *Pleasantville*, I was giddy with excitement. The story takes place in 1996, fifteen years later, and attorney Jay Porter is back, but he's not doing as well as I'd hoped. He's struggling to raise his two children alone after the death of his wife, and he has yet to see any money after winning a big case. When Neal Hathorne, the nephew of a prominent mayoral candidate, is arrested for the murder of a local girl, Jay begrudgingly agrees to represent him as a favor to the powerful family. As a result, he becomes entangled in a web of political corruption and dark family secrets that puts a target on his back. Locke knows how to tell a story with incisive thoughtful prose while keeping the reader guessing until the very last page. – Sarah Harper Collins, \$26.99.

Curated Fiction  
**How to Start a Fire by Lisa Lutz**  
With Lutz's trademark humor, quippy dialogue, and quirky characters, she introduces readers to three college friends who met in Santa Cruz where they all began attending college in 1993. Anna is a take-charge, wild, adventurous soul raised in an affluent family in Boston. Her desire to escape her background, her family, and her emotions at every opportunity, even as a child, continues to define her as an adult. Kate was raised by her grandfather after both of her parents died when

she was eight years old. She was raised in Santa Cruz and never wanted to leave, her only ambition to manage her grandfather's restaurant. Life has other plans for her. George is a tall, beautiful basketball player who hails from the midwest and had a less catastrophic upbringing than the other two, but who has a penchant for men who are bad for her. Told from multiple viewpoints, points in time, and locations, the story leads readers to learn about all three girls from college to graduate school ... through failed marriages, career decisions, and life cycles ... and about the men that revolve around their worlds. Fans of Lutz will fall in love all over again. Readers who are new to her will race to their bookstores to begin reading about the Spellmans. – Terry Houghton Mifflin, \$25.00.

Young Adult  
**Because You'll Never Meet Me by Leah Thomas**  
This is one of the most unique books I've ever read — in a good way. The entire story is a series of letters written by Ollie and Moritz, two teenage boys who are both isolated from society yet different in every other regard. Ollie, a carefree boy who wears his heart on his sleeve, is allergic to electricity and must live out in the boondocks of rural Michigan. Moritz, a blunt German who doesn't mince words, has no eyes and a weak heart. He has a pacemaker which means that he and Ollie will never meet because remember, Ollie is allergic to electricity. Moritz can "see" by clicking his tongue, a practice called echolocation. What's so beautiful about this borderline science fiction story is how these two journey from total strangers to lifelong friends. Thomas's YA debut of friendship and destiny is stunning and unforgettable. – Sarah Bloomsbury, \$17.99.

**The Winner's Trilogy by Marie Rutkoski**  
Kestrel, the heroine of this series, is a combination of Celeana Sordothien from the *Throne of Glass* & Severus Snape from *Harry Potter*... crazy, right!? Kestrel is not your usual strong combative female. She is a true Slytherin with the determination and boldness of Celeana matched with the spymaster skills and self-sacrificing nature of Snape. The first book in the trilogy, *The Winner's Curse*, is good -- but the second book, *The Winner's Crime*, truly is amazing. Rutkoski tightly weaves and layers the POV's to create a thrilling novel. The intense story will having you gripping the book tightly and wishing you could read faster. In a richly imagined Romanesque world two young adults, Kestrel & Arin, find themselves trapped in a battle for power where "winning what you want may cost you everything you love." Dark, dangerous, conspiracy, secrets, war, and adventure are just a few choice words to describe this great read. – Ashley Macmillan, \$17.99.



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