

The Plot Thickens

FROM YOUR PARTNERS IN CRIME AND IMAGINATION

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November 2015 • mystgalaxy.com

Events

Andrea Cremer

Launch Party for *The Conjuror's Riddle*
Tuesday, November 3, 7:30 PM

Buckle on your clockwork devices and prepare to party like it's an alternate nineteenth-century North America, where the Revolutionary War never took place and the British Empire has expanded into a global juggernaut propelled by marvelous and *horrible* machinery, at the Launch Party for *The Conjuror's Riddle*. Former early modern history instructor and bestselling author of the Nightshade Series Andrea Cremer introduced Charlotte and her companions in *The Inventor's Secret*. *Kirkus Reviews* hailed the sequel as "This is classic steampunk [with] exotic and picturesque locales, lots of interesting machinery, and the adrenaline rush of following the adventures of an honest and fearless heroine."



Larry Correia

Signing *Son of the Black Sword*
Thursday, November 5, 7:30 PM

Bestselling fantasy author Larry Correia's on-line bio reads, "Merchant of Death (retired). Firearms Instructor. Accountant." Larry, who shares certain attributes with Monster Hunter Owen Zastava Pitt, launches a new India-influenced series with *Son of the Black Sword*. When shadowy forces seek to pit elite fighter Ashok Vadai, bearer of the magical ancestor blade Angruvadal, against other members of his untouchable / casteless status, their decision is certain to backfire in a spectacularly violent fashion. *Publishers Weekly* noted, "Full of action, intrigue, and wry humor, this exciting series launch promises many more thrills to come."

Cozy Mystery Authors Jenn McKinlay and Kate Carlisle

Sign *A Likely Story* and *Crowned and Moldering*
Friday, November 6 7:30 PM

New York Times-bestselling author Jenn McKinlay's latest under McKinlay, *A Likely Story*, is the sixth in the Library Lover's Mystery series. While delivering books to housebound residents, small-town librarian Lindsey Norris befriends Stewart and Peter Rosen, two reclusive brothers living on Star Island, just a short boat ride from the town of Briar Creek. But when Peter is murdered and Stewart goes missing, Lindsey must solve the murder and save Stewart from his brother's fate.

Former television writer and California native Kate Carlisle's latest is *Crowned and Moldering*. The third book in the Fixer-Upper Mysteries series finds Shannon Hammer cleaning up a historic mansion in Lighthouse Cove, recently purchased by Mac Sullivan, famous thriller writer and Shannon's new beau. When the bones of a teenage girl are found among the debris of the run-down Victorian, Shannon must tackle the cold case and pry the right secrets from the missing girl's past and bring the killer to justice, before the old murder sparks another killing.

Solved: Clues and Red Herrings on the Path to Publication - Mystery Writing Workshop

Presenters Kathy Aarons and Carlene O'Neill

Sign *Truffled to Death* and *One Foot in the Grape*
Saturday, November 7 at 2:00 PM

Don't miss an afternoon with California authors Kathy Aarons and Carlene O'Neill, as the Berkley Prime Crime authors map out their road to publishing success. They'll discuss how to take best advantage of the conference, learn from the multitudes of helpful writing communities out there, and how they made their books stand out to agents and editors.

San Diego-based author Kathy will be signing *Truffled to Death*, the second novel in the Chocolate Covered Mystery Series. When Michelle and Erica, owners of Chocolates and Chapters, try to sweeten their shop's sales with a reception for a new museum display, the sweet night turns bitter after the curator (and Erica's former professor) accuse Erica of stealing antiquities in revenge. When the professor turns up dead, Michelle must help Erica track down the real killer before it's too late. According to *New York Times*-bestselling author Jenn McKinlay, "any lover of chocolate and books will find this story the perfect combination of savory, sweet, and deadly."

Northern California Wine Country native and former television writer Carlene's debut novel, *One Foot in the*

Grape, was an MG Fantastic Firsts Pick in early 2015. After losing her job as a photojournalist, Penny Lively hopes that inheriting the family winery from her late aunt will be the fresh start she needs, complete with help from her niece Hayley, handsome winery manager Connor and troubled neighbor Antonia Martinelli, who comes to Penny for help identifying the culprit spoiling her wine. But when the body of one of Antonia's staff is found in a grape crusher, Penny must find the real killer before the murder is pinned on Hayley.

Wheel of Time & Dragonmount Celebration

Contributors Harriet McDougal, Alan Romanczuk, and Maria Simons

Sign *The Wheel of Time Companion*

Jason Denzel

Signs *Mystic*

Sunday, November 8, 2:00 PM

The story of *The Wheel of Time* spans fifteen books, but the fantasy world which that story resides within is more complex and detailed than even those books could relate. Only a fraction of what author Robert Jordan imagined ended up on the page, the rest going into his personal files. Team Jordan is composed of Harriet McDougal, former Editorial Director of Tom Doherty Associates, and Robert Jordan's wife and editor, and Alan Romanczuk and Maria Simons who were Jordan's and McDougal's editorial assistants, and all of whom worked with Brandon Sanderson to complete the series. *The Wheel of Time Companion: The People, Places and History of the Bestselling Series*, contains more than 800 pages of carefully selected additional material.

Jason Denzel is the founder of Dragonmount.com, the leading online community for Robert Jordan's The Wheel of Time saga. *Mystic*, Jason's debut novel, presents a classically inspired epic fantasy adventure, as common-born sixteen-year-old Pomella AnDone competes against tradition to be the apprentice to the High Mystic of her world. This is a numbered event – numbers for the signing line are free with the purchase of *The Wheel of Time Companion* or *Mystic* from Mysterious Galaxy

Matt Kaplan

Signs *Science of the Magical*
Monday, November 9, 7:30 PM

Matt Kaplan is a science correspondent and non-fiction contributor to multiple publications. He was awarded a Knight Science Journalism Fellowship which he used to study the sciences at MIT and folklore at Harvard. Part of the result of that combination is *Science of the Magical*, which postulates that even the strangest myths of the past have a germ of truth. *Publishers Weekly's* review notes: "Steeped in contemporary science fiction and fantasy, Kaplan's blend of modern and ancient myths reveal an ever-present human concern with control over life, death, and the elements." Our Monday evening event offers both readers some possible insights into the science behind stories from mythology to SF, as well as an assortment of intriguing source material for aspiring writers.

Leigh Bardugo and Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff

Sign *Six of Crows* and *Illuminae*
Tuesday, November 10, 7:30 PM

Join Leigh Bardugo, Amie Kaufman, and Jay Kristoff for an evening of extraordinary adventure in deadly locales! Maryelizabeth reviewed *Six of Crows*: "The first volume in Leigh's Dregs duology, set in the Grishaverse, is a heart-wrenching combination of caper novel and character studies. Think 'Leverage' meets 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer,' but in an alternate magical Russia. *Six of Crows* has one of the *best* opening sentences ever, kicking off a grand magical heist adventure with characters readers will be thrilled to cheer for. This book is so much fun!"

Laini Taylor, bestselling author of *Daughter of Smoke and Bone*, reviewed the SF novel, the brainchild of the team of Amie and Jay, as "Nervy chicks, cute fighter pilots, lots of heart, lots of heartbreak, a mentally unstable battleship, and even pink hair! This book is xxxing awesome." Discover more when you explore the epic tale of space-faring Kady and Ezra told in a creative and fun narrative.

Jérémie Guez

Signs *Eyes Full of Empty*
Wednesday, November 11, 7:30 PM

At 26-years-old, Jérémie Guez has been hailed as the rising star of contemporary French noir. He's already written four novels, two of which were awarded France's top literary prizes, the SNCF du Polar and the Plume Libre. *Eyes Full of*

Empty is the highly-anticipated first English translation of his work and the third in his Parisian trilogy. Idir is a 34-year-old Algerian immigrant who does special favors for Paris's elite thanks to his upper crust school connections despite his rough neighborhood upbringing. When a media mogul hires Idir to find his half-brother, Thibeau, it seems to be an easy case until Idir finds himself in the middle of a war between two powerful media conglomerates. Guez addresses the issues of class and race in a tense urban noir that fans of Chandler will appreciate.

Michael Stanley

Signs *A Death in the Family*
Thursday, November 12, 7:30 PM

Michael Stanley is the writing team of Michael Sears and Stanley Trollop who are both retired professors from South Africa. They went on many flying safaris together to Botswana and that's how the idea for the Kubu novels was born. *A Death in the Family* is the fifth in the award-winning series featuring Detective David "Kubu" Bengu of the Botswana Criminal Investigations Division. Kubu's father is violently murdered and Kubu has no clue who would want his father dead. Even more frustrating is that his boss bans him from the investigation, ordering him to look into an apparent suicide of an official from the Department of Mines. Kubu finds himself in the middle of a generational war involving a Chinese business venture.

Dr. Janina Scarlet and contributors

Sign *Star Wars Psychology*
Saturday, November 14, 4:00 PM



Dr. Janina Scarlet, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and a (mad?) scientist, intending to take over the world with geek culture and compassion, is the mastermind behind Superhero Therapy. *Superhero Therapy* refers to incorporating characters from geek culture. Dr. Scarlet and fellow contributors Dr. Billy San Juan, Jenna Busch, and Alan Kistler, have presented their analysis at Comic-Con and other cons, The Mary Sue, on the Crazy Sexy Geeks podcast, and more. Just in time for anticipation of the December 18 on-screen reboot of the Star Wars Universe, they will be discussing *Star Wars Psychology: Dark Side of the Mind*. Dr. Scarlet also authored a chapter in *The Walking Dead Psychology: Psych of the Living Dead* on Posttraumatic Stress Disorders as seen in the series.

Adam Brookes with guest host Lisa Brackmann

Signs *Spy Games*
Wednesday, November 18, 6:00 PM

Adam Brookes was a foreign correspondent for BBC for many years and was based in China, the U.S., and Indonesia. He reported from many of the world's most dangerous countries like Iraq, Afghanistan, and North Korea. His first novel, *Night Heron*, was a finalist for the Barry Award this year. *Spy Games* is the second in the series featuring Philip Mangan, a foreign correspondent and sometimes spy. While in Ethiopia, Mangan is approached by a mysterious Chinese official who wants to trade state secrets. When the Secret Intelligence Service assigns Mangan to be the official's handler, Mangan becomes enmeshed in a dangerous conspiracy involving warring factions within the Chinese government. Lisa Brackmann, the author of the critically-acclaimed Ellie McEnroe series set in modern-day China, guest hosts.

Rosanna Pansino

The Nerdy Nummies Cookbook Tour Stop
Saturday, November 21, 6:30 PM



Rosanna Pansino is the creator and host of "Nerdy Nummies," the Internet's most popular baking show. She is a Washington native who, upon graduating college, moved to Los Angeles to start her own production company. Pansino launched "Nerdy Nummies" in late 2011, and the show's audience grew very quickly. Her videos have been viewed more than one billion times – making Rosanna one of the most-watched personalities on YouTube. *The Nerdy Nummies Cookbook* is her first book, and perfect for Mysterious Galaxy's nerdy community. We want all fans to have the best possible experience during the *Nerdy Nummies Cookbook* tour. Please see the rules and limitations on our web calendar, and please respect each other and Rosanna.

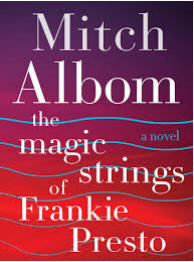
Looking Ahead through the End of 2015:

Indies First Day – Saturday, November 28; Small Business Saturday – Saturday, November 28; MGSD Holiday Party – Saturday, December 5; Gini Koch – Saturday, December 12; Local Author Meet & Greet – Sunday, December 13; James Rollins – Wednesday, December 16; Movie Night with "Origin: Beyond the Impact" – Saturday, December 19...

Out and About in So Cal .. in November

Jewish Book Fair
November 7 - 16, 2015
Temple Solel in Cardiff by the Sea and Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center in La Jolla

Don't miss the 21st annual San Diego Jewish Book Fair! Dozens of authors will speak over the course of ten days. Highlights include programming with Dennis Ross (*Doomed to Succeed: The U.S.-Israel Relationship from Truman to Obama*); Arlene Alda in Conversation with Alan Alda (*Just Kids From the Bronx*); Tess Gerritsen (*Playing with Fire*); Former U.S.Congressman Barney Frank (*Frank: A Life in Politics from the Great Society to Same-Sex Marriage*); Mitch Albom (*The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto: A Novel*), a cooking panel, and coffees, teas and lunches with authors, and a free family day. Mysterious Galaxy will be the bookseller at both locations and will have a vast selection of handpicked titles and gift items. Please join us and support The San Diego Center for Jewish Culture, a non-profit organization that expands and enriches cultural life in San Diego.



Men of Mystery
Saturday, November 14, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Irvine Marriott

The brainchild of founder Joan Hansen – former Long Beach educator, founder of the Literary Guild of Orange County and of children's author events in ten Los Angeles and Orange County school districts – the first annual Men of Mystery event opened its doors to 250 guests and 25 authors in 2000. Now in its 15th year, the fall gathering of crime authors has expanded to roughly 450 readers and 50 authors. Headline speakers for 2015 are best-sellers Philip Margolin (*Woman with a Gun*) and C.J. Box (*Badlands*).



Readers will be seated with an author at their table, and entertained by the infamous one-minute pitches of all the participating authors; between the morning speaker and lunch, all 50 authors participate in a mass autograph session.



Our Fantastic Firsts Book Clubs offer a way for you to always be the first to know about the next fabulous book in your favorite genre. We have a proven track record for picking award-winning collectable books. Not only that, but we also offer you great savings – plus, there is no membership charge for any of these clubs!

These are our November Fantastic Firsts picks:

Speculative Fiction: *Made to Kill* by Adam Christopher

Mystery: *Dark Reservations* by John Fortunato

Young Adult: *Death and Life of Zebulon Finch At the Edge of Empire* by Kraus, Daniel

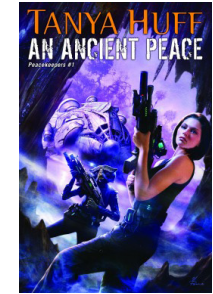
Cosy Mystery (paperback original): *Flipped for Murder* by Maddie Day

Speculative Fiction (paperback original): *The Powerless* by Tim Washburn-

If you have any questions, contact us!

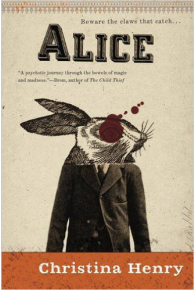


Speculative Fiction
An Ancient Peace: Peacekeeper #1 by Tanya Huff



Former Confederation Marine Torin Kerr and her crew, known to readers of Huff's Valor deep space series, embark on a completely off-the-books mission in the first in this new series. Tasked with intercepting the grave robbers who are intent on acquiring Elder Race ancient artifacts for aggressive use against the dominant powers in the Confederation, the team of Younger Race sentient beings must not only determine the possible source of the artifacts and confront the criminals, but also work to determine the mastermind behind the scheme. Huff's aliens are truly alien, and completely empathetic at once, and the interpersonal relationships between characters – both protagonists and antagonizes – would make this a must-read, even if it didn't have a spiffy adventure plot. Highly recommended. – Maryelizabeth
DAW, \$24.95.

Alice by Christina Henry
A dark and gritty visit to Wonderland, opening with an adult Alice imprisoned in – and then escaping – a madhouse. She can't remember what happened to her in Wonderland but she's haunted by the few memories she has of it. As she goes through the Old City we see all of our favorite characters grimly reimaged. Dark and engaging. I loved this so much that I read in it in a single day! – Kelly
Ace trade paper original, \$15.00.



Sunfail by Steven Savile
Sunfail, Akashic's venture into speculative fiction, is a highly readable near future thriller in the vein of James Rollins. I very much liked the mix of POV characters, varied conspiracy/world mythos, and compelling storytelling, especially at a time when I am suffering a fair amount of apocalypse fiction fatigue. Savile is widely published in both suspense and SF in the UK, and this is a promising introduction for U.S. readers, even with a few stridency issues. – Maryelizabeth
Akashic trade paper original, \$15.95.

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FROM OUR STAFF

Mystery & Suspense
Dead Soon Enough by Steph Cha
Juniper Song is no longer an amateur detective; she is now a licensed detective and a partner with Chaz and Arturo at Lindley & Flores. She is managing her own cases now, and the one Rubina Gasparian, the daughter of Armenian immigrants, presents to her is most unusual. Rubina and her husband, Van, are unable to conceive a child and have hired her younger cousin, Lusig, as a surrogate, a fact that haunts Song as she sold some of her eggs in college and had not thought about it again until now. Lusig's dear friend, Nora, has been missing for a month and Song's job is to stop Lusig from looking for her and putting this much anticipated pregnancy at risk. The case soon changes into a search for a missing girl who was deeply involved in an ugly battle to erect an Armenian genocide memorial, a project severely contested by many. Are the tight knit Armenian community and those that antagonize them capable of murder? Step Cha pulls it all together in an unforgettable and entertaining manner with a tight plot and lots of emotion, presenting yet another great read. – Bunny
Minotaur Books, \$26.99.



Bad Citizen Corporation by S.W. Louden
This gritty debut took me on an adrenaline-fueled journey through the dark alleys of East Los Angeles to the dive bars of the South Bay. Greg Salem is a Virgil Heights cop who is still recognized by punk rock fans as Fred Despair, the lead singer of Bad Citizen Corporation. He still plays the occasional gig but his punk rock days are far behind him. At least that's what he thought. After his guitarist/best friend is murdered, Salem vows to bring the killer to justice despite his recent suspension from the department. With the help of his drummer/friend Marco, Salem dives right back into the underworld of his hometown filled with greedy land developers, drug dealers, and old flings. BCC is hard core, in-your-face, blast-the-roof-off storytelling, and as a longtime Hermosa Beach resident, it's about damn time a novel pays proper homage to the birthplace of Pennywise and Black Flag. – Sarah
Rare Bird Books trade paper original, \$15.95.

Young Adult
Black Widow: Forever Red by Margaret Stohl
One of my personal standards for superior storytelling is when the story or characters manifest in my dreams. Margaret Stohl's tale of Natasha Romanoff, the Black Widow of Avengers fame, achieved just that. This would be a great "strong female character" novel even if the character didn't

have a 50-year history in the pop culture consciousness. Natasha and Ava Orlova meet when Natasha rescues Ava from the infamous Red Room – nearly a decade later, they are both drawn to Alex Monclair, a young fencer with no apparent connection to either, who is the target of deadly interest. And yes, this is the origin story for the Red Widow. – Maryelizabeth
Marvel Press, \$17.99.

The Death and Life of Zebulon Finch, Volume One: At the Edge of Empire by Daniel Kraus
Daniel Kraus shows once again that he is a master of the beautiful macabre with his newest novel, *The Death and Life of Zebulon Finch*. In this epic adventure, Zebulon begins his sordid tale with his murder and continues to recount his life as a side-show freak, a doctor's obsessed experiment, his quest for redemption during WWI, and as the love interest of a Hollywood starlet. Kraus's first person account creates a unique character that is tortured in death through his inability to live. Zebulon is a smart, brooding, troubled man that evolves with his experiences in life, always on the quest to find him self and stay true to those that matter. What stood out within the novel was Kraus' characterization of Zebulon. Finch is not a nice guy. He is a mobster who relishes in the pain he causes others and the torment he can bring to people. Through his experiences, Zebulon becomes human in his death, reflecting on his past wrongs, and attempting to do the right by those that matter. The *Death and Life of Zebulon Finch* will grab you and not let you go until the end. The ride is an incredible, beautifully written tale that will not let you down. – Anne
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, \$18.99. Our November Fantastic Firsts Pick!



The Unfortunate Decisions of Dahlia Moss by Max Wirestone
Max's debut is a near-roman a clef celebration of geekdom. Dahlia Moss is succeeding at life about as well as Scott Pilgrim at the beginning of Bryan Lee O'Malley's series. The struggling young geek is offered a substantial sum of money to track down a "stolen" item from a MMORPG; it seems a perfect match to her assorted skill set, composed largely of a vast knowledge of pop culture. The job gets deeply weird when Dahlia's client is found murdered with a physical incarnation of the missing item. Dahlia and her friends are welcome new additions to the geek tribe. – Maryelizabeth
Redhook, \$20.00.

