

THE PLOT THICKENS

mysterious galaxy

BOOKS OF MARTIANS. MURDER. MAGIC. MAYHEM & MORE

FROM YOUR PARTNERS IN CRIME AND IMAGINATION

October 2015 • mystgalaxy.com

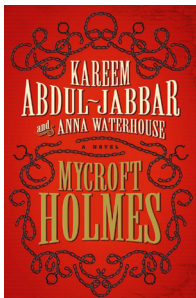
Events

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Signs *Mycroft Holmes*

Saturday, October 3, 11:00 AM

Famed athlete, cultural ambassador, actor, essayist (*Time*, *The Washington Post*) and author Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has written his first adult novel, *Mycroft Holmes*, exploring the potential in the famous sleuth of Baker Street's older sibling. *Publishers Weekly* hailed the novel, co-authored with Anna Waterhouse, as a "triumphant adult fiction debut." In 1870 the title character is serving as a secretary at the War Office when word reaches London of a series of unusual deaths in Trinidad. Someone, or some thing, has been killing children and draining their blood. Mycroft pursues his fiancée, Georgiana Sutton, to Trinidad and finds himself enmeshed in the mystery.



This is a numbered event – numbers for the signing line are free with the purchase of *Mycroft Holmes* from Mysterious Galaxy.

Toni Gallagher

Signs *Twist My Charm: The Popularity Spell*

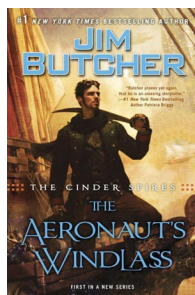
Sunday, October 4, 2:00pm

Toni Gallagher began her career in reality TV as the story editor for *The Real World* and *Road Rules*, and is currently an Executive Producer of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*. She went to college for journalism, then right after graduation, moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in TV. *Twist My Charm: The Popularity Spell*, her first book for kids, "addresses concerns familiar to preteens about fitting in and friendships" (*Kirkus Review*). When Cleo Nelson receives a voodoo doll in the mail from her uncle, she can't wait to try out its magic with her friend Samantha. But in their quest for popularity, the friends discover that genuine friendship is more important.

Jim Butcher

Signs *The Aeronaut's Windlass*

Monday, October 5, 6:00 PM



Mysterious Galaxy is excited to once again welcome Jim Butcher to the store for the release of his newest novel *The Aeronaut's Windlass*. The first in his new Cinder Spires series offers a fantastic world full of noble families, steam-powered technology, and magic-wielding warriors. Captain Grimm commands the merchant ship, *Predator*. Fiercely loyal to Spire Albion, he has taken their side in the cold war with Spire Aurora, disrupting the enemy's shipping lines by attacking their cargo vessels. But when the *Predator* is severely damaged in combat, leaving captain and crew grounded, Grimm learns that the conflict between the Spires is merely a premonition of things to come.

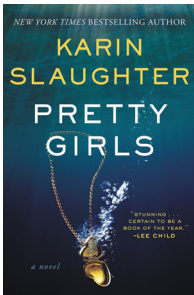
This is a numbered event. Numbers are free with the purchase of *The Aeronaut's Windlass* from Mysterious Galaxy, available beginning September 29.

Karin Slaughter

Signs *Pretty Girls*

Tuesday, October 6, 12:30 PM

A #1 internationally-bestselling author, Karin Slaughter, returns with *Pretty Girls*, a chilling psychological thriller that earned a starred review from *Kirkus*. More than twenty years ago, Claire and Lydia's teenaged sister, Julia, vanished without a trace. The two sisters haven't spoken since and their lives couldn't be more different. Claire is the trophy wife of an Atlanta millionaire; though she's clean and sober now, Lydia has sold herself for drugs countless times. When Claire's husband is brutally murdered before her eyes, the pain she buried after losing Julia comes flooding back. The two estranged sisters must now join forces to uncover the truth behind Claire's husband's murder and see if there's a connection to the disappearance of their beloved sister, Julia. Bunny is a fan of *Pretty Girls* and you can read her take in the review section of the newsletter.



Brandon Sanderson

Signs *Shadows of Self*

Thursday, October 8, 6:00pm

Brandon Sanderson was chosen to complete Robert Jordan's Wheel of Time Series, and is the author of several series of his own, including Mistborn – of which *Shadows of Self* is the latest. Technically the second in a trilogy spin-off, *Shadows of Self* sees the heroes of *The Alloy of Law* depicted as myth and legend, with a new set of colorful characters, including Waxillium "Wax" Ladrian, his eccentric buddy Wayne, and the lovely, brilliant Marasi. In a shaky but optimistic society, terrorism threatens to unleash labor unrest and religious conflict. Wax and company must unravel the conspiracy before civil strife halts society's progress its tracks. Fans will find everything they have been waiting for and more in this fantastic follow up.

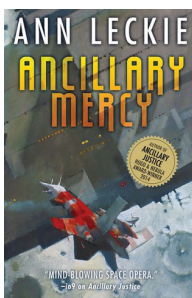
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Ann Leckie and Greg Bear

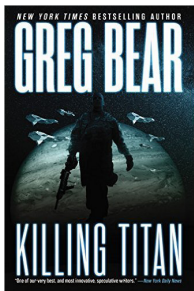
Sign *Ancillary Mercy* and *Killing Titan*

Friday, October 9, 7:30 PM

Join us in welcoming two of Science Fiction's leading authors to Mysterious Galaxy. Ann Leckie took the book world by storm with her award-winning science fiction debut *Ancillary Justice*. Now the trilogy comes to a conclusion in *Ancillary Mercy*. Things seemed to be under control for Breg, the soldier who used to be a warship. But a search of Athock Station's slums turns up someone who shouldn't exist, and a messenger from the mysterious Presger empire arrives, as does Breg's enemy, Anaander Mianaai, the divided and quite possibly insane ruler of an empire at war with itself.



Master of hard Science Fiction Greg Bear will be signing the second book in his epic interstellar War Dogs trilogy, *Killing Titan*. After barely surviving his last tour on Mars, Master Sergeant Michael Venn finds himself back on earth in enforced isolation. Another front in the war leads his team to make the difficult journey to Saturn's moon, Titan. Here, in the cauldron of war, new truths hide; about the Drifters, the origin of life in our solar system, and the plans of the supposedly benevolent Gurus, who have been "sponsoring" and supporting humanity in their fight against outside invaders.



This is a numbered event. Numbers are free with the purchase of the authors' book from Mysterious Galaxy.

Laura Anne Gilman and Cat Winters

Sign *Silver on the Road* and *The Uninvited*

Saturday, October 10, 2:00 PM

Revisit a history that never quite was (or was it?) with Nebula-nominated author Laura Anne Gilman and former San Diego local author Cat Winters. Laura Anne's Devil's West series launches with *Silver on the Road*, a novel of mystery and magic and the powers that lie within the roads to destiny in the Territory. Fans of the book include Rachel Caine, Sarah Beth Durst, and MaryElizabeth. Bunny, already a fan of Cat's young adult works, praised *The Uninvited*, calling the psychological thriller set in the panic of the influenza pandemic of 1918 "a great ghost story." See more of Bunny's review on our website and MaryElizabeth's review on the back page.

Celebrate Star Wars Reads Day

With Chris Alexander and *Star Wars Origami*

Saturday, October 10, 4:00 PM

Jedi might get their knowledge from the Force, but books are sure to be a close second! Whether you're a Jedi, a Sith, or a scruffy-looking nerfherder, come and celebrate the third annual Star Wars Reads Day, an international event centered around books, reading, and education. Revel in the fun of reading about our favorite galactic heroes and villains with *Star Wars Origami* author Christopher Alexander, and prepare for "The Force Awakens!" With planned activities, fans, and fun, this is a Star Wars celebration not to be missed.

Terri Nolan

Signs *Blue Bird*

Sunday, October 11, 3:30 PM

Investigative journalist Birdie Keane is back in *Blue Bird*, the third installment of Terri Nolan's critically-acclaimed mystery series. Birdie Keane is running from her past and lying in wait in Kentucky. Her boyfriend, Ron Hughes, struggles to

understand, but his patience is wearing thin. When Birdie runs afoul of the law, their relationship is put to the test. Birdie doesn't want to be a victim again, and knows if she wants a future with Ron Hughes, she must confront her past. Terri's second book in the series, *Glass Houses*, was a finalist for the Left Coast Crime Rose Award.

Sarah Weinman with guest host Jan Burke

Signs *Women Crime Writers: Eight Suspense Novels*

of the 1940s & 50s

Wednesday, October 14, 7:30 PM

Sarah Weinman is widely recognized as the leading authority on crime fiction. Together with the Library of America, she redefines an era in this landmark collection of eight suspense novels: *Women Crime Writers: Eight Suspense Novels of the 1940s & 50s*. This gorgeous two-volume collection will introduce readers to new crime writers and reacquaint them with classic favorites such as Dorothy B. Hughes, Patricia Highsmith, Margaret Millar, and Vera Caspary. Sarah will discuss these trailblazing women with guest host Jan Burke, the award-winning author of the Irene Kelly mystery series.

Fall Fiction Frenzy Foursome

Stephanie Diaz, Livia Blackburn, Bethany Crandell, and

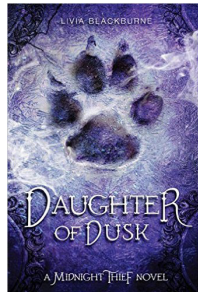
Jenny Kaczorowski

Thursday, October 15, 7:30 PM

Join MG in celebrating four Young Adult titles from Southern CA authors Stephanie Diaz, Livia Blackburn, Bethany Crandell, and Jenny Kaczorowski! And discover who believes that avocados make the world a better place... even for teens facing real adversity.

In *Evolution*, the thrilling conclusion to Stephanie's Extraction series, Clementine's world is on the brink of destruction. Unless old feuds can be set aside long enough for a diplomatic solution to be found, all of Kiel's people will be destroyed, and everything Clementine and her friends sacrificed in their fight for peace will have been in vain.

Livia continues her Midnight Thief series in *Daughter of Dusk*, where Kyra, after learning the truth about her bloodlines, can't help but feel like a monster. Though she's formed a tentative alliance with the Palace, Kyra must keep her identity a secret or risk being hunted like the rest of her Demon Rider kin.



Publishers Weekly's enthusiastic review of Bethany's tale of life lessons from summer camp, *Summer on the Short Bus*, noted that she "creates a maddening yet sympathetic character in Cricket, who is realistically slow to learn her lessons in compassion and human kindness."

And LA author, mother, and photographer Jenny Kaczorowski's eNovel, *The Art of Falling*, is an exercise in the philosophy on the books page of her website: "If you find someone you care about, screw everyone else. Life's too short." *The Art of Falling*'s purple-haired artist, Bria, must decide if she can embrace that philosophy without losing her sense of self or her place among her peers.

Gavin Aung Than of Zen Pencils

Signs *Zen Pencils: Dream the Impossible Dream*

Friday, October 16, 7:30pm

Gavin Aung Than is a Melbourne, Australia based cartoonist. He launched *Zen Pencil* - a cartoon blog - in 2012, after eight years of working in the corporate graphic design industry. It was named one of the best 100 websites of 2013 by *PC Mag*, and *Zen Pencils* has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *The Huffington Post*, *Slate*, *Mashable*, *Upworthy*, *Buzzfeed*, *Gawker*, and *The A.V. Club*, among other outlets. The quotes Aung Than uses for his inspirational cartoons are either discovered on his own, or submitted by fans. Aung Than brings life and depth to the already inspirational quotes of famous figures, including Isaac Asimov, JK Rowling, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Kurt Vonnegut, and Frida Kohl. If you haven't seen *Zen Pencils* yet, we highly recommend you check it out before our event!

Looking Ahead in October:

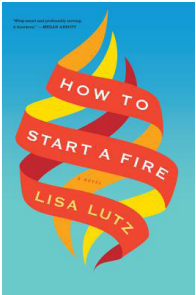
Bonnie MacBird – October 18; Leslie Klinger – October 18; Alex Matsuo – October 23; Matthew Pallamary – October 23; Melissa Buell – October 23; Marc Shapiro – October 23; Jewish Noir contributors – October 25; Occupied Earth contributors – October 25; "Thalia Filbert" – October 25; Lisa Morton – October 25; Martin Limon – October 26; Timothy Hallinan – October 26; Jeffrey Sieger – October 26; Gena Showalter – October 30; Amy Lukavics – October 30; Kady Cross – October 30 ... and on into November!

Out and About in So Cal ... Our Outside Events in October and November

Women & Words

The Olympic Collection in West L.A.
Saturday, October 3, 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Women & Words began in 2003, when Sheila Irani, together with a group of women who loved to read, decided to honor women’s achievements in writing with an annual event. Top female authors from around the country are selected to share their stories and their passion for writing. Not only does the event promote the authors’ works, it also raises money for various charities. This year Women & Words is thrilled to host Annabelle Gurwitch (*I See You Made an Effort*), Lisa Lutz (*How to Start a Fire*), Alexis Landau (*The Empire of the Senses*), Tatjana Soli (*The Last Good Paradise*), and Aline Ohanesian (*Orphan’s Inheritance*).



Karin Slaughter

Signing and discussing *Pretty Girls*
Fallbrook Library on Tuesday, October 6, 6:00 PM

International best-selling and multiple-award-winning author Karin Slaughter is a dedicated advocate for libraries. In addition to her MGSD appearance for her new stand alone

thriller, *Pretty Girls*, she will be appearing at the Fallbrook Library. Bunny’s review of *Pretty Girls* notes in part: “The pace is utterly compulsive as Lydia now joins Claire in an attempt to combine the past and the present to reveal the truth about Julia’s disappearance. ... unmatched non-stop entertainment.” (See the rest of Bunny’s review below.)

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.

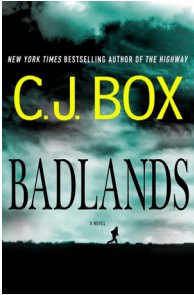
Men of Mystery

Saturday, November 14, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Irvine Marriott



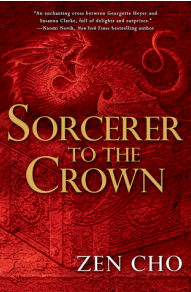
The brainchild of founder Joan Hansen – former Long Beach educator, founder of the Literary Guild of Orange County and of children’s author events in ten Los Angeles and Orange County school districts – the first annual Men of Mystery event opened its doors to 250 guests and 25 authors in 2000. Now in 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.



ReviewsFROM OUR STAFF AND FRIENDS

Speculative Fiction

Sorcerer to the Crown by Zen Cho



A unique debut fantasy taking place in an alternate 1800’s England where magic seems to be on the wane and the new Sorcerer Royal needs to fix it fast, if possible. Unfortunately, Zacharias Wythe will not be getting much help from his fellow members of The Royal Society of Unnatural Philosophers. You see, he’s the adopted son of the former Sorcerer Royal, a freed slave and definitely not a proper gentleman.

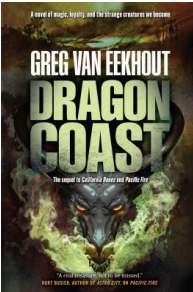
Zacharias visits Mrs. Daubeney’s School for Gentlewitches, a school for suppressing the spells caste by young ladies who have a proclivity for magic. (Proper ladies do not practice magic as it is too much for their delicate minds and bodies.) There he meets Prunella Gentleman, a young woman who will change his life forever. Prunella, an assistant at the school and an orphan whose heritage is also questionable, has magical abilities far beyond any woman he has ever met. She also has a dark secret involving some mysterious stones full of magic. Zacharias takes Prunella as an apprentice, intending to convince the Society to change their policies on women and magic. And so the fun begins! For those who like Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell, a dash of Jane Austen, dragons, some vampires, and witches too – well, who doesn’t? – Linda

Our September Fantastic Firsts Pick. Ace Books, \$26.95.

Dragon Coast by Greg van Eekhout

The action starts immediately after the events in Pacific Fire (so stop here if you’re not caught up). Sam’s an out-of-control dragon and Daniel will move Heaven and Earth (almost literally) to get him back ... with the willing help of his loyal friends and the only-partially willing help of a certain water mage with designs of his own. So it’s off to the Northern realm to steal the dragon, or more accurately, to rescue Sam. Simple. (To say more would be spoilery.)

Friends, family, golems, lend me your ears/eyes/bones ... and enjoy a little masquerade, a stylish caper, and a brief game of thrones (win, or die). Dragon Coast is quite the apt ending to the trilogy, but I spy with my little eye an open door or two, so we might (if we’re



lucky and the Earth don’t crack) see more of our favorite osteomancer and his band of merry cohorts in some future incarnation. Can’t wait to feast on that. – Guest Reviewer Patrick Heffernan
Tor, \$24.99.

Silver on the Road by Laura Anne Gilman

Although The Devil’s West Laura Anne Gilman is writing in stands alone, its literary trail partners include Emma Bull’s *Tombstone* and Elizabeth Bear’s *Karen Memory*. Isobel, aka Izzy, who has been reared in the Devil’s house in the town of Flood, deep in the mystical Territory, makes a pact on her sixteenth birthday to assume a new role as the Devil’s Left Hand. She is sent out on the road to discover the significance of her new identity, and the responsibilities and powers that accompany it, with experienced rider Gabriel, a man with secrets of his own. Izzy confront magicians, bandits, and a host of natural and supernatural threats, as well as bone-grinding exhaustion and other challenges of the trail. – Maryelizabeth

Saga Press, \$26.99.

Mystery & Suspense

Pretty Girls by Karin Slaughter

The Carroll family was torn apart some 20 years ago when Julia, the oldest of three sisters, disappeared one night after leaving a bar alone. Julia’s parents, Sam and Helen, divorced, and Sam committed suicide some years later while Lydia, the middle child, finally ran away and Claire, the youngest, settled for a marriage that was comfortable but unsatisfying. Another young girl is now missing and Claire has just witnessed her husband Paul’s murder while fighting off a robber in a dark alley. After the funeral, Claire’s house is robbed and Paul’s partner is desperately seeking a particular file from their architecture firm. Slaughter spins the rest of the story into an astonishing psychological thriller where nothing is as it seems. The pace is utterly compulsive as Lydia now joins Claire in an attempt to combine the past and the present to reveal the truth about Julia’s disappearance. This is a standalone from Karin Slaughter with unmatched non-stop entertainment. – Bunny

Meet Karin on October 6. William Morrow, \$27.99.

Shooting for the Stars by R.G. Belsky

Belsky has created yet another entertaining Gil Malloy thriller in *Shooting for the Stars*, a gripping story of a thirty year-old closed murder case that is resurrected with the discovery of new evidence. Abbie Kincaid, a New York City talk show celebrity, reveals just a bit of what she has uncovered about actress Laura Marlowe’s decades-old murder


to Gil Malloy; days later she is found dead. Now it is up to Gil to investigate the secrets and mistakes of the past in order to solve the current crime. Gil Malloy is a stubborn, very funny reporter for the *New York Daily News* who will stop at nothing to get his story. Belsky, a reporter himself, uniquely captures the politics and sensationalism that social media has brought to today’s newsrooms. Malloy’s personality makes for a comical, shrewd and engaging story; a truly enjoyable read. – Bunny
Atria Books trade paper original, \$16.00.

Young Adult

Nightfall by Jake Halpern and Peter Kujawinski

This adrenaline-rush of a novel takes place on an island where a single cycle of sun occurs every 28 years. This means that there are 14 years of daylight and 14 years of Night. When the sun sets, everyone on the island packs up their house in a very specific way, following years of traditions, and sets sail for the Desert Lands where other customs rule. Marin, Kana, and Line have only known life on the island and find many of their questions about leaving and their new home unanswered by the adults around them. When the three teens find themselves left on the island as Night falls, the tide retreats, and unknown terrors abound. Their only salvation is to find a way off the island. Their perils are real -- and terrifying -- as they try to escape before it is too late. In the meantime, they find answers to questions they didn’t know to ask. – Terry

Our YA Fantastic First pick for October from Putnam, \$17.99.



Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo

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! – Maryelizabeth

Our Young Adult Fantastic First pick for September from Henry Holt, \$18.99.

