

# THE PLOT THICKENS

mysterious galaxy

BOOKS OF MARTIANS. MURDER. MAGIC. MAYHEM & MORE

FROM YOUR PARTNERS IN CRIME AND IMAGINATION

September 2015 • mystgalaxy.com

## Events

### Josephine Angelini

Signs *Firewalker*

With Guest Host Mary Pearson

**Wednesday, September 2, 6:00 PM**

Join us in celebrating the release of *Firewalker* by Josephine Angelini at Mysterious Galaxy! Her newest novel takes off right where her bestselling *Trial by Fire* left off. Lily Proctor has escaped the pyre that almost took her life and is ready to live a quiet life with Rowan outside of the magical and witch-hunting alternative world of Salem. But hiding her powers from society is the least of her problems when Lilith, the ruler of the 13 Cities, is doing everything in her power to bring Lily back. Guest host Mary Pearson provides insights, drawing from her own complex political, social, and relationship issues in her novels, including July's *The Heart of Betrayal*.

### Alex Dolan

Signs *The Euthanist*

**Wednesday, September 2, 7:30 PM**

Alex Dolan joins us with his debut novel, *The Euthanist*. Described as “one of the most promising debuts since Gillian Flynn’s *Sharp Objects*” (Transgress Magazine), Dolan’s psychological thriller explores the controversial topic of death with dignity while giving readers a dark, fast paced journey that will keep you thinking long after the final page. Dolan is a California based writer and musician, as well as a committee member of the San Francisco Bay Area’s Litquake festival.

### Margaret Coel

Signs *The Man Who Fell from the Sky*

**Thursday, September 3, 7:30 PM**

Father John O’Malley and Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden, the stars of the Wind River Reservation Mysteries series, are back in their nineteenth outing, Margaret Coel’s *The Man Who Fell from the Sky*, along with a legendary figure from the American West. In a starred review, *Publishers Weekly* noted, “Coel smoothly blends (Butch) Cassidy lore with the moving tale of complex family relationships, including those of outsiders Father John and Vicky.” Rumors persist that the famous outlaw buried some of his treasure on the Wind River Reservation – and someone believes in the truth of the rumor enough to commit murder.

### Star Wars®: Absolutely Everything You Need to Know and Star Wars®: Moving Target Party!

With Authors Adam Bray, Cole Horton, Michael Kogge and Cecil Castellucci

**Thursday, September 3, 9:30 PM to midnight!**

Rebels and Imperial loyalists are invited to our Galaxy for the midnight launch of *Star Wars®: Absolutely Everything You Need to Know*, sure to offer the best insights into everything diehard fans have wondered about the Star Wars® universe, as they prepare for the advent of “Star Wars®: The Force Awakens,” premiering on December 18. Our festive evening will include photo opportunities, The Imperial Sands Garrison, a coloring station and activity sheets, two family-friendly trivia rounds, and a session with moderators Sarah and Richard, hosts of the popular “Skywalking Through Neverland” podcast, interviewing the authors, leading up to a climactic book signing when the books go on sale at midnight! Giveaways include *Star Wars®: Absolutely Everything You Need to Know* posters, assorted *Star Wars®* bookmarks, sticker sheets, DK *Star Wars®* “Be A Rebel. Read A Book.” t-shirts & tote bags, and other wonderful prizes.



Michael Kogge is an American screenwriter and author who has written for several Star Wars projects, and three books in the Star Wars Rebels series, *Rise of the Rebels*, *The Rebellion Begins*, and *Droids in Distress*, as well as an original epic comic, *Empire of the Wolf*. Cole Horton is a 20th century historian and longtime member of the Star Wars community, and has served as historian for StarWars.com. Cole is active in the Star Wars fan community as an R2 Builder, member of the 501st Legion, and occasional collector. Adam Bray, travel writer, journalist, explorer, and adventurer, is a contributor to 40 books on travel in Southeast Asia and called a “Modern Indiana Jones” by CNN. Adam is the author of DK’s *Star Wars: What Makes a Monster?* and *Star Wars Rebels: The Visual Guide*. Authoress and Artiste Cecil Castellucci is well known to Mysterious Galaxy readers. Very little is known about her new middle grade novel, *Star Wars®: Journey to*

*The Force Awakens: Moving Target: A Princess*

*Leia Adventure*, except that the warrior princess is featured front and center!

### Stephanie Diaz

Signs *Evolution*

**Friday, September 11, 7:30 PM**

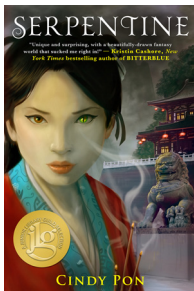
Twenty-two-year-old Stephanie Diaz wrote her debut dystopian novel, *Extraction*, when she was a film student at San Diego State University. Now the action-packed trilogy comes to a close with the release of *Evolution* and we’re thrilled to host her launch party. Clementine and Logan’s world is on the brink of destruction and they have no choice but to retreat to the Core. Unfortunately, this means Clementine and Logan must form a tentative alliance with their sworn enemy but it’s the only way for the rebels to survive. Don’t miss this pulse-pounding conclusion to a gripping series that fans of *The Hunger Games* will love.

### Cindy Pon

Launch Party for *Serpentine*

**Saturday, September 12, 4:00 PM**

Mysterious Galaxy celebrates the release of Cindy Pon’s newest novel, *Serpentine*! Inspired by the rich history of Chinese mythology, this sweeping fantasy is set in the ancient Kingdom of Xia and tells the coming of age story of Skybright, a young girl who worries about her growing otherness. As she learns of her dark destiny, she must struggle to retain her sense of self – even as she falls in love for the first time. Join us for a fantastic discussion on love, magic, and danger.



### Reed Farrel Coleman and William S. Kirby

Sign *Robert B. Parker’s The Devil Wins* and *Vienna*

**Sunday, September 13, 2:00 PM**

In Reed Farrel Coleman’s newest addition to Robert B. Parker’s *New York Times* bestselling Jesse Stone series, *The Devil Wins*, a massive storm hits Paradise, and Police Chief Jesse Stone worries about potential storm damage. But when the bodies of two teenage girls are discovered in the wake of the storm, Jesse must dig up secrets of the past that have been buried for over twenty-five years.

William S. Kirby has traveled extensively which inspired him to write his first mystery novel, *Vienna*, a sexy stylish thriller that follows two women as they plunge into a bizarre love affair amidst high fashion European photo shoots – inspired in part by a Sherlock Holmes short story.

### Catriona McPherson

Signs *The Child Garden*

**Tuesday, September 15, 7:30 PM**

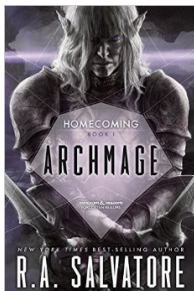
*Kirkus* called Catriona McPherson’s *The Child Garden* “a stunning combination of creepy thriller and classic mystery” and the *Library Journal* described it as “complex, haunting, and magical.” When Gloria Harkness’ childhood friend shows up at her door, the past comes back to haunt them, threatening everything – and everyone – they hold dear. McPherson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, but currently lives in California. She is the author of the Dandy Gilver detective series and five stand-alone novels.

### R.A. Salvatore

Signs *Archmage*

**Friday, September 18, 7:30 PM**

Join us for a night of magic, fantasy, and adventure as we welcome bestselling author R.A. Salvatore once again to Mysterious Galaxy! His latest novel *Archmage* centers on our favorite drow, Drizzt who must face the challenge of the dark elves of Menzoberranzan. The powerful Archmage Gromph plans to call on demonic forces from the deepest reaches of the Abyss, and unleash a disaster even the Underdark could never have prepared for.



### Tacos & Tecate Trio

### Greg Van Eekhout, Fran Wilde, and Adam Rakunas

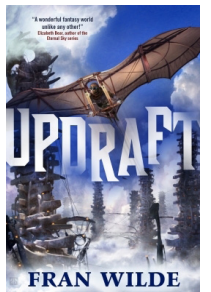
Sign *Dragon Coast*, *Updraft*, and *Windswept*

**Saturday, September 19, 2:00pm**

Nebula Award for Best Short Story nominee and local author Greg Van Eekhout’s latest book, *Dragon Coast* is a sequel to *California Bones* and *Pacific Fire* and sees the return of Sam, alive despite efforts to the contrary, trapped inside a rampaging dragon. Daniel must save his adopted son – but it isn’t going to

be easy. Steven Gould calls *Dragon Coast* a “L.A noir as dark as La Brea tar.”

Fran Wilde debuts with her novel *Updraft*, described by Hugo winner Elizabeth Bear as “a fantasy world unlike any other!” Kirit Densira lives in a “city of living bones,” where the inhabitants get around on mechanical wings – and secrets abound. When Kirit starts to uncover certain dark truths, the government is determined to silence her. Wilde is a technology consultant and author. She’s previously taught writing and digital media, and her short fiction work has appeared in publications such as *Asimov’s*, *Nature Magazine*, and *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*.



And the final member of the trio, Adam Rakunas, is a stay at home parent, and the organizer of the periodic Southern California SFWA Reading Series, as well as a debut novelist. Publisher Angry Robot’s site’s brief synopsis of *Windswept* reads, “Padma Mehta has to save her city, her planet, and Occupied Space from a devastating crop-killing plague — all before Happy Hour.” Adam’s website proclaims, “I am Rakunas, Devourer of Worlds. I mean, Tacos.” Join Adam, Fran, and Greg in devouring tacos and other refreshments from the spread provided by local taco shop, TacoSurf, thanks to the kind publishing folks at Tor Books.

### Roy A. Teel

Signs *Devil’s Chair*

**Sunday, September 20, 2:00 PM**

*Devil’s Chair* is the sixth installment in Southern California author Roy A. Teel’s 30-book geographically-centered hard boiled Iron Eagle Series. The main character, a former Marine Corps Black Operative turned rogue FBI agent / vigilante, hunts serial killers in Los Angeles. The novels seek to examine what can happen to any one of us if we let our guard down and/ or are in the wrong place at the wrong time. In this installment, Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim O’Brian and FBI Profilers Special Agent Steve Hoffman and John Swenson search to discover the terrifying reason why young, healthy adults are winding up dead in the remote Devil’s Chair.

### Jonathan Maberry

Signs *Deadlands: Ghostwalkers* and *Rot & Ruin: Bits & Pieces*

**Friday, September 25, 7:30 PM**

Popular and prolific bestselling local author and generous writing instructor Jonathan Maberry returns to the Galaxy with a novel set in a new-to-him universe, and a collection of short stories set in his Rot & Ruin zombie apocalypse wasteland. The RPG *Deadlands* presents a horrific journey into the “Weird West.” Beings called the Reckoners and a mysterious super-fuel called “ghost rock” have given life to monsters and magic, causing history to divert from July 4th, 1863, forward. In *Ghostwalkers*, a gun-for-hire battles the recently undead, including some by his own hand. *Bits & Pieces* includes stories of battles against the undead, with previously published shorts, all new tales from Nix’s journals, and the comic book script.

### Solange Ritchie and Mark Coggins

Sign *The Burning Man* and *No Hard Feelings*

**Saturday, September 26, 2:00 PM**

Orange County lawyer, Solange Ritchie, will be reading from her debut psychological thriller, *The Burning Man*. FBI Forensic pathologist Cat Powers investigates a string of murders which leads her on the hunt for a twisted serial killer dubbed “The Burning Man.”

Mark Coggins is a Shamus and Barry Award finalist for his August Riordan series, the jazz bass-playing private investigator. His latest title, *No Hard Feelings*, is a sequel to *Vulture Capital* featuring Winnie, a modern-day Amazon who feels no pain. She teams up with August to defeat a nemesis who wants to harvest biomedical implants from her body.

### Jen Klein

Signs *Jillian Cade: (Fake) Paranormal Investigator*

**Sunday, September 27, 2:00 PM**

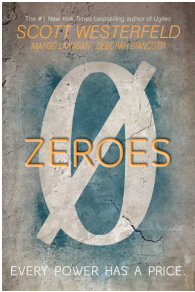
Debut young adult author Jen Klein’s other writing work is undoubtedly known to many readers – her writing for television includes work for “Totally Spies,” “Star Wars®: Clone Wars,” and “Gray’s Anatomy.” Guest reviewer Sandra Hale notes: “Jillian Cade is a marvelous main character. ... This book, written with humor and cynicism, becomes darker as the story progresses. The first in a series, this is the story of a teenager with a real identity crisis.” (For more, see Maryelizabeth’s review on the back page.)



Scott Westerfeld, Margo Lanagan, and Deborah Biancotti

Sign *Zeroes*  
Wednesday, September 30, 7:30 PM

A couple of years ago, Australian authors Scott Westerfeld, Margo Lanagan, and Deborah Biancotti started a discussion about superhero tropes, and how to make a story about kids with superpowers new and interesting. The result is *Zeroes*, the first of a trilogy about the disadvantages of being a teen with superpowers. Whether you were among the Comic-Con International attendees fortunate enough to attend the “Zeroes to Heroes” panel, or pick up a sampler, or you are a fan of the authors’ other works, we look forward to an engaging evening discussing team work among superbeings and writers. (See “From Zeroes to Heroes” moderator David Mariotte’s review just below.)



Outside Events of Note:

In September, you will also find us joining forces with:

Adventures by the Book for a Book Club Dinner Adventure with **Juliet Blackwell** and *The Paris Key* on Tuesday, September 1, 6:30 PM

San Diego Writers, Ink Presents: **Fall for Writing** from Friday, September 11, through Sunday, September 13 at the Inkspot and Inspirations Gallery at Liberty Station

Cozy Mystery Luncheon featuring **Joanne Fluke, Dorothy Howell,** and **Lee Hollis** at the Huntington Beach Library on Thursday, September 17, 12:00 PM

**Gaslight Gathering** from Friday, September 18, through Sunday, September 20 at the Town & Country Resort Hotel

**Southern California Writers Conference** presents, A Weekend for Words from Friday, September 25, through Sunday, September 27 at the Wyndham Irvine Hotel in Irvine.

Details can be found on our website.

Looking Ahead in October:

Toni Gallagher – October 4; Jim Butcher – October 5; Karin Slaughter – October 6; Brandon Sanderson – October 8; Ann Leckie – October 9; Greg Bear – October 9; Star Wars Reads Day – October 10; Laura Anne Gilman – October 10; Cat Winters – October 10; Terri Nolan – October 11; Sarah Weinman with Jan Burke –

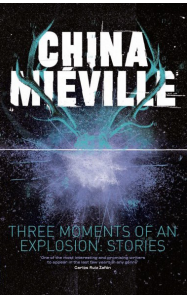


October 14; Gavin Aung Than – October 16; Dr. Janina Scarlet – October 17; Bonnie MacBird – October 18; Leslie Klinger – October 18; Alex Matsuo – October 23; Jewish Noir contributors – October 25; Gena Showalter – October 30; Amy Lukavics – October 30; Kady Cross – October 3



Speculative Fiction

Three Moments of an Explosion by China Miéville



With *Three Moments of an Explosion*, Miéville has earned his place in the pantheon of short fiction fantastical writers, joining such dark luminaries as Harlan Ellison, H.P. Lovecraft, and Clive Barker. The twenty-eight windows into the weird you’ll find in this collection offer bizarre, wondrous, and terrifying vistas, some as vast in scope as the space between the stars; others claustrophobic as a padded cell. In “Polynia,” airborne icebergs overshadow London and coral reefs sprout from buildings in Brussels as man-besieged Nature returns the favor. In “After the Festival,” participants in a modern shamanistic ritual don the heads of severed animals, and to their horror lose control of their inner beasts. “Säcken” pits two women’s love against a hungry sack that devours souls as a chilling punishment. There’s more, so much more, in this mind-expanding brood of dangerous visions, but be warned, they strike with fangs of philosophy. Miéville’s revelations made me gape in awe. – Robert Del Rey, \$27.99.

Annihilation by Jeff VanderMeer

Jeff VanderMeer’s Southern Reach Trilogy is one of the most talked about science fiction trilogies for a reason. Technically set in a vaguely dystopian future, it is anything but *Hunger Games* for grown-ups. The first book in the trilogy is *Annihilation* (which won the Nebula Award – a first for FSG). Written in journal format, it tells of the twelfth expedition to venture into Area X – a stretch of land mysteriously taken over by pristine wilderness from which few have returned. Known only by their function, the expedition is made up of the psychologist, the anthropologist, the surveyor, and the biologist (who is also the narrator). As they focus their mission on an enigmatic underground cylindrical tower, the anonymity and pressure turns to distrust and betrayal. Lauren Beukes called it a “tense and chilling psychological thriller” with “a little Kubrick, a lot of Lovecraft.” Pick it up. Read it. You won’t be disappointed. – Anne C. FSG trade paper original, \$13.00.

Mystery & Suspense

The Uninvited by Cat Winters

I loved *In the Shadow of Blackbirds*, so I was excited to dive into *The Uninvited*, a psychological thriller set in the panic of the influenza pandemic of 1918. The world has been turned upside down by the war and the deadly flu and Americans are paranoid to the point of violence against German blooded citizens. Ivy Rowan, who has a lifelong gift for seeing ghosts, rises from her sick bed seemingly a survivor of the flu, only to discover her angry drunken father and brother have murdered a

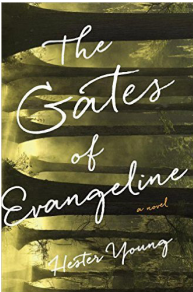
German furniture maker from town. In disgust, she leaves the farm and heads to town where she is horrified by the breakdown of governing society that the panic has caused. She is drawn to the jazz music played at the Masonic Lodge and to Daniel Schendel, the now sole owner of Liberty Furniture and has no inkling of the otherworldly revelations that are about to unfold. A hauntingly great ghost story. – Bunny William Morrow trade paper original, \$14.99.

Swerve by Vicki Pettersson

Okay, so it’s the obvious metaphor, but it’s true, none-the-less: the new thriller from the best-selling urban fantasy author isn’t so much a departure from her previous story-telling, as a swerve onto a parallel path, just one without supernatural elements. Physician’s assistant Kristine Rush and her fiancé, ER surgeon Daniel Hawthorne, make a routine roadside stop to deal with a spilled beverage en route to his family home. While Kris is in the bathroom stall, she is menaced by an unseen foe – when she emerges, Daniel is gone, taken hostage, and soon Kris starts receiving directions to commit difficult and morally questionable tasks to try to rescue him, with no recourse for outside assistance. This is an breathless, one-sitting, “what would / could I do in this situation?” novel, recommended for readers who aren’t averse to “real world” darkness and violence. – Maryelizabeth Gallery, \$25.99.

The Gates of Evangeline by Hester Young

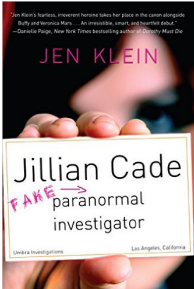
Debut author Hester Young has taken Southern gothic to a whole new level with her complex heroine, whose heartache is genuine and palpable. Charlotte (Charlie) Cates is a broken-hearted divorcee who has suffered unimaginable loss in her life; her mother left when she was a baby, her father died in a car accident, and her 4-year-old son died of a brain aneurysm. Her saving grace has been her friendship with fellow mother, Rae, and her love for her grandmother, with whom she has lived since she was 14 years old. It turns out that Charlie and her grandmother have more in common that she knew. They both have visions which enable them to see the future. When one such vision coincides with a job offer to research a cold case of a missing child, Charlie travels to Chicory, Louisiana to reside in an old southern mansion called Evangeline. Once there, she meets the Deveau family, complete with evil sisters, a brother with secrets, thier dying mother, and a fellow visitor who is working to restore the grounds of their estate to their former beauty. As Charlie learns more about the inhabitants of this house, she finds herself immersed in the history and mystery of this family. In the end, she will find the answers she seeks, both about the Deveau family ... and about herself. –Terry The first book in a trilogy and a Fantastic First September pick from Putnam, \$26.95



Young Adult

Jillian Cade: (Fake) Paranormal Investigator by Jen Klein

Jillian Cade’s father is a charlatan – but one with an international following, so when he goes largely MIA after her mother’s death, leaving the high schooler more or less independent under the loving care of her aunt, uncle, and younger cousin, Jillian decides to capitalize on his reputation and generate an income stream via “Umbra Investigations,” looking into supernatural occurrences for the gullible. The beginning of her junior year of high school is immediately complicated by two issues – a gorgeous new guy who may only be interested in her because of her dad, and a case that may not be as fake as she anticipates. Jillian’s narration is a great combination of sarcastic and pop culture young person, balanced with some real vulnerability. Comparisons to “Veronica Mars” are inevitable, and deserved. – Maryelizabeth Soho Teen, \$18.99.



Zeroes by Scott Westerfeld, Margo Lanagan and Deborah Biancotti

What if the little voice in our heads, the one that could tell a lie to get you out of any situation or go off on a rampage destroying all your friends, could speak for itself? That’d be kind of a terrible superpower. It’s also the set-up for *Zeroes*, the new YA book about a loose team of superpowered teens who have powers based on interpersonal relationships. Mixing superhero genre tropes with classic teen struggles with change, romance, and wanting to both stand out and fit in with the crowd, Westerfeld, Lanagan, and Biancotti develop a rich world. The alternating points of view between the six main characters keeps the prose engaging, though some characters are easier to identify with than others. Ultimately, a thrilling new take on the superhero genre. – David M. Simon Pulse, \$19.99.

Circus Mirandus by Cassie Beasley

Sometimes you come across a book and as you glance at its cover and start reading the first page you get the feeling that this is a book that you could simply fall in love with. I got that feeling with *Circus Mirandus* almost immediately and I was not wrong-- this is a special and magical book that pulls you in the way only a magical circus could. Here is a story about a magical, wondrous circus, of flying girls, miracles, and impossible things. But here is also a story of young Micah and his beloved dying grandfather. Written poignantly and imaginatively, this is a touching and beautiful novel for readers of all ages. – Kelly Penguin Young Readers, \$17.99.



BOOKS OF MARTIANS, MURDER, MAGIC, MAYHEM & MORE  
5943 Balboa Ave. #100  
San Diego, CA 92111  
858.268.4747



Printed on recycled paper.

The Plot Thickens is written and produced by the staff of Mysterious Galaxy © 1993-2015 Partners in Crime and Imagination