



The Plot Thins ...

FROM YOUR PARTNERS IN CRIME & IMAGINATION

May (Our 15th Birthday!) 2008 ...

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 5

Mysterious Galaxy Celebrates! Our 15th Birthday Bash! Saturday, May 10 – all day!

Mysterious Galaxy turns 15 on **Saturday, May 10**. For this occasion, we invite all of our fellow lovers of Martians, Murder, Magic, Mayhem, as well as those who devour our more recent genres of Metro Mythos and Munchkins, to join our celebration. We will host stellar spotlight authors. There will be cake and other refreshments. We will have boxes set up for our customers to clear their shelves of “extra books” (isn’t that an oxymoron?). All donated books will benefit some of our non-profit partners. We will also have some special items to auction off. The proceeds will be donated to our non-profit partners as we conclude our two-year Book Mitzvah. Then, stick around as we share new ways we are giving back to the community, including our efforts to contribute to a greener planet for all.

Jeff Mariotte

Signing *Supernatural: Witch’s Canyon* and *Desperadoes: Buffalo Dreams*
10:30 AM

MG co-owner and author **Jeff Mariotte’s** *Supernatural* tie-in novel, *Witch’s Canyon*, is an original adventure taking Sam and Dean Winchester to the Grand Canyon state. Jeff’s western comics, both *Desperadoes*, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2007, and *Graveslinger*, which he co-authored with Shannon Denton, have received acclaim from outside the industry, with *Buffalo Dreams* named the Best Western Comic by *True West* magazine, and *Graveslinger* achieving recognition from *Cowboys & Indians*. As the Birthday Bash kicks off at **10:30 AM**, Jeff will also offer looks at other projects in the works, including his forthcoming supernatural thriller *River Runs Red*, his forthcoming Spider-Man novel, and his contribution to the *Tales of Zorro* anthology.

Savannah Russe

Signing *Under Darkness*
11:00 AM

Vampire Daphne Urban has been coerced into working for Team Darkwing, a super-secret spy subset of the CIA, in *The Darkwing Chronicles* by **Savannah Russe**. As if the demands of espionage and counter-terrorism weren’t enough to keep her busy, Daphne is also in a conflicted relationship with her human on-again off-again lover, vampire hunter Darius della Chiesa, and she must fight the lure of forbidden vampire temptations. In *Under Darkness*, Daphne and her Darkwing teammates must not only work to stop an insidious terrorist attack and reclaim an American icon, but also fend off an attack from a group of vampire hunters. Find out more about why this is one of Terry’s favorite urban fantasy series when we have our spotlight on Savannah at **11:00 AM**.

Susan Hubbard

Signing *The Year of Disappearances*
12:00 noon

The *Society of S* was one of our favorite discoveries of 2007, and MG is delighted to have **Susan Hubbard** return for our Birthday Bash and the continued tale of Ariella Montero in *The Year of Disappearances*. (See Sam’s review on the back page.) Ari’s voyage of discovery in *The Society of S* led her to certain truths about herself and her family background, but left a number of open doors for more discovery about the secret society of sanguinists she is (half) part of. *The Year of Disappearances* deals in part with politics and the electoral process, a timely topic for Ari and for all of us in 2008! Susan will discuss growing pains, vampires, writing, and maybe even politics at **noon**.

Find Out About May Events Before and After our Birthday Party ...

For details about Wil Wheaton, Hannah Dennison, and May events following the Birthday Party, see the back of this newsletter

Charlaine Harris

Signing *From Dead to Worse*
1:00 PM



We are delighted that our tradition of **Charlaine Harris** being a part of our Birthday Bash continues with her **1:00 PM** spotlight. *From Dead to Worse* is the eighth Sookie Stackhouse southern gothic vampire romance novel (Linda’s review is on the back page). The post-Katrina shake-ups in Louisiana’s vampire and werewolf communities are escalating into a full scale war, with the additional unwelcome interference of the anti-supernatural Fellowship of the Sun fanatics. Plus we hope Charlaine will have an update on Sookie on the small screen in “True Blood” on HBO as well. Remember to pick up copies of *Ice Cold Grave*, the third Harper Connelly novel, and *Many Bloody Returns*, the vampire birthday anthology Charlaine co-edited with Toni Kelner, as well as many of Charlaine’s mysteries. This is a numbered event. Numbers for the signing line are available with purchase of *From Dead to Worse* from **Mysterious Galaxy**, on sale beginning Tuesday, May 6. Contact staff for details.

Robert Tanenbaum

Signing *Escape*
2:00 PM

Our **2:00 PM** spotlight offers a change of genres with best-selling author **Robert Tanenbaum** and *Escape*, the twentieth thriller featuring Butch Karp, Marlene Ciampi, and the rest of the popular crime-fighting crew of friends and family. Each family member faces a different challenge: New York District Attorney Butch is prosecuting a woman who claims she was instructed by God to kill her three children and private detective Marlene and their daughter, Lucy, are caught up in anti-terrorist activities that may result in the destruction of the U.S. economy if they fail. In addition to his successful law career, Robert has served as a professor and as the mayor of Beverly Hills, and his life stories are as fascinating as his fiction.

Jeri Smith-Ready and Samantha Sommersby

Signing *Wicked Game* and *Forbidden: The Revolution*
3:00 PM

It’s double the authors during our **3:00 PM** spotlight on **Jeri Smith-Ready** and **Samantha Sommersby**, both of whom write in several romantic / erotic subgenres, and both of whom have a new contemporary vampire novel out. *Wicked Game* is a novel of “sex, blood, and rock ‘n’ roll.” (See Maryelizabeth’s review on the back page.) The sex part comes from promoter Ciara Griffin’s relationship with one of her vampiric co-workers. The blood part – hello, vampires. And the rock ‘n’ roll comes from WVMP, the radio station setting. A couple of lucky readers will receive WMVP logo items, which can also be ordered from the faux station’s web site, www.WVMPradio.com. Jeri is also the author of the science fantasy Aspect of Crow series.

Forbidden: the Revolution, by local author Samantha, on the other hand, could be billed as a novel of “sex, blood, and sorcery.” The sex is frequent and sensual. The blood is because Dell Renfield is a vampire, although his lover, special agent Alexandria Sanchez is not.

Birthday Details continue on the back page

More Birthday Details ...

And Dell is a sorcerer as well, trained to be the ultimate weapon in the battle his father (Byron, hero of *The Awakening* and *The Claim*) began decades ago. Authors Kelley Armstrong and Jeanne Stein count themselves among Samantha's fans.

Timothy Zahn

Signing *Dragon and Liberator*
4:00 PM

Best-selling author **Timothy Zahn** reaches the conclusion of his popular young adult series with *Dragon and Liberator*. In the sixth book about our boy Jack Morgan and K'da poet/warrior Draycos (who spends much of his time as a dragon tattoo on Jack's back), the pair find themselves in a confrontation with an old enemy who holds a weapon that can eliminate the entire K'da population. Patrick is a long-time fan of this exciting space adventure series. What twelve-year-old kid wouldn't want his own spaceship and a friend who happens to be a dragon? Awesome space adventure for the kid in all of us. Fans of Tim's Star Wars novels, including *Allegiance*, and his adult science fiction, including the recently re-released *The Third Lynx*, are also welcome to help us celebrate the series' finale and the conclusion of the Birthday Bash at **4:00 PM**.

But first, May begins with ...

Wil Wheaton

Signs *The Happiest Days of Our Lives*
Saturday, May 3, 2:00 PM



Join us on **Saturday, May 3, at 2:00 PM**, when we host **Wil Wheaton** for his new collection of essays, *The Happiest Days of Our Lives*. Maryelizabeth's review on our web site of *The Happiest Days of Our Lives* reads in part: "Whether he is writing about subjects one can identify with or less familiar topics, Wil's stories are truthful, insightful, and above all, entertaining." Join Wil in celebrating life as a writer, a parent, and a proud geek. This is a numbered event. Numbers for the signing line are available with purchase of *The Happiest Days of Our Lives*, *Just a Geek*, or *Dancing Barefoot* from **Mysterious Galaxy**. Additional signing line numbers will be available for pick-up at the store starting at 10:00 AM on May 3. Contact staff for details. And don't forget to stop by Comickaze to check out Wil's contribution to *Star Trek: The Manga*, and take part in Free Comic Book Day.

Hannah Dennison

Signs *A Vicky Hill Exclusive!*
Thursday, May 8, 3:00 PM

Over the course of debut cozy mystery author **Hannah Dennison's** job history, she has been a member of Her Majesty's Royal Navy, an antiques dealer, a night club hostess, a flight attendant, a screenwriter, and a journalist like her protagonist. *A Vicky Hill Exclusive!* introduces readers to a young journalist, whose ambitions of being a renowned reporter seem doomed by her current beat covering funerals and obituaries for the *Gipping Gazette*, the weekly publication of a small English town. Hannah will drop by Mysterious Galaxy on **Thursday, May 8, at 3:00 PM**, prior to speaking to the San Diego Mystery Club members at their monthly gathering.

Looking Ahead into our 16th Year!:

- ◆ **May Continues:** Caitlin Rother – May 17; Organizing Your Books with Taffy Cannon – May 18; Sheila Lowe – May 19; John Sandford – May 21; Elizabeth George – May 31
- ◆ **June and July:** Melissa Marr – June 3; Thomas Perry – June 7; Sheldon Siegel – June 9; John Connolly – June 11; Steve Martini – June 13; Don Winslow – June 14; Jeffery Deaver – June 20; David Rosenfelt – June 27; Lynn Flewelling – June 28; Jincy Willett – June 29; Elizabeth Zelvin – June 29; James Rollins – June 29; Kelly Link – July 2; James Patrick Kelly – July 9; Rhys Bowen – July 13; Mary Anne Mahanraj – July 16; Ona Russell – July 19; Denise Hamilton – July 19; Michelle Gagnon – July 20; Simon Wood – July 20; Neil Gaiman – July 22; Comic-Con International San Diego and more!

Birthday Book Blurbs

Check out some reviews of our Bday Authors' latest books.

From Dead to Worse by Charlaine Harris

In Charlaine's latest Southern Gothic Vampire Romance *Mystery*, our favorite cocktail waitress Sookie Stackhouse faces the violent aftermath of two catastrophic events from her past: Hurricane Katrina and the Vampire Summit. Both have left the supernatural community in Louisiana weakened. Power struggles are inevitable and war is threatening everyone. It's were vs. were, vamp vs. vamp, human vs. were vs. vamp. You get the picture. Everyone vs. everyone. Caught in the middle, Sookie feels threatened, lost and alone, especially since she still hasn't heard from her boyfriend Quinn since the Vampire Summit the previous month. You can bet the fur will fly. Will Sookie survive the power struggles, maybe find love and happiness, or at least a good night's sleep? As always, be prepared for some surprises and changes in Sookie's life. I am forever hopeful about Sookie's future and always happy to read the latest episode of her fascinating story. Ace Books, \$24.95. — LNT

The Year of Disappearances by Susan Hubbard

If you've talked to me in the store, looked at our reviews on the website, read my Top 7 of '07 list, or even just made eye contact with me, I've probably blabbed to you about *The Society of S* and how much I adored it. (It's out in paperback in April for you latecomers — hint, hint). Well, I am very pleased to announce the sequel to *The Society of S*, *The Year of Disappearances*. And I am also pleased to say that I liked it as much as I liked the first one! Though *The Society of S* comes to a definite end, there are so many curiosities that left me saying, "But wait! What about...?". Susan explores many of these themes in the new book, weaving an even more intricate hidden world of "others". The mysterious, sinister "blind" man? Yep. We see much more of him. Malcolm and Mary Ellis Root? Just wait until you see what they're up to. Not to mention Ari's discovery of self, and how to deal with the fact that she's half vampire (who do you date when you're immortal?). Subtle, evocative, fresh and engrossing, *The Year of Disappearances* will leave you thirsting for more. Be sure to take your tonic and pick up the book before Susan returns for our birthday bash on May 10th! Simon & Schuster, \$22.95. — SW

Wicked Game by Jeri Smith-Ready

Okay, I had Chris Isaak playing in my head the whole time I was reading this book, but it was totally appropriate for this novel of "sex, blood, and rock 'n' roll." Ciera Griffin has spent most of her life as a predator — she's a con artist, and has been since she was old enough to assist her parents in their grifts. However, a recent unpleasant episode has her yearning to go straight. Little does she know that her checkered past makes her the perfect applicant for a PR position at a radio station trying hard to maintain its individuality and avoid a corporate takeover that would doom its latenight DJs to a fate worse than death. You see, the DJs know their stuff so well because they became vampires in their particular cultural era. Ciera's idea — to "out" the vampires as a publicity stunt — has dangerous repercussions. Jeri created some interesting twists on existing vampire mythos, as well as one of the most believable human / monster romantic relationships it's been my pleasure to read lately. Pocket tpo, \$14.00. — MeH

Give a Gift of Seuss Sense ...

We got so excited by the arrival of our new Dr. Seuss Book Sense Gift Cards that we got completely carried away ...
(with apologies to Dr. Seuss)

Oh, the places you will go!
And with Dr Seuss you will know
That Book Sense Gift Cards are the Star
And Mysterious Galaxy is where they are.

Buy them for your birthday, Hon,
Buy them for your favorite son.
Buy one for the upstairs elf
And don't forget one for yourself!

So run or drive or bike or fly
But get to Mysterious Galaxy by and by
And pick up a Gift Card. Or three! Or eleventy-seven!
They're the most fantabulous gifts in all of gift heaven!