

# THE PLOT THICKENS

mysterious  
galaxy

BOOKS OF MARTIANS, MURDER, MAGIC & MAYHEM

FROM YOUR PARTNERS IN CRIME AND IMAGINATION

Birthday Bash 2009 We're 16! ...

## For the 16-Year-Old in All of Us ...

Just in case you haven't yet noticed our enthusiasm for some of our favorite Young Adult titles, our birthday gift to you is a list of some of our favorites from our current collection ... and from very long ago:

» The Morganville Vampire series by Rachel Caine, particularly #1, *Glass Houses*. College freshman Claire Danvers is challenged by all of the "striking out on her own" issues: dorm life, college hazing, bad food, grade-point averages, and those college boys, among other real life situations. Throw in a town run by vampires and this 16-year-old girl just doesn't have time to worry about a bad-hair day. Signet pbo, \$6.99. — LNT

» *The Book of Lost Things* by John Connolly. A moving, dark, lyrical fairy tale about a boy mourning the loss of his mother and learning how to cope with the challenges of adulthood. I still cry when I reach the end. Washington Square Press tp, \$15.00. — SW

» *Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow. Big Brother is watching you. Who watches Big Brother? Awesome. Nominated for numerous awards including the Nebula and the Hugo. Tor, \$17.95. — PMH

» *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman. This tale is truly magical and Gaiman deftly turns the story of a boy growing up and discovering himself into a truly beautiful dark fantasy that rightly won the Newbery Award. HarperCollins, \$17.99. P.S. - The audiobook is absolutely fantastic as it is read by Gaiman himself. — MS

» *Pendragon: Journal of an Adventure Through Time and Space*: the series by D.J. MacHale. Books one through nine are a fast paced and very enjoyable science fiction adventure. The hero, Bobby, matures and gains a measure of wisdom with each story. We are all impatiently waiting for the 10th and last adventure later this year. Volumes 1 - 9 Aladdin pap, \$8.99 each. — lre

» Recently: *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer. I read the book to see what all the buzz was about and got hooked into this coming of age young adult vampire story right from the beginning. Be ready to buy the other three in the series (*New Moon*, *Eclipse*, *Breaking Dawn*) because they are absolutely addicting. For ages 12 and older. Adults like these books as much as the teens. Megan Tingley Books tp, \$10.99. — LDB

» When I Was a Young Adult: *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O' Dell. This classic Newbery Award winner was my favorite as a young adult. This is a beautiful story of an American Indian girl growing to maturity all alone on an island. I remember as a teenager

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## We're Sixteen!! (Isn't that Sweet?)

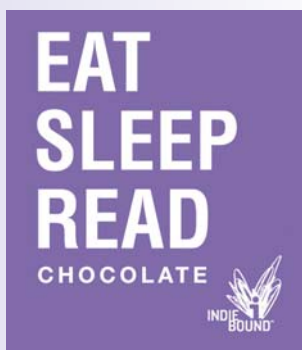
It's hard to believe that it has been sixteen years since we first opened our doors in our first location in Clairemont Square. Since then we have gone through some growing pains, moved our store twice, and gained confidence in who we are. As teenagers, we are stretching our wings, learning how to drive into new areas of our business, and planning to graduate to new adventures.

And like all 16-year-olds, we believe we can conquer whatever obstacles lie in our path ... and in fact, we believe we are doing this better than ever. This year has brought some unique challenges to all of us, but we are seeing more of you at events and you are supporting our authors in record numbers. We thank you for supporting us and for keeping your shopping dollars local.

But enough serious talk ... on **May 9** we are having a party! And this year's Birthday Bash will be more fun than ever. Don't miss any of our fabulous authors, be a part of our community by buying an "Eat. Sleep. Read." T-Shirt, and don't leave the party without at least one present from us. There will be surprises, lots of great folks to talk to, and of course cake! Don't miss it!

And to continue our Sweet 16 theme, this issue of *The Plot Thickens* contains loads of reviews of Young Adult titles. A list of some of our favorites (current and from our past) begins in the sidebar to the left and we have devoted an entire section to new Young Adult fiction reviews beginning on page 2. So get in the spirit and try one ... even if you think you are too old to be reading them. Maybe they will make you feel 16 again! (That's why we read them!)

*Thank you for celebrating our Birthday with us ... and for every day that we see you at Mysterious Galaxy.*



## Rave Reviews

### The City and the City by China Miéville

How often do we really see what's around us? And what is reality? A shared illusion? An existence independent of our perceptions? Those are some of the questions explored in China Miéville's *THE CITY & YTC EHT* (look at the cover in a mirror), a remarkable new novel from one of today's premier practitioners of speculative fiction. We're living in a second golden age of literary science fiction and fantasy, graced by the talents of gifted writers such as Miéville, Scalzi, Morgan, Stross and many others who, like Asimov, Heinlein, Bradbury, Clarke, and the writers of our first golden age, are breaking new ground and producing work that both delights and challenges. The best speculative fiction — think of Le Guin's *The Left Hand of Darkness* — has always used the fantastic to probe the depths of what it means to be human, that sine qua non of every great novel.

Miéville presents us with two cities, two cultures, two countries occupying the same time and space, yet separated by deep psychological and social boundaries, by their citizens' refusal to acknowledge one another except through official channels, by practices of "unseeing" and "unhearing": one can make an international phone call to a person in the other city, but can't walk next door to visit her without a visa and passage through the approved checkpoints, all enforced by a mysterious entity or group known only as the Breach, which reacts to any violation of the partition of the cities with brutal swiftness and efficiency, materializing out of nowhere, apprehending violators, and disappearing as quickly as they appeared.

When a young woman is murdered in one city and her body dumped in the other, all apparently without breaching, it falls to inspector Tyador Borlú to find her killer while threading the intricate political and social labyrinth that defines these doppelgänger cities. And what about the ancient myth of a third city, invisible, existing within and between the other two? The more Borlú investigates, the clearer it becomes that this crime taps deep into the cities' political structures and threatens not only his own safety, but also the cities' shared reality. As he did with *Perdido Street Station*, Miéville has created a rich, multi-layered urban setting filled with compelling characters who inhabit a universe just one or two removed from our own. Meet China Miéville on June 9. On sale May 19 from Del Rey, \$26.00. — Guest Reviewer Terry Hertzler

### Cemetery Dance by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child

Beware! Not only is the new Pendragast novel full of murder and mayhem at the hands of (possibly) Zombiis, sorcery and magic from the West Indian Cult Obeah, but also the authors have the nerve to kill off a regular character at the beginning of the book (I'm not saying who). There are plenty of witnesses to the murder, and the killer is a neighbor, but a neighbor who had died two weeks earlier. And so the investigation begins with Captain Hayward leading the official inquiry and Pendragast, accompanied by D'Agosta, taking their own journey to the dark side. Add disappearing corpses, animal sacrifices, a vodou cult in Manhattan, and the result is another thrilling, terrifying, adventure with my favorite enigmatic FBI special agent. What fun! Grand Central Publishing, \$26.99. Signed first editions available while supplies last. — LNT

### Santa Olivia by Jacqueline Carey

The Kushiel series started Jacqueline Carey on the path of a bestselling author. Now she brings us something outside the realm of fantasy. *Santa Olivia* is a story set in the future of

## Forthcoming in June

### JUNE MURDER

- ❑ Axinn, Donald: Everett Allan, Burning
- ❑ Bolton, S J: Awakening
- ❑ Box, C J: Below Zero (#10 Joe Pickett)
- ❑ Browne, Robert Gregory: Kill Her Again (pbo)
- ❑ Carlson, Ron: The Signal
- ❑ Carter, Sammi: Sucker Punch (#5 Candy Shop) (pbo)
- ❑ Cook, Thomas: The Fate of Katherine Carr
- ❑ Davidson, Eileen: Dial Emmy for Murder (#2 Soap Opera) (pbo)
- ❑ Davis, Krista: The Diva Takes the Cake (#2 Domestic Diva) (pbo)
- ❑ Evanovich, Janet: Finger Lickin' Fifteen (Stephanie Plum)
- ❑ Gaden, Michael and Linda: Skeleton Justice (Manny and Jake)
- ❑ Gardiner, Meg: The Memory Collector (#2 Jo Beckett)
- ❑ Gardner, Lisa: The Neighbor
- ❑ Goddard, Robert: Name to a Face (tpo)
- ❑ Gorman, Ed: The Midnight Room (pbo)
- ❑ Grabenstein, Chris: Mind Scrambler (#5 John Ceepak)
- ❑ Grant, Andrew: Even (#1 David Trevelyan)
- ❑ Haines, Kathryn Miller: Winter in June (#3 Rosie Winter) (tpo)
- ❑ Hechtman, Betty: By Hook or by Crook (#3 Crochet) (pbo)
- ❑ Hess, Joan: Merry Wives of Maggody (Arly Hanks)
- ❑ Howe, Katherine: The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane
- ❑ Hurwitz, Gregg: Trust No One
- ❑ Johnson, Craig: The Dark Horse (#5 Walt Longmire)
- ❑ Jordan, R T: A Talent for Murder (#3 Polly Pepper)
- ❑ Kelly, Jim: Death Wore White
- ❑ Lange, Richard: This Wicked World
- ❑ Langtry, Leslie: I Shot You Babe (#4 Greatest Hits) (pbo)
- ❑ Lansdale, Joe R: Vanilla Ride (Hap and Leonard)
- ❑ Locke, Attica: Black Water Rising
- ❑ Margolin, Phillip: Fugitive
- ❑ Martin, P D: Fan Mail (#3 Sophie Anderson) (pbo)
- ❑ McMahon, Jennifer: Dismantled
- ❑ Neggers, Carla: The Mist
- ❑ Patterson, James: Swimsuit
- ❑ Pearson, Ridley: Killer Summer (Sheriff Walt Fleming)
- ❑ Perez, Henry: Killing Red (pbo)
- ❑ Pratt, Scott: In Good Faith (#2 Joe Dillard) (pbo)
- ❑ Ramsay, Frederick: Choker
- ❑ Rosenberg, Nancy Taylor: The Cheater
- ❑ Rowe, Stephanie: Ice (pbo)
- ❑ Schechter, Barry: The Blindfold Test (tpo)
- ❑ Sefton, Maggie: Dropped Dead Stitch (#6)
- ❑ Sims, Elizabeth: The Extra (Rita Farmer)
- ❑ Smith, Virginia: Scent of Murder (pbo)
- ❑ Stanley, Michael: The Second Death of Goodluck Tinubu (Detective Kubu)
- ❑ Stanton, Mary: Angel's Advocate (#2 Beaufort & Company) (pbo)
- ❑ Thompson, Victoria: Murder on Waverly Place (#11 Gaslight)
- ❑ Thurlo, Aimee and David: Bad Samaritan (Sister Agatha)
- ❑ Unger, Lisa: Die for You
- ❑ Van Lustbader, Eric: Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Deception
- ❑ Webb, Debra: Everywhere She Turns (pbo)
- ❑ Wilson, Robert: The Ignorance of Blood
- ❑ Zafon, Carlos Ruiz: The Angel's Game

### JUNE MISC.

- ❑ Block, Lawrence: Step By Step: A Memoir
- ❑ Boswell and Skenazy: Who's the Blonde that Married What's-His-Name? (tpo)

## The Virtual Plot

Don't miss any late breaking news. Sign up at [www.mystgalaxy.com](http://www.mystgalaxy.com)

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## Juan de Recacoechea and Adrian Althoff

Signing *Andean Express*

Monday, May 4, 7:00 PM

We are very intrigued by this review from *The Globe and Mail* of *Andean Express*:

"We don't get nearly enough South American crime fiction in translation here. [It] takes a gutsy publisher like Akashic to bring the works of the Bolivian novelist Juan De Recacoechea into English. Subtle, nuanced, elegantly styled and beautifully translated by Adrian Althoff, *Andean Express* is a great introduction to this gifted author's work. It's 1952, and on the train from La Paz to Arica, in Chile, a group of travelers are about to blunder into each other's secrets. There is, of course, a murder, but it's the interchange between the characters that's at the heart of this novel. De Recacoechea has touches of the old noir masters like Jim Thompson, but the voice is uniquely his as he explores everything from the highly structured caste and class systems of Bolivia to the desperation of love and loss." We hope you will join Juan and Adrian on Monday, May 4, at 7:00 PM.

## MG's Sweet Sixteen Birthday Bash!

Saturday, May 9 from 10AM to 5PM

Join us on Saturday, May 9, for our annual all day celebration, featuring some fantastic spotlight authors, special bargains, a new assortment of our fabulous IndieBound "Eat. Sleep. Read." T-shirts, and, of course, cake! Adding to the fun, we have a Quiz about our staff that will test your knowledge of your favorite booksellers (and of course prizes for those with the highest scores!).

We are also happy to have our non-profit partner, **Monarch School for Homeless Kids**, represented at our party in fun and creative ways. Our mid-day signing line and cake cutting celebration will be musically enhanced by Monarch School's Steel Monarchs calypso band. And while you are shopping, be sure to visit the Butterfly Enterprises table featuring student made jewelry, note cards, and embroidered items. They will be at the store between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM. Don't know about Monarch School? Be sure to be there at 1:00 PM so we can tell you about this community's fabulous school.



### 11:00 AM: Kage Baker signs *The Empress of Mars*

If the title of Kage Baker's new science fiction adventure, *The Empress of Mars*, sounds familiar, that is probably because, according to her web site: "Kage has expanded the original 2003 novella into a full-length novel. New characters, new adventures, improved science!" Much of the premise of the original novella, a Sturgeon Award Winner and a Hugo and Nebula Nominee, remains intact. An economic collapse has stranded the settlers of the British Aerea Company on Mars; entrepreneur Mary Griffith opens a tavern where she doesn't fare much better than her patrons – until she procures a fantastic diamond, and changes her whole world. Kage kicks off our festivities at 11:00 AM.

### Noon: Alice Henderson signs *Voracious*

Jeffrey J. Mariotte signs *Cold Black Hearts*

Take a tour of the scary side of the American West with our noon authors, Alice Henderson and Jeffrey J. Mariotte. *Voracious* is Alice's first original novel – she writes for video games, and won a Scribe Award for her tie-in novel, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Portal Through Time*. Madeline Keye is spending some much needed solitary time exploring the backcountry of Glacier National Park before starting her studies in San Francisco. Her special ability to touch people or objects and see flasher of the past, has been both a gift and a curse. But now she is being stalked by someone – or something – who is obsessed with her and her powers.

In *Cold Black Hearts*, former Phoenix police officer Annie O'Brien has left the force in the wake of tragic personal losses, and is working for a mysterious benefactor investigating a cold case in southwestern New Mexico. There, in part due to her new sensitivity that seems associated with her hearing loss, she becomes entangled in the local community's horrific traditions. Jeff will also share updates on his works in comics, including his new series, "Garrison."

### 1:00 PM: Jim Butcher signs *Turn Coat*

Shannon Butcher signs *Burning Alive*

Remember back in *Storm Front*, when Warden Morgan followed Harry Dresden all over Chicago and environs, just looking for a justification to execute him? So does Harry, but that doesn't keep him from doing the right thing and becoming Morgan's sole defender when he is accused of treason against the White Council in *Turn Coat*. Join Jim Butcher and Shannon Butcher for our mid-day festivities at 1:00 PM. Numbers for the *Turn Coat* signing line are available with purchase of *Turn Coat* from MG, on sale now. Other restrictions apply, and are subject to change.

Shannon has added paranormal romance to her romantic suspense repertoire (*No Control*, etc.) with *The Sentinel Wars*. The first volume, *Burning Alive*, introduces readers to the world of the Sentinels, three races descended from ancient guardians, sworn to protect mankind from their adversaries, the Synestryn. Now a chance encounter between two people could lead them to a destiny that supersedes their romantic happiness and will influence the eternal war. Two more volumes in the trilogy are due in 2010, and Shannon will return to romantic suspense with *Love You to Death* in October.



### 3:00 PM: S.J. Day signs *Eve of Darkness*

Samantha Sommersby signs *Forbidden: The Temptation*

Our 3:00 PM spotlight offers a mix of paranormal erotica and urban fantasy from S.J. Day and Samantha Sommersby. *Eve of Darkness* is the first of the Marked trilogy, and we look forward to seeing Sylvia for books #2 and #3 in rapid order this summer. San Diego readers will welcome the opening scene, a confrontation between the bounty hunter and a demon in a familiar stadium. The rest of this volume deals with how Evangeline Hollis became a demon slayer for a team composed of archangels and *Genesis*'s Cain and Abel, among others. (See Maryelizabeth's review below.)

Nature lends a hand (a paw?) in bringing together cowboy Jacob Madison and forensic psychologist Allison Connelly in *Forbidden: The Temptation*. First, the consequences of a wilderness misadventure bring a new dimension to Jacob's life as he adjusts to being a newly minted werewolf. Then Allison is literally dropped into his life after another accident. However, Jacob's wolf nature threatens their romance, even while it may be their only option for survival. Check out Samantha's first three *Forbidden* novels, recently reissued with spiffy new purple covers.

### 4:00 PM: P.J. Haarsma signs *The Softwire: Worm Hole Pirates on Orbis 3*

Sina Grace signs *Cedric Hollows in Dial 'M' for Magic*

Two authors and illustrators share the spotlight at 4:00 PM, when young adult author P.J. Haarsma and illustrator and urban fantasy author Sina Grace take the floor. P.J.'s tales of *Softwire* Johnny Turnbull and friends were inspired in part by his own experiences working in his family factory in his disenfranchised youth. In *The Softwire: Worm Hole Pirates on Orbis 3*, Johnny and his fellow knudniks escape slavery – and are captured by alien pirates. P.J. continues to work on behalf of the Kids Need To Read association, helping libraries in need, and also has an entire on-line world of the *Softwire*.

Sina is the author of the comic book series *Books with Pictures* and *The Roller-Derby Robo-Dykes versus The Cannibals*. His work has appeared in several prose and graphic novel anthologies and promotional materials for several bands. *Cedric Hollows in Dial 'M' for Magic* is his first novel. "Magic is not hard. *Not-magic* is hard" according to Orange County sorcerer sleuth Cedric Hollows. When Cedric is hired to investigate a Newport Beach family murder, he is pitted against a mysterious Dark Mage in this illustrated novella.

### 5:00 PM: Kris Saknussemm signs *Private Midnight*

Our final spotlight of the Birthday Bash is on cult author Kris Saknussemm, whose *Private Midnight* is an unusual thriller combining "a crime story, a horror story, and an allegory about sexual relations and gender politics at close range," according to an interview with Kris. *Private Midnight*, a contemporary noir mystery about a detective who is led down a dark path by a mysterious femme fatale, also explores the dynamics of male and female relationships, and how a dominant woman in a partnership affects that partnership. Kris is also a multimedia artist, including a musical composer, as well as the author of the speculative fiction cult novel, *Zaneville*. Find out more as the Birthday Bash wraps up at 5:00 PM.

## Rave Reviews Continue (from the front page)

Texas. A plague breaks out in Mexico, decimating the population. There is no cure and nothing can be done to stop the onslaught of the illness once you have it. So what does the United States do to try to stop the spread into America? Simple, they build a wall. In fact two walls go up along the border creating a military buffer zone between the two countries. Now this is a great idea for keeping the illness from spreading north, but what about all those people in the towns between the walls? Santa Olivia is one of those towns. The people are given the choice to leave the only place they have ever known and still be citizens, or they can stay and no longer exist according to the United States. They stay. The military builds a fort and soldiers rotate in and out every few years. Santa Olivia becomes solely dependent on the fort and its soldiers. Then Loup Garron comes along. She is the solution to helping the Citizens of Santa Olivia get back their right to exist in the world. She has the chance to avenge the injustice done to her town. Loup Garron becomes the new *Santa Olivia*. Grand Central Publishing, \$13.99 tpo. On Sale May 29, 2009. Discuss *Santa Olivia* with Jacqueline when she visits MG on July 2. — *LF*

### Longeye by Sharon Lee & Steve Miller

Finally, the sequel to *Duainfey* has arrived to answer all of our questions. Rebecca has escaped her fey Master but is now bound to the fey Queen. She still struggles to escape, wanting nothing more than total freedom. Meanwhile, Meripen Vanglelauf has come to the aid of some newmen, humans who have found themselves across the barrier and settled in the fey world. Naturally, after his horrible experiences in the past, he doesn't want to have anything to do with humans but must obey his queen. He realizes that something is happening to the trees that makes them almost dead to him. Rebecca is brought to stay with the newman family and ends up on a quest with Meripen to try to find the source of the damage to the trees. Their discovery could mean the end to both fey and human worlds if the problem is not fixed. What an adventure! Baen, \$24.00. Signed first editions available while supplies last. — *Ire*

### Eve of Darkness by S.J. Day

Interior designer Evangeline Hollis hasn't given the existence of various monsters and demons much credence, beyond suspending disbelief to watch reruns of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" with her neighbor when a call on a potential client turns her world inside out. First, she has an out-of-character sexual encounter with a strange man, which leaves her "Marked" physically and metaphysically. She has just been involuntarily recruited for an elite team of demon slayers. And her instructors in the new skills she urgently needs to acquire? Her former lover, Alec Cain, and his brother, Reed Abel, the man who marked her. And if their names sound familiar, it's because, yes, they are that Cain and Abel. Eve is going to have to manage the men, various demons and angels, and well-meaning neighbors and families if she is going to survive her new destiny. A fun fast new urban fantasy with a different spin. Tor pbo, \$6.99. — *MeH*

### Monster by A Lee Martinez

Monster Dionysus is a pest control agent, specializing in cryptobiological containment. Think Ghostbusters, but with yeti, trolls, and other scary creatures that go bump in the night. A yeti is consuming all the rocky road ice cream in the Food Plus Mart, and night shift worker Judy calls on our guy for help. Two souls collide. Is true love in their future? Well, not likely. They don't much like each other and Judy is an "incognizant" who can't remember magical

occurrences, thus forgetting Monster as soon as he leaves her side. Monster has his own problems. He wakes up every day with a different skin color and magical power. Oh, and Monster has a girlfriend from Hell — really, from Hell. Together, Monster and Judy must defeat an ancient being, disguised as the neighborhood cat lady, who, of course, is looking to destroy the world. Monster is aided by one of the most original sidekicks I have encountered. Chester is a sixth dimensional entity who can fold himself into various shapes of folded paper. An extremely dangerous origami ass-kicker. If you enjoyed reading the previous fun horror/fantasy novels by Martinez, grab this *Monster* as soon as you see it on our shelves. Orbit, \$19.99.— *LNT*

### Starfinder by John Marco

Moth dreams of one day flying, and becoming a Skynight when he grows up. He lives in the best and only city where his dream can be fulfilled — Calio. Calio is the highest city ever built. It is also the home of the Skynights. Every day Skynights fly in training to protect humans from the Skylords who live across the Reach. The stories Leroux tells Moth after Moth's mother dies are incredible. They are stories of Leroux crossing the Reach, of mermaids, and of the beautiful Skylords who rule across the mysterious Reach. They are just stories and myths to Moth. No one goes across the Reach. The fog is so dense and thick you get lost only a step in, never finding your way out. At least Moth thinks they are just stories — until Leroux dies on Moth's thirteenth birthday. Moth's present is the Starfinder. The Starfinder is the one object that can help Moth to cross the Reach and help Lady Esme, Leroux's bird, find herself again. Moth sets out on a journey to cross the Reach to solve the mystery of the Starfinder and help Lady Esme. DAW, \$24.95. — *LF*

### Bad to the Bone by Jeri Smith-Ready

The vampires of WVMP are back ... but struggling to stay on the airwaves, especially when either broadcasting songs by female artists or a show with a female DJ. It's not enough that the station has to deal with religious fanatics who are targeting them for the "vampire DJs" (who are real vampires, who are cleverly promoting themselves via protagonist Ciara Griffin's campaign as humans masquerading as vampires), but also they have to deal with the sudden attacks of extreme misogyny. At the same time, Ciara has to deal with two equally terrifying issues — she has unintentionally become the owner of a vampire dog, and her vampire boyfriend wants to move their relationship forward in a more committed manner. Suspense, music, and mythos, as well as a bit of romance make for another great entry in what is rapidly becoming one of my favorite urban fantasy series. Pocket tpo, \$15.00. — *MeH*

### YOUNG ADULT FICTION

It seems like the staff at Mysterious Galaxy is not the only group of adults who are savoring Young Adult fiction. There is an abundance of YA titles for all of us to enjoy. This is what we have read lately.

### The Awakening by Kelley Armstrong

In 2008, Kelley Armstrong ventured into the world of young adult fiction with *The Summoning*. Now, a year later, *The Summoning* is in trade paper and we have the sequel, *The Awakening*. When I read *The Summoning* I thought, "Wow, what a great book." It is the story

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## Seth Harwood

Signing *Jack Wakes Up*

**Saturday, May 16, 2:00 PM**

The *Publishers Weekly* review of Seth Harwood’s debut novel, *Jack Wakes Up*, states in part, “Readers who like their hard-boiled crime fiction violent and gritty will cheer Harwood’s debut.” While Seth received acclaim for his literary short works, initially he was unable to find a publisher for *Jack Wakes Up*, and produced it in a different medium, as a free on-line podcast. Now the story of former actor Jack Palms – who was just successful that his only occupation is being a former actor – and how a favor for a friend immerses him in a messy brew of drug dealers, unsavory criminals, lethal ladies and murder, comes to readers as well. Seth leaves Jack’s stomping grounds of Northern California to visit on Saturday, May 16, at 2:00 PM.

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## Stephen R. Donaldson

Signing *Fatal Revenant*

**Sunday, May 17, 2:00 PM**

Thomas Covenant first appeared on bookshelves in *Lord Foul’s Bane* more than thirty years ago. Since that time, Stephen R. Donaldson has published other works of fantasy, as well as crime novels and science fiction. But it is the stories of Thomas Covenant that continue to resonate with readers. Steve will visit on Sunday, May 17, at 2:00 PM, to visit with any fans who missed his previous MG events for the first two books in The Last Chronicles of Thomas Covenant. With any luck, he will also share any updates about the next volume in the quartet, *Against All Things Ending*.

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## Tom Lowe

Signing *A False Dawn*

**Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 PM**

Journalist, world traveler, and documentary filmmaker Tom Lowe draws not only from his professional experiences for his mysteries, but also from his life in Florida, and even his pet dachshund. *A False Dawn* introduces retired Miami homicide detective Sean O’Brien (and his dog, Maxine), as they seek the quiet life in rural Florida. However, when Sean stumbles upon a young woman who has been brutally assaulted near his quiet river retreat, he finds himself drawn back into the world of crime, including murder, sexual slavery, and trafficking in human organs. Tom visits the West Coast and MG on Wednesday, May 20, at 7:00 PM.

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## Rep Picks for Summer Reading Event!

With Wade Lucas from Random House and Carol Lovercio from Hachette

**Friday, May 22, 7:00 PM**

We know you love to get our recommendations on what to read next – but did you know that booksellers also get to be handsold to by informed publishing professionals, who help us locate the best titles for our store and customers? Friday, May 22, at 7:00 PM, spend some time with a couple of the people who help *us* stay informed about what great books are available from the publishers. Hear about some great new and forthcoming titles when two of our publisher reps visit the store and discuss some of their favorite new books. Carol Lovercio of Hachette Book Group, Inc. (publisher of James Patterson, Stephenie Meyer, etc.) and Wade Lucas of Random House (publisher of Lee Child, China Mieville, etc.) will host an evening of sneak peeks and special treats from the current catalogs, as well as some other gifts and even possibly swag.

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## Rave, Rave, Rave ...

about a group of teenagers who are special. For one reason or another they all end up in the same place, a group home. The doctors there try to say they have some mental illnesses. I do not know about you but a person who can not only see ghosts but also summon them back into their bodies, and teenagers who when angry have objects flying all around them, do not sound like they have mental issues to me. *The Awakening* begins immediately after the last word of *The Summoning*. *The Awakening* brings the teenagers closer to solving the mystery of what they are and how they got to be there. There is definitely more intrigue and secrets to uncover. As the saying goes, the plot thickens. HarperTeen, \$17.99. — *LF*

### Fade by Lisa McMann

**Suzanne says:** This YA novel is set in Fieldridge High with a reluctant heroine, Janie, who is a Dreamcatcher. She teams with Cabel on their second case concerning sexual predators. Janie’s talent is her curse, the scenes of her falling into students’ dreams in study hall is painfully authentic. Janie is confused and overwhelmed by schoolwork, nosy friends, an indifferent mother, romance, jealousy, constant hunger, too much responsibility, poverty, suspicious teachers, a demanding employer and a secret too painful to keep. Just like every teenager. McMann has a genuine understanding and compassion for the complexities of high school. Her stripped down writing style moves at the rapid pace of adolescent communications: email correspondence, short sentences, short journal entries, single sentence paragraphs. The characters are entirely believable, the setting dark, bleak and sexy — a high school landscape. A surprisingly easy and interesting read, *Fade* is the second volume of McMann’s trilogy. The first, *Wake*, is available in paperback

**Sandy says:** Fall asleep around Janie Hannagan and she will become a participant in your dream. When she extricates herself from the dream she is ravenous. And temporarily without vision. Cabel Strumheller noticed Janie in study hall - or rather her seizures attracted his attention. He began to leave her candy bars. Janie and Cabel are now “secretly” dating. Earlier in the year, Cabel was working undercover with the police to infiltrate a drug ring. Janie was pulled into the investigation by his boss Captain Fran Komisky. Following two strange phone calls to the high school tip line, Captain Komisky suspects there is a possible sexual predator among the teachers of Fieldridge High School. As Cabel sits on the sideline, Janie insinuates herself into study hall dreams and into her teacher’s lives. As if the investigation and the possible consequences are not enough, Janie is reading the notes of a previous dream catcher. And the notes lead her to some pretty bleak conclusions. As Cabel pulls away from her, Janie realizes the investigation is taking her into dangerous territory. This story is the second in Lisa McMann’s trilogy and it is darker and more involved than the first volume. Her teenagers are three dimensional and realistic. The plots are involved and riveting. I highly recommend her books to readers. The first two books in the trilogy are fast, satisfying reading. Simon Pulse, 14 yr old and above, \$15.99. — *sd & Guest Reviewer Sandra Hale*

### Jessica’s Guide to Dating on the Dark Side by Beth Fantaskey

**Lori Fox says:** Jessica lives on a farm in the country. It is not a normal farm because her adoptive parents are vegetarians. They believe in being environmentally friendly. So even though she is about to turn eighteen, Jessica still takes the bus to school. It is a normal average life until one day while waiting for the bus to school. Lucius Vladescu has come to fetch his betrothed. Jessica comes from a long line of vampires and when she was born her biological parents and Lucius’ parents engaged the two to settle a long time feud between their families. Now Jessica has to decide if she wants to become a fulltime vampire married to a Romanian male who has been raised to be as old fashioned as they come, or does she continue to live her independent vegetarian life in America. *Jessica’s guide to Dating on the Dark Side* is a humorous look at old fashioned views colliding with new independent thinking. Personally I liked this book better than some of the more recent vampire relationship stories I have read for young adults. It is a fun, humorous story that starts right in without dragging.

**Terry says:** For fans of the Twilight series who thought they had nothing else to read, we beg to differ. I loved this combination Vampire Romance/Vampire Dynasty/Teen Nastiness mixed with lots of humor and a great cast of characters.

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## Kirsten Imani Kasai and Greg Van Eekhout

Signing *Ice Song* and *Norse Code*

**Saturday, May 23, 2:00 PM**

On Saturday, May 23, at 2:00 PM, enjoy a “fantastic” opportunity to welcome two new local authors debuting their works at Mysterious Galaxy. San Diego Family Magazine editor Kirsten Imani Kasai offers a chance to chat with her about writing, gender-swapping, tea, delicious chockies, human-hybrids, herbal hallucinogens, zombies, babies, female fantasy heroines, monsters and villains or anything else you fancy, as well as *Ice Song*. In the chilly fantasy land of the Sigue, scientist and Trader Sorykah Minuit is expecting to be reunited with her twin children, only to discover they have been kidnaped by someone seeking power over the gender-switching abilities they have inherited from her.

Greg van Eekhout is a science fiction and fantasy writer with more than two-dozen short story publications in a range of venues, many of which bear some variation of “Year’s Best” in their titles. His interests include martial arts classes, coffee, Moleskine notebooks, and giant squid. His debut, *Norse Code* (a favorite of Random House Rep Wade Lucas’ – see May 22), asks, “Is this Ragnarok, or just California?” *Norse Code* combines elements of a number of speculative fiction subgenres, as a biological descendent of Odin finds herself brought back from the dead as a valkyrie to battle in contemporary Southern California.

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## D.J. MacHale

Signing *The Soldiers of Halla*

**Thursday, May 28, 7:00 PM**

As of press time, we cannot tell you much about the 10<sup>th</sup> and final volume in D.J. MacHale’s Pendragon series (a favorite of Linda Rae’s – see the sidebar on the front page), *The Soldiers of Halla*, because the author and publisher are committed to avoiding spoilers. Bobby Pendragon’s life has changed significantly since he first discovered his destiny working as a Traveler to protect the territories of Halla from a demon named Saint Dane, a cold-blooded villain who wants nothing less than the destruction of all humanity. Their conflict reaches a climax, as all of the questions from the previous volumes are resolved. Come discuss the epic story, and what D.J. will be creating next, on Thursday, May 28, at 7:00 PM. Also, if you are interested in having D.J. do an event at your school or library, contact our Young Adult Program coordinators right away!

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## Join us a summer sets in ...

For more great events!

► **In June:** Lee Child – June 5 (This is a numbered event. *Gone Tomorrow* goes on sale on May 19th at 10:00 AM); Andrew Grant – June 5; Gillian Flynn – June 8; China Mieville – June 9. (This is a numbered event. *The City & The City* goes on sale on May 26th at 10:00 AM); Jeffery Deaver – June 12; Alexandra Sokoloff – June 16; Michael Stanley – June 19; Warren Fahy – June 20; Gregg Hurwitz – June 24

► **Then, July:** Holly Black – July 1; Jacqueline Carey – July 2; Larissa Lai – July 8; Rhys Bowen – July 12; Robert Crais – July 15; David Morrell – July 17; Dorothy Howell – July 18; Elizabeth Sims – July 18; Kim Stanley Robinson – July 21; Comic-Con International – July 23 – 26; Elizabeth Hand – July 29; Brett Battles – July 30; Karin Slaughter – July 31; Lisa Gardner – July 31;

► **August begins:** Paul Park – August 5; David Rosenfelt – August 14; and much more!

It turns out that Jessica Packwood and Lucas Vladescu have been pledged to each other since birth and this formed a pact that is critical to keeping vampire peace in Romania where the two families have co-existed for generations upon generations. The only problem is that Jessica is an American girl, raised by American parents (not vampires) and she was in the dark about this whole pact thing until Lucas showed up at school one day as a “foreign exchange” student. Needless to say his attempts at educating Jessica to her predetermined future are as completely lost on her and his understanding of life in America. And then Lucas discovers blue jeans and some of the fun of being an American Teen. And Jessica begins to read *Growing Up Undead: A Teen Vampire’s Guide to Dating, Health, and Emotions*. How to resolve the inevitable? You will enjoy the journey. It’s fun and readable and, could there be a sequel (please)? Harcourt hardcover, \$17.00 — *LF and tlg*

### The Amaranth Enchantment by Julie Berry

Lucinda Chapdelaine tries not to remember her happy childhood, in a pleasant home, with wealthy and loving parents who departed for a royal ball one night and were tragically killed. The couple who took the orphan in work her as a virtual slave in their jewelry store. One day, a series of unexpected events occurs: a mysterious visitor delivers a special stone to the store, Lucinda has a chance encounter with a prince and an even more unexpected encounter with a local thief and rogue, and all at once Lucinda’s life goes from grime and drudgery to intrigue, danger, and a chance at happiness ... if she can just exercise a little magic and a lot of willpower. Bloomsbury, \$16.99. — *MeH*

### Killer Pizza by Greg Taylor

In one part of town, Chelsea Travers runs through the woods from something huge, deformed, and wearing a toe ring becoming the second of two young people to go missing in Hidden Hills, Ohio. In another part of town, fourteen year old Toby Magill is excited because he is about to begin his first job ever at newly opened Killer Pizza. Learning to make pizza will be Toby’s first step in realizing his secret goal - become a chef. Steve Roberts is Toby’s new boss. His shift mates are classmate Annabel Oshiro, Strobe, and Doug. Within their first shift, the teens realize that Doug is a liability and they begin to cover for him. Just as the three remaining coworkers begin to function as a unified team, their new world is turned upside down. Killer Pizza is a cover for monster hunters. The owner wants the three teenagers to attend his school and become Monster Combat Officers. As a recruiting technique, they are shown training tapes and introduced to a variety of monsters. The monster stressed is the Guttata. Guttata are huge, flesh-eating, and revert to their human form after the first changing cycle. Because of the two missing teens, Steve and Harvey believe there is a large group of Guttata in Hidden Hills. Suddenly life in their small town is not boring. As the three coworkers begin to train, they are also forced to hunt Guttatas and fight to save townspeople. The enemy can be any person. This is a fast moving, entertaining story. The teenagers working together learn about friendship, loyalty, courage, and teamwork. Hopefully, this story will be the first in a series. Feiwel and Friends, June 2009, \$16.99, ages 10-14. — *Guest reviewer Sandra Hale*

### Ransom and the Skull King’s Shadow by James Rollins

This is a great adventure for kids and adults alike. It’s *Young Indiana Jones* meets *Land of the Lost* with a little bit of *Road to Eldorado* and Kage Baker’s novels of The Company thrown in, while being its own unique flavor of adventure (with just a touch of James Clemens’ scary fantasy monsters).

I particularly appreciate the relationship between siblings Jake and Kady, and the way each of them brings their own skill set to helping save the Valley of Calypsos without ever being annoyingly precocious or acting in a manner discordant with their age and nature. I also appreciated the fashion in which *The Skull King’s Shadow* reached a conclusion, while leaving room for more adventures, but not ending in such a cliffhanger that the reader is unsatisfied. HarperCollins, \$16.99. — *MeH*

## More About Us ...

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### AT MYSTERIOUS GALAXY THIS MONTH:

**Adrian Althoff**

**Kage Baker**

**Jim Butcher**

**Shannon Butcher**

**S.J. Day**

**Stephen R. Donaldson**

**Sina Grace**

**P.J. Haarsma**

**Seth Harwood**

**Alice Henderson**

**Kirsten Imani Kasai**

**Carol Lovercio**

**(from Hachette Book Group)**

**Tom Lowe**

**Wade Lucas  
(from Random House)**

**Jeffrey J. Mariotte**

**D.J. MacHale**

**Juan de Recacoechea**

**Kris Saknussem**

**Samantha Sommersby**

**Greg Van Eekhout**

*See inside for dates and times.*

## Favorites at 16 (from Page 1)

thinking that swimming with dolphins and other sea life, foraging on the land, and being able to do whatever you wanted when you wanted, seemed like paradise. Yearling Books tp, \$6.99. — *LDB*

» *The Adoration of Jenna Fox* by Mary Pearson. A mystery with many layers and a fine example of why I love science fiction so much: a look at what's right and wrong and the limits people will go to for the people they love. How difficult can it be to meet the expectations of those around you? Extremely, as Jenna Fox discovers on her journey towards maturity, a journey you should definitely accompany her on. Henry Holt & Company, \$16.95.— *SW*

» *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman is a masterpiece — a fantasy that transcends genre, combining adventure, action and theology. In this complex coming of age tale, a young girl and her daemon suffer betrayal, heartbreak and loss as she learns the lessons of love and redemption and ultimately vows she "will do

better next time," leaving readers of all ages running for the next volume. Laurel Leaf Library pap, \$7.99. — *SD*

» *Changeling* by Delia Sherman. This book had everything one wants in a fantasy — plucky heroine, seemingly impossible tasks that are actually able to be accomplished without any *deus ex machina*, magical beings from a variety of folklore backgrounds, and characters whose relationships help us better understand one another. Firebird tp, \$8.99. — *MeH*

» *Secret Histories* by F. Paul Wilson. There are some people in the world who are destined to do impossible, incredible things. Jack becomes "Repairman Jack" when he's older and in *Secret Histories* you will learn how his expertise started — back when Jack was 14 years old — when he and his friends find strange things in the New Jersey Barrens — and Jack and his friends find a couple of impossible, incredible situations. Tor Classics, \$15.95 — *DB*

## Forthcoming (from the front page)

- Hale, Shannon: The Actor and the Housewife
- Walton, James: Who Killed Iago? (tpo)

### JUNE MARTIANS & MAGIC

- Ed. Little: Swordplay (pbo)
- Ed. Starr: More Tales of Zorro (tpo)
- Lackey / Lee / Asaro: Charmed Destinies (tpo)
- Anderson, Kevin J: The Edge of the World (#1 Terra Incognita) (tpo)
- Barant, D D: Dying Bites (#1 Bloodhound Files) (pbo)
- Brennan, Marie: In Ashes Lie (tpo)
- Carey, Jacqueline: Naamah's Kiss
- Dantec, Maurice G: Grande Junction (tpo)
- Douglass, Sara: The Infinity Gate (#3 Darkglass Mountain)
- Frost, P R: Faery Moon (#3 Tess Noncoire)
- Garner, Elizabeth: The Ingenious Edgar Jones
- Graham, Heather: Dust to Dust (#1 Prophecy) (pbo)
- Green, Simon R: The Spy Who Haunted Me
- Guerrier, Simon: Primeval: Fire and Water (tpo)
- Holmqvist, Ninni: The Unit
- Huff, Tanya: The Enchantment Emporium
- Hutchins / Weisman: Personal Effects: Dark Art
- Kessler / Kittredge: Black and White (tpo)
- Kirkpatrick, Russell: Beyond the Wall of Time (pbo)
- Kittredge, Caitlin: Street Magic (pbo)
- Lake, Jay: Green
- McCray, Cheyenne: Demons Not Included (pbo)
- Modesitt, L E, Jr: Haze
- O'Neal, James: The Human Disguise (tpo)
- Reynolds, Alastair: House of Suns
- Rollins, James: The Doomsday Key
- Rosenberg, Jonathan: Goats: Infinite Typewriters (tpo)
- Rowland, Diana: Mark of the Demon (pbo)
- Rucker, Rudy: Hylozoic (sequel to Postsingular)
- Sanderson, Brandon: Warbreaker
- Shufeldt, Ken: Genesis (pbo)
- Tarr, Judith: Bring Down the Sun (tpo)

- Wilson, Robert Charles: Julian Comstock: A Story of 22nd Century America

### IN SERIES

- Collins, Max Allan: G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (pbo)
- Greenberger, Robert: Iron Man: Femmes Fatales (#2 Iron Man) (pbo)
- Jimenez, Phil: The Essential Wonder Woman Encyclopedia (tpo)
- Thompson, Paul: Dragonlance: Tracy Hickman presents The Anvil of Time: The Forest King (pbo)
- Jones, Rosemary: Forgotten Realms: Ed Greenwood presents Waterdeep: City of the Dead (pbo)
- Golden, Christie: Starcraft: Dark Templar: Twilight (pbo)
- Golden, Christie: Star Wars: Fate of the Jedi: Omen (#2)

### JUNE METRO MYTHOS

- Davidson et al: Faeries Gone Wild (pbo)
- Warren / Liu et al: Huntress (pbo)
- Bast, Anya: Witch Fury (#4 Elemental Witch) (pbo)
- Davidson, MaryJanice: Undead and Unwelcome (#8 Betsy Taylor)
- Day, Alyssa: Atlantis Unleashed (#3 Warriors of Poseidon) (pbo)
- Day, S J: Eve of Destruction (#2 Marked) (pbo)
- Evans, Georgia: Bloody Good (#1) (pbo)
- Galenorn, Yasmine: Demon Mistress (#6 D'Artigo sisters) (pbo)
- Hamilton, Laurell K: Skin Trade
- Kane, Tammy: Breath of Fire (pbo)
- Madison, Tracy: A Stroke of Magic (#2) (pbo)
- Raye, Kimberly: In the Midnight Hour (pbo)
- Raye, Kimberly: Sucker for Love (#5 Dead-End Dating) (pbo)
- Summers, Jordan: Scarlet (pbo)
- Vincent, Rachel: Prey (#4 Faythe Sanders) (pbo)

### JUNE MAYHEM

- Del Toro / Hogan: The Strain
- Dunbar, Robert: The Shore (#2) (pbo)
- Fahy, Warren: Fragment
- Kenyon, Nate: The Bone Factory (pbo)
- Sokoloff, Alexandra: The Unseen
- Wellington, David: 23 Hours: A Vengeful Vampire Tale (tpo)

### JUNE MUNCHKINS

- Block, Francesca Lia: The Waters and the Wild
- Caine, Rachel: Carpe Corpus (#6 Morganville Vampires) (pbo)
- Childs, Tera Lynn: Goddess Boot Camp
- Davis, Heather: Never Cry Werewolf
- Ford, John C: The Morgue and Me
- Gaiman / McKean: Crazy Hair
- Grant, Michael: Hunger (#2 Gone)
- Hargrave, Sir John: Sir John Hargrave's Mischief Maker's Manual
- Harris, Lewis: A Taste for Red
- Harrison, Kim: Once Dead, Twice Shy
- Hubbard, Mandy: Prada and Prejudice (tpo)
- Hunter, Erin: Warriors: Code of the Clans
- Hunter, Erin: Seekers #3: Smoke Mountain
- Hunter, Erin: Warriors: Tigerstar and Sasha #3: Return to the Clans (pbo)
- Lin, Grace: Where the Mountain Meets the Moon
- Peck, Dale: Sprout
- Peterfreund, Diana: Rampant
- Reger, Rob: Emily the Strange: The Lost Days
- Scholastic, Inc.: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince: Movie Poster Book (tp)
- Sherman, Delia: The Magic Mirror of the Mermaid Queen
- Taylor, Greg: Killer Pizza (tpo)
- Williams / Beale: The Dragons of Ordinary Farm

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