



BIOGRAPHY

JEFF MARIOTTE (co-owner)

Award-winning author and Mysterious Galaxy co-owner Jeff Mariotte has, in one way or another, been delivering stories to eager readers since placing *The Washington Post* on his neighbors' doorsteps in junior high school.

These days, Mariotte delivers fans slightly more suspenseful, sometimes horrifying fare: the former publishing executive has himself published more than 40 novels and written more than 100 comic books and graphic novels, primarily in the arenas of crime, fantasy, science fiction, and horror.

Two of Mariotte's novels – *Las Vegas: High-Stakes Game* and *30 Days of Night: Rumors of the Undead* – earned Scribe Awards from the International Association of Media Tie-In Writers (each in their respective Best Original Novel categories), and his comic book series *Desperadoes: Buffalo Dreams* won *True West Magazine's* Best Western Comic of 2007.

He has penned a supernatural thriller trilogy (*Missing White Girl*, *River Runs Red*, and *Cold Black Hearts*), horror epic (*The Slab*), teen horror quartet (*Dark Vengeance*), and licensed fiction for pop culture figures from Buffy the Vampire Slayer to Spider-Man.

"What it all has in common," he says, "is a love of telling stories and creating characters."

Mariotte, who most often writes from his southeastern Arizona ranch, was born in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois but moved frequently because of his father's civilian career with the United States Department of Defense. Those moves took the family around the country and the world: Mariotte lived in France and Germany as a child, but eventually landed in California at San Jose State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Radio, TV, and Film.

After college, Mariotte served as a maintenance supervisor for a large Bay Area shopping center. That center's independent bookstore was a home away from home for the voracious reader, whose imagination had been stirred by fantasy and mystery since taking in Dr. Seuss and The Hardy Boys as a

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child. “I spent more time there than anywhere else,” he laughs, “so finally they figured they may as well pay me to be there.”

He later worked for Books Inc. in the Bay Area, moving to San Diego as the manager of Hunter’s Books in La Jolla. He applied his extensive experience to helping launch Mysterious Galaxy in 1993. In the mid-90s, Mariotte became vice president of marketing and senior editor for independent comic publisher WildStorm Productions (which later sold to DC Comics), and served as editor-in-chief of IDW Publishing until he left his editing position in 2004 to pursue writing full-time.

Mariotte is married to Mysterious Galaxy co-owner Maryelizabeth Hart – whom he met and married at Comic-Con International – and lives with her on the Flying M Ranch in Arizona with their two children, Holly and David, three dogs, and “lots and lots of wildflowers.”

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