

# THE PLOT THINGS

mysterious galaxy  
BOOKS OF MARTIANS, MURDER, MAGIC & MAYHEM

FROM YOUR PARTNERS IN CRIME AND IMAGINATION

April 2010 Begins ...

Volume 18 Number 5

## Patricia Briggs

Signs *Silver Borne*

Wednesday, April 7, 7:00 PM



Mercedes “Mercy” Thompson is a shapeshifter, a Volkswagen mechanic, and a heroine. This means that she does things like return books she borrowed (in *Iron Kissed*, for those keeping track). But when Mercy tries to take the powerful book of fae secrets to the bookstore she acquired it from, the bookstore is closed. (Apparently *Silver Borne* is a horror novel!). Patricia Briggs will sign and discuss her new novel on Wednesday, April 7, at 7:00 PM. She will also fill fans in on her forthcoming books, including a rewritten version of her first novel, *Masques*, and its sequel, and the next Alpha and Omega book. This is a numbered event. Numbers for the signing line are available with purchase of *Silver Borne* from Mysterious Galaxy, on sale beginning Tuesday, March 30.

## Jim Butcher

Signs *Changes*

Friday, April 9, 7:00 PM



Chicago wizard Harry Dresden has faced a lot of difficulty over the course of Jim Butcher’s immensely popular series, but nothing has prepared him for the *Changes* he faces upon discovering he is a father. Susan Rodriguez came under attack by the vampires of the Red Court, in part because of her association with Harry. Following the attack, she retreated to South America, separating her life from Harry’s – until now. Unfortunately Harry’s enemy, the Duchess of the Red Court, knows about the child as well. This is a numbered event. Numbers for the signing line are available with purchase of *Changes* from Mysterious Galaxy, on sale beginning Tuesday, April 6. This is Jim’s first visit to MG since last fall’s publication of *First Lord’s Fury*, the conclusion to the Codex Alera series. *Jobs*, a compilation of Dresden Files short stories, will be released in November.

## Christopher Moore

Signs *Bite Me: A Love Story*

Saturday, April 10, 2:00 PM



Saturday, April 10, at 2:00 PM, San Diego’s own vampire cats, love-crossed preternaturals, and readers of the sublimely absurd will gather to welcome Christopher Moore back to MG. *Bite Me* is Chris’s third entry in his San Francisco undead series. “In *Bite Me*, a direct descendant of *Bloodsucking Fiends* and *You Suck*, Moore treats us to the further adventures of Jody, Tommy, Abby, Foo Dog, the Emperor of San Francisco and his trusty companions, Lazarus and Bummer, as well as the rest of the gang as they battle Chet, a giant vampire cat, and his litter of vampire kitties, who are sucking the blood from half the street people in San Francisco.” See the rest of Terry Hertzler’s great review on our web site. This is a numbered event. Numbers for the signing line are free with the purchase of *Bite Me* from Mysterious Galaxy, on sale now.

## Editor Denise Hamilton and Contributor Patricia McFall

Sign *Los Angeles Noir 2: The Classics* and *Orange County Noir*  
Sunday, April 11, 2:00 PM

Join Denise Hamilton and Patricia McFall for an afternoon of Southern California *noir* on Sunday, April 11, at 2:00 PM. Denise, the award-winning author of the Eve Diamond Series, compiled the original Los Angeles Noir anthology a few years ago, and now she and a bevy of great writers have returned to the birthplace of *noir*. *Los Angeles Noir 2* contributors include contemporary authors like Naomi Hirahara and James Ellroy, as well as those who are no longer with us, like Ross Macdonald, Joseph Hansen and Leigh Brackett. Patricia is one of the contributors to *Orange County Noir*’s “hard-boiled tour behind the Orange Curtain,” along with editor Gary Phillips, Robert Levinson, Nathan Walpow, and Dick Lochte. Johnny Temple, the publisher and Editor in Chief of Akashic Books, has produced more than 40 titles in this series, which has generated multiple award nominees.

## Peter May

Signs *Freeze Frame* and more

Monday, April 12, 7:00 PM

Scottish author and former British television writer Peter May is fascinated by and knowledgeable about a number of places and topics, and mixes his knowledge with imagination to create a bevy of different series and protagonists. In the year since Peter last visited, he has produced three new novels. First, there’s *Freeze Frame*, the new Enzo Macleod mystery, in which the Scots forensics expert finds himself challenged to solve a cold case on a tiny island off of France. Second, there’s *The Runner*, the fifth China Thriller, with Chinese detective Li Yan and American pathologist Margaret Campbell investigating a string of murders tied to international athletics. And third, and possibly most intriguing, there’s the case of Second Life “victims” being found *Virtually Dead*, as Peter explores the blurry line between on-line life and “RL.” Fans know that one of Peter’s areas of knowledge is wine, which ties in nicely with event co-author Michele Scott.

## Michele Scott

Signs *A Toast to Murder* and more

Monday, April 12, 7:00 PM

Michele Scott offers *A Toast to Murder* with her new Nikki Sands Wine Lovers’ mystery, and MG offers a toast to Michele when she joins Peter May on Monday, April 12, at 7:00 PM. The Malveaux Estates winery manager, and her fiancé, Derek Malveaux, have set their wedding date. But as the big day draws near, a variety of disasters strike, at first limited to family and fashion, but eventually turning fatal! Michele also has two new non-genre books, the sweeping family border epic, *El Patron*, and her Napa Valley novel celebrating women’s friendships and wine, *Happy Hour*. Later in April, watch for her contribution to *Why We Ride: Women Writers on the Horses in Their Lives*. Michele will be joined by fellow mystery author and wine aficionado Peter May.

## John Barnes

Signs *Directive 51*

Tuesday, April 13, 7:00 PM

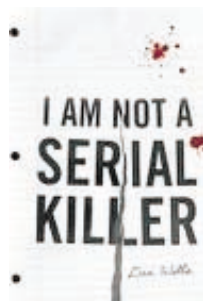
What is *Directive 51* about? Here’s journalist James Fallow’s comment from his article in *The Atlantic* in March: “With financial, medical, legal, intellectual, logistic, and every other sort of information increasingly living in ‘the cloud,’ the consequences of collapse or disruption are unpleasant to contemplate. A forthcoming novel, *Directive 51*, by John Barnes, does indeed contemplate them, much as in the 1950s Shute imagined the world after nuclear war in *On the Beach*. Barnes’s view of the collapse of financial life (after all, our ‘assets’ consist mostly of notations in banks’ computer systems), the halt of most manufacturing systems, the evaporation of the technical knowledge that now exists mainly in the cloud, and other consequences is so alarming that the book could draw attention in a way no official report can.” Find out more when John visits on Tuesday, April 13, at 7:00 PM.

## Dan Wells

Signs *I Am Not a Serial Killer*

Wednesday, April 14, 7:00 PM

According to debut author Dan Wells, *I am Not a Serial Killer* is “about a teenage sociopath who follows strict rules to keep himself from hurting anyone, until one day a real killer comes to town and he has to break all of his rules to stop him. It’s being marketed as both YA horror and as an adult psychological thriller. It has a strong focus on psychology and morality, as the hero tries to do what’s right when his own darker nature rages at him to do evil. There is a fair amount of gore, as the hero works in a mortuary, and there is a strong supernatural element as well when the killer’s true nature is revealed.” If this intrigues you, please join us on Wednesday, April 14, at 7:00 PM. The staff will be sporting spiffy t-shirts; attendees will have a chance for t-shirts as well.



Events continue on the back page

## C.J. Box

Signs *Nowhere to Run*  
Thursday, April 15, 7:00 PM

MG offers a reason to look forward to Thursday, April 15, when we enjoy a 7:00 PM visit with Wyoming suspense author C.J. Box. Chuck has won nearly every possible mystery award, and written a couple of well-received stand-alone thrillers as well as his Joe series. In *Nowhere to Run*, the tenth in the series about the Wyoming game warden, Joe is about to wrap up his temporary stint working in another district, but his commitment to doing the right thing won't let him leave until he has investigated some of the mysteries of the local mountains – mysteries that will lead him into strange and dangerous territory. Chuck will share the story behind *Nowhere to Run*, as well as what the future may hold in store for Joe. He is also a contributor to the charitable fund raising anthology *Hook, Line & Sinister: Mysteries to Reel You In*, available later in April.

## Raymond E. Feist

Signs *At the Gates of Darkness*  
Friday, April 16, 7:00 PM

Spend a fantastic evening at MG on Friday, April 16, at 7:00 PM, when local author and international bestseller Raymond Feist signs and discusses his second book of the Demonwar Saga. A decade after the end of the Darkwar Saga, Midkemia faced a new danger thought buried in myth and antiquity in *Rides a Dread Legion*. Now the inhabitants of Midkemia, including Master Pug, who has lost loved ones to prophecy, stand *At the Gates of Darkness*, besieged by a lost race of elves, the *taredhel*, and their demonic pursuers. The devastated Conclave of Shadows must regroup and find a way to meet the approaching evil, whilst trying to stop civil war from destroying Triagia before the demon horde even arrives. Ray will also offer fans a taste of *A Kingdom Besieged*, the first work in the Chaoswar Saga, the next story arc in the Riftwar Cycle.

## Saturday, April 17

All Day  
e-Free Day!

**EAT SLEEP READ**  
...that's it!

Can you do it? Wouldn't it be wonderful? MG is taking part in e-Free Day, a day without cell phones, or computers, or video games, or personal electronic devices of any stripe. Imagine a day devoted only to EAT SLEEP READ, at indie bookstores nationwide.

We have two wonderful authors joining us to celebrate e-Free day. To add to the fun, we are including a non-electronic gift with every purchase from Mysterious Galaxy on April 17. Join us!

## Dr. D.P. Lyle

Signs *Stress Fracture*  
Saturday, April 17, 2:00 PM

Saturday, April 17, at 2:00 PM, we suggest customers visit our mystery event as part of our e-Free Day Celebration. Dr. D.P. Lyle writes both forensic fiction and award-winning forensic non-fiction, including the always popular *Forensics for Dummies*. *Stress Fracture* introduces forensic expert Dub Walker, who is called in to help catch a serial killer when the killer's latest victim is Dub's friend, Sheriff Mike Savage. Doug has worked with many other novelists and with the writers of popular television shows such as *Law & Order*, *CSI: Miami*, *Diagnosis Murder*, *Monk*, *House*, and *Medium*. He will also hint at what 2011's *Hot Lights*, *Cold Steel* may hold for Dub.

## Naomi Hirahara

Signs *Blood Hina*  
Saturday, April 17, 2:00 PM

Edgar award-winning author Naomi Hirahara joins fellow Southern CA mystery author D.P. Lyle on Saturday, April 17, at 2:00 PM. In *Blood Hina*, gardener and sleuth Mas Arai is initially committed to serving as best man at his best friend's wedding. But when his friend's fiancée's antique Japanese doll display is taken, and the groom-to-be is the main suspect, Mas steps in to clear his name, discovering in the process a world of heartbreaking memories, deception, and murder. Naomi is also a contributor to the recently released *Los Angeles Noir 2: The Classics*, and her children's book, *1001 Cranes*, is on our shelves as well.

## Coming this April ... Patrick's Pick!

### The Desert Spear by Peter V. Brett

Arlen, titular hero of *The Warded Man*, has been named the Deliverer by many in the North. The Deliverer, the man who will free the world from the demons that besiege it. But naming him thus may have been premature. There is another who would have that title. Jadir of the desert kingdom of Krasia has been honed since childhood to fight the *alagai*, the demons that rise from the Core every night. He is a fierce warrior and a leader of men ... the savior prophesied in the bones of his people. He will enslave the world to take back the night, and deliver the world.

*The Desert Spear* is at its heart Jadir's story, as *The Warded Man* was Arlen's. Moreover, with one notable exception, the characters made real in *The Warded Man* don't even make their presences felt until around page 200. When they do, however, it's like rediscovering old friends who you didn't realize you'd missed. And when Jadir and his very un-Northern-like machinations are introduced into the mix, all hell breaks loose. Is Jadir the Deliverer of legend? Or is it Arlen? Both? Neither? Time will tell. *The Desert Spear* is a powerful sequel to last year's favorite, *The Warded Man*. Brett builds on the excellence that was that first novel and continues the story of a world beaten to the brink of extinction. I can't wait to see what he delivers to us next.

Signed First Editions from Del Rey, \$26.00. – PMH

## One Book, One San Diego

Our *Outcasts United* discussion  
Sunday, April 18, noon

Mysterious Galaxy, in cooperation with three other independent booksellers in San Diego (Warwick's, Book Works, and Yellow Book Road), is proud to be a sponsor of One Book One San Diego (have you heard our spots on NPR?). As a part of the programming for this city-wide event, we are pleased to host a book discussion group for this year's pick, *Outcasts United*. Join discussion leader Suzanne Dupree for this inspiring read. More details are available on our web site.

## Looking Ahead:

More Events in April, Then Our Birthday Bash, and Hot Summer Reads ... Mark your calendars!

- ☉ **April continues:** Larry Karp – April 22; Jacqueline Winspear – April 22; Jennifer Lee Carrell – April 23; *Will Grayson*, *Will Grayson* event with John Green and David Levithan at the La Mesa Public Library – April 23; Los Angeles Times Festival of Books – April 24 & 25; Alafair Burke – April 26, Rachel Caine – April 27; Ed Lin, April 28
- ☉ **May Arrives!:** Page One Library Event with Verner Vinge – May 1; Ken Kuhlken – May 2; MG's 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash with Charla Harris, Beth Fantaskey, Janni Lee Simmer, Jeff Mariotte and Emily St. John Mandel – May 8; Ladies, Lunch and Literacy in the South Bay with Pete Nelson – May 12; Kathy Porter – May 13; Robin Hobb – May 14; Earlene Fowler – May 15; Thomas Perry – May 15; Dani & Eytan Kollin – May 16; Richelle Mead at the San Marcos Library – May 19; Deborah Coonts – May 22; Paolo Bacigalupi – May 23; Christopher Farnsworth – May 23; Nathan Long – May 23; Phoenix (AZ) Comicon – May 27 – 30
- ☉ **Summer Starts:** Kris Neri – June 3; Michael Stevens – June 4; Lynn Flewelling – June 5; Supernatural Summer Tour with Kelley Armstrong, Kim Harrison, Ellen Schreiber and Kimberly Derting – June 6; Vicki Pettersen – June 11; Lisa Brackmann – June 12; Simon Wood – June 13; Juliet Blackwell – June 18; Sophie Littlefield – June 18; Jeffery Deaver – June 25; P.F. Chisholm – June 27; Scott Sigler – June 28; Tarquin Hall – June 29 ... and more great events and authors as summer continues!



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