

THE PLOT THICKENS

mysterious
galaxy

BOOKS OF MARTIANS, MURDER, MAGIC & MAYHEM

FROM YOUR PARTNERS IN CRIME AND IMAGINATION

More April and Into May 2010 ...

Michael and Ben's Excellent Adventures in Graphic Novels

Michael says: "Great stories do not have limitations, they are not particular to color or creed. Great stories have been inspiring and teaching mankind since they were passed down as oral tales told to the young to inform them of their history. Great stories are our business, and we know them well.

"And so it is with great pleasure that I say unto thee, 'let our stories be graphic' ... that came out wrong. What I mean to say is that there is now a section in Mysterious Galaxy devoted to the great tales told through both prose and panel. We will endeavor to stock this new section with the best science fiction, fantasy, horror, mystery, suspense and young adult graphic novels as it is possible to do. So come on down and enjoy the ride."



Ben says: "Michael and I noticed all of our favorite authors are either currently writing graphic novels or got their start writing graphic novels. It's become almost an underground art form and a different way for authors to express themselves and still be taken seriously. Selections will be from multiple genres and different publishing houses and imprints, with a focus on the creators. One area of interest is the Vertigo Crime line. For more mainstream works, we still will refer people to Comickaze."

Check out the new section, between Staff Picks and Science Fiction.



Mysterious Galaxy is proud to be an independently owned bookstore!

The Virtual Plot

Don't miss any late breaking news.
Sign up at
www.mystgalaxy.com

Celebrate our 17th birthday with us!
Saturday, May 8, 2010

Don't miss:
Birthday cake
Gifts and surprises

These Birthday Bash authors

- Beth Fantaskey
- Michael Gruber
- Charlaine Harris
- Emily St. John Mandel
- Jeff Mariotte
- Janni Lee Simner
- Keith Thomson

Can't attend?
Contact the store to reserve a signed copy.

On Sale Tuesday, May 4, 2010

CHARLAINE HARRIS
DEAD IN THE FAMILY
A SPOOKIE STACEHOUSE NOVEL

mysterious galaxy
BOOKS OF MARTIANS, MURDER, MAGIC & MAYHEM

858-268-4747 www.mystgalaxy.com

Rave Reviews

Wanna Get Lucky? by Deborah Coonts

A great title (open to lots of interpretations). An appealing protagonist. Lots of action. A little romance. The real insider's Las Vegas.

Lucky O'Toole knows her way around Las Vegas and especially around her domain, the Babylon, the newest of the over-to-top mega casino/resorts on The Strip. She is the head of Customer Relations (AKA chief problem solver) and the number one employee of The Big Boss. The book and her day start with an ex-hooker who is fatally dumped in the pirate's lagoon in front of Treasure Island, a naked man in the staircase, a new security hire who may be working for the bad guys (but is very, very appealing in other ways), and any number of customers who require her special care. Her hours are long and she is tireless in her resolve to correct all wrongs and get to the bottom of who murdered Lyda Sue Stalnaker.

As Lucky unravels the clues and gets closer to the truth, she also uncovers some of her own truths and desires, and the underlying story of love and redemption is the perfect contrast to the underbelly of life she encounters daily. Adding to this terrific debut is a wonderful cast of supporting characters — her mother owns a world famous brothel, her assistant has a thing for a younger man, her BFF / possible romantic interest is a renowned drag performer, and she is mentoring a young detective on the police force. This is a debut mystery author to watch.

Get your copy signed when Deborah visits Mysterious Galaxy on May 22, 2010.
Forge, \$24.00. —tlg, LDB & MeH

The Singer's Gun by Emily St. John Mandel

This book surprised me. This does not happen very often. The reason for my surprise is that the more I read, the more I discovered that I didn't really know what the book was about. The layers upon which St. John Mandel builds are subtly placed and each fresh revelation creates a truly captivating story.

What you know from the start is that there is an investigation in place and that the focus of the investigation is on Anton Waker and his cousin Aria, but you have no idea what crime they are being sought for and you don't find out for a significant portion of the book. Then you know that Anton has finally been able to marry his fiancée (after two cancellations by the bride) and the story proceeds with their honeymoon. But not really. The story really begins with Anton's family business (they are a bunch of crooks) and much, much more. But you won't find out more about the plot from me ... you will love the process of discovering what is really going on for yourself ... and I think you will enjoy being introduced to a new writer of merit. (And you can meet her at this year's Birthday Bash on May 8.) Unbridled Books, \$24.95. —tlg

Directive 51 by John Barnes

Imagine if you will a global movement involving millions of disaffected individuals with differing goals and only one real thing in common: a desire to bring the Big System down. The Big System: governments, corporate society, big business, technology ... the stuff around which the world revolves. Imagine these resentful and rebellious people organizing. Call it Daybreak.

Volume 18 Number 6

Signed First Editions

A sample of signed first editions from store events, and books signed off-site.

Berney, Lou. *Gutshot Straight*. Wm. Morrow, \$24.99.

Blake, Sarah. *The Postmistress*. Amy Einhorn, \$25.95.

Bradley, Alan. *The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag*.

Brett, Peter. *The Desert Spear*. Del Rey, \$26.00. A Signed First Edition Pick!

Briggs, Patricia. *Silver Borne*. Ace, \$24.95.

Butcher, Jim. *Changes*. Roc, \$25.95.

Corbett, David. *Do They Know I'm Running?* Ballantine, \$15.00.

Hoffman, Beth. *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt*. Pamela Dorman, \$25.95.

Kaufman, Thomas. *Drink the Tea*. Minotaur, \$24.99.

Kellerman, Jesse. *The Executor*. Putnam, \$25.95.

Kellerman, Jonathan. *Deception*. Ballantine, \$28.00.

Merciel, Liane. *The River Kings' Road*. Pocket, \$26.00. A Signed First Edition Pick!

Locke, M. Louisa. *Maids of Misfortune*. Createspace, \$15.00.

Moore, Christopher. *Bite Me: A Love Story*. Wm. Morrow, \$23.99.

Watch our website and electronic newsletter for regular updates!

Book Group Discussions

Enhance your reading enjoyment by participating in one of our lively book discussions with Fearless Leader Christine and other genre readers. Whether you've "done the reading assignment" or are curious about whether you should add a particular title to your own To Be Read pile, participation is open to all readers. Check the Events Section of our web site for reminders and date changes. Current titles slated for discussion in the new year are:

» *Wolf's Gambit* by W.D. Gagliani on
Wednesday, May 5, at 7:00 PM.

» *Bone Dance* by Emma Bull on
Wednesday, May 26, at 7:00 PM.

» *Accidental Sorcerer* by K.E. Mills on
Wednesday, June 16, at 7:00 PM.

Sign up for our special Book Group editions of *The Virtual Plot* by modifying your profile.

Remember, MG is happy to arrange for books in quantity with reader's guides and more for book group members. Ask us for more details!

Forthcoming Lists in their New Home

While listing forthcoming titles in our print newsletters was a long-standing tradition, readers know that due to space constraints those listings have always appeared in abbreviated form, with a more complete version appearing on our website.

As of March 2010, the complete list continues to appear on our website under the Forthcoming Books menu, and is the only version we are publishing. If you do not have ready access to our website, please ask any staff member for a printed copy of a posted month's list the next time you're in the store.

Larry Karp

Signs *The Ragtime Fool*

Thursday, April 22, 5:00 PM

In his Killer Books review, Bill Farley of Seattle Mystery Bookstore says: “In [*The Ragtime Fool*], the concluding volume of Larry Karp’s ragtime trilogy, it’s 1951. Scott Joplin (*The King of Ragtime*) is long dead, but ragtime music is making a comeback. Brun Campbell (*The Ragtime Kid*) is now an old man, still obsessed with Joplin’s music. A ceremony is being planned in Sedalia, MO, where Joplin got his start, but the plans are far too humble, in Campbell’s estimation. He learns there may be a journal, kept by Joplin during his time in Sedalia that Brun hopes to use to spur interest in a full-blown museum of ragtime in the town.” Multiple parties seek the journal for diverse reasons, and some are willing to kill to secure it. Meet Larry on Thursday, April 22, at 5:00 PM.

Jacqueline Winspear

Signs *The Mapping of Love and Death*

Thursday, April 22, 7:00 PM

Inquiry agent Maisie Dobbs has won bookseller and librarian accolades and genre awards and nominations since she debuted in 2003 in Jacqueline Winspear’s mystery of the same title. Now in *The Mapping of Love and Death*, her seventh outing, Maisie is hired in 1932 to seek the mysterious missing lover of a young California man who was first reported missing in action in the European theatre in 1916. The woman is only identified in the letters as “The English Nurse.” Her investigation stirs up difficult memories for Maisie of her time serving as a nurse in the Great War – and may uncover other buried secrets that some may prefer remain hidden. Jacqueline continues our day of historical mysteries when she returns to MG on Thursday, April 22, at 7:00 PM.

John Green and David Levithan

At the La Mesa Public Library

Friday, April 23, 6:00 PM

John Green is a New York Times bestselling author and co-creator (with his brother, Hank) of the enormously popular video blog Brotherhood 2.0. All three of his award-winning previous novels, including *Paper Towns*, are in development for films. David Levithan is an award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of books for teens, including *Boy Meets Boy* and (with Rachel Cohn) of *Nick and Nora’s Infinite Playlist* which was made into the 2008 film. Together they have written *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*, a tale in which two teens, both names Will Grayson, find their lives intersecting in an unexpected and life changing trajectory. On Friday, April 23, at 6:00 PM, readers 14 and up are invited to take part in their event at the La Mesa Public Library. Books will be available in advance and on-site from MG. John and David will also sign in MG’s Los Angeles Times Festival of Books booth on Sunday, April 25.

Jennifer Lee Carrell

Signs *Haunt Me Still*

Friday, April 23, 7:00 PM

On Friday, April 23, at 7:00 PM, Mysterious Galaxy invites readers to help celebrate the 446th birthday of Wm. Shakespeare with Jennifer Lee Carrell and *Haunt Me Still*. Shakespearean scholar Kate Stanley finds herself directing a production of *Macbeth*, which seems determined to exemplify all of the notorious bad luck associated with “the Scottish play.” Kate and Ben Pearl, who assisted her in *Interred with their Bones*, and the cast gather on a remote Scottish island, hosted by a no-longer-in-her-glory actress, and with a stage filled with historical artifacts and a quest for a copy of the play said to contain actual magical rites. When Kate starts sleepwalking and finds herself on a dark hilltop with her hands covered in blood, it’s hard to discount the idea that something supernatural is going on.

The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books

UCLA Campus, Booth #614

Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25

On Saturday, April 24, and Sunday, April 25, Mysterious Galaxy will be hosting dozens of authors in our booth on the grounds of the UCLA Main Campus as part of the Los Angeles

Times Festival of Books. We will be in the same location of **Zone F, Dickson Court North, Booth #614.**

For more information about the Festival and directions, etc. visit the official web site — www.latimes.com/extras/festivalofbooks/.

The most up to date information on Booth #614 will be posted on our web page and in our electronic newsletter, *The Virtual Plot*, just before the event.

Authors scheduled to appear in our booth include: Seth Grahame-Smith, Elizabeth George, Gayle Lynds, Lev Grossman, Steve Hockensmith, Christopher Rice, Pseudonymous Bosch, and more, including “Despicable Me” characters on Sunday morning!

Alafair Burke

Signs *212*

Monday, April 26, 7:00 PM

NYPD Detective Ellie Hatcher, introduced in Alafair Burke’s *Dead Connection*, returns in *212*. Ellie and her partner investigate the murder of a New York University student, following her reports of a cyberstalker posting threatening messages to an on-line gossip website. When the student’s phone records provide a link to a murdered real estate agent, who in turn may be linked to the dramatic murder of a bodyguard whose corpse was left in building 212 (hence the title), Ellie will risk her career and safety to find the answers. Alafair has also written three novels featuring Deputy District Attorney Samantha Kincaid, drawing on her background as a prosecutor in America’s police precincts and criminal courtrooms. MG welcomes Alafair to the Galaxy on Monday, April 26, at 7:00 PM.

Rachel Caine

Signs *Kiss of Death*

Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 PM

You are invited to join the party on Tuesday, April 27, at 7:00 PM, when MG celebrates the launch of *Kiss of Death*, the new Morganville Vampires novel, and Rachel Caine’s birthday. *Kiss of Death* chronicles the “road trip from Hell,” as vampire musician Michael Glass attempts to cross over to a larger audience in the human world, with all the attendant problems. A great deal has happened since college student Claire Danvers first discovered the presence of vampires in her Texas town in *Glass Houses* – and the interactions between the supernatural world and the mundane one are never easy. Attendees will be treated to cake from fabulous local independent boutique bakery CAKE.

Ed Lin

Signs *Snakes Can’t Run*

Wednesday, April 28, 7:00 PM

Award –winning author Ed Lin first took readers to the streets of New York City’s Chinatown seen through the eyes of Chinese-American detective Robert Chow the in the mid-1970’s in *This is a Bust*. Chow, a Vietnam veteran and alcoholic, is working reluctantly undercover as a Con Ed worker for the NYPD, when the murder of two Chinese men gets him reassigned to look into the actions of a ring of snakeheads – human smugglers. *Snakes Can’t Run* received a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*, and Ed visits Mysterious Galaxy on Wednesday, April 28, at 7:00 PM to discuss police procedurals, writing novels set in the near past, and the integration of Asian-Americans into American society.

Ken Kuhlken

Signs *The Biggest Liar in Los Angeles*

Sunday, May 2, 2:00 PM

The Biggest Liar in Los Angeles is the newest entry in Ken Kuhlken’s Tom Hickey California Century series. It is set in 1926, nearly two decades before *The Loud Adios*, which won the Private Eye Writers of America/St. Martin’s Press Best First PI Novel Award. Tom is working as a musician and a meat deliveryman when he receives word of a lynching in Los Angeles, near the Angelus Temple of infamous evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson – a lynching which has not been reported by the police, or the town’s established media. When Sister Aimee prepares a sermon on “The Biggest Liar in Los Angeles,” Tom has a ready list of candidates for the title, including the police chief, and the owners and publishers of the town’s major newspapers. Ken will guide readers back to the beginning of the modern world when he visits on Sunday, May 2, at 2:00 PM.

Rave Reviews Continue (from the front page)

Imagine them all taking action ... lots and lots of action. In *One Day*. Then add a bit of terrorist piggybacking and catalyzing. It’s the end of the world as we know it. What are we to do? *Directive 51*.

National Security Presidential Directive NSPD 51, Directive 51 for short, is a Presidential Directive created in 2007 that claims power to execute procedures for the continuity of the federal government in the event of a “catastrophic emergency.” Such an emergency is construed as “any incident, regardless of location, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the U.S. population, infrastructure, environment, economy, or government functions.” - Wikipedia

It starts out like an episode of *24* with multiple Jack Bauers, and then builds from there. Barnes is an exceptional writer. *Directive 51* thrilled me and at the same time it scared me. (I suppose I could do without a bit of the Big System myself. No more credit card bills! Just a bit of light to read by and a few books and I’d be Burgess Meredith in that *Twilight Zone* episode, only I don’t need my glasses to read. Then again, no movies or TV, no modern medicine or Hulu, no indoor plumbing or grocery stores.) Just how simple would it be to bring modern civilization down? A couple of weeks and a few (thousand) acts of random violence and we’re back to hunting and gathering. Or worse, we trade democracy for anarchy and Directive 51 dictatorship. *Directive 51* is a book we’ll be talking about for a long time. Be careful what you wish for, oh you disaffected among us, and don’t go getting any ideas. Ace, \$25.95. — *PMH*

Killer Instinct by Zoë Sharp

Charlie Fox and Zoë Sharp have been staff favorites since *First Drop* was released in the U.S. a few years ago. However, her U.S. publisher started with the third book in the series, despite the title. Now, thanks to Busted Flush, U.S. readers have a chance to start at the beginning, with *Killer Instinct*. In her first outing, Charlie has not yet officially transitioned into her career as a bodyguard. Instead, she is a freelance self-defense instructor, and open to other odd jobs as well, especially those where she can employ her skills as a former British Army Special Forces soldier. A casual evening out with a friend leads to a part time job as security at a local nightclub, and enmeshes Charlie in a web of crime and deceit tied to the heinous murders of several local women. Elements of the rape and murders have uncomfortable resonance with Charlie’s past. Busted Flush Press tpo, \$15.00. — *MeH*

Fever Dream by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child

Oh boy, this is a good one. The ever-enigmatic FBI agent Aloysius Pendergast is a character to be admired but not known. That is about to change. Pendergast has believed that his wife Helen died 12 years ago from a fatal mauling by a ferocious red-maned lion. One day, while looking at his wife’s hunting rifle, long enclosed in a glass case, he notices a bit of rust forming on the tip of the barrel. He takes it out of the glass case to clean and discovers one

barrel is clean and the other dirty. This leads to the conclusion that it had been loaded with blanks. Pendergast suspects that his wife was set up to be murdered. He asks NYPD Lt. Vincent D’Agosta to drop everything and help him solve this mystery. The motive behind her death seems to be related to her obsession with naturalist-painter John James Audubon and his long lost painting, The Black Flame. Pendergast, along with D’Agosta, travels from Zambia to the Louisiana bayou, searching for clues about his wife’s past and discovering maybe a bit more than he wanted to know.

I think *Fever Dream* is the authors’ best effort to date, and that’s saying a lot! Grand Central Publishing, \$26.99. Arriving May 11th. — *LNT*

Freedom™ by Daniel Suarez

When the book *Daemon* was published last year it became an overnight, underground sensation. Now it’s being sold world wide. The story revolves around a well known computer game guru who is dying of brain cancer. A “daemon” is computer language for a program that executes in the background, ready to perform an operation when required. The guru dies - that starts a series of “required” computer operations. And terrible things start happening. Well, get ready for the sequel. It’s every bit as interesting and action packed as the first book. The daemon’s claw is now in most everything, most everywhere. Pete Sebeck, having lost his heart and soul in the first book, is trying with everything he has to prove that the daemon is fast becoming the domination of all. He wants to prove that the daemon is not what’s best for the world – in reality, it will destroy it. A revolution is in the making. On one side are those who want the daemon destroyed and on the other side are those who open their arms to the change and who believe in it. Follow the bouncing ball as the book goes from one front to the other. All of the tension, excitement and terror of the first book – plus an ending to die for ... Dutton Publishing \$26.95. Signed copies available while supplies last. — *DB*

Blood Oath by Christopher Farnsworth

The story of Nathaniel Cade, The President’s Vampire, is multi-layered, action packed, and fascinating. 140 years ago, President Andrew Johnson pardoned Cade. With the help of Marie Laveau, he tied Cade’s existence to the office of the President of the United States. For fourteen decades the vampire has battled forces capable of destroying the USA and possibly the world. Cade’s trophy room under the Smithsonian is testimony to the many adversaries he has thwarted.

With his human handler of forty years about to retire, Cade begins to work with Zach Barrows, a rising young politician caught in a compromising position with the president’s daughter. In their first case together, Cade and his new handler are faced with body parts from U.S. soldiers that have been shipped to the USA. The various bits of anatomy are re-assembled as extremely strong and single-minded zombies. Cade, having seen this type of atrocity during Hitler’s reign, is once again forced into a confrontation with Dr. Joann Konrad, an old adversary. A Nazi war criminal under the CIA’s protection, the doctor is proof that one can live forever using his scientific expertise.



MYSTERIOUS GALAXY'S SPECTACULAR SEVENTEENTH BIRTHDAY BASH!



On Saturday, May 8, 1993, a new store opened in Clairemont Square, dedicated to the staff's passion for books of "Martians, Murder, Magic and Mayhem." Today, that passion continues. We invite you to join us on Saturday, May 8, for our annual all day celebration, featuring some fantastic spotlight authors, special bargains, and, of course, cake! MG co-owner Jeff Mariotte will be on-hand informally throughout the day, and available to sign copies of *CSI: Blood Quantum* and his other works. We also will be remembering our friend and customer, Jeri Bauer, who was a regular contributor to our birthday and other festivities; her passing will be particularly felt on this occasion.

Spotlight on Beth Fantaskey

Signing *Jekel Loves Hyde* at 11:00 AM



Last year's debut, *Jessica's Guide to Dating on the Dark Side*, was a staff favorite (see Terry's review on our website). MG is thrilled to kick off festivities at our 17th Birthday Bash with Beth Fantaskey and *Jekel Loves Hyde* (especially with its fantastic purple and green cover!). High school students Jill Jekel and Tristan Hyde are the subject of jokes about their names before they decide to collaborate on a chemistry experiment recreating the famous Robert Lewis Stevenson story. According to family stories, they may actually be the descendants of the doctor and his deadly alter-ego – and with Jill's father dead and her future at college in jeopardy, she is willing to open the forbidden locked box in her father's den and risk

everything. But will their choice lead to salvation, or to mutual destruction? Beth starts our day of author spotlights with Janni Lee Simner at 11:00 AM.

Spotlight on Janni Lee Simner

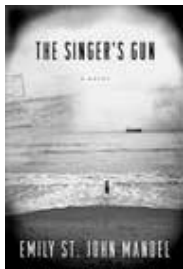
Signing *Thief Eyes* at 11:00 AM



Janni Lee Simner, author of last year's post-apocalyptic fairy tale, *Bones of Faerie*, joins Beth in the spotlight at 11:00 AM. Janni's new novel, *Thief Eyes*, is a contemporary fantasy based on the Icelandic sagas, *Njal's Saga* in particular. A teen from Arizona, in Iceland to try to find her own answers about the abrupt disappearance of her mother and the secrets her father seems to be keeping about the circumstances is suddenly part of a centuries long family story. (See Maryelizabeth's review on this page.) Janni may also offer a sneak preview of her forthcoming *Bones of Faerie* sequel, as well as discussing her work for young readers, and recommended sources for further reading about the real and mythic components of *Thief Eyes*.

Spotlight on Emily St. John Mandel

Signing *The Singer's Gun* at Noon



At noon, Emily St. John Mandel offers readers a twist on crime novels with *The Singer's Gun*. Anton Walker is trying to enjoy a mundane, non-remarkable, and above all, non-criminal life as a middle manager. Unfortunately his past as a forger and his family heritage of criminal activities seems destined to pursue him, mostly at the instigation of his cousin, Aria, who is trying to coerce him into one more big score. (See Terry's review on page 1.) Her previous book, *Last Night in Montreal*, a story of love, amnesia, compulsive travel, the depths and the limits of family bonds, and the nature of obsessions, was also an Indie Next Pick. Emily will also share her thoughts on thoughts on fiction writers and their seeming fascination with disappearances.



Spotlight on Keith Thomson

Signing *Once a Spy* at Noon



Huffington Post contributor Keith Thomson has been a screenwriter, a semi-pro baseball player in France, and an editorial cartoonist for *Newsday*. His debut thriller, *Once a Spy*, finds gambler Charlie Clark and his father Drummond, who he thought was a retired appliance salesman, on the run when it turns out that Drummond was actually a legendary spy. Now various agencies including the CIA are concerned that Drummond, who suffers from Alzheimer's, will spill classified intel. And the Russian loan sharks hunting for Charlie just complicate matters. Keith will sign books in invisible ink viewable by UV light, and may also be persuaded to draw cartoons – he did not specify if the cartoons will be invisible as well.

Spotlight on Michael Gruber

Signing *The Good Son* at 1:00 PM

Best-selling thriller author Michael Gruber steps into the spotlight at 1:00 PM with *The Good Son*. In *The Good Son*, Michael uses the tale of a mother dedicated to the cause of peace, and a son trained in the art of war, to examine how culture influences our view of reality, especially in people raised in two cultures; how melodrama arises from unexamined assumptions of cultures, and the consequences of cultural imperialism. Michael has held jobs in the Carter White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Environmental Protection Agency, and wrote a number of thrillers for Robert Tanenbaum before starting to write under his own name with *Tropic of Night*. In addition to his five previous thrillers, he also wrote the young adult novel, *The Witch's Boy*.

Spotlight on Charlaine Harris

Signing *Dead in the Family* at 2:00 PM



At 2:00 PM, Charlaine Harris continues her tradition of appearing at MG's Birthday Bash, celebrating her 10th Sookie Stackhouse novel, *Dead in the Family*. Following the deadly casualties of the Faery War in *Dead and Gone*, Sookie is trying to recover and heal from her hurt and anger. But her chance to pursue a relationship with Eric Northman is in jeopardy from his new ruler; the Werens and other shifters are in political turmoil; and a Faerie trapped in the human world is holding a deadly grudge against Sookie. In addition to her collection of short stories, *A Touch of Dead*, Sookie will appear in August's anthology, *Death's Excellent Vacation*, co-edited by Charlaine. Charlaine also edited the anthology, *Crimes by Moonlight*, which features a Sookieverse short story, "Dahlia Underground." It has also recently been announced that Charlaine's Harper Connelly books will be adapted for comics by Dynamite Entertainment, and Sookie comics from IDW.

Numbers for the signing line are available with purchase of *Dead in the Family* from Mysterious Galaxy, on sale beginning Tuesday, May 4. Other restrictions may apply, and are subject to change. Contact staff for details. Instead of a single signing line, we will be signing in groups based on your number. Eat cake and shop while you wait for your group to be called.

Rave, Rave, Rave ...

Zach is forced to learn his job on the fly. As Cade's back-up, he faces killers as well as traitors from both the United States and the mid-east, both mundane and extra-human.

I read this novel overnight. Nathaniel Cade is an intriguing and questionable hero. Zach, forced out of his comfort zone, working with a creature who terrifies him, and with no military background, is a great character. The young man is quick witted and entertaining. The unanswered questions at the end of this novel leave the reader looking forward to Cade's next outing. I highly recommend this novel if you enjoy fantasy, espionage, or action. G P Putnam's Sons, \$24.95. — Guest Reviewer Sandra Hale

Death by the Book by Lenny Bartulin

Death by the Book, introducing Jack Susko, used book dealer in Sydney, Australia, is a classic style hard-boiled whodunit. We have dangerous dames, noir atmosphere, snappy dialogue and poetry books (*what?*). Jack is asked by millionaire Hammond Kasprowitz to find as many copies as possible of books by obscure poet Edward Kass. When Jack delivers some books, he meets Kasprowitz's gorgeous daughter Annabelle. Trouble follows. Jack begins to investigate the lives of Kasprowitz and Kass. Bodies begin to pile up. Just another typical week in a bookseller's life. A promising debut in a new biblio-mystery series. — LNT

Minotaur Books, \$24.99.

Memory by Donald Westlake

In his five decades of writing, under his own name and pseudonyms like Richard Stark, Donald Westlake more than earned many awards and his reputation as the Grandmaster of Mystery awarded by the Mystery Writers Association. *Memory*, his final novel, is a sad somber satisfying bookend to that career. New York actor Paul Cole, on tour in the Midwest, sleeps with the wrong woman, and sustains injuries from her husband that leave him with significant memory loss, mostly short-term. Cole tries to make his way back to NYC, working and starting to build a new life as a factory laborer on the way. Eventually he makes it back to the city, to discover the person he was and the life he led may not have been that pleasant or desirable after all. Hard Case Crime pbo, \$7.99. — MeH

The Dragon Factory by Jonathan Maberry

Joe Ledger and the DMS (Department of Military Sciences) are back and they're taking no prisoners! *Patient Zero* left us breathless and needy for more – *The Dragon Factory* answers our plea for more deadly merriment. Are there zombies in this one?? (I ain't gonna tell!) The characters are crisp and kawl – they work well together to wipe the earth of the bad guys (most of the time). There are some evil twins; genetically enhanced whatzits; and an extinction clock – tick, tick, tick.... No, it's not a crocodile. But, beware anyway..... St. Martin's Griffin tpo, \$14.99. — DB

The Shadow Pavilion by Liz Williams

Detective Inspector Chen returns in Liz Williams's fourth occult police procedural fantasy set in the strange city of Singapore Three. Chen's wife Inari has gone missing. Demon Zhu Irzh

and Inari's badger/teapot familiar have also disappeared. The evil man/woman assassin Lord Lady Seijin from *Between* is stalking Mhara, the new Emperor of Heaven. A Bollywood actress has been set loose on the city. She's angry and she's also a tigress demon. Yikes, or Growl! Yes, it's business as usual for Chen. If you like your fantasy mixed with mystery, check out Liz's latest thriller. Or, begin with *Snake Agent* and get hooked on "John Constantine meets Chow Yun-Fat" in a unique future Asia setting.

Snake Agent, *The Demon and the City*, *Precious Dragon* and *The Shadow Pavilion* are all Night Shade Books pap, \$7.99 each. —LNT

I Thought You Were Dead, A Love Story by Pete Nelson

Here are three reasons to read this book.

First, you have to love this title. I don't care what other people say. For me the cover, the title, and the first line of a book will often sell me on giving it a read.

Second, this line (*I Thought You Were Dead*) is actually spoken in the first chapter ... by a Dog named Stella ... who plays a major part in this story about Paul Gustavson, a man who is struggling in life, love, and work. Paul's father is gravely ill, his wife left him, his girlfriend has another guy, his relationship with his brother is strained, he has no idea what he wants out of life and he is writing a book called *Nature for Morons* (from which you can read delightful excerpts). But he has a wonderful companion in his aging Lab-shepherd mix (the aforementioned Stella) who always tells him the truth and is in fact his best friend.

Paul's journey toward resolving his personal issues unfolds as he jogs through North Hampton, Mass., participates in his father's recovery, and drinks beers with his buddies at the local Bay State bar (though not necessarily in this order). And you will be smiling, laughing, and crying along with him.

Third, I am not the only one who is enthusiastic about *I Thought You Were Dead*. This is the number one IndieBound pick for April, which means that independent booksellers across the country have endorsed this book and will be recommending it to their customers. You can be the first to buzz this book to your friends and you can also meet Pete at lunch in Manhattan Beach on May 12. Algonquin Books, \$23.95 — tlj

YOUNG ADULT REVIEWS

Young Adult fiction just gets better and better and we are reading new entries in our genres as fast as they come across our desks. Buy them for your young adult (yes, we mean you!).

Thief Eyes by Janni Lee Simner

Volcanic activity among the snow and glaciers of Iceland made international headlines in March of this year. I believe the eruptions were of natural causes, but having read *Thief Eyes*, I am not 100% sure. Tucson, AZ, teen Haley and her father are visiting Iceland, in part to collect information for her dad's research, but mostly because Haley is seeking answers. Her mother disappeared while in Iceland the previous summer, and the police have no answers. That's probably because Haley and her mother are caught up in matters of mythology and legend, as the descendants of sorceress Hallegred. Soon Haley finds herself and her new friend, Ari,

continued on page 4

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Rachel Caine

Jennifer Lee Carrell

Beth Fantaskey

John Green

Michael Gruber

Charlaine Harris

Larry Karp

Ken Kuhlken

David Levithan

Ed Lin

Emily St. John Mandel

Jeff Mariotte

Keith Thomson

Janni Lee Simner

Jacqueline Winspear

See inside for dates and times.

And More Rave Reviews ...

caught up in a tale of enchanted coins, berserker beasts and fire giants – and the choices she makes may not only affect her family and future, but the whole country. A fascinating excursion to a different land and its tales. Random House, \$16.99. — *MeH*

Early to Death, Early to Rise by Kim Harrison

Although she has the illusion of a body, Madison Avery is not only dead but also the dark timekeeper. In the ancient system, it is Madison's job to send dark angels or reapers to scythe any person fated to do damage to people or property during their lifetime. Madison is balanced by Ron, the light timekeeper, who sends a guardian angel to protect the possible offender from harm. Because Madison believes in free choice not fate, the seraphs have given her one chance to rescue her next mark. Three heavenly beings aid Madison in her endeavors. Nakita, a dark reaper, is trying to cope with and understand the fear she feels due to Madison's earlier errors. Barnabus, a twice fallen angel, is trying to balance Nakita and keep the scheduled victim alive. Grace, originally Madison's guardian angel, is monitoring the group and reporting their success or lack of it to the seraphs. Madison's lack of training and knowledge hinders the group's success. She is unable to flash forward and see pending events or shield her amulet and prevent Ron from finding her. As a teenager and student she has to work around her father and school. The bickering between Nakita and Barnabus also interferes with the group's goals. The person they are attempting to save is uncooperative and filled with hate. Kim Harrison has not only created a unique and complicated world but also combines humor, action, a feisty heroine, and verbal bickering to move the story forward. The prologue sucks the reader into the story and the plot twists keep pages turning. Harper Teen, \$16.99.

— *Guest Reviewer Sandra Hale*

Fever Crumb by Philip Reeve

In a far future vaguely post-apocalyptic London, a girl begins to discover that she has more questions than answers. She is the only female in an enclave of Engineers, where she is taught to be rational — she shaves her head (hair is unnecessary) and does not give in to feelings (instincts are a vestige of humanity's primitive past, a good Engineer learned to suppress them). When she accepts her first assignment as an Engineer, however, this rational worldview is challenged as events begin to unfold that she cannot explain, and is increasingly uncertain how to respond to... a coming-of-age story filled with adventure, reflection, and the age-old tension between heart and mind. Scholastic Press, \$17.99.

— *Silvia Mancini, Guest Reviewer*

Claire de Lune by Christine Johnson

Like any teenage girl, Claire Benoit thought her mom's rules were too strict. Her biggest disappointment was the fact that her secret crush didn't know she was alive — until the night of her sixteenth birthday. In a twenty-four hour period Claire attracts the attention of Matthew Engle, the popular, handsome jock she has a crush on, and learns she is a werewolf. Now she really has problems. As much as Claire likes Matthew, his father leads the hunt for her species. Dr. Engle has also created a vaccine he insists will cure the disease. Of course, the success of the vaccine is questionable as the people given the shot either die or end up in a coma. With a rogue werewolf hunting and killing the people of the town, Claire and her new pack find the terrified townspeople hunting them. As she tries to adapt to her new reality, Claire finds herself lying to her long-time

best friend as well as to Matthew. Handicapped by her mother's unwillingness to talk to her about her condition, Claire begins to experiment with her transformation as well as seek information from other sources. When Claire realizes people around the Engles' neighborhood are becoming victims, she fears for Matthew's safety and begins to hunt the murdering werewolf. Then her mother disappears. This tightly woven coming of age story is both entertaining and worth reading. Claire deals with identity formation, courage, and loyalty to family and friends. This reader is left hoping Claire will return in a future book. Simon and Schuster, \$16.99.

— *Guest Reviewer Sandra Hale*

Shade by Jeri Smith-Ready

In the not too distant future depicted in *Shade*, a single cosmic event on one Winter Solstice has shifted the world into two distinct generations — those born before the Shift and those born after. The latter can see and interact with ghosts. Aura Salvatore is a junior in high school, and a Shifter. In fact, she is the first Shifter, born in the minute of change. On the night of her birthday, which starts out as a perfect evening — her boyfriend's band plays a gig that may get them a record label, and Aura and Logan have plans to make it a Very Special Night — Logan dies of a toxic overdose of drugs and alcohol. Now Aura, who has always viewed her abilities as an annoyance, has to figure out how to have a relationship with her dead boyfriend's ghost. Matters are further complicated by the extreme interest the Department of Metaphysical Purity is taking in her, and the strangely attractive new student at school, Zachary Moore. Jeri's world is unlike any other science fiction fantasy, and a place I am eager to return to. Simon Pulse, \$17.99.

— *MeH*

Runaway: An Airhead Novel by Meg Cabot

Emerson Watts is one miserable supermodel. According to the tabloids, she's in hiding for the holidays with Brandon Stark, son of Robert, CEO of Stark Enterprises. Em is sharing the oceanside mansion with Nikki Howard and Nikki's mother and brother. Unfortunately, Nikki really hates Em. Em's brain was transplanted into Nikki's body after the supermodel tried to blackmail Robert Stark. In order to avoid payment, the CEO had both Em and Nikki killed. Em, a video loving brainiac, ended up in the model's well-toned body. A well-meaning doctor stepped in and found a body for Nikki's brain. Nikki hates the new body and wants her old one back. If Brandon wants the information Nikki has on his father, he has to arrange for Nikki's brain to be reunited with her body. If Em dies during the procedure — who cares? The problem is Em has become attached to Nikki's body — it beats death which is the alternative. In the midst of the turmoil, Em's boyfriend Christopher and her sister show up to rescue her. When Em refuses to be rescued — she wants Nikki and family to come along — the tension ratchets up a bit. When the rescuers and Em reach a compromise and Em ends up at home, chaos ensues. Out of context, Nikki's information makes no sense. How can they discover Robert Stark's plans? More importantly, will they be able to stop Stark when they figure out what he is planning? Can Em get Brandon to leave her alone? Can she and Christopher reunite? Will Nikki ever be happy? The *Airhead* trilogy reminds me of those scatter-brained comedies from the forties. While action-filled, the topics in the book, friendship, loyalty, love are handled in a light-hearted, humorous manner. The book is delightful reading. Scholastic, Inc., \$16.99.

— *Guest Reviewer Sandra Hale*

And After the Birthday Party ...

We know we have seen a lot of you, but we also know we will see you even more as May continues and we begin our summer schedule of events and activities. Check this list carefully so your calendar will be up to date and you won't miss a thing!

More in May: 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; MG Summer Reading Gala with Richard Harland, Greg van Eekhout, Megan Whalen Turner, Barrie Summy and Cindy Pon – May 25; Phoenix (AZ) Comicon – May 27 – 30

Summer Starts: Kris Neri – June 3; Dianne Emley – 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; Carola Dunn – June 10; Vicki Pettersson – 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; Delia Sherman – June 30

And the there is July: George R.R. Martin – July 7; Gregg Hurwitz – July 11; Dale Bailey – July 14; Don Winslow – July 15; Samuel R. Delany – July 20; Comic-Con International – July 21 – 25; Ann VanderMeer and Jeff VanderMeer – July 28; Dorothy Howell – July 31

... and more great events and authors as summer continues!

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