

August 2010 ...

Volume 18 Number 11

Alex Kava

Signs *Damaged*

Monday, August 2, 7:00 PM

In her newsletter to readers, **Alex Kava** comments: "Ever since I experienced my first hurricanes with Ivan (2004) and Dennis (2005) I've been wanting to throw Maggie O'Dell into the path of a monster storm. That's exactly what I do in *Damaged* and you're invited to come along for the ride." In *Damaged*, Maggie refers to real-life serial killer John Joubert who killed two little boys in Nebraska and one in Maine during the early 1980s. Alex's (and Maggie's) first novel, *A Perfect Evil*, was loosely based on the Joubert case. In the decade she has been writing best-selling suspense novels, Alex has received lots of support from her home state, including having one title selected for One Book, One Nebraska. Spend a chilling evening with Alex on Monday, August 2, at 7:00 PM.

Mysterious Galaxy Amateur Writers Support Group

Launch Meeting

Tuesday, August 3, 7:00 PM

Whether you write science fiction, speculative fiction, urban fantasy, high fantasy, *noir*, comic books, mystery, horror, teen angst, tween angst, YA, or even those books starring the sexy vampire who falls in love with the pretty girl so he feels bad about eating her, join us on Tuesday, August 3, at 7:00 PM, for the **Mysterious Galaxy Amateur Writers Support Group**. We'll be meeting approximately every other week with authors dropping in every other month. Bring your works in progress and any questions you might have. Participation in the group does not guarantee any form of publication. We are simply writers, meeting with other writers, in hope of inspiration. The format and structure of the group will evolve along with its members. At present the next two meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, August 18, and Tuesday, August 31. To sign-up contact Ben at ben@mystgalaxy.com or reserve a spot by telephoning the store.

Alexandra Sokoloff

Signs *Book of Shadows*

Thursday, August 12, 7:00 PM

Alexandra Sokoloff's debut ghost story, *The Harrowing*, was nominated for both a Stoker and an Anthony for Best First Novel. The book is based on real experiences from her high school and college years. The psychological undercurrents of the story are drawn from her experience teaching emotionally disturbed and incarcerated teenagers in the Los Angeles County prison system. *The Price* explores troubling questions of what people will do for love, or personal survival, in the eerie setting of a labyrinthine Boston hospital. *The Unseen* centers on a team of psychology researchers who decide to replicate a long-buried poltergeist investigation. In her new *Book of Shadows*, a Boston homicide detective teams up with a beautiful, mysterious witch from Salem to solve a Satanic killing. Fans of supernatural thrillers should join us on Thursday, August 12, at 7:00 PM.

Barry Eisler

Signs *Inside Out*

Friday, August 13, 7:00 PM

If his best-selling espionage novels weren't enough reason for the MG staff to be very fond of **Barry Eisler**, he also makes the following pitch against linguistic viruses on his website: "Join the good fight against the forces of evil! Stop saying 'like' and 'you know,' and ask other people to stop, too. With all the progress civilization has made against indoor public smoking, surely there's hope in the fight against linguistic viruses, too?"

Another cause dear to Barry's heart is independent journalism. He notes, "*Inside Out* is dedicated to the bloggers — the independent sleuths who are after the truth, not a pat on the head from the White House; who have a passion for change, not 'a vested

interest in keeping things pretty much the way they are;' who serve the people, not the powerful. Much of the information and insight upon which *Inside Out* is based was developed by bloggers and other independents." If past experience is any indicator, our Friday, August 13, at 7:00 PM event will be a great evening with an always fascinating author.

Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens

Sign Search: *A Novel of Forbidden History*

Saturday, August 14, 2:00 PM

With *Search*, **Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens** delve into a world of genetic mutations and gods walking among men. *Publishers Weekly's* review states: "This fine archeological quest novel smoothly blends a fast-moving fantasy plot with a solid scientific background. Smart, suspenseful writing and a clever concept add up to a compelling read." The paths of a young geneticist working for the United States military, a billionaire who will pour seemingly unlimited funds into his quest to prove that aliens exist, and a contemporary defender of a faith that dates back to a time before written history when gods walked among men collide as they search for secrets of humanity's origin. Gar and Judy return to the Galaxy after too long an absence on Saturday, August 14, at 2:00 PM.

Give! Play! Read!

Monday, August 16 through Friday, August 20
10:00 AM to 7:00 PM each day!

This summer we have created a program to simultaneously give back to our community, provide some fun activities for your kids (and you!), and save you some cash. Join us for a fun-filled week's worth of events and help us by spreading the word to your friends and neighbors.

To participate: Bring new school supplies to Mysterious Galaxy to help build our "Back to School" bags for Monarch School (our non-profit literacy partner) and receive a 20% discount on your book purchase any time between August 16 and August 20. Regardless of whether you take part in this program, please enjoy our all day activities as we celebrate the spirit of giving. Join the fun every day if you can!

Monday, August 16:

We will be serving free popcorn and lemonade all day.

Tuesday, August 17:

Join the scavenger hunt for "Bookworm Bill". Bill is hiding in the store among his favorite books; find him and receive a prize.

Wednesday, August 18:

Stop by for breakfast all day long. We will be serving muffins, donuts, orange juice and coffee.

Thursday, August 19:

Help us create our new "Weird, Wild and Wonderful" shelf. Come in and select your favorite weird, wild or wonderful book and we will include it in our new shelf in the Young Adult Section.

Friday, August 20:

Come in and post your goals for this school year. It could be earning all "A's", not missing any homework or doing all the extra credit assignments. You get the idea... Come by Mysterious Galaxy between Thanksgiving and Christmas and report your progress. If you are succeeding in achieving your goal, we will give you an MG gift certificate!

EAT! SLEEP! READ!
SNACK! NAP! READ!
and
GIVE! PLAY! READ!

Betty Webb

Signs *The Koala of Death*

Tuesday, August 17, 7:00 PM

Betty Webb returns on Tuesday, August 17, at 7:00 PM, with *The Koala of Death*, her Second Gunn Zoo mystery. When fellow zookeeper "Koala Kate"'s body drifts into the hull of Theodora Bentley's houseboat, she is intimately acquainted with the list of likely suspects, including a number of other zookeepers, other residents of the marina, a local "animal psychic," and even Teddy's own mother. Before beginning to write mysteries full time, Betty Webb was a journalist. Writing articles ranging from hard news to features, she has interviewed everyone from U.S. presidents to astronauts who walked on the moon, as well as Nobel Prize winners, the homeless, the hopeless, the dying, and polygamy runaways. Her Lena Jones mysteries are based on stories she covered as a reporter.

David Rosenfelt

Signs *Dog Tags*

Monday, August 23, 7:00 PM

Woof woof woof! On Monday, August 23, at 7:00 PM, it's time for another **David Rosenfelt** Andy Carpenter canine legal thriller! In *Dog Tags*, Andy is responsible for a high profile murder case in which the only witness is a German Shepherd police dog, whose owner, a former police officer and veteran, stands accused of the crime. At first Andy's involvement is to make sure even if the owner is found guilty that the dog doesn't suffer for his master's choices, but as he continues to investigate, he discovers dog and man are caught up in a much larger case. And if Andy can't get the dog to share crucial information, there could be dire consequences. David is also the founder of the Tara Foundation, which has rescued more than 4,000 Golden Retrievers.

Brent Weeks

Signs *The Black Prism*

Friday, August 27, 7:00 PM

In the Lightbringer series, the world of *The Black Prism*, magic is color based. Gavin Guile is the Prism, the most powerful man in the world. He is high priest and emperor, a man whose power, wit, and charm are all that preserves a tenuous peace. But Prisms never last, and Guile knows exactly how long he has left to live: Five years to achieve five impossible goals. Gavin must also deal with his estranged son and imprisoned brother. Fans of **Brent Weeks'** Night Angel trilogy (whether you discovered him on your own or via Michael's impassioned handselling) and of epic fantasy should help welcome Brent on Friday, August 27, at 7:00 PM.

Looking Ahead to September and beyond:

Check out who is coming this Fall

- ◎ **September Signings:** Timothy Hallinan – September 4; Brandon Sanderson – September 10; Gail Carriger – September 11; Jeff Lindsay – September 14; Rhys Bowen – September 15; Margaret Coel – September 18; Jeanne Stein – September 18; Amber Benson & Sina Grace – September 19; Smart Chicks Kick it Tour with Melissa Marr, Kelley Armstrong, Alyson Noel, Mary Pearson, Carrie Ryan, Rachel Caine and Rachel Vincent – September 21; Southern California Writers Conference Los Angeles with Ellen Bryson, Ernesta Carter, Gregg Hurwitz and Claire LaZebnik – September 24-26; William Kent Krueger – September 24; Wendy Hornsby – September 25; Ilona Andrews – September 28; Diana Gabaldon – September 29
- ◎ **October Occasions:** Conjecture with GOH Robert Sawyer – October 1-3; Maria Snyder – October 2; Lee Carroll – October 3; Charles Yu – October 9; Page One County Library Book Festival – October 9, and our Festive Fall continues...

Rave Reviews

Discord's Apple by Carrie Vaughn

In a war-ravaged near future, comics writer Evie Walker returns to a small Colorado town to care for her terminally ill father, only to discover her family heritage includes compulsory care for a basement of mythical objects. Items in the storeroom include a golden fleece, Excalibur, and the titular apple, the root of the Trojan War. A number of interested parties converge on the Walker storeroom, including Hera and her magical recruits, and Sinon, a devoted follower of Odysseus, who persuaded the Trojans to bring the infamous horse within their walls, and bears a curse of immortality. Carrie combines Evie's storyline with Sinon's history, and her ongoing comics script, to make a thoughtful and cohesive whole. Tor, \$23.99. – MeH

Live to Tell by Lisa Gardner

Detective D.D. Warren shares the narrative with two other women in this summer thriller by the ITW Award winner. The common thread that binds the women is a pediatric psych ward. Danielle, a single survivor of her father's family killing spree, works at the ward as a nurse. Victoria's son, Ethan, and his illness, is the sole focus of her world. And D.D. discovers the common thread among several slain Boston families is the psych ward. As the anniversary of Danielle's family's tragic death nears, someone seems to be recreating the scenario. Along with Detective Warren, readers will gain insight into the lives of severely disturbed children and their families and caregivers. Bantam, \$26.00. – MeH

Y: The Last Man by Brian K. Vaughan and Pia Guerra

On July 17th 2002, every living creature with a Y-chromosome dies... *nearly* every living creature, that is, for Yorick Brown and his pet male monkey Ampersand survive and are plunged into a world indistinguishable from hell. Thus begins Yorick's journey to find his lost love in a dangerous new world where his survival will mean the survival of humanity. In this Eisner Award Winner for Best Series, Brian K. Vaughan has created a masterpiece dystopian story that is not only utterly realistic but also a gripping read from issue one through its spectacular finale. Vaughan is hands down, one of the best comic writers today. Vertigo trade paperback collections, \$12.99 - \$14.99. – MS

Legacies: Shadow Grail #1 by Mercedes Lackey and Rosemary Edghill

After her family is killed in an accident, Spirit White is sent to Oakhurst Academy. The orphanage and school combination, located in Montana, only accepts legacy children. In Spirit's case not only did one of her parents attend the school in the past, but also she has inherited magic. Oakhurst is a strange school - it seems to encourage competition and discourage friendships. While everything a student needs is furnished - clothing, food and education, including magic classes - there seems to be a darker side to the institution. A couple of times a year students vanish and teachers fail to explain the disappearances. Spirit, along with four secret friends, begins to investigate the missing teenagers. The five friends will end up investigating the school basement, seeking records that have vanished, and researching elves, fairies, and demons to solve the disappearances. This is the first book in a series. While some questions are answered by the end of this series debut, there are others that will carry over. An interesting, engaging read with a lot of action, engaging characters, and teenage romance. Worth investigating. Tor Teen tpo, \$9.99. – Guest Reviewer Sandra Hale

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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 as summer turns to fall are:

- ➡ *Crystal Rain* by Tobias Buckell on **Wednesday, August 4, at 7:00 PM.**
- ➡ *Dear Irene* by Jan Burke on **Wednesday, August 25, at 7:00 PM.**
- ➡ *Bellwether* by Connie Willis on **Wednesday, September 22, at 7:00 PM.**

Sign up for our special Book Group editions of *The Virtual Plot* by modifying your email profile. And, please note, we are happy to arrange for books in quantity with reader's guides and more for book group members. Ask us for more details!

