

July 2010 ...

Volume 18 Number 10

## Independents Week July 1 - 7 and Sales Tax Fairness

Independents Week (July 1-7) was created by AMIBA (American Independent Business Alliance) to help independent businesses like us increase awareness of the benefits we bring to your community. We have written about this in the past and we know that our customers are aware that the dollars they spend with us make a difference to us and to the other local businesses we support in the course of doing business. (See page 2 for information about our celebration.)

On a related topic, the American Booksellers Association has launched a Sales Tax Fairness campaign encouraging all of us to reach out to our gubernatorial candidates about the need for sales tax fairness. California is among the states that do not require sales tax to be collected for on-line sales. And we don't have to tell you who the biggest abuser of this loop hole is and how that impacts our business in particular. Just this last week, we sent a link (via our Virtual Plot) to a wonderful piece created by the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association illustrating just how much California could benefit from sales tax fairness, particularly at this time of dire need in our state. This is what it says, in part:

### Online retailers that don't collect sales tax cost California \$485 million annually

So what could the state do with an extra \$485 million?

- We could fix 300,000 potholes for \$15 million
- We could provide music programs to 2000 public schools for \$72 million
- We could hire 500 police officers for \$45 million
- We could restore programs cut from the state Office of AIDS for \$59 million
- We could give 8,000 senior citizens served by Adult Day Health Care access to two additional days of supervised care for \$27 million
- We could restore all state funding for domestic violence shelters for \$21 million
- We could provide sufficient rape kit testing funds to the state crime lab for \$20 million
- We could save the state's Healthy Families health care insurance program for children for \$126 million
- We could ensure that 220 state parks remain open for \$70 million
- We could guarantee funding for the Transitional Housing Placement program of Foster Youth Plus for \$30 million

If you would like more information about this issue or would like to take advantage of template letters that have been created for us to use, adapt, and forward to our/your legislators, please contact a staff member at the store.

## Summer Takes Off ... And we are taking our reading very seriously

**M**aryelizabeth challenged the staff this month to create a list of summer suggestions ... and did they ever respond! ... and we roared when we read their entries. We hope you will find some fun reading here, as well as some great suggestions as you head out to the beach or to your favorite summer reading spot. And if you are intrigued by any of the staff recommendations, please stop by to tell us ... and take the opportunity to find out more about us and what we are reading.

### Happy Summer Reading!

#### What I Read on My Summer Vacation by Patrick H.

**M**s. Hart is making us read five books over the summer, and then we have to write book reports for next year's teacher, Ms. Gilman. Five books! Mr. Mariotte only made us read three last summer, so I cheated and read the Lord of the Rings trilogy (which everyone knows is really just one big book.) Guess five books this summer is karma for last summer. Anyway, Ms. Hart said we'd get extra credit if we supported a local independent bookstore, so Mom took me to Mysterious Galaxy ... which turned out to be pretty cool.

Mom said I couldn't do graphic novels like some of the kids in my class, so I got three books from the Young Adult - MG Junior section that were signed! First, I got a book called *Kid vs. Squid* by a guy named Greg van Eekhout (cool name). It's about a boy who chases after a girl who turns out to be the princess of Atlantis, which is cool, but then there's a witch's curse and a giant squid and that's really cool. My mom said it was a bit young for me, but it was very funny and I read it in one day. It's published by Bloomsbury and costs \$16.99, and it's signed!

Then I got a book called *Worldshaker* because it had an awesome cover. The guy at Mysterious Galaxy told me it's "Steampunk YA" which sounded strange, but I bought it anyway. It's about a boy who's supposed to be the Supreme Commander (awesome) of a huge ship (which is also a city) when he grows up. Anyway, he finds out what's going on in the bowels of the ship and he gets a bit of a rude awakening. Mom says there are some life-lessons there, but I guess I missed those 'cause of all of the fun. The author, Richard Harland, is from Australia so I guess having a signed copy is even awesomer, even if it did cost another \$16.99 of my hard-earned allowance. Oh, and it's published by Simon & Schuster.

The last book I got from the MG Junior section was called *Ship Breaker* by a guy named Paolo Bacigalupi (talk about names). It's about a boy who finds a beached clipper ship and has to decide whether to salvage whatever he can out of it so he can eat for a few days, or rescue the girl who's the only survivor. This one's about the future where everything's kind of shattered and the environment is all messed up. It's got a lot of cool tech that maybe one day I can invent. Mom says this is why the author wrote the book - "to inspire kids like you to create a better future." Guess I missed that part again because I read it so fast. The guy who sold it to me told me the author won a Nebula Award for Best Novel for his first book, *The Windup Girl*, but I should wait a year or two to read it 'cause it's NOT a kids' book. Anyway, *Ship Breaker* is from Little, Brown and costs \$17.99, and *The Windup Girl* is from Night Shade and costs \$14.95 in paperback. More signed books!

Ms. Hart said we'd get more extra credit if we bought books that weren't in the kids' section so I got my other two books from the front of the store.

One's called *The Passage* by Justin Cronin and it was real scary and like 700 pages long, but the older me said it was THE BIG BOOK of the summer so I read it. My older self wrote a review of it in a previous newsletter, but you can still find it online. And you can also get of signed copy of this Ballantine Book for just \$27.00.

The last book I read was called *Migration* by James P. Hogan from Baen Books for \$23.00. They got signed copies all the way from Ireland. The guy said that the folks at Baen were awesome for doing that.

— Patrick H, regressed some 30 odd years  
(not a shock to those who know him/me)

#### What I Read on My Summer Vacation by Michael S.

**I**t is sooo not fair that we have to read so many books this summer and do book reports on them all when we come back. Ms. Hart must hate us! So I decided that if we had to read that many books, I would include **comics** in my total. So I went to the graphic novel section at Mysterious Galaxy and picked out the six coolest looking comic collections that I could find, which my mom was okay with though she sort of rolled her eyes.

First was *The Umbrella Academy* by Gerard Way and Gabriel Ba which is about this old guy who adopts seven babies with super powers and raises them to fight monsters, I wish I had super powers. It was so cool and funny like totally not serious ever. Plus there's a talking monkey for crying out loud! And there are two of them, *Apocalypse Suite* and *Dallas* both from Dark Horse for \$17.99 each.

Did I mention that one of the kids can travel in time? Oh and my mom wanted me to let you know that it's not for kids under the age of 16 though I mean really, I read it and I turn out to be a totally well adjusted member of society.

Next up is *Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons which is a super award winning graphic novel that was made into a cool movie. My older self told me I couldn't read it yet so you'll just have to take his word on it not mine... what I mean is that the older me says that; "*Watchmen* by Alan Moore is one of the best graphic novels ever written. If you haven't read this masterpiece, you should." It's from DC Comics and you can pick it up for \$19.99.

The next two were recommended to young me by older me as two awesome new series to watch. The first is *Chew: Tasters Choice* by John Layman and Rob Guillory, it's about this FDA agent that can tell the history of anything by eating it, which is totally cool and also totally gross. He goes around solving illegal food stuff which I didn't quite get but it is funny and weird and just plain fun so check it out. It's only \$9.99 from Image Comics. The other one was *The Unwritten Vol. 1* by Mike Carey and Peter Gross which is about the son of a famous author named Tommy Taylor, except that the character in his dad's books is Tommy Taylor too and he doesn't exist, sort of. It gets kind of confusing but the art is great and my older self says that I will understand what's going on when I get older. This one is only \$9.99 as well from Vertigo, so these last two should be considered great value.

And now, two from 'older Michael ... *Girl Genius* by Phil and Kaja Foglio involves "Adventure, Romance, Mad Science!" Agatha Clay, a student at Transylvania Polygnostic University and terminal klutz, believes that she is nothing but a failure in all respects. However, when she wakes up on the airship *Castle Wulfenbach*, she learns that there is a great deal about her family and herself that she will need to learn in order to survive in such a dangerous world. With a wonderful sense of humor and real talent for "gaslamp fantasy," Phil and Kaja Foglio have created a wonderful and dramatic story that fans of steampunk will love. *Girl Genius Omnibus* (#1-3), Airship Entertainment, \$14.95.

My one prose title was *The Talent Thief* by Alex Williams. "There's a villain on the loose and he's got his sights set on one thing - your talent." Cressida is an amazingly talented singer, but when she and her brother Adam attend "The Festival of Youthful Genius" they discover that talent is not everything in life. And when the talent of the young geniuses are stolen, Adam and Cressida go rocketing off on a quest to reclaim what was taken, and perhaps to discover that true talent comes in many shapes and sizes. In *The Talent Thief*, Alex Williams has created a thrilling adventure jam-packed full of fun. Philomel, \$16.99.

*That's all from younger Michael for the moment so go on out and get reading those comics because Ms. Gilman is supposed to be really strict on book reports.*

#### Stuff I Read this Summer by Ben M.

**A**ndbutso, I thought that summer was supposed to all about trips to theme parks and the beach. But apparently I had to read 'cause Ms. Hart is making me. So I was going to make sure that at least it's fun reading.

Some people told me that comics are not real books. So I asked the guy at Mysterious Galaxy if that was true, and he said, "Well...some of them aren't real books. But these are." And he gave me a couple to read. The first book I read was *Daredevil Noir*. I thought it was the real Daredevil, but like, it's not. Dad said it's a re-imagination. So instead of fighting superpowered villains over the rooftops, he's beating on a bunch of mob dudes in the 1940's and there was something about gum on my shoes. Andbutso Daredevil totally has no powers. That one is published by Marvel Publishing and costs \$14.99.

The next book I read was *Will Grayson Will Grayson* by John Green and David Levithan. It's about two guys, both named Will Grayson. The first one, always capitalizes his name 'cause he's the smart one. He doesn't want to be noticed, but his best friend, Tiny Cooper, always gets them noticed, mostly because he's really fat and gay. Will also writes music that's all about his life and that gets him noticed too. The second Will never capitalizes his name, (like will grayson) 'cause he doesn't care about stuff like that. He doesn't have any friends, cept this guy he met online called Isaac. So he plans a meeting with Isaac but so instead he runs into the other Will, and they talk and decide to change their lives. Dutton Books published that one and it cost \$17.99. Oh yeah, it's signed too! By both authors!

continued on page 2

**EAT  
SLEEP  
READ**  
CHOCOLATE



## Independents Week

Help us make a difference

Thursday July 1 to Wednesday, July 7

In celebration of Independence Week, we thank all of you for supporting Mysterious Galaxy, one of San Diego's independent bookstores. So ... in celebration, come in any time during this week wearing your MG Eat. Sleep. Read. T-Shirt or carrying an MG Tote Bag and you will receive 17% off your entire purchase. Bring a friend with you and they can enjoy your discount too. And again, thank you for being our customers for more than 17 years.

## Clarion Instructor George R.R. Martin

Discusses the Writing Process

Wednesday, July 7, 7:00 PM

On the seventh day of the seventh month at 7:00 PM, Clarion Professor George R R Martin will discuss the Seven Kingdoms, their seven gods, and the rumored seven books in *The Song of Ice and Fire*, as well as the writing process and HBO adaptations.. Join us for what is sure to be a fantastic evening on Wednesday, July 7, at 7:00 PM.

Here's how the evening will progress: Following a few words by the author, Clarion students will get their books signed, followed by the rest of us in numerical fashion. Numbers for the signing line will be given out the day of the signing on a first-come, first-served basis in person. Other restrictions may apply.

## Gregg Hurwitz

Signs *They're Watching*

Sunday, July 11, 2:00 PM

*Publishers Weekly* gave *They're Watching* a starred review, saying, "Always a master of the gripping setup, [Gregg] Hurwitz outdoes himself in this ultra-suspenseful tale." Patrick Davis is not having the life he envisioned, as his Hollywood screenwriting career and his marriage both seem to be terminal. Then he starts receiving DVDs with himself and his wife in the unwitting starring roles, followed by disturbing emails. Patrick's only hope against those using moviemaking to manipulate him is to try to beat them at their own game. Gregg also writes screenplays and comics, and is currently a consulting producer on ABC's science fiction show, "V." Gregg will be one of the Featured Speakers at this fall's Men of Mystery conference.

## Clarion Instructor Dale Bailey

Discusses the Writing Process

Wednesday, July 14, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, July 14, at 7:00 PM is the midpoint in our series of summer writing workshops with Clarion Instructor Dale Bailey. Dale's International Horror Guild Award-winning short story, "Death and Suffrage," was the basis for Showtime's the "Homecoming" episode of its Masters of Horror anthology series. In addition to his many notable short stories, Dale has published two horror novels and a collaborative crime novel with Jack Slay, Jr., *Sleeping Policemen*.



## Don Winslow

Signs *Savages* and the MG Limited Special Edition of *Savages*

Thursday, July 15, 7:00 PM

If Terry's impassioned review of *Savages* (on our website) didn't convince you to attend Don Winslow's event on Thursday, July 17, at 7:00 PM, maybe this IndieNext Pick blurb will. "Ben and Chon sell the best marijuana in southern California, and have been peacefully rolling in the cash for years. But when the Mexican Baja Cartel wants in, and 'no thanks' is not an option, it sparks a frantic race to meet the cartel's demands and save their turf. Winslow's thriller reads like staccato bursts of gunfire, so keep your head down as you keep turning the pages!" — Brian Woodbury, The Toadstool Bookshop, Peterborough, NH. *Publishers Weekly* praised Don's "hip, spot-on dialogue." Don't miss this highly entertaining evening.

*Mysterious Galaxy* is pleased to offer a limited Special Edition of *Savages* for our customers. We will produce 35 signed and numbered copies of *Savages* with a belly band containing original artwork testifying to our enthusiasm for this work and for one of our favorite local authors. (Note: for those of you have purchased other Don Winslow Limited Special Editions from us in the past, please contact the store in advance to reserve your number.)

## Linda O. Johnston

Signs *Feline Fatale*

Saturday, July 17, 2:00 PM

Former litigator and continuing animal lover Linda O. Johnston returns to Mysterious Galaxy on Saturday, July 17, at 2:00 PM with *Feline Fatale*, the ninth in her Kendra Ballantyne Pet-Sitter mystery series. Kendra doesn't expect to set off a controversy when she visits her friend, Wanda, but she sets off a debate over Wanda's complex's animal policy. When an anti-animal policy advocate is found dead a week later in Wanda's apartment, the former civil litigator has to take investigative matters into her own hands.

## Eileen Davidson

Signs *Diva Las Vegas*

Saturday, July 17, 2:00 PM

Author and actress Eileen Davidson is known to television viewers as Ashley Abbott on the daytime drama "The Young and the Restless." She is known to amateur sleuth mystery readers as the co-author (with Robert Randisi) of the amateur sleuth series starring soap actress Alexis Peterson. *Diva Las Vegas*, the third in the series, leads Alexis from the Playboy mansion to Sin City. Of the series, Eileen says, "Imagine for a minute all the different personalities of the actors and actresses, the producers, directors, hair and makeup people, the stage crew, etc. All working in close proximity day after day doing emotionally charged drama! The Divas, the ingenues, the half naked bodies, the egos, the blind ambition, the love affairs, the endless feuding, and yes, even fist fights. And all this is *behind* the camera! Much more interesting than what goes on in front of it! What better environment to place a murder mystery?"

## Christopher Reich

Signs *Rules of Betrayal*

Sunday, July 18, 2:00 PM

According to Christopher Reich's website, the *Five Rules of Betrayal* are: "There aren't five rules. There's only one. Find whoever betrayed you and kill them." The third thriller featuring Dr. Jonathan Ransom (who taught readers the *Rules of Vengeance* and *Rules of Deception*) sends the former humanitarian relief practitioner in pursuit of a lost nuclear warhead. Jonathan is sent on the mission by the secret U.S. government agency, Division – especially when it offers the opportunity to come to the aid of his wife, Emma, who has been captured by a Taliban warrior. The local author and national bestseller visits MG on Sunday, July 18, at 2:00 PM.

## Summer Recommendations Continue (from the front page)

So then I read a comic book called *The Nobody* by Jeff Lemire. It's about this guy who shows up in a small town call Large Mouth, and he's totally got like bandages wrapping him from his head to his feet, and everybody thinks that he's, like, really ugly or got real bad scars or something, but really he's totally invisible, like that one guy in that one book by H.G. Wells. Andbutso, it's not about him trying to hide that he's invisible, but instead it's all about all the secrets that the people of the town have. Everybody is hiding something from everyone else. So they're really, like, the invisible ones. Like, totally wicked deep, right? This one got published by Vertigo and is \$14.99.

Then I read this book by D. J. MacHale, who's totally awesome, called *Morpheus Road: the Light*. It's about this kid named Marshall who wants to be a comic book artist, but the only thing he knows how to draw is this guy named the Gravedigger, who's wicked spooky and on the cover of the book. Then, like, Gravedigger totally shows up in real life, all hunting Marshall and stuff. Marshall tries to find his friend Cooper, who's totally missing. Cooper's sister, Sydney tries to help Marshall find Cooper, and they go to the lake house where Cooper was staying, and Gravedigger is there too, trying to get Marshall to walk the Morpheus Road, whatever that means. Andbutso like it ends there – it's only like the first book, and there's going to be two more so that will be really cool. Oh, dude, almost totally flaked! D. J. totally signed my book for me. They got a lot more signed copies at Mysterious Galaxy. Aladdin Books put that one out for \$17.99.

Last one. *Chimera*, by Rob Thurman. So there's this guy, named Stefan, who breaks into this science company that's totally turning kids into superpowered killers for the Russians, and he find this other kid who looks like his brother, Lukas, who was kidnapped, like, ten years before. So he grabs him and they run away. The guys who were trying make Lukas into a killer chase after them, so now they're on the run. It gets like way crazy after that, 'cause of Lukas, who's supposed to be this real nice kid, cept now he's a ninja master and stuff. It's crazy. Rob's publisher is Roc, and it's only \$7.99.

— Ben M. Only had to regress about 16 years.

## What I Read On My Summer Vacation by Suzanne D.

Ok, so everyone knows that you have to read on your summer vacation and our teachers always give us a reading list so I don't know what the boys are all upset about when their teacher tells them they have to read. Like, whatever. Like, at least Ms. Hart and Ms. Gilman don't tell us *what* books to read, and we get to pick anything we want from our awesome local independent bookstore, Mysterious Galaxy, so what is the *big deal*? Besides, the staff at MG is so cool, and cute, and those guys know me and know what I read, but that is because they are *soo* mature, not like the boys I have to spend my days with.

So I go to MG and I pick out my books and I am all ready to, like, write what Ms. Hart said we had to, but then the stupid boys have to go and copy me. Ok, so everyone knows *I am the one* who reads the Young Adult Books. So I picked my books and *now* I find out Patrick, and Ben, and probably even Michael have picked the *same* books, whatever, guys, these were my books first and I know you just copied me. But if you are smart, you are probably a girl, or a grownup and you are cool, and these are the books you want to read this summer. Don't listen to boys, aren't they from Jupiter or something?

*Kid vs. Squid* by Greg Van Eckhout is the best summer book ever and the author came to the store and signed them. (Bloomsbury, \$16.99, signed copies available.) And it takes place at the beach and the author is supposed to be really famous for his grown up fantasy, *The Norse Code*, but my mom won't let me read it because it has bad words in it (buy it now at MG). Anyway, the author may write fantasy, but when it comes to teenage boys, he knows reality, because this kid tries to do the right thing, but he is way too impulsive and he has to try so hard to keep up with the girls. And the two girls in this story are way more advanced than 14 year old Thatcher: one of them is a princess, without the stupid crown and the pink stuff; and the other one is like Harriet the Spy, she is so prepared with her backpack stuffed with everything they need for surviving this adventure. This is fun, and joyful, and full of surprises, somehow it feels so real, especially if you know Belmont Park and the Mission Beach boardwalk. This is what summer reading is supposed to be. And, if you didn't already know, you learn the difference between flotsam and jetsam.

*The Wish Stealers* by Tracy Trivas. Aladdin, \$16.99, signed copies available.) This is the kind of book grownups would love to have kids read, and Ms. Hart and Ms. Gilman could probably teach us about literature from every chapter. But if you didn't know about curriculum and standards and that stuff, you would love this book because there is this witch and she tricks this girl, Griffin, and gives her these stolen pennies that have been wished on and thrown in a fountain. And it turns out that Wish Stealers, like Griffin has accidentally become, can only have the opposite of their wish come true. But Griffin is also in trouble because not only is she starting a new school with mean girls, but also this witch has tricked her. And the opposite of what Griffin wishes for is starting to become a reality and it is *not* good. It is really bad, like green stuff stuck in your teeth and science project partners, and your grandmother threatened and ... you have to read it to find out what happens. It is way worth it. All I know is that I loved the characters and grownups would probably love all those literary references Tracy Trivas sneaks in. Wishes can come true.

*The Heist Society* by Ally Carter. (Hyperion, \$16.99.) This is the perfect summer book and a great mystery and romance for Young Adults, and for those grownups who "know best." *The Heist Society* is a group, mostly family, of teenage thieves, and Kat is their leader. She has to leave her new school to pull off this heist to try to steal a painting, originally stolen by the Nazis, now in the possession of an Italian mobster. There is a lot of accurate information from art history about masterpieces, World War II and the Holocaust, but there is also more than one cute, rich and older guy and Kat is awesome. *The Heist Society* is a mystery worth reading and you should pay attention because I told you so, and by now you *know* I know what I am writing about. Don't you?

*The Wager* by Donna Jo Napoli. (Henry Holt, \$16.99.) This marvelous (I can use a thesaurus) book is an adaptation of an ancient Sicilian fable of what happens to the wealthiest and most handsome (but not so nice) after a tidal wave. Napoli started writing it, and there was a real tsunami in Asia, and it upset her so much she stopped writing. Thankfully, she finished and it turns out to be an enchanting fable — sensitive and heartbreaking and a real romance. The nobleman loses everything, but the devil offers him a wager, of course he makes the deal with the devil. Boys will like the part where the nobleman doesn't bathe or change his clothes for 3 years. Girls and grownups will like the part that is romantic and smart. There is a reason fables last almost forever, in one version or another, and *The Wager* is an imaginative version worth reading this summer.

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## Clarion Instructor Samuel R. Delany

Discusses the Writing Process  
**Tuesday, July 20, 7:00 PM**

Tuesday, July 20, at 7:00 PM, Mysterious Galaxy hosts Clarion Instructor Samuel R. Delany, author of such seminal works as *Nova* and *Dhalgren*. He is the winner of four Nebula Awards, two Hugo Awards, and the William Whitehead Memorial Award for a Lifetime's Contribution to Lesbian and Gay writing. In addition to teaching at the Clarion Writers Workshop, he is being honored as a guest of San Diego Comic-Con International later in the week. Lucky attendees may be privy to a preview of his work in progress, *Through the Valley of the Nest of Spiders*.

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## Comic-Con International San Diego

Thursday, July 22 to Sunday, July 25  
**San Diego Convention Center**



This Comic-Con, you will find Mysterious Galaxy in the Exhibitor's Hall in **Booth 1119**. Authors you could see at Comic-Con this summer include:

Berkeley Breathed (*Flawed Dogs*), Samuel R. Delany (*Dhalgren*), Charlene Harris (*Dead in the Family*), Tanya Huff (*The Enchanted Emporium*), China Mieville (*Kraken*), Rick Riordan (*The Red Pyramid*), Jeff and Ann VanderMeer (*The Thackery T. Lambshead Pocket Guide to Eccentric & Discredited Diseases*), Ray Bradbury and Sam Weller (*Listen to the Echoes*), Ann Aguirre (*Hell Fire*), Amber Benson (*Cat's*

*Claw*), Heather Brewer (*Eleventh Grade Burns*), Rachel Caine (*Total Eclipse*), Justin Cronin (*The Passage*), Christopher Farnsworth (*Blood Oath*), Jimmy Gownley (*Amelia Rules!*), Thomas Greanias (*The Promised War*), Walter Greatshell (*Xombies: Apocalypticon*), Chris Marie Green (*Deep in the Woods*), Lev Grossman (*The Magicians*), Nancy Holder (*The Evil Within*), Gini Koch (*Touched by an Alien*), J.F. Lewis (*Revamped*), Maria Lima (*Blood Kin*), Marjorie Liu (*A Wild Light*), Jeff Mariotte (*CSI: Blood Quantum*), D.J. MacHale (*The Light*), Seanan McGuire (*A Local Habitation*), Richelle Mead (*Spirit Bound*), Naomi Novik (*Tongues of Serpents*), Nnedi Okorafor (*Who Fears Death*), James Owen (*The Shadow Dragons*), Adrian Phoenix (*Black Dust Mambo*), Christopher Pike (*Remember Me*), Adam Rex (*Fat Vampire*), Patrick Rothfuss (*The Adventure of the Princess and Mr. Wiffle*), Neal Shusterman (*Unwind*), Thomas Sniegoski (*Where Angels Fear to Tread*), Michael Spradlin (*Trial of Fate*), Jeanne Stein (*Retribution*), David Steinberg (*Grow Up!*), Anton Strout (*Dead Matter*), Rob Thurman (*Chimera*), David Weber (*Mission of Honor*), Scott Westerfeld and Keith Thompson (*Leviathan*), and Olivia Munn (*Suck It, Wonder Woman!*) and *many more!* Plus 125,000 odd fans and more pop culture than you can imagine!

Check our website closer to the event date for a printable version of our booth flier, or come by Booth 1119 and pick up a copy, along with special goodies from Penguin Group and Simon & Schuster. We will also have limited quantities of special Vampire Academy keychains and t-shirts available in our booth, and much much much more!

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## Carrie Vaughn

Signs *Kitty Goes to War*  
**Monday, July 26, 7:00 PM**

Carrie Vaughn helps the staff recover from Comic-Con on Monday, July 26, at 7:00 PM, when she visits with *three* new releases. Her eighth Kitty Norville novel, *Kitty Goes to War*, finds the DJ and werewolf embattled on two fronts – working to help some veteran werewolves with PTSD, and battling a Big Box retailer. At least two more novels, as well as a collection of Kitty and related short stories, are in the works. Also, Carrie will discuss this spring's *Voices of Dragons*, described as a “typical ‘girl meets dragon’ story. With bonus rock climbing and jet fighters!” And her near future science fantasy novel, *Discord's Apple*, “a novel about family, treasure, the Trojan War, and the end of the world” will be hot on the shelves as well.

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## The Staff Continues to Rave ...

*The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan. (Hyperion, \$17.99.) The guy who wrote *The Lightning Thief* is back with the same skill at combining historical information (for the purpose of educating readers, yeah, right) and action. This time, it is Ancient Egyptian mythology and instead of Percy Jackson, the narrative is shared by a brother and sister, Carter and Sadie. Sadie is *sooo* much smarter and braver in this, the first of The Kane Chronicles. Riordan manages to get all this information in, like teachers *try* to do, so we get to read about our favorite Egyptian gods, Osiris, Anubis and Set, as well as the good ones like Thoth and Bastet, and magic, and a baboon who wears a Lakers' uniform. You might as well start reading *The Red Pyramid* now so you won't get left behind when school starts and everyone is talking about it.

Did anyone notice, or was I too subtle about my theme, how boys are just *sooo* immature and girls are smarter and braver and the heroine of every story? School's out for summer! READ! EAT! SLEEP! and please include Mysterious Galaxy in your summer plans.

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## Linda T's Super Summer Fun in the Sun Reading List:

**G**otta eat. Why not have some fun while noshing on your beach snackies? I recommend *Alice Eats Wonderland: An Irreverent Annotated Cookbook Adventure in Which a Gluttonous Alice Devours Many of the Wonderland Creatures* by August A. Imholtz Jr. and Alison Tannenbaum. See, even the author (August) has a summery name. Includes your choice of Rabbit Pie, Mumbled Rabbit, Jugged Hare, or for the squeamish, Welsh (or Welch) Rabbit. Lovely illustrations by A. E. K. Carr. A \$14.95 trade paperback from Applewood Books.

Before, and/or after eating, get in some exercise while reading the 700+ tome *The Passage* by Justin Cronin. You don't have to wait 30 minutes before diving into this tale of a virus gone astray. Between chapters you can work on your arm lifts by hoisting this heavy book over your head. Impress other beach goers with your ambitious reading choice while enjoying a nice apocalyptic tale with bloodthirsty monsters hunting down bands of survivors. Comparisons to Stephen King justified. Inspires you to start stocking up on food, water and batteries. Pack them in your Hummer with your shotgun and ammo. Big Ballantine hardcover \$27.00.

Speaking of Monsters...and Gods, learn why you too should get a god or goddess of your very own to worship. A. Lee Martinez, author of *Monsters*, has explained the benefits of choosing your personal god wisely in *Divine Misfortune*. Can't afford the hefty prices and sacrifices necessary to go high-end deity with the mighty Zeus? When Phil is passed over for promotion again, he and Teri decide to choose Luka, raccoon god of prosperity. Find out if they chose well. Orbit hardcover, \$19.99.

Finish off your day of leisure with a nice bike ride, and then read about the adventures of Flavia de Luce and her trusty bicycle Gladys, always ready to carry Flavia off on a new adventure. For those of you, and there were many, who enjoyed *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley, follow Flavia on her new quest to discover who murdered puppeteer Rupert Porson in *The Weed That Strings the Hangman's Bag*. Can Flavia solve the crime and have time to think of creative new ways to poison her insufferable older sisters? Delacorte Press, \$24.00.

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## Clarion Instructors Ann VanderMeer and Jeff VanderMeer

Discuss the Writing Process  
**Wednesday, July 28, 7:00 PM**

Our series of summer writing discussions with the Clarion Instructors ends on Wednesday, July 28, at 7:00 PM, with a double-feature of Ann VanderMeer and Jeff VanderMeer, fresh off their appearance as Guests of Comic-Con International. Hugo Award -winner Ann has edited books like *The Kosher Guide to Imaginary Animals: The Evil Monkey Dialogues* (with Jeff) and is the fiction editor for *Weird Tales*. World Fantasy Award-winner Jeff has co-edited books with Ann, and published highly acclaimed novels like *Finch*, as well as his writing life publication, *Booklife: Strategies and Survival Tips for the 21st Century Writer*. If publishing karma aligns, his new collection, *The Third Bear*, will be available as well.

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## Lisa Gardner

Signs *Live to Tell: A Detective D.D. Warren Novel*  
**Thursday, July 29, 7:00 PM**

Thursday, July 29, at 7:00 PM, MG offers some cool thriller chills on a hot summer evening with Lisa Gardner and *Live to Tell*. The fourth D.D. Warren novel, after last summer's *The Neighbors*, earned a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*, which called it “outstanding, tight and consistently-engaging.” Boston police detective D.D. Warren investigates when three members of a family are brutally murdered, and the trail leads to a pediatric psych ward and troubling family ties. Visit Lisa's website for information on her Kill a Friend, Maim a Buddy Sweepstakes, “where you nominate the ones the love for fictional homicide. Gain immortality, win a signed book, and prove to someone special in your life that yes, you care that much.”

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## Dorothy Howell

Signs *Shoulder Bags and Shootings*  
**Saturday, July 31, 2:00 PM**

Our July events wrap up with Dorothy Howell on Saturday, July 31, at 2:00 PM, with her third Haley Randolph mystery, *Shoulder Bags and Shootings*. Haley and her boyfriend, the owner of the department store she works at, have just returned from vacation, and Haley is close to realizing her ambition of scoring the season's must have handbag when her arch-rival in the purse party business is murdered, and Haley is a prime suspect. The retail setting for the mysteries came from Dorothy's daughter's department store clerking experiences, but Haley's passion for handbags comes direct from Dorothy. Cross-genre readers take note: many of Dorothy's earlier novels are romances, published as Judith Stacy.

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## What we have planned so far

For the rest of the summer and into the fall

- **August and summer's end:** Alex Kava – August 2; Alexandra Sokoloff – August 12; Barry Eisler – August 13; Betty Webb – August 17; David Rosenfelt – August 23; Brent Weeks – August 27
- **September and beyond:** Brandon Sanderson – September 10; Gail Carriger – September 11; Jeff Lindsay – September 14; Rhys Bowen – September 15; Margaret Coel – September 18; Jeanne Stein – September 18; Smart Chicks Kick It Tour with Melissa Marr, Kelley Armstrong, Alyson Noel, Mary Pearson and Carrie Ryan – September 21; William Kent Krueger – September 24; Southern California Writers' Conference – Los Angeles – September 24 - 26; Ilona Andrews – September 28; Maria Snyder – October 2; Conjecture with GOH Robert Sawyer – October 1 – October 3; Charles Yu – October 9 ... and more great events and authors as fall continues!



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## Lori's Great Summer Reads

**S**tart off your summer reading with the wonderful and addictive Stieg Larsson Trilogy. These books have topped the Southern California Independent Bookseller Association's bestseller list for weeks.

### *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (Book 1)*

The characters are so unusual and engaging in this first novel in the series that you are hooked from the beginning. Wonderful descriptive scenery adds to the eeriness of this chilling mystery thriller as the story unfolds. Investigative reporter and publisher of “Millennium” Magazine, Mikael Blomkvist, is asked to do an on-site investigation into the “very cold case” disappearance of the favorite great niece of the elderly head of the famous Vanger Family. Mikael needs a break since he has just been accused and convicted of libel of a respected businessman. He decides to get away from it all and do this mind numbing missing person's investigation on this remote island north of Stockholm. It soon becomes apparent that something is not right and the deeper he delves, the stranger the disappearance becomes. During his investigation, a young, intelligent, strange and fascinating computer hacker, Lisbeth Salander, offers her help and together they unravel the mystery and evil behind the disappearance. Vintage Books pap, \$7.99.

### *The Girl Who Played With Fire (Book 2)*

When two reporters are murdered right before “Millennium” magazine is about to publish their sex trafficking scandal piece, Mikeal has to push aside his grief at the death of his colleagues when Lisbeth is blamed for the murders. Lisbeth's murky and scandalous past catches up to her in this story as she tries to hunt down the people responsible for falsifying the incriminating evidence and vicious attacks on her reputation and a close friend. Vintage Books pap, \$7.99.

### *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest (Book 3)*

(SPOILER ALERT!) This book picks up where Book 2 leaves off, with Lisbeth critically wounded by several gun shots and being air lifted to the hospital. Mikael is under arrest when the police find him at the scene with a gun in his hand and a story that is too fantastic to believe. As Lisbeth fights for her life and liberty in a Swedish hospital, Mikael sets out to clear Lisbeth's name and reputation once and for all. But he soon realizes that the forces at work against Lisbeth are very high up in the government, cloaked in secrecy. Who can he trust and how can he protect and liberate Lisbeth without risking their lives? Alfred A. Knopf, \$27.95.

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## Christine's Summer Selections

**S**ummer is the best time to mix it up a bit. A nice breeze, a comfortable outdoor chair, your favorite beverage and:

*Nowhere to Run* by C. J. Box. Penguin, \$25.95. Joe Pickett is just a person who believes in doing his job and doing it to the best of his abilities. To put it into the simplest of terms – for want of a fishing license, a series of events is set in motion that are by no means simple and which will have devastating consequences for Joe, his family, and longtime friend, Nate. As in previous novels, Mr. Box lets you think you know what is transpiring, but the layers are peeled back one at a time to finally reveal the whole story.

*continued on page 4*

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## COMING TO MYSTERIOUS GALAXY JULY 2010:

**Dale Bailey**

**Eileen Davidson**

**Samuel R. Delany**

**Lisa Gardner**

**Dorothy Howell**

**Gregg Hurwitz**

**Linda O. Johnston**

**George R.R. Martin**

**Christopher Reich**

**Ann VanderMeer**

**Jeff VanderMeer**

**Carrie Vaughn**

**Don Winslow**

*See inside for dates and times.*

## And More Ideas for Summer Reading ...

*State Fair* by Earlene Fowler. Berkley Prime Crime, \$24.95. Benni's back!!! The state fair is an exciting time for Benni. The folk art museum is co-sponsoring an exhibit with the Ebony Sisters Quilt Guild. When a replica of a famous quilt is stolen and a young man is murdered, Benni is in the thick of things. Adding to the mix, Benni's aunt Garnet has arrived for an extended stay and insists on "helping" Benni solve the crime.

### Maryelizabeth's It's Too Hot To Do Anything But Read Choices

In the summer in AZ, I embrace the concept of the *siesta*, although I like to have a book in hand while giving my office computer a break from overheating...

To a certain extent, one can often judge a book by its cover. For example, the covers of Jim Hines' series about Princesses Danielle (Cinderella), Snow (White), and Talia (Sleeping Beauty) suggest classic fairy tale themes entertainingly retold with kickass heroines and some humor. Which is correct. However, the cover art and text may not convey the thoughtful depths of the stories. In *Red Hood's Revenge*, The characters deal with family issues, cultural clashes, imperialism, and the role of religion in society, as Talia returns to the land of her birth, in the company of Snow, Danielle, and the assassin, Roudette. Due in early July. DAW pbo, \$7.99.

The most unsettling book of my summer so far is *Still Missing*, the debut thriller from Chevy Stevens. The first person narrative is a series of Annie O'Sullivan's sessions with a therapist, as she struggles to readjust to life after being kidnapped and held captive for a year. Annie's raw emotions, as she recounts both the painful and occasionally graphic details of her captivity, and the difficulties of her journey back to a semblance of her former life, make for gripping and disturbing reading. A significant new voice, recommended to readers who don't mind their books significantly dark.

### Terry's Reading, Too!

Okay, I admit it, I had no idea what the staff was up to ... and evidently, I didn't do my homework ... So this less entertaining entry from me includes a couple of the books I have recently read ... and some that I am currently reading ...

### Doom with a View by Victoria Laurie

The latest entry in Victoria Laurie's winning series featuring psychic Abby Cooper, *Doom with a View*, provides more depth to Abby's story and to the supporting cast of friends and family. This time she finds herself and business partner PI Candice Fusco working with the FBI on a case involving the disappearance of a number of teenagers who are sons and daughters of prominent political figures. Unfortunately for Abby she is paired with an FBI Agent who is the ultimate disbeliever and she spends most of the book fighting his resistance to her participation on the case. But you and I both know that she will provide him with enough evidence and help to keep her on the case until the very end, and his enlightenment certainly is fun to watch. Even though I am a little late in reading this entry (from last fall!), I am relieved to note that the next installment, *A Glimpse of Evil* is due out in September. Obsidian Mystery pbo, \$6.99.

### Heart of Lies by M. L. Malcolm

I met M. L. Malcolm last May and was so enchanted by our visit that I decided that *Heart of Lies* would be the next book I read. And then I couldn't put down this story or leave these characters as I followed them through their journey from Hungary after WWI, to Shanghai, and finally to New York as WWII is beginning to heat up. In Hungary we meet Leo Hoffman who has a special talent for learning languages and using his innate skills to endear himself to everyone he meets. One of those people is Martha — a woman he decides to make his wife the first time he sees her. When Leo finds himself in the middle of a counterfeiting scheme, he barely escapes Hungary with his life and finds himself facing very limited options, which is how he finds himself in Shanghai with another set of obstacles to overcome. Shanghai is a fascinating city and plays a

huge (and interesting) part in this book. This debut is about love, deceit, politics, power, money, and life decisions. It makes a great summer read and I look forward to the next book in the series. Harper tpo, \$13.99

### The Lonely Polygamist by Brady Udall

This book received tons of bookseller buzz as a candidate for the next great American novel at this year's winter bookseller conference. It certainly has all of the ingredients. It is a readable (and beautifully written) tale of an All American Family albeit one that consists of one father, four mothers, 27 children, multiple dogs, and three houses. It is told from multiple points of view: one of the mothers, one of the children and of course, The Father.

The story of *The Lonely Polygamist* can (and is) "eloquently" stated by The Father of this family, Golden Richards. This is a guy who things happen to (yes, all of those wives and children) and he feels that his life is now reeling out of control. He sums it up all nicely in this list that he refers to as The Big Picture at the center of the book: "1. The Father has feelings for his boss's wife. 2. His own wives are giving up on him. 3. His family is falling apart. 4. His finances are drying up. 5. He has a condom in his wallet and a large clump of gum in his pubic hair. 6. He has no idea what to do about any of this."

You must read *The Lonely Polygamist* to see how his life unravels before he can put it together again. The result is both comical, predictable, and heart-wrenching. From Norton this past April, \$25.95.

### In the Middle ... And in love!

Yes, I read multiple books simultaneously! I have one in my car, one in my purse, one (okay, maybe three) on my nightstand, and a few at my office. Here's (part of) the current list:

» I just started Ann Brashares' *My Name is Memory* and I am loving every minute of it. It is a cross between *Time Traveler's Wife* and *Many Masters*, *Many Lives* and focuses on a love story across the centuries. You can find it on our newly arrived table. Riverhead Books, \$25.95.

» My purse book is *Changeless* the second book in the Parasol Protectorate series from Orbit. My review of *Souless* is on my review page and the enthusiasm I shared for that book is being rewarded again. And, I am thrilled to announce that author Gail Carriger is scheduled for a visit to MG in September. Orbit, \$7.99.

» Also from home, I am reading *A Cast-Off Coven*, the second book Juliet Blackwell's series centering around a witch who lives in Haight-Ashbury and owns a vintage clothing store. I am loving this one as much as I loved the first book, *Secondhand Spirits*. I know that many of you share my enthusiasm for this series ... based on the wonderful turnout when had for Juliet when she was here in mid-June. Signet, \$6.99.

» In my office, I started *Who Fears Death* by Nnedi Okorafor, (her first adult novel) which has received starred reviews from many of our literary publications. It is fantasy unlike anything you have read before, combining African cultural history and a postapocalyptic future with incredibly readable results. I can't wait to get back to this one ... if only I didn't have a newsletter to put together. On our Just Arrived table from DAW, \$24.95.

» Also from my office, I just started reading the addictive true story of Tony Hsieh, CEO of Zappos, the on-line shoe phenomenon that has set the standard for customer service. Entitled *Delivering Happiness*, this book is not just a lesson in good business practices, but also a life lesson in finding happiness. I would love to do an event with him in Los Angeles as a part of my new venture, MG Visionary. Just out in June and already hitting the bestseller lists, \$23.99.

*The rest of the reading pile consists of books that will be published later this year ... both the books and my reviews.*

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