

June 2010 Continues ...

Volume 18 Number 9

Juliet Blackwell

Signs *A Cast-Off Coven*
Friday, June 18, 7:00 PM

Secondhand Spirits, Juliet Blackwell's novel introducing witch Lily Ivory and her Haight-Ashbury vintage clothing store, was a hit among mystery and urban fantasy readers alike last year. In *A Cast-Off Coven*, Lily is asked to put her talents to work when the San Francisco School for the Arts reports strange disturbances. Lily is anticipating former dead bodies, but finds a recent corpse at the foot of a supposedly haunted staircase. Is the death related to demonic activity, a vengeful ghost, or a more mundane killer? Juliet visits on Friday, June 18, at 7:00 PM, with partner in crime Sophie Littlefield.

Sophie Littlefield

Signs *A Bad Day for Pretty*
Friday, June 18, 7:00 PM

A Bad Day for Sorry, Sophie Littlefield's novel introducing the extremely self-reliant Stella Hardesty, sewing shop owner and friend to abused women in need, was an Edgar nominee for Best First Novel. Stella is back in *A Bad Day for Pretty*, working to help clear her friend, Nebuchadnezzar Donovan, of the accusation of murder when a tornado unveils a corpse at the county fairground. Sophie also has new novel *Banished* coming for young adults this fall. Sophie visits on Friday, June 18, at 7:00 PM, with partner in crime Juliet Blackwell.

Shawna Lynn

Signs *Lessons from an Evil Mind*
Saturday, June 19, 2:00 PM

Local author Shawna Lynn has a personal history that is as intriguing as a novel. At age 29 she suffered an illness that caused her to lose her memory. Today this wife and mother is not only a local author, but also working on degrees in literature and psychology. *Lessons from an Evil Mind*, her first suspense novel, examines issues of relentless evil and determined survival as a former captive works to evade recapture and regain her spirit of hope. Shawna Lynn visits Mysterious Galaxy on Saturday, June 19, at 2:00 PM.

Jodi Compton

Signs *Hailey's War*
Tuesday, June 22, 7:00 PM

In a note to the staff, Jodi Compton says of *Hailey's War*, "I learned Latin for this book; I read a great deal about both West Point and LA's gangs to write it. In one sense, it's a variation on the classic loner-crosses-the-Mob storyline; in another, though, it's a book about California and her children, and very close to my heart." Intrigued? Meet Jodi on Tuesday, June 22, at 7:00 PM, and read about military academy dropout Hailey Cain, and her job escorting a recently murdered gang member's cousin to Mexico.

Erica Miner

Launch Party for *Murder in the Pit*
Thursday, June 24, 7:00 PM

Young Julie is the newest member of the Metropolitan Opera's violin section. She is not prepared for the personal rivalries, pettiness and drama off-stage – nor for her mentor, the conductor to be shot during a performance in *Murder in the Pit*. (See Sandra Hale's review on our website.) Local author and screenwriter Erica Miner has a background as a professional violinist, like her protagonist, and has written novels about family travels, and the adventures of four young women in the Midwest during the 1960's. Join Erica for her launch party for *Murder in the Pit* on Thursday, June 24, at 7:00 PM.



Jeffery Deaver

Signs *The Burning Wire: A Lincoln Rhyme Novel*
Friday, June 25, 7:00 PM

Join Jeffery Deaver for an evening of thrills and plot twists on Friday, June 25, at 7:00 PM. *The Burning Wire* pits Lincoln Rhyme, NYPD officers Amanda Sachs and Ron Pulaski, and FBI agent Fred Dellray against a killer who is attacking victims in New York City with electricity – the city's lifeblood. Meanwhile, authorities in Mexico have asked for Rhyme's help in their pursuit of his old adversary the Watchmaker. (See Sandra Hale's review on our website) This is a numbered event. Numbers for the signing line are available with purchase of *The Burning Wire* from Mysterious Galaxy, on sale now. Jeff may also offer tidbits about "Project X," due in 2011, starring Ian Fleming's famous spy.



J.V. Jones

Signing *Watcher of the Dead*
Saturday, June 26, 2:00 PM

J.V. Jones signs the fourth novel in the five book Sword of Shadows series, *Watcher of the Dead*, at 2:00 PM on Saturday, June 26. The story picks up about twenty days after the final events in *A Sword From Red Ice*, with Raif in possession of the sword named Loss, and asks, "What would Tem Sevrance make of his son now? What advice would he give to a man who could heart-kill any target he set in his sights? What laws governed Raif Twelve Kill, Watcher of the Dead?" In this series, Julie tells of a world at once desperately fighting for survival against supernatural monsters and torn by internecine warfare. In the frozen land at the north of the world, ancient clans struggle for dominance as supernatural forces beyond their control threaten their very existence.

Rebecca Cantrell

Signs *A Night of Long Knives*
Sunday, June 27, noon

It's an afternoon of crime through time on Sunday, June 27. MG welcomes Rebecca Cantrell at noon for our trip to Munich in 1934. Journalist Hannah Vogel sought her brother's killer in *A Trace of Smoke*, the 2010 Bruce Alexander Memorial Historical Mystery Award winner. Hannah is supposed to be working on an article about a zeppelin trip from South America to Switzerland, but is diverted to Munich, where she seeks for her son in the city of Nazis in *A Night of Long Knives*. Rebecca also has a story in the new anthology, *First Thrills*, edited by Lee Child.

P.F. Chisholm

Signs *A Murder of Crows*
Sunday, June 27, 2:00 PM

Our afternoon of crime through time on Sunday continues at 2:00 PM with P.F. Chisholm and *A Murder of Crows*. Elizabethan noble Sir Robert Carey, and the redoubtable Sergeant Dodd are both recovering from some of the consequences of their earlier adventures. Carey must delay his return to his Warden responsibilities to investigate a victim whose body has taken a fatal and unpleasant journey to the Queen's Privy Steps. Also, Carey is considering suing the powerful and corrupt courtier, Thomas Heneage, but finds lawyers are reluctant to take the cast – with the possible exception of one William Shakespeare.

Scott Sigler

Signs *Ancestor*
Monday, June 28, at 7:00 PM

Scott Sigler unveils another biothriller on Monday, June 28, at 7:00 PM with *Ancestor*, "a chilling tale of what can happen when hubris, greed, and madness drive scientific experimentation past the brink of reason." A company uses genetic technology to grow humanity's common ancestor, providing universally compatible organs to the long list of those waiting for them. It could spell salvation for thousands – but the "ancestors" are rebelling. Scott has received attention from *Time Magazine*, *the New York Times*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Huffington Post*,

Events continue on the back page

Business Week and *Fangoria*. He still records his own audiobooks and gives away every story – for free – to his loyal fans at his website. We will also have copies of the limited edition of Scott's Young Adult novel, *The Rookie*, available.

Tarquin Hall

Signs *The Man Who Died Laughing*
Tuesday, June 29, 7:00 PM

Vish Puri, India's Most Private Investigator, debuted in *The Case of the Missing Servant*, named one of *The New York Times* 10 Best Mysteries of 2009. In *The Case of the Man Who Died Laughing*, Vish investigates when a prominent Indian scientist is apparently murdered by a supernatural apparition, and a renowned guru, whose authenticity was questioned by the scientist, is the main suspect. Author and journalist Tarquin Hall's travels have taken him to England, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and now, on Tuesday, June 29, at 7:00 PM, San Diego.

A Special Visit with

Clarion Instructor Delia Sherman
Wednesday, June 30, 7:00 PM

Summertime means the return of The Clarion Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Workshop at UCSD, and five weeks of very special events with the Clarion instructors. The workshop, widely recognized as a premier proving and training ground for aspiring writers of fantasy and science fiction, is an affiliate of Mysterious Galaxy – you can help support tomorrow's writers by purchasing books through their affiliate links. Our events kick off with editor and author Delia Sherman on Wednesday, June 30, at 7:00. Delia's recent books include young adult urban fantasies *Changeling* and *The Magic Mirror of the Mermaid Queen*. (See MaryElizabeth's reviews on our website.)

Looking Ahead:

More Exciting Events and Hot Summer Reads ...
Mark your calendars!

- ◎ **July Heats Up:** George R.R. Martin – July 7; Gregg Hurwitz – July 11; Dale Bailey – July 14; Don Winslow – July 15; Christopher Reich – July 18; Samuel R. Delany – July 20; Comic-Con International – July 21 – 25; Carrie Vaughn – July 26; Ann VanderMeer and Jeff VanderMeer – July 28; Lisa Gardner – July 29; Dorothy Howell – July 31
- ◎ **August and beyond:** Alex Kava – August 2; Betty Webb – August 17; Brent Weeks – August 27; Jeff Lindsay – September 14; Smart Chicks Kick It Tour with Melissa Marr, Kelley Armstrong, Alyson Noel, Mary Pearson and Carrie Ryan – September 21; William Kent Krueger – September 24; Ilona Andrews – September 28 ... and more great events and authors as summer turns to fall!

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 this summer are:

- ➡ *Accidental Sorcerer* by K.E. Mills on **Wednesday, June 16, at 7:00 PM.**
- ➡ *Night Passage* by Robert B. Parker on **Tuesday, July 6, at 7:00 PM.**
- ➡ *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.**

You can sign up for our special Book Group edition of *The Virtual Plot* by modifying your profile. Ask a staff member if you need help with this task.

Mysterious Galaxy is happy to offer discounted books for book group members. Minimum quantities will apply. We can also provide reading guides and more. Ask us for more details!

Our Staff Reads and Recommends

Sprinkle with Murder by Jenn McKinlay

A new cozy series, *Sprinkle with Murder* introduces us to newly established Fairy Tale Cupcakes bakery in Old Town Scottsdale, Arizona and its proprietors, Melanie Cooper and Angie DeLaura, best friends since the sixth grade. When Mel discovers the body of (her other best friend) Tate's fiancée Christie, she also discovers that she is the prime suspect (she really never liked Christie). To save herself and her new business from financial disaster, she feels that she must find a more likely suspect and starts snooping. Add Angie's seven brothers, Mel's own meddling mother, and a couple of secret crushes, and you have some of the ingredients for a likable cast and a fun beginning for this series. And of course, since the subject is food, there are recipes at the end of the book so that you can recreate some of the incredible cupcakes described throughout as Mel bakes out her frustrations and cooks her way into the hearts of the neighborhood. Berkley Crime Time pbo, \$6.99. – tlg

Bone Dance by Emma Bull.

Subtitled A Fantasy For Technophiles. I wasn't sure what to expect, but it is Emma Bull. The setting is a post-apocalyptic world. Our guide through this world is Sparrow. No family, no ties, no history. Sparrow experiences gaps in memory, waking up maybe hours or days later. What is causing the gaps? Can anyone be trusted to help? A journey of revelations, evolution and friendship. Orb Books tp, \$15.99. – CVS

So Cold the River by Michael Koryta

Your summer may not be complete without reading this book! Eric Shaw is a failed Hollywood filmmaker who is making his living by doing video montages for weddings, funerals and other milestone events for people. After a particularly moving funeral montage, one of the mourners offers Eric a job doing a documentary about her dying father-in-law's life. Campbell Bradford is a 95 year old billionaire with a past no one knows much about. Eric is hired to go to the rural town in Indiana where Campbell grew up and research his life. All he has to start off with is an old vintage bottle of mineral water called "Pluto Water" that Bradford has held onto for years. The mineral water was supposed to have restorative powers in days gone by, bottled at the source near this rural town. Not only is Campbell Bradford's life turning out to be a real mystery, but strange things happen after Eric opens the "Pluto Water" and takes a sip. Don't miss this exciting thriller! Signed copies are now available at the store. Little Brown, \$24.99. – LDB

Nights of Villjamur: Legends of the Red Sun by Mark Charan Newton

Villjamur is a sprawling fortress city, capital of an empire, and filled with royalty, politicians, seers, thieves, nobility and corruption. Its inhabitants are already crowded and hoping to have enough fuel to take them through the epic ice age descending on their world; meanwhile, refugees cluster outside its gates, hoping to enter and seek a better life. A series of murders, the death of its ruler, a madman seeking a otherworldly power, and a vast conspiracy are only some of the threads Newton weaves through his compelling story. Recommended to fans of big dark epic fantasies. In late June from Spectra, \$26.00. – MeH

Deception by Lee Nichols

When Emma Vaile's parents leave town on a business trip, the woman who works in the family-run antique store quits, leaving the seventeen-year-old alone. In spite of texting her brother and leaving messages on her parents' cell phone, no one contacts her. Then, during a party Emma did not arrange, the police come for her. Emma finds herself in the care of her brother's friend Brandon Stark, living in a museum on the other side of the country, and attending a private school.

Suddenly popular, the teenager should be having the time of her life. But Emma finds her new surroundings familiar, keeps flashing back to a past era, and sees people that do not exist. Emma is terrified she is losing her mind. With Brandon's former nanny's guidance, Emma learns she is a ghostkeeper. Before Emma can gain control of her powers, she attracts the attention of a malignant entity. This wraith has been killing for decades and is tied to Emma and her family. With little training, Emma has to fight to protect herself, her new friends, and Brandon from this evil monstrosity. This book is an entertaining coming of age story - with a twist. Bloomsbury Publishing pap, \$9.99, Ages 14 and up. – Guest Reviewer Sandra Hale

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