

May 2010 Continues ...

Volume 18 Number 7

## Kathy Porter

Signs *Gray Guardians: Earth's Ultimate Conflict*  
Thursday, May 13, 7:00 PM

Debut author Kathy Porter numbers Ray Bradbury and Matthew Pallamary among her fans for *Earth's Ultimate Conflict*. Matt says, "In the tradition of the creepiest works of Stephen King and other writers of horrific science fiction, *Earth's Ultimate Conflict* by Kathy Porter brings our very real collective fears home to rest in a personal way that literally gets under our skin, inside our bodies, and finally into our hearts and minds until there is no place left to run and no place left to hide." In a tale that ranges from two California families torn apart by the discovery of their alien-hybrid children, to the White House and political chambers of Washington, D.C., to the Guardians and Grays of other planets, Kathy Porter looks at the emotional consequences of alien contact and interstellar relationships.

## Robin Hobb

Signs *Dragon Haven*  
Friday, May 14, 7:00 PM

*Dragon Haven*, the second volume of the Rain Wilds Chronicles, continues the tale of *Dragon Keeper* and the fifteen young stunted and damaged dragons seeking their ancient home and their companions. On Friday, May 14, at 7:00 PM, Robin Hobb returns readers to the world of her Liveship and Tawny Man epic fantasies. As the lost generation of sea serpents and their keepers, also rejected and feared by society, journey into unknown territory along the Rain Wild River, they face the external threats of starvation, flash floods, and predators – and an unexpected internal threat from among their own company. And the legends of the ancient beings called Elderlings will intrude into their adventure in a destiny beyond human control.

## Earlene Fowler

Signs *State Fair*  
Saturday, May 15, noon

Earlene Fowler returns to MG on Saturday, May 15, at noon, with her 14<sup>th</sup> Benni Harper mystery, *State Fair*. This is the first new entry in the award-winning series in three years, since 2007's *Tumbling Blocks*. As any participant can attest, passions run high over the stakes of State Fair rules and entries, and the San Celina Mid-State Fair is no exception. Things are further complicated by the theft of an African-American quilt from an exhibit, tensions over the fair's first African-American general manager and family, and Benni's uncomfortable position playing hostess to her beloved grandmother, Dove, and Dove's antagonistic sister, Garnet. When murder is added to the mix, it's up to the museum curator, rancher, and occasional sleuth to investigate.

## Thomas Perry

Signs *Strip*  
Saturday, May 15, 2:00 PM

At 2:00 PM on Saturday, May 15, Thomas Perry treats readers to his new crime novel, *Strip*. When a strip club is robbed at gunpoint by a masked man, a chain of combustible events are set in motion. The owner of the strip club sends out his security to find the robber, but they tag the wrong man. Meanwhile, the real robber and his new girlfriend decide to dedicate themselves to further robberies from the owner. And the police detective on the case is juggling bigamy woes. *Publishers Weekly* hailed *Strip* as "rambunctiously entertaining" in a starred review, which concluded, "Perry's exquisite timing and finesse provide near perfect endings to the multiple story lines and make this escapist reading at its best."

## Dani & Eytan Kollin

Sign *The Unincorporated War*  
Sunday, May 16, 2:00 PM

In *The Unincorporated War*, Dani Kollin and Eytan Kollin continue to question who an individual will belong to in the future. Justin Cord, *The Unincorporated Man* who created a revolution, is a

hero in exile from Earth. To the corporate society that rules the Earth and its neighboring planets, Justin is the most dangerous man alive, and they launch a military fleet to attack him and his followers on the outer planets, kicking off an interplanetary war. The Kollin brothers return with their stand-up comedy, occasional physical outbursts, and penchant for unexpected singing on Sunday, May 16, at 2:00 PM.

## Richelle Mead

Signs *Spirit Bound*  
At the San Marcos Public Library  
Wednesday, May 19, at 6:00 PM

Please join Mysterious Galaxy and the San Diego County Libraries in welcoming bestselling author Richelle Mead to celebrate the publication of *Spirit Bound*, the highly anticipated 5th installment of the Vampire Academy series. Richelle will read from her new book, answer questions, and then sign copies of *Spirit Bound*, the penultimate installment of the Vampire Academy series. St. Vladimir's Academy is a hidden place where royal vampires are educated in the ways of magic and the dhampires (half-human teens) train. After a long and heartbreaking journey, Rose Hathaway has returned to her school, St. Vladimir's, for graduation. But Rose's heart still aches for Dimitri, and she knows he's out there, hunting her. Her worst fears are about to come true; Dimitri won't rest until Rose joins him . . . forever. Refreshments and special Vampire Academy related activities will be available for attendees. The San Marcos Public Library is located at 2 Civic Center Drive, San Marcos; their telephone number is 760.891.3000.

## Deborah Coonts

Signs *Wanna Get Lucky?*  
Saturday, May 22, 2:00 PM

Lucky attendees at our Saturday, May 22, 2:00 PM event with Deborah Coonts will enjoy meeting the debut author as much as they will enjoy *Wanna Get Lucky?*. On her website, Deborah describes the series as "a *Sex and the City* meets Elmore Leonard in Vegas kind of thing, if you can imagine that. Okay, have several glasses of wine, then think about it. . . makes imagining easier. Anyway, the books are sexy, wry, romantic, and slightly naughty mixed with a little murder and mayhem — shaken, not stirred — then illuminated by the bright lights of Las Vegas—one of the truly magical cities in the world." *Wanna Get Lucky?* is also an Indie Next Pick, as well as being one of MG's Signed First Mystery Picks. (See the group review on our website.) Deborah may also offer tidbits about the next books in the series, *Lucky Stiff* and *Damn Lucky*.

## Paolo Bacigalupi

Signs *Ship Breaker* and *The Windup Girl*  
Sunday, May 23, noon

If you're involved in the world of written speculative fiction, you're sure to have heard of Paolo Bacigalupi by now. His debut novel, *The Windup Girl*, was named by *Time Magazine* as one of the ten best novels of 2009, and was nominated for both the Hugo and Nebula Award, as well as being one of Patrick's Picks for our Signed First Edition Program. It is published by Nightshade Books, whose co-publisher, Jeremy Lassen, is a former MG staff member. Paolo has written a number of short stories that have been nominated for awards, many of which are collected in *Pump Six and Other Stories*. He describes *Ship Breaker*, his first young adult novel, as "a young adult novel about all of my favorite things: global warming, peak oil, genetic engineering, poverty and collapsed societies. You know, happy fun stuff. Fortunately, it's also a ripping adventure." Meet and greet Paolo on Sunday, May 23, at high noon.

## Christopher Farnsworth

Signs *Blood Oath*  
Sunday, May 23, 2:00 PM

Sunday, May 23, at 2:00 PM, MG invites readers to take part in our Bloodbath event with vampire authors Christopher Farnsworth and Nathan Long. Debut author Christopher's novel has received praise like Brad Meltzer's comment: "*Blood Oath* is exactly how I like my Presidential thrillers. With vampires." Sandy and Maryelizabeth are also fans – see our website for their review. Nathaniel Cade is "the  
*Events continue on the back page*

president's vampire," committed by Marie Laveau and President Andrew Johnson to protect whomever holds the office. While the members of the parallel current administration are fictional, Christopher doesn't divert into alternate reality until very close to our own timeline, including lots of "official secret memos" from past presidents.

## Nathan Long

Signs *Bloodborn*

Sunday, May 23, 2:00 PM

Nathan Long, like fellow Bloodbath author Christopher Farnsworth, also has a history as a screenwriter. Nathan has also written a number of novels for the Black Library and Games Workshop, mostly set in the Warhammer game universe, including popular adventures of Gotrek and Felix. *Shamanslayer*, a Gotrek and Felix novel, is a nominee for the Scribe Awards for best speculative fiction tie-in novel from The International Association of Media Tie-In Writers. *Bloodborn* is the first in a Warhammer vampire trilogy, focusing on recently turned vampire Ulrika, as she investigates the murder of some of her fellow vampires. Our Bloodbath event is on Saturday, May 23, at 2:00 PM.

## Mysterious Galaxy's Summer Reading Gala!

With Richard Harland, Barrie Summy, Megan Whalen Turner, Greg Van Eekhout, and Emcee Cindy Pon  
Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 PM

The end of May means that the school year is drawing to a close, and it's time to get excited about summer reading options! Mysterious Galaxy celebrates on Tuesday, May 25, at 7:00 PM, with our Summer Reading Gala. Young Adult Program Coordinator Suzanne Dupree will be the hostess, and local young adult fantasy author Cindy Pon will emcee our great panel of four tween and teen authors. Cindy will not only perform in the role of Barbara Walters for the evening, but will also be available to sign copies of *Silver Phoenix: Beyond the Kingdom of Xia*.

Author Richard Harland was born in England, moved to Australia, earned a Ph.D. with a thesis on the theory of the origin of language, and wrote a number of novels for adults and young adults that were published in the U.K., and has won the Australian Auralis Award twice. Now his works come to U.S. readers with *Worldshaker*, his steampunk/Victoriana fantasy, in the tradition of Philip Pullman and Jonathan Stroud. Col Porpetine lives a cozy life on the juggernaut *Worldshaker*, a mobile city as big as a mountain. Ruled by Queen Victoria the Second and commanded by Sir Mormus Porpetine, it moves on rollers over land and across sea. Then Col meets a young girl who turns his life upside down.

Fortunately for readers, local author Barrie Summy so *does* do quirky tween mysteries featuring middle-school student Sherry (Sherlock) Holmes Baldwin, and the ghost of her cop mom, in the "I So Don't Do ..." Series. The Phoenix native first was drawn into the world of supernatural sleuthing while visiting San Diego in *I So Don't Do Mysteries*. Since then she has assisted her mom, stepmom, and (also deceased) grandmother in *I So Don't Do Spooky*, and in *I So Don't Do Makeup*, she is working on a real world mystery, trying to discover who tampered with the makeup she and her friends applied at a sleepover.

Acclaimed young adult fantasy author Megan Whalen Turner continues her epic saga with *A Conspiracy of Kings*, the fourth installment in what *Publishers Weekly* calls an "absorbing political drama." Sophos, once known as Useless the Younger in earlier volumes, is now the reluctant heir to the throne of Sounis. While he would rather concentrate on poetry than politics, his agenda is disrupted when he is kidnapped and sold into slavery – now he must choose between living as a ruler in a position he doesn't want, or remaining in obscurity. Established fans of *The Thief*, *The King of Attolia* and *The Queen of Attolia*, and readers new to the world will welcome the chance to visit with Megan.

San Diego author Greg Van Eekhout has a nice selection of award-nominated short stories to his name, as well as last year's adult science fantasy novel, *Norse Code*, which is a Locus Magazine nominee for Best First Novel. What kid wouldn't love the chance to spend the summer with his great-uncle at a beach town, helping out at Professor Griswald's Museum of the Strange and Curious? Any kid who appreciates regular food, modern technology, and neighborhood kids who don't look ... well ... fishy. But that's the scenario young Thatcher finds himself in in *Kid vs. Squid*, Greg's new middle-reader adventure. We believe MG is far enough from the ocean that Greg will not feed any attending kids to squid at the event, but we make no guarantees.

And Hostess Suzanne will not only be on hand to assist attendees in finding great summer reads, but also have materials on hand to share about how interested kids and parents can connect their local teachers and librarians with visiting authors for appearances at schools and libraries.

## Looking Ahead:

More Exciting Events and Hot Summer Reads ...

Mark your calendars!

- ☉ **June Begins:** Kris Neri – June 3; Dianne Emley – June 3; Michael Stevens – June 4; Lynn Flewelling – June 5; Jane Lindsfold – 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; Shawna Lynn Stewart – June 19; Jeffery Deaver – June 25; J.V. Jones – June 26; Rebecca Cantrell – June 27; P.F. Chisholm – June 27; Scott Sigler – June 28; Tarquin Hall – June 29; Delia Sherman – June 30
- ☉ **Just getting started on 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; Lisa Gardner – July 29; Dorothy Howell – July 31
- ☉ **August and beyond:** Alex Kava – August 2; Brent Weeks – August 27; Smart Chicks Kick It Tour with Melixxa Marr, Kelley Armstrong, Alyson Noel, Mary Pearson and Carrie Ryan – September 21 ... and more great events and authors as summer turns to fall!

## Signed First Edition Picks

**Collectors Take Note**  
You will not want to miss these two new titles, available in June 2010.

### The Passage by Justin Cronin

It begins with an extraordinary six-year-old girl, a world-weary FBI agent, a death row inmate offered a devil's deal, and a young nun who's seen more than her share of death. Four individuals with ring-side seats to the end of the world, an Apocalypse of blood and fire. Mankind just can't leave well enough alone. As a group, and with help along the way, these four souls might just save the world, even if it takes their lives ... and a thousand years.

Remember if you will the first time you read *I Am Legend*. How blown away you were. Or perhaps for you it was *A Canticle for Leibowitz* or *The Stand*. How reading these novels made you feel. What they made of your world. Where they took you. *The Passage* took me to that place again, and then it took me to a new place entirely. Justin Cronin's remarkable novel is at first similar to those literary masterworks and then wholly unique.

I'm a jaded reader. Call it an occupational hazard. I haven't found it particularly difficult to put a book down for quite some time, even those I've truly loved. Not so here. 700 pages went flying by, supplying me with a nice breeze, and a great read ... the perfect summer novel. Take my advice: Wake up some Saturday morning, have a great big breakfast, find a comfy chair, and dig in. The end is nigh, and it's just the beginning.

Ballantine Books, 06/08/2010, \$26.00.

– PMH

### Rock Paper Tiger by Lisa Brackmann

Iraq War vet Ellie Cooper offers readers and insider's outsider perspective on modern China in this smart debut thriller. Ellie and her not-quite-ex husband, Trey, are bound by a shared history of the ugly realities of the Iraq War. When Trey gets a job as a security consultant in China, a physically and emotionally damaged Ellie travels with him. As their relationship deteriorates, Ellie becomes involved with a local artist, Lao Zhang. However, when one of Zhang's acquaintances is a person of interest to both Chinese and American authorities, Ellie is caught up in a bizarre power struggle where she receives cryptic communications through avatars in an on-line game. The ending is a bit unfinished, but aptly so, given the setting. Highly recommended as a Signed First Mystery Pick. Meet Lisa on Saturday, June 12.

Soho Press, \$25.00.

– MeH

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