

James Kakalios

Signing *The Physics of Superheroes*
Friday, February 19, 7:00 PM

Readers interested in science, comics, or just an entertaining evening will want to get to MG via the Batmobile, webbing, or flight on Friday, February 19, when James Kakalios speaks at 7:00 PM. Jim's updated "Spectacular" second edition of *The Physics of Superheroes* covers a number of classic comic book scenarios, and discusses the science behind them. *The Physics of Superheroes* explores everything from energy, to thermodynamics, to quantum mechanics, to solid state physics, and Jim relates the physics in comic books to such real-world applications as automobile airbags, microwave ovens, and transistors. It also reveals ways comic books have often been ahead of science. For example recent topics in Marvel comics and DC comics have included quantum mechanics and string theory.

Melinda Wells

Signing *The Proof is in the Pudding*
Saturday, February 20, 2:00 PM

Mystery readers "eat up" Melinda Wells' Della Carmichael culinary mysteries. *Killer Mousse* introduced the cooking school owner, cable television show star, and amateur detective. Last year's *Death Takes the Cake* was one of MG's bestselling mysteries. Now *The Proof is in the Pudding* as Della is persuaded to act as a judge for a competitive celebrity cooking show, but someone is permanently eliminating the contestants. Melinda's extensive background in television – among other careers, she has written screenplays, taught screenwriting, worked in daytime drama and been vice president of a movie studio – informs her books, which also include recipes. Melinda visits on Saturday, February 20, at 2:00 PM, with Kate Carlisle.

Kate Carlisle

Signing *If Books Could Kill*
Saturday, February 20, 2:00 PM

Mystery readers are also book lovers, unsurprisingly, and now have a second Bibliophile Mystery, *If Books Could Kill*, to add to their shelves. Last year's debut, *Homicide in Hardcover*, found San Francisco rare book expert Brooklyn Wainwright using her specialized knowledge to help solve the murder of her mentor. Brooklyn travels to Scotland for a week at the prestigious Edinburgh Book Fair, neither expecting to run into her old flame, Kyle, nor anticipating that the centuries old controversial manuscript he possesses may be the key to his murder. Kate Carlisle joins Wells for an afternoon of books, food, and murder on Saturday, February 20, at 2:00 PM.

Amber Benson

Signing *Cat's Claw*
Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 PM

Mysterious Galaxy's best-selling paperback novel of 2009 was *Death's Daughter*, the first Calliope novel. We welcome author Amber Benson and her fans back to MG for a launch event for *Cat's Claw* on Tuesday, February 23, at 7:00 PM. Callie, having been reluctantly drawn back into the family business – her father is the head of Death, Inc. – owes Cerberus, canine guardian of one of the entrances to Hell, a favor. Can she complete her quest, keep Cerberus's daughter, Runt, in her family's home, and not forfeit her own soul? Amber may provide an update on her children's book, *Among the Ghosts*, due this summer. In addition to being an author, Amber is an actress, and has also written, produced, and directed three feature films, including her latest work-in-progress, *Drones*, which she co-directed with Adam Busch.



Mysterious Galaxy is an independently owned and operated bookstore and a part of the IndieBound Community (indiebound.org)

Joanne Fluke

Signing *Apple Turnover Murder*
Saturday, February 27, 2:00 PM

On Saturday, February 27, at 2:00 PM, Joanne Fluke returns to MG, bringing with her a bit of Midwestern murder and mayhem – and chocolate chip cookies! It may not quite be spring in Southern CA, but it's summer in Hannah Swensen's Minnesota, and the town is bustling with activity in *Apple Turnover Murder*. The residents of Lake Ede are preparing for a charitable event. Not only does The Cookie Jar need to provide goodies for the event, but also Hannah has been persuaded to act as a stage magician's assistant. Between her love life and her staff's, the community events, a town full of secrets, and a dead emcee with one of her turnovers in his hand, Hannah has her hands full!

ConDor XVII: Tripping the Past Fantastic

Friday, February 26 to Sunday, February 28
Mission Valley

San Diego's longest running Science Fiction convention welcomes author Guest of Honor C.J. Cherryh (*Cyteen*, *Downbelow Station*). The convention will take place at Mission Valley's Handlery Hotel from Friday, February 26 through Sunday, February 28. Mysterious Galaxy will be in our traditional location in the Dealer's Room. More information on Nancy Holder, Chris Marie Green, P.J. Haarsma, Lynn Flewelling, Kirsten Imani Kasai, Jenna Rhodes, Todd McCaffrey, Linda Thomas-Sundstrom, other guests, and convention specifics can be found at the convention website: www.condorcon.org.

Karl Alexander

And Our Book Discussion of *Time After Time*
Wednesday, March 3, 7:00 PM

Attendees at MG's Eat! Read! Party! event in December had a chance to meet Karl Alexander and pick up *Jaclyn the Ripper*, sequel to his acclaimed novel (and film) *Time After Time*. Now the story of Jack the Ripper stealing H.G. Wells' time machine in 1893 and fleeing to San Francisco in 1979, pursued by Wells, has been recently re-released. On Wednesday, March 3, at 7:00 PM, the MG Book Discussion Group will gather with Karl to discuss *Time After Time*. Karl will also talk about being raised in a family of screenwriters – his father, William Tunberg, wrote "Old Yeller," and his uncle, Karl Tunberg, wrote "Ben Hur."

Dan Simmons

Signing *Black Hills*
Thursday, March 4, 7:00 PM

Dan Simmons turns his authorial eye to the American West in *Black Hills*, the tale of a young Sioux warrior who counts coup on General Custer at Little Big Horn – and is haunted by Custer thereafter. The tale covers the end of the 19th century and the early 20th century, as Paha Sapa experiences not only visions from Custer, but also from war chief Crazy Horse, and Mount Rushmore sculptor Gotzon Borglum. Dan has written about alien planets, the Arctic, Victorian England, India, and written science fiction, horror, and thrillers, and won almost every possible award in that variety of genres. Find out what's next when he visits on Thursday, March 4, at 7:00 PM.

Daniel Fox

Signing *Jade Man's Skin*
Saturday, March 6, noon

According to his web site, Daniel Fox is a British writer who first went to Taiwan at the millennium and became obsessed, to the point of learning Mandarin and writing about the country in three different genres. In *Moshui*, the *Books of Stone and Water*, Daniel blends the ancient myths and legends of feudal China into a fantasy world of brutal war and brittle passion, immortal gods and mystical creatures. The first volumes are *Dragon in Chains* and *Jade Man's Skin*; the third volume will be *Hidden Cities*. Daniel has also published a number of books as Chaz Brenchley, including award-winning

fantasy, dark fantasy, thrillers and children's books, most of which are not readily available in the U.S. – but check your shelves before our event on Saturday, March 6, at noon.

Chris Marie Green

Signing *Deep in the Woods*
Saturday, March 6, 2:00 PM

Saturday, March 6, at 2:00 PM, we offer a fanged and furry mini-version of ConDor, with authors Chris Marie Green and Linda Thomas-Sundstrom. Chris will be discussing *Deep in the Woods*, the final book in the London Underground story arc of her *noir* fantasy mystery series, *Vampire Babylon*. Hollywood stuntwoman-turned-vampire-hunter Dawn Madison and her colleagues battle teenage vampires from the British infestation and work to rescue Dawn's vampiric lover from their clutches, before he succumbs to his own dark nature. Up next for Chris is a different urban fantasy trilogy, *Bloodlands*.

Linda Thomas-Sundstrom

Signing *Red Wolf* and *Wolf Trap*
Saturday, March 6, 2:00 PM

San Diego author Linda Thomas-Sundstrom joins Chris Marie Green for our fanged and furry mini-version of ConDor on Saturday, March 6, at 2:00 PM. Linda first ventured into the realm of paranormal romance with 2009's *Barbie & the Beast*. In 2010, she offers two novels of sexy shapechangers, *Red Wolf* and *Wolf Trap*. In *Red Wolf*, werewolf Tory McKidd and human detective Adam Scott team up to rid Miami's streets of a killer. In *Wolf Trap*, Dr. Parker Madison tries to deal with his werenature, overcoming it when he rescues a damsel in distress, Chloe Tyler. Both *Wolf Moon* books contain bonus *Nocturne Bites* stories by Linda, originally only available electronically.

Looking Ahead:

We are! Mark your calendars for these fabulous 2010 events!

- ☉ **March Continues:** Killer Party – March 11; Kenneth Wisnia – March 12; The Tucson Festival of Books – March 13 & 14; Blake Charlton – March 14; Thomas Kaufman – March 16; David Rosenfelt – March 16; Lisa Lutz – March 18; Suzanne Arruda – March 19; Robert Levinson – March 20; David Corbett – March 22
- ☉ **April, No Fooling:** Jesse Kellerman – April 1; Patricia Briggs – April 7; Jim Butcher – April 9; Christopher Moore – April 10; L.A. Noir and Orange County Noir – April 11; Peter May – April 12; Michele Scott – April 12; John Barnes – April 13; C.J. Box – April 15; Raymond E. Feist – April 16; D.P. Lyle – April 17; Larry Karp – April 22; Jacqueline Winspear – April 22; Jennifer Lee Carrell – April 23; The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books – April 24 & 25; Alafair Burke – April 26; Ed Lin – April 28
- ☉ **Our Birthday is in May:** MG's 17th Birthday Bash with Charlaire Harris and Emily St. John Mandel – May 8; Robin Hobb – May 14; Thomas Perry – May 15; Richelle Mead – May 19; Deborah Coonts – May 22; Christopher Farnsworth – May 23
- ☉ **And more ...** Lynn Flewelling – June 5; Vicki Pettersen – June 11; Simon Wood – June 13; Juliet Blackwell – June 18; Sophie Littlefield – June 18 ... and more great events and authors as spring turns to summer!

March Signed First Edition Pick

The River Kings' Road: A Novel of Ithelas
by Liane Merciel

First, let me state that I really liked this debut fantasy for its storytelling and characters, beyond the structural aspects that I am going to praise – I don't want that aspect to be lost. But I also really appreciated it from a couple of philosophical standpoints, if you will. First, Liane seems to have embraced the rules of the "When I am a Dark Overlord" list that has circulated among fans. Her villains are smart, and when they suffer defeat, it's not because they have failed to take the obvious into account. Second, Liane has also taken the lesson that no well-written villain believes s/he is the villain of the piece. This makes for a great story.

A king's son and nearly all of his retinue are slain while in a church in a neighboring kingdom during suspended hostilities, along with most of the village. The survivors are his infant heir and one sword-for-hire soldier, who find a surviving villager, a young woman with her own infant son, and embark on a journey to take the heir to his grandparents. The ambush was planned by the baby's uncle, who sincerely believes he is far better suited to rule than his brother. With the fate of more than one kingdom imperiled, and signs that the attack was carried out by a zealot witch, a holy knight and his assistant are brought in to investigate. All of the characters are well-realized and well-motivated, and I can't wait for the next in this new series. Signed copies available in March. Gallery Books, \$26.00. – MeH

Rave Reviews

Kitty's House of Horrors by Carrie Vaughn

Carrie Vaughn's seventh installment of the *Kitty Norville* series is out and every bit as good as the last six! *Kitty's* been invited to join TV's first supernatural reality show – and all of the guests will be supernatural. Well, *Kitty* has her doubts about that kind of thing – she can't stand reality shows and sure as heck doesn't think all "supernaturals" could even get along in a confined environment for two weeks. She decides – what the hell – she'll try anything once. Within a couple of days of the show's launch, things deteriorate as the violence begins. What's happening? Before long, phones are cut, power is out and there's no place to go because they're out in the middle of nowhere. Determining who's killing the guests and how to stop it puts everyone in a very bad mood. But they'd better work together on this or there'll be no one left to tell the story. Great book with some interesting surprises. Pick it up – it's another very good *Kitty* story! Grand Central Publishing pbo, \$7.99 – DB

Impact by Douglas Preston

I let my husband read *Impact* first because the cover had a fiery ball of flames hurtling toward earth and I thought, oh yeah, another apocalyptic meteor collision. Call Bruce Willis and full speed ahead to save the world. But my husband said, "Hey, this is great. I think you'll really like it." Blast it. Right again! *Impact* is a blast! We've got three scenarios. First up is former CIA operative Wyman Ford, last seen in *Blasphemy*, checking out radioactive gemstones mined in Cambodia. Over in Maine, college dropout and frustrated astronomer Abbey Straw spots a meteor landing near one of the many small islands near her home. She wants to cash in by selling fragments on e-Bay, so she and girlfriend Jackie begin a search for the impact crater. And then there's the angry red planet. Gamma rays from Mars? Mark Corso, a Mars mission technician at the National Propulsion Facility gets hold of some very classified and dangerous data. How do these three occurrences tie together? Well, I'm not telling, so you'll have to read *Impact* to find out. There are several reasons why I loved this story. The two women searching for the impact make a great team. While they are hunting down the point of impact, a psycho who wants in on the action, even though he doesn't know what the action might be chasing them! Wyman Ford kicks ass over in Cambodia in a totally moral way. And the mysterious gamma rays along with a High resolution NASA image revealing a feature hidden in the depths of a crater on Mars reveal some unique surprises about this *Impact*. Forge, \$25.99. – LNT and hubby Jan Tonnesen

Lips Touch Three Times by Laini Taylor

A NPR "2009's Best Young Adult Fiction" selection, this collection of two short stories and one novella is my new favorite read. Superbly written, each of the three stories explores fairy tales and mythology from different cultures in different eras around the world. In *Goblin Fruit*, Laini examines what it is to feel like an outcast through modern-day gypsies. *Spicy Little Curses Such as These* takes the reader to an India of the past with a new look at its pantheon. *Changeling* delves into the ancient beliefs of Persian Zoroastrianism in the current world. All three stories are introduced by a panel of exquisite illustrations by Jim di Bartolo and all three investigate what happens when lips touch three times: Something beautiful, something horrible and something magical. A gorgeous book on all levels, highly recommended for fans of Neil Gaiman and Charles de Lint! Arthur A. Levine Books, \$17.99. – SW

Incarceron by Catherine Fisher

This new, fabulous fantasy novel has all I want - from a gorgeous cover (it *does* matter for us shallow types) to engaging characters, a thrilling adventure, and a fully realized fantasy world. *Incarceron* is a Young Adult fantasy that will appeal to all readers. *Incarceron* is a prison, possessing a history of its inception, but no exit for its inmates and it is alive! Finn is the prisoner who believes he is more than an inmate, that he had a previous life outside, and he is on a mission to escape. His ragged band of cohorts is empowered by their discovery of a crystal key. Meanwhile, Outside, in a parallel retro society based on a neo-Elizabethan mores, Claudia, the daughter of the warden of *Incarceron*, rebels against her ordained marriage to a foppish prince. The aspects of a romantic fairy tale are entwined with truly exciting adventure. The parallel settings of a post-apocalyptic prison contrast with Outside, a society of faux English mores and manors masking glittering, threatening technology. The characters develop an emotional involvement that threatens everyone and everything and are so masterfully described that I rooted for them from the beginning and was awestruck at the stunning end. *Incarceron* is a complex novel by Catherine Fisher, an accomplished author who has written many fantasy books for YA readers. Find your crystal key and start reading! Dial Books, \$17.99. – sd

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