

Pre-Holiday 2009 ...

Volume 17 Number 13

Rachel Caine

Signs *Fade Out: The Morganville Vampires, Book Seven*
Sunday, November 8, 2:00 PM

Early on in *Fade Out*, a character is described as bouncing around like a “demented Goth bunny.” That was pretty much the staff’s response to news of our event with **Rachel Cain** on Sunday, November 8, at 2:00 PM. *Fade Out* is the most recent book in Rachel’s Morganville Vampires series, The first two have just been re-released in a handsome trade paperback with new cover art, cleverly titled *The Morganville Vampires*. We also have plenty of copies of the most recent Joanne Baldwin book, *Cape Storm*, and the first Cassiel, the former Djinn, novel, *Undone*, on hand for fans. Rachel will also tease fans with news of 2010’s *Kiss of Death* (Morganville Vampires #8), *Unknown* (Outcast Season #2), and *Total Eclipse* (Weather Warden #9).

November 12 will be a Fantastic evening!

John Brown

Signs *Servant of a Dark God*
Thursday, November 12, 7:00 PM

According to his web site, yes, if **John Brown’s** name compels you to sing to him, it’s okay. This Writers of the Future winner and OSC Literary Boot Camp participant’s debut fantasy postulates a dark world with a very disturbing premise – a world where the days of a person’s life can be harvested, bought, and stolen – in *Servant of a Dark God*. Talen is a resident of this world, living in a place where the Divine ruler who protects men from the soul-eaters is missing ... and an ancient power, Hunger, is on the rise to devour men like cattle.

Larry Correia

Signs *Monster Hunter International*
Thursday, November 12, 7:00 PM

Larry Correia’s biography on his web site reads: “Larry Correia. Utah, USA. Description: Male, 33. Very large. Very bald. Occupation: Writer. Merchant of Death (retired). Firearms Instructor. Accountant.” Linda is a particular fan of his first novel, *Monster Hunter International*, in which Owen Pitt becomes the newest recruit in a monster killing organization. His current project is *The Grimnoir Chronicle*, a fantasy/alternative history where magic began to randomly appear in the mid 1800s, set in the early 20th century.

David Farland

Signs *Runelords: Chaosbound*
Thursday, November 12, 7:00 PM

Fantasy author **David Farland** wears many hats. He also is author David Wolverton, a video game designer, and an editor and teacher (many of his students have become published novelists – some best-selling ones!). In *The Wyrmling Horde*, The Earthking’s son, Flameweaver Fallion Orden, used his sorcerous powers to unite all of the shadow worlds into “One True World” where mankind can live in peace and harmony. In *Chaosbound*, Borenson is bound to warrior Aaath Ulber as the worlds merge, and the choice to bind the worlds reveals its costs.

Brian Haig

Signs *The Hunted*
Friday, November 13, 7:00 PM

Suspense author **Brian Haig** visits Mysterious Galaxy for the first time on Friday, November 13, at 7:00 PM. Brian, the son of the former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, has received numerous military awards, and served as the special assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His extensive experience informs his military thrillers, many of which feature Army JAG attorney Sean Drummond, a former special forces officer, including *The President’s Assassin* and *The Man in the Middle*. *The Hunted*, his latest, is a stand alone inspired by actual events. In the late 1980’s, Alex Konevitch is too good a capitalist to be a good Soviet.

By the early 1990’s, he has put his trust, and access to his hundreds of millions in the hands of the wrong man, and now is a fugitive with few resources in multiple countries.

Brandon Sanderson

Signs Robert Jordan’s *The Gathering Storm: The Wheel of Time*
Sunday, November 15, 2:00 PM

According to the publisher’s materials: “The final volume of the Wheel of Time, *A Memory of Light*, was partially written by Robert Jordan before his untimely passing in 2007. **Brandon Sanderson**, *New York Times* bestselling author of the Mistborn books, was chosen by Jordan’s editor— his wife, Harriet McDougal—to complete the final book. The scope and size of the volume was such that it could not be contained in a single book, and so Tor proudly presents *The Gathering Storm* as the first of three novels that will make up *A Memory of Light*. This short sequence will complete the struggle against the Shadow, bringing to a close a journey begun almost twenty years ago and marking the conclusion of the Wheel of Time, the preeminent fantasy epic of our era.”

Numbers for the signing line are available with purchase of *The Gathering Storm* from **Mysterious Galaxy**, on sale now. Storm Leaders from Dragonmount, the largest Wheel of Time community, will enhance the event on Sunday, November 15, at 2:00 PM. Brandon’s readers should also note that we will have copies of *Warbreaker* and his young adult books, including *Alcatraz Versus the Knights of Crystallia*, on hand.



James A. Owen

Signs *The Shadow Dragons*
Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 PM

The tales of the *Imaginarium Geographica*, the mythic atlas of all the lands that have ever existed in myth and legend, fable and fairy tale, continues in *The Shadow Dragons*. Under the shadow of World War II, John, Jack and Charles, and their fellow Caretakers, responsible for the atlas and the lands therein, must battle an ancient evil. The shadow of the Winter King, aided by the Spear of Destiny, seeks to take over Archipelago of Dreams, and then take over the war-torn world. Prose and comics author and illustrator and bookseller **James Owen** returns to MG on Tuesday, November 17, at 7:00 PM, with lessons in how to draw dragons, and how to explore imagination.

November 18: Three crime authors, three very different settings. Join us!

Greg Bear

Signs *Mariposa*
Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 PM

Greg Bear, who has won multiple Hugo and Nebula awards for his speculative fiction, ventured into the thriller field with *Quantico*, a near-future examination of law enforcement, politics, and terrorism. *Mariposa* returns to that world, with some of the same characters, as three FBI agents work to stop a quasi-military company that has enjoyed great success training soldiers and developing security technology – and is now poised to take over the U.S. government. Greg also serves as an advisor to a number of businesses and agencies, including the U.S. Army, the CIA, and Homeland security.

Alan Jacobson

Signs *Crush*
Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 PM

Alan Jacobson introduced FBI profiler Karen Vail in last year’s *The 7th Victim*. In *Crush*, Karen is hoping to relax and enjoy the charms of the Napa Valley with Detective Robby Hernandez. However, their discovery of a body deep in an elite wine cave, with all the earmarks of a serial killer’s work, turns their trip into a working excursion, as they lend their skills to the local Major Crimes Task Force. Are the murders just the result of a psychopath’s desire for fame? Or are they related to the politics of the local vintners?

Events continue on the back page

Martin Limón

Signs *G.I. Bones*

Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 PM

Seoul in the 1970's is the setting for *G.I. Bones*, the new mystery featuring Army criminal investigators George Sueño and Ernie Bascom. **Martin Limón**, praised by Lee Child for writing "the best military mysteries in print today," sets his team on the trail of a cold case, a soldier who went missing in 1953. The case leads them into the intrigue of Seoul's red-light district, as they follow clues from a Korean fortune-teller and a trail of corruption, kidnapping, and murder.

Carola Dunn

Signs *Sheer Folly*

Friday, November 20, 7:00 PM

While **Carola Dunn** has written more than 50 novels, including a number of historical romances, and her new Cornish mystery series, to Mysterious Galaxy's readers, she is best known as the creator of the Daisy Dalrymple mysteries, set in the 1920's. The latest, *Sheer Folly*, finds Daisy sans husband, Scotland Yard DCI Alec Fletcher, and their twin offspring, on a research trip with her collaborator, Lucy Binscomb. They are on a hunt for remarkable architectural follies for their next book, staying with other guests at Appsworth Hall, one of whom ends up murdered. Catch up with Carola at her rescheduled event on Friday, November 20, at 7:00 PM.

Men of Mystery 10th Anniversary Celebration

Guest of Honor Michael Connelly

Saturday, November 21

Mysterious Galaxy is pleased to be the bookseller once again for Men of Mystery at the Irvine Marriott. This annual event offers attendees the chance to visit with and get books signed by more than 50 male mystery writers – everything from legal thrillers to surfer P.I.'s. Featured speakers at the 2009 10th Anniversary Celebration are **Michael Connelly** (*Nine Dragons*), who was honored at the first Men of Mystery in 2000, and fellow journalist turned novelist **Tim Dorsey** (*Nuclear Jellyfish*). Meet new authors like Canada's Anthony Bidulka and Pasadena's Kwei Quartey, as well as returning favorites like Christopher Reich, Christopher Rice and Thomas Greanias. Attendees get to have lunch with men from all over North America, and all over the genre. For more information, visit the event's web site: www.menofmystery.org.

John Lamb and Michelle Gagnon

Sign *The Treacherous Teddy* and *The Gatekeeper*

Sunday, November 22, 2:00 PM

On Sunday, November 22, at 2:00 PM, we're thankful for mystery authors **John Lamb** and **Michelle Gagnon**. John, a former Southern California police officer, is passionate about collectible teddy bears, the theme of his current mystery series. For readers who want to know more, John's web site provides guides to the world of collectible teddy bears, including teddy bear artists. Like the author, Brad Lyon is a retired officer and bear collector – unlike John (we hope), he is also an amateur sleuth who assists his deputy wife in solving murders. In the case of *The Treacherous Teddy*, a local farmer's death disrupts the couple's plans to host a teddy bear celebration, at which Brad plans to showcase the latest in his "Claw and Order" series of special bears.

Michelle's background, while extremely varied, doesn't include a stint in law enforcement. Find out where her passion for crime fiction comes from, and how she researches her stories of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and killers, including *The Gatekeeper*. This time, Special Agent Kelly Jones and Jake Riley face an adversary who is working to unite hate groups in the greatest terrorist threat America has experienced. (See our review on our website.)

Looking Ahead:

We wrap up with a Holiday Party and Staff Picks for Gifts ...

- ◎ **December 5 Holiday Party** Authors include: Emily Brightwell, Hannah Dennison, Kami Garcia & Margaret Stohl, Nancy Holder, Linda O. Johnston, Elle Newmark, Cindy Pon, Harry Turtledove, E. Van Lowe, and many bookish elves!
- ◎ **Also in December:** Betty Webb – December 7 and **Sue Grafton** for Ladies, Lunch, and Literacy in Los Angeles (open to all) – December 10
- ◎ **And on into 2010** with Kris Neri, T. Jefferson Parker, Steve Hamilton, John Lescroart, Carrie Vaughn, and more!



Rave Reviews

Desolate Angel by Chaz McGee

I was completely taken by Kevin Fahey, an ex-dysfunctional homicide detective who ignored his family and buried himself in his own self pity with plenty of alcohol. Kevin now finds himself in between worlds, not knowing how he died or how to exist as a ghost. As he (and the story) progress, Kevin begins to find some inner peace, a great love for his family (that escaped him while he was alive), and a better understanding of what it means to be human ... a pretty good feat for a dead guy. His first case as the Dead Detective begins at the crime scene of a murdered young girl. There he encounters the ghost of a previously murdered young girl whose case he helped solve (or so he thought). Also at the scene is the homicide detective who replaced him, Maggie Gunn, now partnered with Danny Bonaventura. Danny was Kevin's long time partner and the last person Kevin saw before he was killed in the line of duty. Kevin is immediately taken with Maggie, her dedication to her job, and well, everything else about her. He becomes her guardian angel and "partner" and pledges to help her any way he can to bring the true killer to justice.

This is the first book in a series that partners Kevin and Maggie as they (she) go through his unsolved case files to pursue killers who evaded him when he was alive. Kevin hopes to find redemption in death in a way that he never could accomplish when he was alive. This desolate angel's ability to see the important parts of each person he encounters and "read" their personal story enhances this new take on detective fiction. This is a great start and I look forward to the next installment. Berkley Prime Crime pbo, \$6.99. – tlg

The Windup Girl by Paolo Bacigalupi

Calorie companies control the world, bio-terrorism and genetic engineering have wreaked merry havoc on a global scale, and humanity is on the brink of an evolutionary precipice that will destroy it completely or change it utterly. We reap what we sow.

Anderson Lake is a stranger in a strange land, AgriGen's "Calorie Man" in Thailand. Disguised as a *farang* factory manager, Anderson's actual mission is to obtain (by any means necessary) new foodstuffs to exploit in a world where every calorie counts.

Emiko is the windup girl of the title. She is not exactly human. Creche-grown and designed to satisfy, she scratches out a meager existence in a world that considers her property, a mere plaything to abuse and then throw away like yesterday's garbage, lowest of the low. She may be artificial, oh yes, but she does dream. She dreams of freedom ... and perhaps of an electric sheep or two.

Together, Anderson and Emiko might just change the world.

Beautifully written with a cast of characters both major and minor who will make it extremely difficult on the reader as to whom to root for, *The Windup Girl* is an important, perhaps even cautionary tale about a very possible future, set in a Thailand one can almost taste and feel. Plan to see it on many a best-of list and most likely a few award short lists as well. It's the end of the world as we know it, so eat your *Soylent Green* and enjoy the show. Dystopia Rules!

Nightshade Books, \$24.95. Signed copies available, while they last. – PMH

The Mermaid's Madness by Jim Hines

Jim Hines' Princess series (*The Stepsister Scheme*) continues with a high seas adventure that has more in common with the original tragic tale by Hans Christian Andersen than Disney's recent update. (Note: I am a fan of both.) Princess Danielle Whiteshore (AKA Cinderella) is learning to expand her royal responsibilities, as well as be a loving wife, mother, and daughter-in-law. She and her friends, Princesses Talia (Sleeping Beauty) and Snow (White), accompany Queen Beatrice on her voyage to present gifts to the undine during their migratory return to the local waters of Lorindar. When the merfolk unexpectedly attack, the Queen's soul and the future of the country are at stake, and it's up to the princesses to work with a number of unusual allies, –including the adolescent sister of the mad mermaid princess, and a dryad who is the captain of the vehicle carved from her tree – to save the day. Jim's characters have charm and flaws, from seasickness to overambition, that make them have real resonance with the reader, even in their fantastic setting. DAW pbo, \$7.99. – MeH

This is just a sample of our most recent reviews. For more reviews by our staff and friends visit our website.

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