

October 2010 Begins ...

Volume 18 Number 13

Conjecture

With Guest of Honor Robert J. Sawyer
Friday, October 1 through Sunday, October 3

San Diego's Fall Science Fiction convention welcomes author Guest of Honor Robert J. Sawyer (*WWW.Watch*, *WWW.Wake*, etc.). Other guests include: Mario Acevedo, Dani and Eytan Kollin, Todd McCaffrey, Greg van Eekhout, Linda Thomas-Sundstrom, and Vernor Vinge. The convention will take place at the Town and Country Resort Hotel in San Diego from Friday, October 1 through Sunday, October 3. Mysterious Galaxy will be in our traditional location in the Dealer's Room. For More information, visit the convention website: 2010.conjecture.org.

Maria Snyder

Signs *Inside Out*
Saturday, October 2, 2:00 PM

Fantasy readers and fans of dystopian young adult novels like those of Suzanne Collins will enjoy Maria Snyder's event on Saturday, October 2, at 2:00 PM. *Publishers Weekly's* review of *Inside Out* said, "Fantasist Snyder's YA debut is an engrossing homage to the dystopian youth-driven science fiction of the late '60s and early '70s (it even features a character named Logan), with enough hooks to engage adult science fiction fans." Her newest novel is *Spy Glass*, third in the epic fantasy series, in which Opal discovers she has lost her ability to create glass magic. Maria will also be one of the Teen Stage authors at the Orange County Children's Book Festival on Sunday, October 3.

"Lee Carroll"

Signs *Black Swan Rising*
Sunday, October 3, 2:00 PM

Debut urban fantasy author "Lee Carroll" is actually the pseudonym for Hammett Award-winning mystery novelist Carol Goodman and her poet husband, Lee Slonimsky. Both Lee and Carol will visit MG on Sunday, October 3, at 2:00 PM, to discuss *Black Swan Rising*. Garet James, a New York City jewelry artist, uses her skills to open a mysterious sealed box at the request of a local antiques dealer. Doing so unleashes a powerful force, and catches her up in a world of prophecy and the fey previously unknown to her.

The Orange County Children's Book Festival

Orange Coast College campus in Costa Mesa
Sunday, October 3 from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Mysterious Galaxy will be attending the OC Children's Book Festival for the first time on October 3, 2010. You will find us in booth #3, by the Young Adult Stage. Authors signing in our booth include (subject to change): Amber Benson, Robin Benway, Jessica Brody, Cecil Castellucci, Gitty Daneshvari, Becca Fitzpatrick, Nancy Holder, Lauren Kate, R.L. LaFevers, Joanna Philbin, Jordan Romero, Maria Snyder, and Mary Hanlon Stone. Festival activities include lots of kid friendly fun like face painting, crazy hair styling, and animal petting area, musicians, dancers, balloons, readings, drawings and a trackless train ride. For more information, visit the Festival's website: kidsbookfestival.com/

Stephen Jay Schwartz

Signs *Beat*
Thursday, October 7, 7:00 PM

Stephen Jay Schwartz made a splash in the mystery scene with last year's debut novel, *Boulevard*, introducing LAPD Robbery-Homicide Detective and sex addict, Hayden Glass. In *Beat*, Glass is drawn to San Francisco when Cora, a prostitute he met in an internet chat room, disappears, the suspected victim of a Russian crime ring. *Publishers Weekly* comments, "Glass is tough to like, impossible to admire, but relentless against insuperable odds." Stephen visits on Thursday, October 7, at 7:00 PM, and will be one of the Men of Mystery at the one-day conference at the end of the month in Irvine.

RinCon 10 – "Arizona's Gaming Mecca"

In Tucson, Arizona
October 8 through October 10

Find us in the Dealers Room at RinCon Gaming Convention in Tucson in early October. Attendees will have opportunities to play-with-the-creator, game with the celebrities, and experience Wil Wheaton's Rock Band Event of Pure Awesomeness, a Steampunk Ball, and John Wick's epic Houses of the Blooded LARP. RinCon has a host of attending authors including Jeff Mariotte, Michael Stackpole, Gini Koch, Emma Bull, and Weston Ochse, RinCon is held in conjunction with Tucson Meet Yourself, the festival whose mission is to research, document, interpret and present the living traditional arts and expressions of everyday life of the folk and ethnic communities of the multi-national Arizona-Sonora region.

San Diego County Library Book Festival

Encinitas Branch
Saturday, October 9

Join Mysterious Galaxy and other San Diego book lovers at the Encinitas Branch for the San Diego County Library Book Festival on Saturday, October 9, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Attending authors include Pulitzer Prize winning poet and local professor Rae Armantrout; internet sensation and author of *Sh*t My Dad Says*, Justin Halpern; and a host of other participants, including Richard Dreyfuss, Laurel Corona, Christie Ridgway, and Robert Pincus, former books editor of *The San Diego Union-Tribune*.

Charles Yu

Signs *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe*
Saturday, October 9, 2:00 PM

Comic-Con attendees had an opportunity to meet Charles Yu and get an early taste of *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe*. Now the meta-science fiction novel is an Indie Next Pick. Bookseller Bridget Allison of Phoenix Books, Essex, VT writes, "Winner of the National Book Foundation's 5 Under 35 Award, Charles Yu offers a story of a man traveling through time to find his father. It's an unlikely and surprisingly successful combination of intelligence, wit, and raw emotion. Yu writes with great skill, immediately charming his readers." Let Charles charm you at MG on Saturday, October 9, at 2:00 PM.

Dan Wells

Signs *Mr. Monster*
Sunday, October 10, 2:00 PM

Former advertising writer, passionate game player, and "not a serial killer" Dan Wells returns to MG on Sunday, October 10, at 2:00 PM. John Wayne Cleaver saved his town from a terrifying murderer in *I am Not a Serial Killer*, only to discover that the demon he killed had a friend ... and now that friend is seeking revenge in *Mr. Monster*. (See Michael's review, page 2.) Dan also participates in a weekly podcast about writing, called Writing Excuses with co-hosts Brandon Sanderson, author of the Mistborn trilogy, and Howard Tayler, the mind and pen behind the SF webcomic *Shlock Mercenary*.

R.A. Salvatore

Signs *Gauntlgrym: Neverwinter, Book 1*
Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 PM



R.A. Salvatore and dark elf Drizzt Do'Urden return to MG on Tuesday, October 12, at 7:00 PM, the on-sale date for *Gauntlgrym*. (Numbers for the signing line are available with the purchase of *Gauntlgrym*.) When one of his oldest friends, Bruenor Battlehammer, chooses to spend his final days searching for the fabled dwarf kingdom of Gauntlgrym, Drizzt readily agrees. Drizzt joins Bruenor on his quest for the fabled dwarven kingdom of Gauntlgrym: ruins said to be rich with ancient treasure and arcane lore. Unfortunately, the more they uncover about the secret of Gauntlgrym, the more it looks like they can't stop it on their own. Fans can also take the opportunity to pick up *The Legend of Drizzt Collector's Edition, Book IV*, or the Stone of Tymora young adult novels, co-authored by his son, Geno.

Events continue on the back page

Looking Ahead :

October is so busy, we had to divide it into two newsletters! Here's what's in store for you:

- More October Treats:** Ken Scholes – October 15; Lynn Flewelling – October 16; Richard Kadrey – October 17; Merrie DeStefano – October 17; Vince Flynn – October 18; David Weber – October 19; Christie Golden – October 20; Richard Knaak – October 20; Sheila Lowe – October 20; P.L. Gaus – October 21; Gary Corby – October 21; Alan Jacobson – October 22; Adrienne Barbeau – October 23; Jeff Mariotte – October 23; Ben Boos – October 24; Lois McMaster Bujold – October 27; Connie Willis – October 28; Our Hallowe'en event with Kiersten White and Nancy Holder – October 29; Men of Mystery with Speakers Don Winslow, Gregg Hurwitz, and Christopher Rice – October 30
- And November Begins:** The La Jolla Writers Conference – November 5 – 7; TusCon with Jim Butcher and Shannon Butcher – November 12 – 14; Jeri Westerson – November 13; Miles Corwin – November 14; MaryJanice Davidson – November 21; Sandra Brannan – November 28;
- We are now planning our Holiday Party.** Here's who's coming so far: Debra Ginsberg – December 11; S.G. Browne – December 11; Juliet Blackwell – December 11 ... and more!

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 as we enter the fall are:

- *Sandman Slim* by Richard Kadrey on **Wednesday, October 13, at 7:00 PM.**
- *Carved in Bone* by Jefferson Bass on **Wednesday, November 3, at 7:00 PM.**
- *Missing White Girl* by Jeffrey J. Mariotte on **Wednesday, December 1, at 7:00 PM.**

Sign up for our special Book Group editions of *The Virtual Plot* by modifying your profile.

Remember, MG is happy to arrange for books in quantity with reader's guides and more for book group members. Ask us for more details!

Our Staff Reads and Recommends

Mr. Monster by Dan Wells

John Cleaver has faced a serial killer and prevailed, but there is no rest for the wicked, and it appears that another monster has come to town. So what is John to do when his fascination with this new killer threatens to unleash his own inner demon persona, Mr. Monster? The only thing he can do, defeat the monster, and then deal with the new serial killer as well.

Creepy, haunting, and completely disturbing, Mr. Monster grabs you by the scruff of the neck and drags you through a delicious blend of the supernatural and murder most foul. My only advice to you, reader, is never to be alone with the most ingenious Dan Wells. Tor, \$21.99, simultaneous tpo, \$11.99. – MS

Gone by Lisa Gardner

After recently hosting a book signing by Lisa Gardner, I decided to read *Gone*, a random choice from among her many suspense novels.

At the signing Lisa spoke of her dedication to research of police and detective procedure at all levels from small town to Federal. She also expressed a keen interest in crime among children that was interesting, as well as frightening and eerie.

Gone is the perfect combination of her insights at our signing. The novel begins with love lost between Quincy and Rainie, complicated by alcohol abuse and horrible nightmares of Rainie's troubled and abusive childhood. Further complications include murder on both sides of the coupling, and struggles with the foster care system and its troublesome failings with eight year old Dougie, who becomes a part of their life and has a tendency to set fire to his foster homes.

The kidnapping of Rainie, the alcoholic, and Dougie, the "firestarter" sets the scene for local Oregon police dealing with Quincy, his daughter, and future son-in-law – who are FBI profilers. The book moves quickly and dramatically to the very end, with Lisa delivering all that she promised. Bantam Books pap, \$7.99. – bkh

Kill the Dead: A Sandman Slim Novel by Richard Kadrey

Starts out with a chase. Sandman Slim vs. the Nouveau-Vamp with a 'tude. Then it gets exciting. Seems our hero has turned to bounty hunting to make a living. Bounty hunting of a most supernatural kind: Vampires, and Hellions, and Jades, oh my! When ol' Lucifer comes to town to make a movie (based on his life no less), he needs him a bodyguard, oh yeah. Who ya gonna call? Why our boy Stark, of course. Duh. It's not a bad gig, though, and there are fringe benefits ... like a little female companionship courtesy of one Brigitte Bardo. (Who are *you* to judge? Were *you* celibate in Hell for eleven years?)

Back among the living and becoming more human every day. Not that that's particularly a good thing for our man about town Stark, slayer of monsters and Devil's wingman, down and out in the City of the Angels, always caught between a roc and a hard case, always. No breaks for the Sandman. Oh, no. Bring on the zombies, baby. Zombies. What happens when a half-angel gets bitten by a zombie? Well the angel side's not especially affected, of course, but the human side ... well, that's quite another story. Dig it. Eos, \$22.99. – PMH

Love Bites by Adrienne Barbeau

Scream Queen actress and producer Ovsanna Moore doesn't have the usual Hollywood leading lady concerns about aging on-screen – instead the four centuries old vampyre has to worry about someone realizing she isn't aging. *Love Bites* picks up about two weeks after the climax of *Vampyres of Hollywood*, with Ovsanna and her love interest, human Beverly Hills police detective and allies triumphing over Lilith, mother of the vampires. Now Christmas is approaching and Ovsanna and Peter are trying to navigate a new relationship, including introducing her to his folks, she's the victim of coordinated werewolf attacks and multiple requests by her "deceased" Hollywood vampyre kin to work with her at the studio; and he still needs an explanation of the last series of murders that the police force will accept. Good gory sexy fun! Thomas Dunne, \$24.99. – MeH

Maybe Next Time by Jennifer Crusie

Maybe Next Time is the Jennifer Crusie novel you've been waiting for. I Loved This Book! Cross Barbara Michaels (romance with a touch of magic) with Daphne du Maurier (boy have we got a nasty housekeeper), then add the Jennifer Crusie light touch of humor, along with some necessary sexual tension, and we've got a hilarious bump-in-the-night mystery. Andie Miller wants to get married again. But when her ex-husband North Archer asks for Andie's help, she agrees. He has become the guardian of two children living in a creepy, isolated old house with the worst housekeeper since Mrs. Danvers. Andie steps in to find out why nannies seem to be quitting at a very fast rate. When she arrives, she finds two exceptionally bright but troubled children. Could it be because of the ghosts? Does she need an exorcism or a medium to clear the air? Of course, we all know that what she really needs is to make up with her true love, North. But with all the comings and goings in this revolving door of a house, Andie will need to be fast on her feet if she wants to save the kids, settle down the ghosts, dump the housekeeper, get rid of the extra guests, and get back with her true love. St. Martin's Press, \$24.99. – LNT