

# THE PLOT THICKENS

mysterious  
galaxy

BOOKS OF MARTIANS, MURDER, MAGIC, MAYHEM & MORE

FROM YOUR PARTNERS IN CRIME AND IMAGINATION

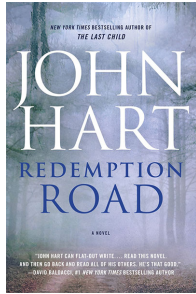
June 2016 • mystgalaxy.com

## Events

### John Hart

Signs *Redemption Road*  
Wednesday, June 1, 7:30 PM

John Hart is the author of four *New York Times* bestsellers and the only author in history to win a Best Novel Edgar Award for consecutive novels, *Down River* and *The Last Child*. His long-awaited latest title, *Redemption Road*, is another atmospheric thriller set in North Carolina. The story revolves around three main characters: a troubled detective under investigation for a brutal shooting, an ex-cop just released from prison, and a boy who wants to avenge the death of his mother. Throughout all of this, a serial killer lurks, kidnapping and torturing several women. *Redemption Road* is a chilling literary thriller, proving once again that John Hart is a master storyteller.



### Malachi Ward

Signs *From Now On*  
Friday, June 3, 7:30 PM

*Publishers Weekly's* review of Southern California comics creator Malachi Ward's collection, *From Now On*, notes, "Like Bradbury, Ward offers brief insights into worlds far away, both in distance and time. He clearly delights in dreaming up these distant places..." Malachi Ward is the creator of the Ritual series for Revival House Press, The Expansion series with Matt Sheean, The Scout, Utu, and Top Five, which is included in the 2013 edition of Houghton Mifflin's Best American Comics, edited by Jeff Smith. Spend the evening exploring speculative fiction through the medium of illustrated narrative.

### Roger Conlee

Launch Party for *Deep Water*  
Saturday, June 4, 2:00 PM

San Diego author Roger L. Conlee's written as a sportswriter, reporter, copy editor and columnist. Later he had a career in public relations and marketing before turning to writing historical novels. In *Deep Water*, Reporter Jake Weaver runs afoul of a multinational corporation and powerful banking interests trying to prove that they conspired to make illegal profits from the Nazis during World War II. Meanwhile, Weaver's friend, Marine Corps officer Kenny Nielsen, finds himself trapped in the middle of the Chinese civil war.

### Justin Cronin

Signs *The City of Mirrors*  
With Guest Host Scott Sigler  
Monday, June 6, 7:00 PM

"Justin Cronin's Passage trilogy is remarkable for the unremitting drive of its narrative, for the breathtaking sweep of its imagined future, and for the clear lucidity of its language. *The City of Mirrors* is a thrilling finale to a trilogy that will stand as one of the great achievements in American fantasy fiction." We aren't sure what we could add to Stephen King's praise to entice you to join us for Justin's event for *The City of Mirrors*, except maybe the extra enticement of guest host Scott Sigler. This is a numbered event – numbers for the signing line are available now with the purchase of *The City of Mirrors* from Mysterious Galaxy.



### Toni Gallagher

Signs *Love Potion #11*  
Saturday, June 11, at noon

Toni Gallagher is back with her latest book for tweens, *Twist My Charm: Love Potion #11*. Toni began her career in reality television as story editor on *The Real World* and *Road Rules*, and is currently an Executive Producer of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*. Toni's work "addresses concerns familiar to preteens about fitting in and friendships," according to *Kirkus Reviews*. We'll be talking school, friendship, love spells, and loads more!

**Nancy Cole Silverman, Janet Elizabeth Lynn, Will Zeilinger, Carole Sojka, and Connie di Marco**  
Sign *Without a Doubt, Strange Markings, Psychic Damage, and The Madness of Mercury*  
Saturday, June 11, 2:00 PM

It's an afternoon of murder mystery as our five Los Angeles writers and Sisters in Crime board members come prepared to discuss jewelry thefts, dead stuntmen, and psychics. Nancy Cole Silverman's television/radio background shapes her

murder mystery series featuring radio reporter, Carol Childs. Will Zeilinger and Janet Elizabeth Lynn are the husband and wife team behind the Skyler Drake Mysteries set in 1955 Hollywood. Carole Sojka, a world traveler and former Peace Corps volunteer, is signing her latest, *Psychic Damage*, which features deadly secrets, small town corruption, and murdered psychics. In Connie di Marco's first in her new series, *The Madness of Mercury*, San Francisco astrologer and newspaper columnist Julia Bonatti speaks out against a power-hungry preacher and must fight for her life and livelihood. *A Clue in the Stew*, the final entry in her Snowflake, Vermont, series written as Connie Archer, was released in April.

**Local Author Meet & Greet**  
Sunday, June 12, noon

Mysterious Galaxy offers another installment in our regular series of in-store events bringing in local authors — in our genres and beyond to mingle and hear about each author's work over some light refreshments. There will be a variety of genres and works to appeal to all ages, and subjects ranging from alternate steampunk romance to historical mysteries, from a collected web comic to coming of age tales to legal self-help tips. These fun gatherings are a great opportunity to meet new people and support our local authors. You might just be the first to support a future best-selling author of our time! Participants at press time include: Valerie Davisson, Napoleon Doom, Christopher Frank, Blake S. Lee, Sara Naheedy and Tom Scott, Lexi Ostrow, and Jonathan LaPoma.

### Flynn Barry

Signs *Under the Harrow*  
Wednesday, June 15, 12:30 PM

Join us for a special lunchtime event of mystery and suspense as we welcome Flynn Barry to the Galaxy. Flynn will be signing her debut novel, *Under the Harrow*. *Kirkus Reviews* praised the mystery: "Berry accomplishes the rare feat of making the victim come alive on the page without ever sacrificing the deep, all-encompassing loss felt by those left behind." Flynn is a graduate of the Michener Center for Writers and the recipient of a Yaddo residency. *Under the Harrow* was named to the June 2016 LibraryReads list.

Kim Keeline of Partners in Crime, the local Sisters in Crime Chapter, will present Mysterious Galaxy with a recognition from the national Sisters in Crime as the recipient of the organization's "We Love Bookstores" award in May. Sisters in Crime is made up of authors, readers, publishers, agents, booksellers, and librarians bound by affection for the mystery genre and support of women who write mysteries. All writers and readers attending the event will have the opportunity to enjoy a light lunch in celebration of the occasion.

### Cara Black, J.T. Ellison, and Heather Gudenkauf

Sign *Murder on the Quai, Field of Graves, and Missing Pieces*  
Thursday, June 16, 7:30 PM

Paris, France. Nashville, Tennessee. Penny Gate, Iowa. Join Cara Black, J.T. Ellison, and Heather Gudenkauf for an evening of international suspense. Mystery readers know Aimée Leduc — heroine of 15 mysteries in Cara's *New York Times* bestselling series — as a très chic, no-nonsense private investigator in Paris. In *Murder on the Quai*, Cara takes readers back in time to the late 1980s to reveal how Aimée first became a detective. Get a free "Shoes of Aimée Leduc" canvas tote bag when you pre-order *Murder on the Quai*, while supplies last!

In her Lt. Taylor Jackson romantic suspense prequel, *Field of Graves*, J.T. reveals the origins of her best-known characters as they race the clock — and their own demons — to find a depraved, apocalyptic killer before he claims another victim.

Heather's latest bestseller was a February Indie Next Pick: "Gudenkauf once again weaves her magic, drawing readers into her latest work. *Missing Pieces* is a story of dark family secrets that have multiplied over the years, eroding the trust and love between husbands and wives, siblings, parents, and children. Gudenkauf uses deliberate pacing, skillful character development, and even the old nursery rhyme 'Three Blind Mice' to bring this thriller to a perfect, stunning ending."

### Brad Meltzer and Tod Goldberg

Sign *The House of Secrets*  
Friday, June 17, 7:30 PM

It's the official tour of the conspiracy thriller, *The House of Secrets*, and we couldn't be more thrilled to welcome *New York Times* bestselling author, Brad Meltzer, and award-winning author and essayist, Tod Goldberg. When Hazel Nash wakes up in a hospital and remembers nothing, she's told she was in an accident that killed her father and injured her brother. The FBI comes around asking questions about her father, the host of America's favorite conspiracy TV

show, and his connection to a man found dead with an object in his chest, a priceless book that her father was obsessed with. The more Hazel uncovers the less she likes the person she seems to have been. This is a numbered event; numbers to the signing line are free with the purchase of *The House of Secrets* from Mysterious Galaxy.

**James W. Ziskin and Nadine Nettmann**  
Sign *Heart of Stone* and *Decanting a Murder*  
Saturday, June 18, 2:00 PM

James Ziskin has been nominated for the Anthony, the Lefty, and the Barry Award for his 1960s upstate New York mystery series featuring investigative reporter, Ellie Stone. The fourth title, *Heart of Stone*, opens with Ellie summering in the Adirondacks. The local police chief asks Ellie to photograph two men who plummeted to their deaths off Baxter Rock. He deems it a tragic accident but Ellie has her own suspicions. Sarah has praise to share. See her review on the back page.

Fellow LA author Nadine Nettmann ghost writes weekly and monthly travel articles, as well as articles under her own name. Nadine, a Certified Sommelier through the Court of Master Sommeliers, is always on the lookout for great wines and the stories behind them, and has visited wine regions around the. Her debut mystery, *Decanting a Murder*, begins with the discovery of a body in a Napa Valley vineyard.

### Janet Evanovich and Lee Goldberg

Sign *The Pursuit*  
Tuesday, June 21, 6:00 PM

Bestselling author Janet Evanovich and two-time Edgar Award-nominated author and television producer Lee Goldberg are back with *The Pursuit*, the third novel in the *New York Times*-bestselling Fox and O'Hare series. Janet is the bestselling author of the Stephanie Plum novels, a winner of the New Jersey Romance Writers Golden Leaf Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the *Romantic Times*. Lee is the author of numerous books, including *The Walk, Watch Me Die*, and the bestselling series of Monk original mystery novels.

This is a numbered event – numbers for the signing line are free with the purchase of *The Pursuit* from Mysterious Galaxy. Books and tickets will be available for pick-up on Tuesday, June 21, starting at 10 AM!

### Clarion Instructor Kelly Link

Discussing *Get in Trouble*  
Wednesday, June 22, 7:30 PM.

Established in 1968, the Clarion Writers' Workshop is the oldest workshop of its kind and is widely recognized as a premier proving and training ground for aspiring writers of fantasy and science fiction. As we do each summer, we will be hosting many of the visiting instructors at MGS. Instructor Kelly Link's collection, *Get in Trouble*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize - named one of the ten best fiction books of the year by *Time*, and one of the best books of the year by Bookpage, Buzzfeed, *Chicago Tribune*, *Kirkus Reviews*, NPR, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and more.

### Brenda Cooper

Signing *Spear of Light*  
Thursday, June 23, 7:30 PM

Brenda Cooper is a working futurist and a technology professional with a passionate interest in the environment. Last spring, she introduced the Glittering Edge duology that describes what happens when an advanced society that has filled a solar system with flesh and blood life meets the near-AI's that it banished long ago. What if a society banished its worst nightmare to the far edge of the solar system, destined to sip only dregs of light and struggle for the barest living — and yet, that life thrived? It grew and learned and became far more than you ever expected, and it wanted to return to the sun. What if it didn't share your moral compass in any way? The exploration of what makes us human concludes in *Spear of Light*.

### Christine Carbo

Signing *Mortal Fall*  
Friday, June 24, 7:30 PM

It's a night of wildlife and wilder suspense as we welcome Christine Carbo signing her latest, *Mortal Fall*. Set in Montana's Glacier National Park, Christine's latest novel follows a wildlife biologist's shocking death, leading to chilling discoveries about a home for troubled teens. *Mortal Fall* is the follow up to Christine's debut, *The Wild Inside*, also set in Glacier National Park. A resident of nearby Whitefish, Montana, Christine has earned a pilot's license, adventured in Norway, worked a brief stint as a flight attendant, and taught college-level writing and Pilates.

**Aditi Khorana**

Signing *Mirror in the Sky*  
**Saturday, June 25, 2:00 PM**

LA YA debut novelist Aditi Khorana spent part of her childhood in India, Denmark and New England. She has worked as a journalist at ABC News, CNN, and PBS, and most recently as a marketing executive consulting for various Hollywood studios including FOX, Paramount and SONY. When a planet with close echoes to Earth is discovered, complete with inhabitants who are close facsimiles of our own, teen Tara is given a fascinating opportunity to explore the “what ifs” of making other life choices in *The Mirror in the Sky*.

**Paul Krueger**

Signing *Last Call at the Nightshade Lounge*  
**Saturday, June 25, 6:00 PM**

Join us for a special Saturday evening of adult beverage sampling, possibly with demons, when we welcome LA author Paul Krueger. Paul’s short fiction has appeared in the anthologies *Sword & Laser* and *Noir Riot*. His debut novel, *Last Call at the Nightshade Lounge*, is about a secret society of bartenders who fight demons with alcohol-magic. Paul’s non-writing hobbies include cooking, playing ukulele, Pathfinder, and boring strangers with long, involved stories about his cat. He’s also a musician, singing lead for the *Adventure Time*-themed punk band Lemonbadd.

**Brian Keene**

Signing *Pressure*  
**With Special Guests Kasey Lansdale and Jonathan Maberry**  
**Sunday, June 26, 2:00 PM**

Renaissance man Brian Keene has won numerous literary awards and honors, including the World Horror Grandmaster Award, multiple Bram Stoker awards, and Honors from United States Army International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan and Whiteman A.F.B. (home of the B-2 Stealth Bomber) 509th Logistics Fuels Flight. Brian, who has spoken

at conventions, college campuses, theaters, and inside Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Langley, VA, will speak to readers at MG, along with guest author and musician Kasey Lansdale and guest host Jonathan Maberry. Brian’s works include comics, numerous stand-alone novels, the Earthworm Gods series, and works of non-fiction. *Pressure*, his latest thriller, pits adventurers against an ancient horror from the ocean’s depths, awakened by an eco-crisis.

**Kiersten White** with guest host **Marie Lu**  
**Launch Party for *And I Darken***  
**Tuesday, June 28, 6:00 PM**

It’s a launch party! New York Times bestselling YA author, Kiersten White of the Paranormalcy trilogy and *Illusions of Fate*, is releasing a brand new series, the *Darken* trilogy. The first title, *And I Darken*, takes place in 1435 Transylvania and centers around Lady Dragwyla, the daughter of Vlad Dracula. She’s a deposed princess who waits for her chance to escape Ottoman court and reclaim her birthright, the throne of Wallachia. This gender-bending historical re-imagining of the story of Vlad the Impaler will thrill new and old Kiersten fans alike with the sequel not coming out soon enough.

Come help us celebrate, along with guest host Marie Lu. Marie’s latest release is *The Rose Society*, and she can offer readers some insights into her forthcoming works, including the conclusion of the Young Elites series, *The Midnight Star*; her next original novel, *Warcross*; and her venture into the DC Comics universe with her Batman novel.

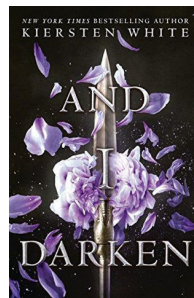
**Clarion Instructor Ted Chiang**

Discussing *Stories of Your Life and Others*

**Adam Rakunas**

Signing *Like a Boss*  
**Taco Party!: Wednesday, June 29, 7:30 PM.**

io9 commented, “A linguist and a theoretical physicist are the stars of the latest movie from the director of *Sicario* and the



upcoming *Blade Runner 2*. The movie is *Story of Your Life*, based on the short story by Ted Chiang, and this Amy Adams/Jeremy Renner movie looks awesome.”

Ted will be joined by Adam Rakunas, whose *Like a Boss* returns readers to the world of *Windswept*, last year’s Philip K. Dick nominated-title. Padma Mehta has realized her dream of owning a rum distillery, and believes she has retired from her labor organizer duties – until her nemesis is released from prison, and forms a cult. Thanks to the generosity of Adam’s publisher, Angry Robot, readers will also be treated to tacos from Taco Surf and beer from a local distillery.

**Richard Kadrey**

Signs *Perdition Score*  
**Thursday, June 30, 7:30 PM**

*New York Times*-bestselling author Richard Kadrey is back with *The Perdition Score*. The San Francisco-based writer is the author of the Sandman Slim fantasy series, dozens of stories, and the novels *The Everything Box*, *Metrophage*, *Dead Set*, *Killing Pretty*, *Butcher Bird* and the Vertigo comics mini-series *ACCELERATE*, illustrated by the Pander Brothers. He has written and spoken about art, culture and technology for *Wired*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Discovery Online*, *The Site*, *SXSW* and *Wired For Sex* on the G4 cable network. According to his website, Richard has no qualifications for anything he does – but we’ll talk with him about all things fantasy, comics, and his immortalization as an action figure anyway!

**Looking Ahead:**

Sarah Kuhn – July 5; Amber Benson – July 5; Mira Grant – July 5; Seanan McGuire – July 5; Andy Duncan – July 6; Kara Platoni – July 8; Jane Haseldine – July 9; Megan Miranda – July 11; Darcy Woods – July 12; Marisa Reichardt – July 12; Victor LaValle – July 13; David Levine – July 15; Lisa Brackmann – July 17; Martin Limón – July 17; Alex Segura – July 25; Sherrilyn Kenyon – July 25; Clarion Instructors Delia Sherman and Ellen Kushner – July 27; *Harry Potter & the Cursed Child* midnight party – July 30 ... and more as summer heats up!



Speculative Fiction

**Hex by Thomas Olde Heuvelt**

The residents of Black Spring can never leave their town because of Katherine Von Wyler, a 300 year old witch who has her mouth and eyes sewed shut. Katherine walks silently through the town’s streets and appears in residents’ homes at random times, including when they eat dinner, watch television or sleep. The town’s populace both fear and respect her because of her power — those who leave town slowly contemplate suicide and eventually take their own life. However, the witch isn’t the only threat in Black Spring. Like all good horror/thriller stories, the horror of *Hex* lies in its ability to expose the extremes of individual and group behavior. Even kind and smart people are susceptible to groupthink and bloodlust. *Hex* feels very fresh and original, with truly shocking and unsettling moments that will stay with you well beyond the last page. – Jared  
**Tor Books, \$25.99.**

Mystery

**Before the Fall by Noah Hawley**

Right from the start of Hawley’s page turner, you know you are reading something extraordinary. The characters are beautifully drawn, the story is tight and compelling, and you will have a hard time putting down this sure-to-be-a-hit thriller.

Scott Burroughs is a painter who is just starting to make a “splash” in the art world when he accepts a ride on a private plane from Martha’s Vineyard to Manhattan. Also on the plane are business man, media mogul, and millionaire David Bateman, his wife, and two children, Rachel, age nine, and JJ, age four. Completing the passenger list is Bill Cunningham, a stock broker who may be in trouble with the SEC, and his wife, Sarah. Fifteen minutes into the flight, the plane crashes into the ocean. Scott and JJ are the only survivors.

Scott manages to swim himself and the young boy to safety, only to find themselves (and the incident) under intense media

**FROM OUR STAFF**

scrutiny. Much of the novel is the back story of each passenger on the plane, building a link between the present and what actually happened in the minutes before the plane crash. *Before the Fall* combines the investigation into the accident and the relationship between Scott and JJ to create a compelling drama in the midst of a media circus. Noah Hawley is an Emmy, Golden Globe, PEN, and Peabody Award-winning author, screen writer, and producer and this debut thriller is sure to be another winner. –Terry

**A Fantastic First Pick. Grand Central Publishing, \$26.00.**

**Heart of Stone by James W. Ziskin**

The fourth installment to this mystery series featuring investigative reporter Ellie Stone may be my favorite yet. Set in 1961 Adirondacks, it opens with the chief of police, Tiny Terwilliger, asking Ellie to take photos of two men who have plummeted to their deaths off Baxter Rock. Their deaths are deemed accidental. Meanwhile, Ellie runs into childhood friends at nearby Arcadia Lodge and is drawn to their nights of wine and music, although she’s drawn to charming Isaac the most. The more she learns about this group of left-wing Jewish intellectuals, the more suspicious she becomes, especially when she discovers one of the dead bodies is a former friend of theirs. Ellie tries not to let her feelings for Isaac cloud her judgment as she wades through long-buried secrets, religious fanatics, and Cold War ideology. This whirlwind romance brings out a softer side to the typically tough protagonist which I found endearing and real. – Sarah

**Seventh Street Books trade paper original, \$15.95.**

**Old-Fashioned Murder: Moonshine Mystery #3 by Carol Miller**

Aunt Emily’s inn is about to host a weekend house party for a few friends and neighbors to celebrate remodeled rooms and new furniture. Unstable antique furniture, unwanted guests, a raging blizzard, and a body turn the pleasant weekend into a locked room mystery with moonshine and southern hospitality

to lighten the tragedy. Daisy McGovern, one of the inn’s longtime residents, has too many suspects, too many questions, and very few allies in the search for a possible killer. Rick and Beulah are stranded at a local bar. The recently hired maid is in hiding. The obnoxious husband and wife that are paying guests would love to buy the inn. In the midst of the blizzard, a stranger shows up. Both Daisy and Aunt Emily classify the new man as a fake. Unfortunately, they can’t classify him as a murderer as he found the body seconds after he arrived. As the storm rages and the lights go out, another body presents itself. Join familiar characters as this traditional, stranded with no help, mystery plays out. The tension ratchets up along with the stakes. No one will see the ending coming. This delightful book staggered and leaped in directions I never expected. And I desperately want the next installment as the last page left me stunned. – Guest Reviewer Sandra Hale

**Minotaur Books, \$25.99.**



Be the first to know about the next fabulous book in your favorite genre. Join our Fantastic Firsts Book Clubs. These are our June Fantastic Firsts picks:

**Speculative Fiction:** *Smoke* by Dan Vyleta

**Mystery:** *Before the Fall* by Noah Hawley

**Young Adult:** *The Crown’s Game* by Evelyn Skye

**Ladies Lunch & Literacy:** *Dear Fang, With Love* by Rufi Thorpe

**Cozy Mystery** (paperback original): *Eclair and Present Danger* by Bradford, Laura

**Speculative Fiction** (paperback original): *Last Call at the Nightshade Lounge* by Paul Krueger

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