



Photo Credits: Sara Moni and photographers listed on photo

## Sara Moni: Outstanding Young Arizona Cosplayer

Interviewed by Michael Bradley

MB: Today our interview is with Sara Moni, an outstanding young cosplayer. How long have you been into cosplay now, and what got you started?

SM: I started really cosplaying in 2010, but I was making costumes and T-shirts before that. I've always liked superheroes and sci-fi, and I love dressing up in costumes. It was inevitable.

MB: What are some of your favorite characters to cosplay?

SM: I play so many that I love, but if I had to name two favorites, it would be Wasp and Sailor Pluto.

MB: Do your cosplay choices match those you read and watch, or are there some differences?

SM: Every character I cosplay I am a fan of, or the

series that they came from. I never pick costumes just based on how they look. Every time I dress up it's as a fan.

MB: I know you started as a Marvel girl. Are you all Marvel, or you like them all now?

SM: I love Batman like everybody else LOL, but I just find that Marvel has more intriguing characters that I like and identify with. I'm starting to read more DC now though. I also like some Image and Dark Horse comics.

MB: How many cons and events/photo shoots are you doing per year?

SM: About ten or so cons and even more shoots!

MB: What are some of your favorite events or locations?

Continued on Page 2

## AZ FILM MAKER SHOWCASES COME ALIVE!

by Hal C. Astell

One of the most frustrating problems inherent in following local film is how hard it often is to actually see the movies made here. Sure, many shorts are online at Vimeo or YouTube, if you know where to look, but not all and what about the big screen?

Well, for quite some time there have been three types of opportunity to see these films:

### 1. Local Film Challenges

These are competitions for local filmmakers. A3F (the Almost Famous Film Festival) hosts a 48-hour film challenge every year and the top 20 submissions are screened for the public; this year



Photo Credits: Dee Astell and the respective film locations.

at the AMC Arizona Center 24 Theatres. Occasionally A3F runs other challenges too. IFP Phoenix also runs three challenges each year with submissions usually screened for the public at the Phoenix Art Museum. There's even a local film challenge run at Phoenix ComiCon.

### 2. Film Festivals

Most Arizona film festivals, from the smallest to the largest, tend to screen a number of local films, both shorts and features. There are usually two selections of local shorts at the Phoenix Film Festival and smaller events like

Continued on Page 5

## AMAZING COMICON WITH JIMMY JAY - JAY COMPANY COMICS

Interviewed by Song River



Photo credits: Cowgirl Zen Photography

Song River: Jimmy, thank you for taking time to chat a bit with me today about the Comic Con industry, and your part in creating an organically charged enterprise. For those who may not be familiar with your background share with us a little bit about your beginnings and how they've come together to create Amazing Comic Con.

Jimmy Jay: Song, I really appreciate being invited to talk about the AMAZING COMIC CON, and our events in LAS VEGAS, HOUSTON, and of course Arizona too. Here's a bit of background- I have been a hardcore comic fan since the age of 12. My mom walked me up to the front doors of the 1986 San Diego Comic Con, gave me a \$20 bill and told me to make it last. Well, it's nearly 30 years since, and I'm still trying to make every

bit of it as fun and exciting!

Twenty years ago, I started JayCompanyComics.com, along with my brother Bill and our mom. We grew our family retail business to the largest convention dealership of modern age comics in the North American comic con circuit. Along the way we have worked with a number of talented creators and publishers on exclusive covers and collectibles, and I even published a line of books under the ARCADE COMICS imprint. It was here that I worked with folks like Rob Liefeld, Mark Millar, and Robert Kirkman.

Basically, what we did was, we took all these various aspects of our multiple jobs in the comics industry, and 4 years ago we started our own "Brand" of Comic Conventions. This was the very origin of the Amazing Comic Con. Our first event was in Mesa, Arizona, and it was a huge success. The enthusiasm led us to move AMAZING ARIZONA COMIC CON to the Phoenix Convention Center, located in downtown Phoenix. Since that time, we have created annual events at the AMAZING LAS VEGAS COMIC CON in June, and will be launching the AMAZING HOUSTON COMIC CON later this year.

Along the way we've launched the very first Image Comic Expo in Northern California, and have been hired as show runners to other events.

Song: How tough is the comic con industry?

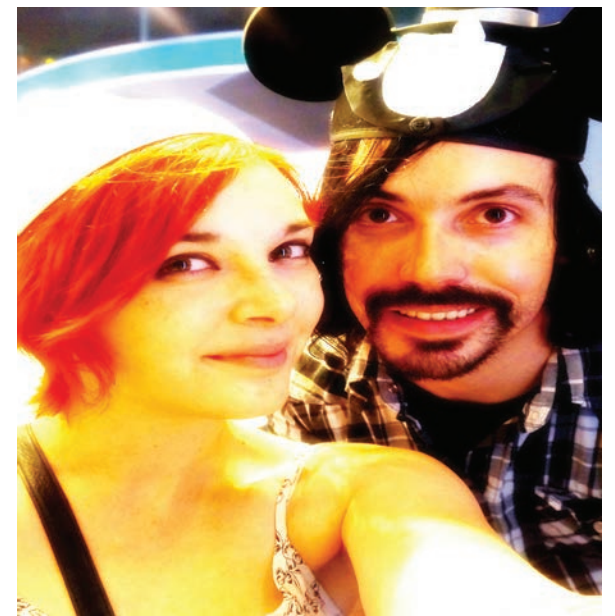
Jimmy: The Comic Convention industry is extremely tough, but on the other hand it is highly rewarding. Even though internet reports

Continued on Page 3

## Local Artist, Shelby Robertson:

### Setting the Standard

by Song River



An interview with Shelby Robertson owner of American Dischord talk's about the industry, and his latest venture '94.

Song River: Shelby you are the epitome of a road warrior in this gilded age of Comic Illustrator/Writer. Working in an industry on various levels for the last twenty years share a little about your beginnings in the industry.

Shelby Robertson: My beginnings as a comic book illustrator started at the age of 17. I do consider myself to have been a 30 year old mentally by that point due to a straining childhood, so really can't say that my 17 would be an identifiable one with any other teenager per'se. I was already a professional CAD illustrator for a local Blimp company assisting in designs on

Continued on Page 11



SM: Phoenix will always be number one!

MB: Do you make all your outfits and make-up or do you have some preferred helpers?

SM: Yes I make it all, unless otherwise specified as a collaboration, and I do all my own make-up as well.

MB: You have a very exotic look. Does it help that you can pull off so many different looks?

SM: Absolutely. It helps being able to pull off whatever I need. It's nice being a ringer for a character, but it's in even more fun challenge to tackle something that is totally different, like my female frost giant.

MB: What are some of your best cosplay moments?

SM: There are so many. My most recent was in Salt Lake City where a girl with autism said that I inspired her to cosplay. It almost made me cry!

MB: Do you cosplay just for fun, or do you have a store and blog site we can plug for you?

SM: I definitely think you can do both as long as the fun dominates. My prints are at [saramoni.storenvy.com](http://saramoni.storenvy.com) and all of the proceeds from that go right back into my costumes. You can also find me on Facebook at Sara Moni Cosplay.

MB: I see you have worked with charities. Do you have a particular memorable experience from helping others?

SM: I am an active member of the

Arizona Avengers and when we have events for foster children or sick children there is nothing that can top seeing them smile.

MB: How safe do you feel at cons now? Is it safe to walk from parking lots in costume? Are the bigger crowds bringing out "touchy" people who break barriers they shouldn't?

SM: I feel very safe. I don't put myself in sketchy situations in or out of costume. I always walk in a group and I do carry physical deterrents with me! Ha that's the nice way of putting it.

MB: What advice do you have for people starting out?

SM: Always remember why you started and don't forget. When it stops being fun, it's time to stop.

MB: Who would you like to give a shout out for being someone who helped you get started and friends you look forward to seeing at cons?

SM: So many! The Arizona Avengers of course - my friends from high school that were cosplayers and any new people I meet that share the same fandoms that I do!

MB: Any upcoming projects or events we can see you at?

SM: On Free Comic Book Day I will be at Drawn to Comics - and I am scheduled for several upcoming conventions.

MB: I saw a tweet from Nathon Fillion (Captain Malcom "Mal" Reynolds from Firefly) commending

you on your cosplay of Inara Serra, his love interest on the show, was that an awesome moment? Are you planning to get a photo with him at Phoenix Comic Con?

SM: It's still surreal and I'll still get twitter alerts from it now! I saw him at FanX but wasn't able to talk to him. Hopefully at Phoenix I will!

NOTE: Blog link to Inara Serra cosplay article on Sara Moni - [http://www.bloglovin.com/viewer?post=2559828447&group=0&frame\\_](http://www.bloglovin.com/viewer?post=2559828447&group=0&frame_)

WOD



## The WOD News Staff

Managing Editor: PJ Hultstrand

Business Manager & Web Administrator: Donald Jacques

Columnists: Michael Bradley, Sean Ellis, Hal C F Astell, Cara Nicole, Alfred Trujillo, Joseph Nieves

Book Reviewers: Normalene Zeeman, Michael Bradley, J.J.M Czep, Ron C. Tobin

Staff Writers: Michael D'Ambrosio, KB Shaw, Michael Brachman, Amanda Oviatt, Michael Fett

Photography: Song River, Dee Astell, Chet Shupe, Michael Fett, Donald Jacques

Layout & Design: Patti Hultstrand

The WOD Newspaper is a for-profit newspaper and webzine for Fan's of literature, art, music, and video who attend Fan-Conventions. The newspaper is published in Arizona and distributed to fans in the southwestern states of the US: AZ, CA, NV, and UT. We also distribute to selected locations in Washington, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Circulation is estimated at 7,000+ based on the numbers we were getting from a previous publication and the fact we also have a website to offer readers; [thewod.net](http://thewod.net).

Subscriptions: Cost for a 12 issue mailing subscription is: USA: \$24. Amazon eZine subscriptions will be \$12. a year. Corporate subscriptions are available, please email us for rates.

Copyright: Articles, fiction, photos and artwork in this issue are copyright © of the author/artist and cannot be reproduced in any manner without their written consent. If no author or artist is credited, the artwork or article is copyright © of the Wiz Kidz, International.

The WOD Newspaper (ISSN: Pending) is published 12 times a year by WOD Media, P.O. Box 1609, Mesa, AZ 85211-1609.

VOLUME 2, ISSUE NUMBER 2  
SUBSCRIPTION: \$24 for 12 ISSUES

Newspaper Advertising: The WOD reaches pop culture fans in all areas of science fiction, fantasy, gaming and horror throughout the greater southwest states. Our ad rates are: \$300/Back cover, \$125/ full page; \$75/half page; \$50/ one-fourth page; \$25/ one-eighth page; \$15/one-sixteenth page. Discount for cash or check payments.

Payments accepted through PayPal. More information can be obtained by checking website; [www.thewod.net](http://www.thewod.net) OR contacting

Advertising at  
Email: [editor@thewod.net](mailto:editor@thewod.net)

Submission Info: Writers and artists are encouraged to submit work for publication. While we cannot pay you for your efforts your work will be seen by fans across the Southwest and the country. You will retain the copyright to your work for future publication. To submit your work or for more information please write to: the WOD Magazine 6020 N. 77 Place, Scottsdale, AZ 85250 or contact us via Email at [editor@thewod.net](mailto:editor@thewod.net)

Disclaimer: Acceptance of advertising or listing in club or convention notices or FYI does not imply formal approval or ownership of those events or clubs. Wiz Kidz, International does not warrant or authorize any club or event not held by Wiz Kidz, International.

Unless otherwise noted near the artwork or pictures used in this publication, the artwork is property of Patti Hultstrand, through Az Publishing Services, LLC.

## The DREAD Fleet is now seeking new members who are experienced combat fencers.

We have weekly fighter practice, occasional Fleet sponsored feast/tournaments, private "miniments" on practice days and we participate in tournaments sponsored by Arizona medieval groups.

Our fencing master will determine your abilities and qualify you.

Or, if you have always wanted to learn to rapier fence, this is your chance! Our fencing master will teach you everything you will need to know to become a competent addition to the Fleet!

Either way, email us at [info@thedreadfleet.com](mailto:info@thedreadfleet.com).

Leave your information and we will be in touch with you!

Please visit us at [www.thedreadfleet.com](http://www.thedreadfleet.com)





state at length that there is a massive increase in comic con culture and the proliferation of fan driven events, we decided that chasing trends was not what our brand was about. I see many events pop up that attempt to book nostalgia actors, wrestlers, bay watch models, and dub their events as a “comic con.”

So, instead of chasing trends, at Amazing Comic Conventions we wanted to return to the concept of a COMIC CON back to its roots. We want our events to be about the CREATORS. These are the architects of pop culture, and I think they should be the highlight of our events, not a footnote.

In addition, while I outlined some of the challenges of navigating through trends, it is extremely rewarding working with creators that you admire, and to ultimately share your love with 20,000- 30,000 plus fans!

*Song: The word ‘organic’ has been a word I’ve heard used to describe Amazing Comic Con. Is it a system that you’ve tried to build that fits together in a certain pattern or order?*

Jimmy: It’s interesting that you use the word organic to describe the Amazing Comic Con events- we have a very simple philosophy to showcase-creators and comics first and foremost. This applies to our biggest headline talent, to the featured guests, and should also be an attraction for the indie, pro/am artists who populate the artist alley.

Amazing Comic Conventions START with the creators and the comics, our events are all encompassing- there is something for everyone here at our shows. For example, at last year’s AMAZING LAS VEGAS COMIC CON, our event launched in June, the same weekend as the “Man of Steel” movie was released in multiplex. Our top guest was world famous artist Jim Lee, who was releasing the Superman Unchained #1 that same week. We try to create a synergy of pop culture- blending a major film release, with a super star creator, with the biggest comic of the year launching. We have utilized a similar approach when the Deadpool video game was released, promoting Deadpool creator Rob Liefeld. Of course this is our approach when we have promoted events with Robert Kirkman, the creator of Walking Dead comic book and executive producer of the hit AMC TV series, as well.

To this extent, everything begins with comics and those who make them, and of course it returns there too. This cycle is most certainly organic.

*Song: Is the concept of organic a difficult idea to take hold of and keep?*

Jimmy: This organic approach to Pop Culture and Amazing Comic Conventions is far from difficult for us in that it has been our goal and sensibilities from the very start of our convention planning. I think you



will be able to see this approach absolutely with the AMAZING LAS VEGAS COMIC CON, June 20-21-22 at the South Point. This event is in prime time summer blockbuster season. It is positioned on the calendar immediately after the Marvel Captain America movie in the spring, and placed between the X-Men movie, and the Guardians of the Galaxy.

For these reasons you will see the guest list for the Amazing Las Vegas Comic Con filled with the best selling Captain America artists such as Rob Liefeld and Steve Epting; X-Men creators such as Wolverine creators Len Wein and Herb Trimpe and fan favorite Adam Kubert. In addition, you will also see a ton of the classic Marvel Cosmic creators like headliners: George Perez, Jim Valentino, Andy Lanning, Gerry Duggan, and more.

*Song: How do you work at trying to transmit this way of working with others to your staff and as well to your fans?*



Jimmy: Another goal of Amazing Comic Conventions is that our staff is highly accessible to the fans, vendors, and guests on the show floor. We are super hands on with our approach and quite literally roll up our sleeves. Whether this is from greeting each fan with a smile as they walk through the doors, or making sure we are available to solve any issues or questions that may arise.

I believe our fans, guests, and vendors see how much we truly love the spirit of the event. We make it a point for our entire staff and myself included, to be on the front lines and accessible the entire convention weekend. We are certainly all in this together, celebrating comics and pop culture!

As part of this accessibility, we integrate ourselves in the communities which we have our events. Our approach is not like the circus where we pitch a tent, do our high wire act, and then get on the road; but instead be visible and active all year around. We want to meet and hang out with locals at pre-convention get meet-ups; such as Drink & Draw bar nights, or during the shows with our Pint & Print After Parties, Bowling Nights, and more.

We also can be reached through social media on our twitter page @AmazingComicCon or on Facebook as well.

The bottom line is that we are far from a faceless organization- we are accessible, and want to address all feedback in a real time matter, as real people. We want AMAZING COMIC CONVENTIONS to be about sharing and celebrating our passions and fandoms. I’m so very grateful to everyone who comes out and spends their weekends with us!

*Song: There are numerous comic cons nationwide year around- some gauge their shows to a particular genre, while others contain so much that it would take a five day Disney pass just to make it through half of the events. Where does Amazing fit in on size?*

Jimmy: I think the AMAZING COMIC CONVENTIONS are sized accordingly. Our events in Las Vegas, Arizona, and soon to be Houston are very much like the early San Diego Comic Cons we attended as teenagers. We try to pack enough guests and fun activities to run the entire 3-day weekend. We had great success expanding our programming tracks, and the number of featured creators to ensure this. On the flip side, I think our events are intimate enough where you can have conversations with the talented folks who headline the marquee,



and not feel like you are waiting in line after line at a cattle call.

For a fan you can spend time relaxing and enjoying our three day events. Whether you’re hunting through sizable and diverse vendor halls, getting your books signed, discovering new talent in the artist alley, checking out some interactive panels, chatting with your favorite creators, or enjoying one of our after hours events.... I think you get the point!

*Song: How do you market to each comic con location?*

Jimmy: We try to bring our core values of Creators and Comics to launch our shows. We can assure this in Las Vegas, Houston, and Arizona. From there, the show may take certain turns depending on the individual communities and local flavors. We don’t believe in a cookie cutter one size fits all approach that other companies may employ. Each community express their fandoms uniquely.

To use an example-

COSPLAY is huge in Phoenix, with its year around weather and rich history of conventions, so we gladly have increased events each year to mirror this at the Amazing Arizona Comic Con. We were unsure of the extent and level of CosPlay going into our first year in Las Vegas, and was pleasantly surprised with the great craftsmanship at our opening show. This year we are ramping up activities such as Prop building and more for this location too, expanding on this demand.

As well, because Amazing Las Vegas Comic Con is in the heart of Summer convention season, we will be introducing more- BREAKING INTO COMICS- type of programming, with Andy Schmidt and our partners at Comics Experience. In this case, the timing of our event, will shape some of the panels and scheduling.

We will gauge the response on these workshops, and see if this is viable and transferable in the other markets.

Houston will be interesting because it is more of a blank slate, so we will see what the convention community .

*Song: When Amazing Comic Con began, why was Arizona chosen first? Was the logical progression to Vegas from there, and then tell us your decision about Amazing Houston Comic Con over labor day weekend?*

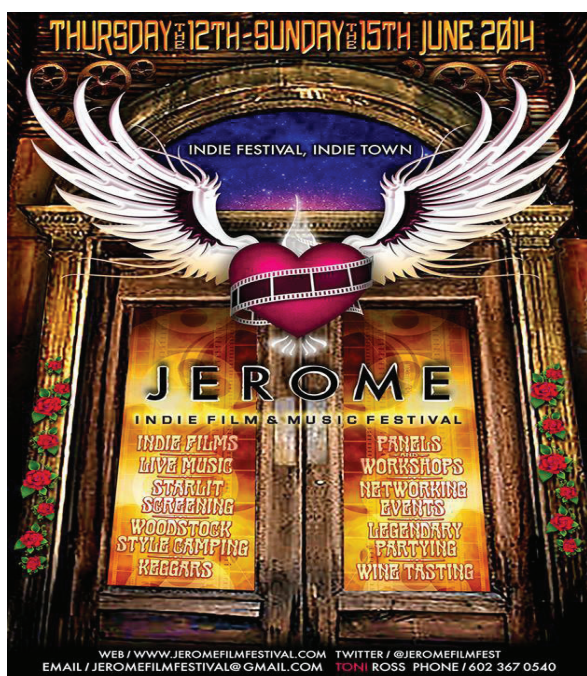
Jimmy: AMAZING ARIZONA COMIC CON was our first event. While we had a background into a number of areas in the comic industry with a strong Rolodex, we saw a need for a convention early part of the year- there was a dearth of such events on the calendar. The selection of Arizona was simple in that we retailed at local Phoenix shows from the very start of our company. One of the first conventions we traveled to was a CHAOS FAN FEST, which oddly enough was the first out of state convention of the late, great Michael Turner. We went to the various incarnations of Phoenix Con with the Cactus Cons in Mesa, and even booked their talent for several years. Arizona was just a natural progression.

*Interview with Jimmy Jay continued on page 15*

# Return to the Mile High City: Year Two Jerome Indie Film and Music Festival

by Hal C. Astell

Photo credits: Dee Astell



When I wrote my preview of the inaugural Jerome Indie Film & Music Festival for The WOD last year, I'd never been to Jerome. I'd seen pictures, I'd heard reports from friends and family, and I'd read the descriptions on the festival website, but I'd never driven a mile up into the mountains to see the place for myself.

Of course, I attended the event and fell in love with the place, just as festival founder, Toni Ross, did at the age of six, a lifelong love that ensured that when she decided to set up her own arts festival to showcase both film and music, there was only ever one location in her mind to host it in.

Put simply, the descriptions of the town don't do it justice, however purple the prose. While I grew up in the Pennines of Yorkshire, the hilly north of England where you'll have a hard time finding a straight line in nature, I've spent a decade in the terminally flat Phoenix metropolitan area, which is so afraid of the idea of up and down that it's almost entirely done away with stairs.

It's depressing to realize that I'd almost forgotten what contours are and what landscapes can be like. If anything, the mountains that surround us like sleeping dragons should be a



constant reminder that it's merely here that sucks and we have only to take one of those roads out of the valley to see what Mother Nature can really do. Phoenix may be the most boring city in the USA, but Arizona is a gorgeous and diverse state.

Jerome is the antithesis of Phoenix, a town where people get vertigo looking out of their windows. It's 'America's most vertical city' literally a mile up in the Black Hills of northern Arizona. Its hodgepodge of individual buildings are nestled into the sides of a mountain and threaten to fall back out again. The roads can be a little scary to long term Phoenicians but the payoff is a doozy. And that translates well to what Ross set up for last year's festival.

There were many moments that stand out in my memory that aren't remotely reproducible at other events. They will remain Jerome moments, however much others may want to buy into the

atmosphere. One in particular provides a perfect example of what only Jerome can do.

On the Saturday night, we watched *Speak No Evil*, a new 2013 horror feature from director Roze. It was a decent, if flawed, movie that would provide entertainment under any circumstances, especially with the sort of creepy children that send shivers up most people's spines. However, the ambience of the location gave it a life of its own and had filmgoers a few seats over literally jumping out of them as they pleaded with certain characters not to do what they were surely about to do.

You see, we didn't watch *Speak No Evil* in a multiplex, with air conditioning, comfy chairs and THX sound. We watched it in a parking lot, of all places, out in the open above the town of Jerome. The chairs weren't great but nobody cared. It was night, so lit only by the stars and heated only by the Arizona summer, meaning that all we could see beyond the film itself and the packed crowd watching it was the frickin' disused and haunted mine right next to us. It had to be haunted, right?

When Ross describes her event by saying, 'Imagine that Woodstock and Sundance had a love child and Alfred Hitchcock and Scooby Doo were the grandparents,' this is precisely what she's talking about. I expected some janitor to come wandering up from the mine and complain about those pesky kids, right before Hitch lopped off his head in some neat twist or other. It's just that sort of place.



And that's the sort of experience that Jerome provides. You just can't get that anywhere else. The Film Fort, the hub of the festival, was in a collapsed building. We partied in a wine cellar and in the streets, which were owned during the festival by a fearsomely cool dude on a very loud trike, ferrying people around. We ate at the Haunted Hamburger and talked with the locals. We watched movies on school chairs in Spook Hall and on couches upstairs from the town's fire station.

We even got to see a movie that nobody even knew existed. How frickin' cool is that? Early Sunday morning, which meant that many attendees missed it because they were driving back to Phoenix or just having trouble getting out of bed after a solid Saturday night's partying, Ron Nix, stuntman and builder of many western town sets, presented a feature he shot in 1980, which premiered in a theatre a year later and then was sat on for over three decades.

It was called *Hell for a Bounty Hunter* and you won't find it anywhere: not on IMDb, not on DVD and not online. Shot at Cowtown, one of the western towns Nix built and operated. It's a sort of southwest spaghetti western and it played very well indeed. The few of us there, such as my wife and I and Paul Vernon, an English filmmaker and western film nut, in Arizona to scout for locations, yakked it up for so long with Nix after the screening that we missed most of the award ceremony and we didn't care.

The first year for the Jerome Indie Film & Music Festival was in 2013, and there were certainly teething troubles. While some things ran blissfully smooth, others were rather rough, but the atmosphere of the town and the quintessentially independent

feeling of the event trumped every negative point. It was almost as if things should go wrong, because they just add to the character. This festival kept it so real that the people who showed up and bought tickets may have started only as filmgoers but ended up as part of the event, absorbed into it like a melding of minds.

Even as we were driving back down I-17 to Phoenix with the sun in our eyes, I felt like I wanted to turn around and go back for another four days. That feeling hasn't vanished in the ten months that's passed since then and I'm eager to go back for this year's festival. Ross has ideas that will no doubt add still more to the character of her event.

Much of it is still shrouded in mystery. What's certain is that there will be panels and workshops, parties and wine tastings, films and live bands, as there was last year. The event will again run over a four day period, from the Thursday to the Sunday, 12th to 15th of June. This year will add camping at the Gold King Mine, just above Jerome, to the varied accommodation possibilities in and around this small town.

Fireside ghost stories are inevitable and, talking of which, there's a Murder Mystery event planned too, along with a Hangover Brunch sponsored by sound wizard, James Alire of 5J Media. Like that's the one event you want pristine sound at? Hangovers go better with silent movies with the orchestra turned down.

Venues this year haven't yet been disclosed but they're said to be more intimate in nature. The breakdown of films is due to play to the edgy reputation of truly independent cinema, something ably highlighted last year by critic Bill Pierce's superb selection of AZ Forbidden Films and Cathedral Canyon, Diana Davis's fictionalized feature about the horrors of Colorado City.

Year two is always the tough one for a film festival. So much effort goes into year one that the follow up can often be the make or break year. Ross needs to build on what she began, shaking it up but staying true to what she aimed at. If this year plays well, she ought to be set for quite a few more and the Jerome Indie Film & Music Festival will go from strength to strength.

I for one will be back this year with bells on, perhaps literally. It's that sort of place. If you like film and you have character, Jerome is where you need to be during the second weekend in June, the one after Phoenix ComiCon. You just may not want to go home again.

*Hal C F Astell writes reviews of films from the 1900s to the 2010s at Apocalypse Later, with a focus on what most critics don't cover. He is the author of two books, Huh? An A-Z of Why Classic American Bad Movies Were Made and Velvet Glove Cast in Iron: The Films of Tura Satana. Both are available at Amazon.*

<http://www.apocalypselaterfilm.com/>

WOD



Filmstock and quirkier events like the Jerome Indie Film & Music Festival screen many more.

### 3. Premières

Many local filmmakers are now booking local theatres like FilmBar or Pollack Tempe to host screenings of their latest films. The catch here is that unless you're in the know, it's tough to find out about these before they happen.

But now...

### 4. Filmmaker Showcases

The good news is that there's now a solid fourth option to see local film on the big screen: filmmaker showcases. These are selections of local films curated by knowledgeable players in the Arizona film scene who want exactly what we want: the opportunity to see these films in public, in an enjoyable communal setting and as often as possible. The added bonus is that both the current filmmaker showcase events are held monthly, which means that you'll never need to wait long to get your fix.

#### ARIZONA FILMMAKER SHOWCASE



Pioneering this option in the valley is Matthew Robinson of Dark of the Matinee, a locally run website about film, which calls itself 'the leader in fringe cinema'.

It used to be that while the site was a busy place for news and reviews, their focal point was a self titled podcast, which ran over a hundred episodes, but that sadly ceased to be late last year when his cohorts moved away from the valley.

Nowadays, while the news and reviews continue, the focal point has become the Arizona Filmmaker Showcase, which Robinson runs monthly at FilmBar in downtown Phoenix. The format is a couple of short films followed by a feature, with the qualifier that all were shot here in Arizona.

This event started back in March 2013 with the goal of highlighting the Arizona film community at a strong venue, recently crowned by the New Times, the Best Independent Theater in Phoenix for the third year running, and feeding it by giving local filmmakers the chance to get their work in front of an audience. 'That's what it's all about as a filmmaker,' Robinson told me, 'but it can be tough to achieve.'

I've attended a few of these events and had a blast. It's good to watch some of the films that Robinson has screened, move forward to become official selections at major festivals, such as Final Flight which played at this year's Phoenix Film Festival.

I asked Robinson what his proudest moment has been thus far and he cited the Arizona Filmmaker Showcase screening last September of *Biology 101*, an excellent local feature directed by Christopher R Smith. Coincidentally Chris, and his producer, Liz Bradley, constitute two-thirds of the hosts of the new radio show, Papago Presents: The Podcast, which I'm also covering in this edition of The WOD.

I remember the *Biology 101* screening fondly, as I attended as Chris's guest, having just reviewed the film from DVD. Chris and Liz were nervous wrecks, watching people watch their film, but even with some technical difficulties, the audience loved it. In fact, the screening provided enough attention for the film that it led to a distribution deal. As Robinson rightly proclaims, 'It's the best outcome we could have imagined for a film we have shown.'

Over a year strong, Robinson plans to keep the Arizona Filmmaker Showcase running monthly at FilmBar with 'an eclectic lineup as always, that highlights the diversity of AZ's filmmakers.'

It's taking a break in May, but will return in June with another feature and supporting pair of short films. Which ones they will be is not set in stone at this time, so if you want your film to be considered, submit details from the AZ Filmmaker Showcase tab at the top of the Dark of the Matinee website or through the form that can be found on FilmBar's website by clicking on the News tab and then on the Introducing the Arizona Filmmakers Showcase! link.

Who knows, maybe your film will be the next to be picked up for distribution.

#### FPS: FILMMAKERS OF PHOENIX SHOWCASE

While Dark of the Matinee's Arizona Filmmaker Showcase has been running for just over a year, a second showcase began its monthly run earlier this month with similar goals but a slightly different format.

It's called FPS: Filmmakers of Phoenix Showcase and it's curated by Travis Mills, the überprolific filmmaker from Running Wild Films. The venue is the Hive in Phoenix, which can be found inside the Bee's Knees Boutique on 16th Street.



This is a smaller event than Arizona Filmmaker Showcase but it's cheaper, cosier and delightfully untraditional. While FilmBar is a movie theatre (albeit with a bar), the Hive is something completely different; it's an art gallery housed inside an open air quadrangle, in turn within a characterful resale boutique. Films are projected onto a screen that's a decent size for the venue.



The event's format avoids features in favour of entirely short material. The first month focused on narrative films, while May's selection was entirely comprised of music videos. The focus has the same restriction though: only films made in Arizona will make the cut. The selections run about an hour and tickets are a mere five bucks. It's worth that much just for the networking opportunities, entirely above seeing a set of local films in good company.

Mills is the most prolific director in the state, having helmed all three of Running Wild's features and most of the hundred plus short films they've made over the last five years. He has an eye for catching Arizona locations in his films, to the degree that they may well go down in history as a record of notoriously short lived Arizona buildings. Remember that gallery you once visited that isn't there any more? No doubt Mills shot a film there and immortalized it on screen. It's therefore not surprising that he found such a characterful venue to host this event.

In the course of making so many movies here, Mills has inevitably come into contact with a wide swathe of local talent, many of whom have worked with or for him on his projects. Just as inevitably, he wants to support those filmmakers who create work he admires.

As an example, he cited Josh Kesselman and Stephanie Lucas of Limitrophe Films, who he met last year and who together won a pair of awards at this year's Phoenix Film Festival: Best Arizona Short for Long Way and the Arizona Filmmakers of the Year award.

One of Kesselman's films, *A Dog*, was screened at the inaugural FPS event earlier



in April, along with a varied set of others from names as recognizable as Sandy Kim, Kristin LaVanway and Robert Garcia, along with Mills himself and the program directors of IFP Phoenix, TJ Houle and Aaron Kes. Most of the filmmakers and a bunch of the actors were there in person, meaning that the hour of films was followed by another enjoyable hour of chatting afterwards.

I talked to Mills about his goals for this event. He aims for it to showcase some of his own work, even premiere new Running Wild shorts, but primarily wants to 'show the variety of movies being made here' and so 'encourage local filmmaking in general.' If you've been paying attention to Running Wild's projects, it won't be surprising to find that he's trying to 'put AZ film on the map'. He believes this will happen only if filmmakers 'continue to push their storytelling to a higher level' and he hopes that 'a consistent venue to showcase their work will play some small part in encouraging them to do so.'

As with the Arizona Filmmaker Showcase, you can submit your own work to Mills to be considered for a future selection at FPS: Filmmakers of Phoenix Showcase. Either find him on Facebook or drop him an e-mail at travismills@runningwildfilms.com.

Dark of the Matinee  
<http://www.darkofthematinee.com/>

Running Wild Films  
<http://www.runningwildfilms.com/>

FilmBar  
815 N 2nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85004  
<http://www.thefilmbarphx.com/>

The Hive (in the Bee's Knees)  
2222 N 16th St, Phoenix, AZ 85006  
<http://www.thehivephoenix.com/>

*Hal C F Astell writes reviews of films from the 1900s to the 2010s at Apocalypse Later, with a focus on what most critics don't cover. He is the author of two books, Huh? An A-Z of Why Classic American Bad Movies Were Made and Velvet Glove Cast in Iron: The Films of Tura Satana. Both are available at Amazon.*  
<http://www.apocalypselaterfilm.com/>

WOD



# WRITERS REALLY ARE ENTERTAINERS

By Michael D'Ambrosio

With my recent return from LepreCon in Mesa, Arizona, I've concluded observations of my writing peers over the last fifteen years on how they promote themselves. The reason this topic peaked my interest is because of the growing number of writers today and the various means of promoting oneself. As we've seen by the dwindling number of bookstores, it often takes more than just a title or synopsis to sell a book. But how does a writer accomplish that?

Bookstore signings have often proved unproductive with weather, sports events, and economics drastically affecting bookstore turnout, let alone an author's turnout. Independent bookstores, as few as they are, tend to welcome creative ideas from authors other than the standard book signing. I've often found success in conducting events, often with food or drink for the attendees. Speaking or hosting a Q&A on a topic of "interest" often attracts readers who otherwise wouldn't be bothered. Providing relatively inexpensive items like cookies with juice, iced tea or other drinks makes for a friendly sit down and hangout kind of atmosphere.

Plan with your publisher to participate in these and other events. Small press publishers work very hard to promote their authors and offer opportunities for the authors to join them at the table. Sometimes splitting the cost of a table or booth makes the more expensive venues doable. More books sell from the author than from the publisher.

One of the easiest means of exposure for a writer is the literary convention. I am amazed at how many writers show for the panels and disappear after that. There are so many opportunities to promote yourself and leave an impression on the fans at the cons. Donning a costume shows you are one with the fans and have a sense of humor. Purchasing a table in the dealers' room offers a great opportunity to sell your books and to meet convention fans for open conversation with no time constraints. Joining together with other writers to host book launch parties also draws fans to you. Conventions offer opportunities for interviews with radio shows, blog sites, newspapers and industry pros.

Recently at LepreCon, I had the opportunity to be interviewed by the Blog Goddess Show, Hay Girls radio show, Brick Cave Media, KWOD Radio, and speak at a local café on the business of screenplays. I was also photographed in a pirate costume with the guest of honor as well as convention staff. These are reasons why you don't want to be the 'invisible' man or woman.

It helps to meet the convention staff involved in programming and the dealers' room before the convention starts. Offer to help with other panels if needed or look for an opportunity to "steal the show" if given the chance. Writers already have the gift of creativity. This is an opportunity to expand on that talent. Study the convention program ahead of time and see what's there that you can be part of. Remember, these are fans at the convention. You don't have to find them. They've found you. Stay visible during the convention as much as possible. Let fans see you having a good time. Be available to join other authors as well.



Donate to the charity events. Your book will be announced along with pertinent details. Take advantage of the cheap price of advertising in the convention's program. I've hosted sit downs at the hotel bars and lobbies during conventions, sometimes with other authors joining me. Combining discussions with wine-tasting events and happy hours is a great way to attract new fans. I joined with some of my peers in years past to develop a Pirate panel that included singing pirate ditties, Pyrate rum, and outside participation from the local pirate group for some play acting.

The more writers involved, the greater the chance to entertain at a convention. I've learned things from other authors and hopefully they've picked up some things from me. An author-friend of mine once told me, "Remember, these people pay to come see us at the convention. It's up to us to entertain them and make them come back next year." I've found this to be so true. It's a good feeling when you travel to different cities and have friends/fans there. For the new writers who don't have experience with this level of promotion, go to different conventions and observe the more experienced writers. Watch how they handle a dull panel vs. an exciting one. Watch how fans feed off the camaraderie of a good group of panelists compared to a docile and distant group of panelists.

On top of your appearances, keep completing and promoting new projects. I recently sold my first short story for an anthology that is due out in May. I write reviews of conventions as well as interest items for small newspapers, both on-line and hardcopy, and post ads in programs for conventions in parts of the country that I was not able to attend.

I met a new author several years back who told me that his job is to write and it's the publisher's job to sell. I saw him last year and he isn't writing anymore. No one bought his books. No wonder. The publisher will make every attempt to sell an author's book(s) but, inevitably, it's the writer's responsibility to cultivate his/her own success.

*Michael D'Ambrosio, author of The Space Adventures Series, The Fractured Time Series, Night Creeps, and Princess Pain. You can find Michael in the dealers' room or in panels at many sci-fi conventions throughout the US.*

<http://www.fracturedtime.com>

WOD

WE are on Facebook.  
For news between the months & for PDF versions of The WOD, you can find us at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheWODmagazine>

An advertisement for WOD MEDIA and KWOD RADIO. The background is dark with a bokeh effect of light spots. At the top, the text "WOD MEDIA" is written in large, bold, orange-outlined letters. Below this, there are three bullet points in white text: "• Online NewsZine - <http://www.thewod.net/>", "• Newspaper Distributed to 250+ locations", and "• Radio Shows every week on KWOD Radio". In the center, there is a large, detailed illustration of a speaker. To the right of the speaker is a vintage-style silver microphone. At the bottom left, the text "PJ Hultstrand" is written in yellow, followed by the phone number "480.559.4134" and the email address "editor@thewod.net" in yellow. At the bottom, the text "KWOD RADIO" is written in white, with the website "http://www.kwodradio.com" below it.



It is said that in order to create really great characters that your readers care about, you must absorb yourself into their psyche; you must take a part of your own personality and place it into 'them.' I'm sure many of you have done that - think back - go on...ahhhh, so you remember how that damsel in distress was a part of you when you were going through a tough time, or how the great warrior in your latest fantasy novel resembled your thoughts and feelings on a matter. This is all great and wonderful for the good guys in a story, but what about the bad guys?

The same holds true for the villains - yes, the author's darker side. Sure, everyone wants to see the hero triumph, but in order for that to happen you have to have a really good bad guy, someone that will challenge your hero, someone who will throw out all the obstacles that he can to make the hero really struggle. But to love the hero one must also love the villain.

It'll take an exceptional villain, one with much evil,

dastardly doings and underhandedness to capture your reader's hearts. He or she will have to pull out all the stops and really be nasty to the hero, doing all they can to destroy him and thwart the whole saving the world thing. But how do you do that?

Unfortunately, my friend, you're going to have to get evil. Yes, that's what I said. You need to think mean and nasty, and allow the dark corners of your demented mind (and yes, I know you have them) to trickle out. You have to actually draw out from your being all the demented, twisted ideals from the very fabric of your soul and entwine these ideals throughout the story. The villain will challenge the hero from the very beginning and the storyline must have a balanced roller-coaster ride of really bad stuff happening, then a lull, then more bad stuff happening. All of which the villain is instigating.

If you're having trouble coming up with great ideas for the bad guy to do to the good guy think of opposites. Example: In a store line someone may allow another person to cut in line. What's the opposite? What mean thing could be done? I've found a lot of negative, dastardly stuff in cartoon movies, anime, or even by watching some of the best villains in current HBO shows.

There are actually a lot of great ideas out there, you just have to look. Once you find them you must embrace the dark side, allow your villain to be the most evil, scheming, conniving villain he/she can be, and make your readers love to hate him/her. Give them a twisted sense of humor. Make them sarcastic. Make them a complete

asshole. The choice is up to you.

Go, now, and create. Enjoy the dastardly events that will make your hero miserable and the reader cheer, yet cry, when your villain is defeated.

Happy Writing!

*TJ Perkins is a gifted and well-respected author in the mystery/suspense genre for YA and fantasy for teens. TJ has 8 YA mysteries under GumShoe Press, and a 5 book fantasy series entitled Shadow Legacy with Silver Leaf Books.*

*Always a strong presence at Balticon, TJ conducts writer workshops for adults. Her short stories for young readers have appeared in the Ohio State 6th Grade Proficiency Test Preparation Book, Kid's Highway Magazine, and Webzine 'New Works Review,' just to name a few. She's placed five times in the CNW/FFWA chapter book competition. Her short story of light horror for tweens, The Midnight Watch, was published 2007 by Demon Minds Magazine. Adult short stories include: Redemption, The Reading Place anthology 2014. Soul Searching, Pacific Review, 2014. Contributed 800 words to chapter 9 of Grammerly's national novel compellation 2013.*

[www.authorsden.com/tjperkins](http://www.authorsden.com/tjperkins)

<http://tj-perkins.blogspot.com/>

<http://everythingmysteryya.blogspot.com/>

<http://amzn.to/1isT45y>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/TJ-Perkins/141926262645942>

WOD

## MOVIE REVIEW: CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER

Reviewed by Michael Bradley

There was a lot of hype leading up to Captain America: The Winter Soldier, including endless promotion on videos, movie clips and commercials, even tie ins to the plot lines on TV's Marvel: Agents of Shield. We were told it would be better than the original and really take a step up. But after an awesome The Avengers movie that had so many talented superheroes and all the individual movies that led up to that, could we go back to just a few superheroes? Can you really go from such a crescendo back to carrying the movie with one main hero?

We live in the era of the "big dipper" according to Peter Faulk, the veteran movie star and known to TV fans as Columbo from long ago. Before he passed away a few years ago at the age of 84, he was a guest on Dinner for Five with Jon Favreau, who incidentally was the Executive Producer of all three recent Iron Man movies and had cameo roles in each. So what exactly is a big dipper? It is a big budget action film that typically spends one third or more of its budget, sometimes \$50 to \$100 million dollars on advertising and trailers. The point is to get audiences into the theaters the first two weeks, after that, attendance takes a huge dip. In this high stakes movie game, the first two weeks, followed by international sales and DVDs have to recoup hundreds of millions.

In the old days, as Peter Faulk pointed out, a movie might open on several hundred screens and be out for a year or more, gaining strength through word of mouth. The last movie to successfully employ that strategy was The Big Fat Greek Wedding. Now, films open on ten thousand screens and don't care if you like the movie or not. They don't want repeat attendance, they want full seats for two weeks. Hence, the Big Dipper, and an audience jaded by trailers that are often more exciting than the film itself.

Luckily, not so for Captain America: Winter Soldier. Chris Evans has defined the role of Captain America to the point I doubt others could carry it off. It is hard to be good-looking, muscular, a super hero, and still have the All-American charm and humility needed for the character. Scarlett Johansson has grown into her role as Black Widow. Earlier movies in the Marvel universe I felt her role was wooden and played more just to highlight her naturally good looks. In this movie, her acting takes center stage. Finally, newcomer Anthony Mackie is great in the role of Falcon.

The plot line, not to give too much away, takes the contemporary issues of how much control and weaponry should we have to increase order and prevent wars and terrorism and how much is too much? Who should control these decisions, and can they be trusted? The movie is action packed, and I thought way too intense and violent for its PG-13 rating. Maybe I am old-fashioned, but I would not bring younger kids to see the movie. The death toll is more like a Rambo film than a Disney cartoon.

The non-stop action and fine acting make this a film well worth seeing and one of the best of the Marvel movies to date. I had the added pleasure of watching with



Congressman Trent Franks and his wife Josie, along with my wife. Politics aside, we are old friends going back to the 1980s and oddly enough, his colleagues on the House Armed Forces Committee call him affectionately, Captain America, for his strong support of veteran issues. It just goes to show you what a truly national pastime the movies are for Americans, from young kids to Congressman.

The only downside to the film in my opinion is the underplay of the villains. The villains are for the most part well-intentioned but overly dominating control types, while the Winter Soldier becomes a sympathetic enemy at the end. In addition, the Winter Soldier is not allowed room to show much character or emotion for most of the film, acting more as a sinister robot than a man turned into a monster. The pathos of the death of King Kong, Godzilla, or even Darth Vader as they are viewed as flawed villains but have sad ends is lost by the lack of earlier depth in the character.

I wholeheartedly recommend you see this great movie if you have not already done so. If for no other reason, you can start to understand why everyone on Facebook and other social media keeps putting up "Hail Hydra" memes and comments.

-- Reviewed by Michael Bradley - Author of *The Travelers' Club* and *The Ghost Ship, Fire & Ash, Twisted History, and Twisted Nightmares*  
Web Blog: <http://mbtimetraveler.com>

WOD

# DESERT BLOOMS; CULTIVATING THE FLORAL BEAUTY IN POETRY

By Sven Rosckowff

The greater Phoenix area is alive with poetry. Venues from coffee houses to art galleries are hosting poetry readings on a regular basis the Valley over. The rising talent boasts an enjoyable diversity of styles, views, and experience, all to the delight of their growing audiences.

When it comes to poetry, and poets, creativity is virtually wide open, there is something of an anything-goes atmosphere that is key to the craft, and a strong draw for both writers and readers/attendees.

Yet with so much to say, and so many ways to say it, a few pointers come in handy. General parameters follow that are in no way content or style-oriented, regarding approaches with readers in mind, writing rather than performance being the focus in this article.

As poets we must 'put private messages into public language', where often poets 'put public messages into private language'. In doing the former, I learn about myself, yet my resulting insight is also accessible to others through the public-frame in which I work.

Early on, I employed the later approach, and though I understood my poems, they appeared as code to other readers, the meaning of my inside concepts lost upon those not in-the-know with my lingo-laden references.

I believe meaning comes from within, and the profundity of poetry is in capturing ideas not easily put into words. The degree to which meaning is made accessible is at the discretion of each poet. Rhythm, mode, and mechanics is another layer, yet style relies on a solid foundation of core concepts, one of which, is whether the poet wishes to be understood by even one other reader.

The poem's private message, the inner fire of the poet, can be as isolating, or as rallying, as refined, or as careless as necessary, yet the public must be able to decide on approval or disapproval of the poems, and this is only possible through utilizing public language to convey the private visions of the individual's artistry.

Poems purporting uplifting specific locales, lifestyles, outlooks, cultures are not necessarily isolating; readers of poetry, much more than others, are of cosmopolitan tastes, these readers flock to the exotic, and take a tour of the unknown so to speak with welcoming ears, eyes, and the like.

Moreover, a poet and the poet's poems should be free to bear a difference in appearances, and I do not believe poets need be an anthropomorphic or physical manifestation of their poems, nor the poems a shameless aggrandizement of the poet.

In poetry, I refuse to proceed along the reactionary path, while I vehemently detest child-abuse, misogyny, tyranny, yet my poems are escapist, and purposely avoid a verbal eviscerating of those abusers I deplore. My poetry comes off as welcoming, I seek to console readers in a verbal haven; however, my escapist poems come from the pen of all-out realist, perhaps it shows through.

The Bookshop - [www.TheBookshopAz.com](http://www.TheBookshopAz.com)  
6018 N 16th St. - Phoenix AZ 85016  
602-274-7530 -

WOD



Photo credit: Chete Shupe

## MOVIE REVIEW: X-MEN - DAYS OF FUTURE PAST

Reviewed By Donald Jacques



Our favorite X-Men actors are back in this third installment of the film franchise, "X-Men: Days of Future Past". In addition, a new spate of young actors demonstrates why we love our mutants. The story is well defined, by the opening in the future where our two camps of mutants led by Charles and Magneto have been forced to join forces.

The lead-in feels a bit rushed as they explain the basics of how the future came to pass, and how they are gearing up for their last stand, with a twist. Ultimately, it is Logan who volunteers to try and save the past and prevent their present.

While a challenging storyline in itself, what with paradoxes and all, we are rewarded with good story development as the younger characters guide us through the challenges and choices they face in life as mutants. But this thread goes deeper as several of our characters must, as heroes do, rise above their failures and accomplish something greater than themselves. As we follow the story,

and on several occasions the cast and writers give us truly unexpected moments of on-the-edge-of-your-seat action and effects for a heart thumping ride.



WOD



# GAME DEPOT

"Voted AZ's Best Game Store"  
Complete Selection of Games Workshop®,  
Huge Selection of Role Playing Games  
Collectible Card Games • Miniatures  
Wargames • Board Games • Mahjong • Dice  
Dominoes • Cribbage • Chess • Go



**(480) 966-4727**  
3136 S. McClintock Dr. Ste. 11, Tempe, AZ  
NW Corner Southern & McClintock

FIND THE AD RATES,  
SIZES AND  
SUBMISSION info  
FOR THE WOD  
NEWSPAPER AT:

<http://www.thewod.net/Advertising.php>

# THIRD THURSDAYS POP CULTURE MEET-UP

by Song River

April's Third Thursday's Pop Culture meet up at Queen's Pizzeria in downtown Mesa, Az was a huge success as we had so many diverse creatives meet up we were spilling outside to fit us all in! Networking is such an integral part of entrepreneurial passions, and that is what Third Thursday's Pop Culture is all about.

Shout out's in April are going out to: Antonio Dee of Ready Comics; Ruben Rosas of Spiral Comics; Meghan O'Connell of Dirty Tea Cup Designs; Rene Meredith of Drink N Draw Art; April Walterscheid an actress; Judy Wood a painter/and poetry writer; Krysta Crawford of Hero and Villain Designs; and Song River of CowGirlZen Photography and Writer.

Come and join us if you're in the area each third Thursday at Queen's Pizzeria (6:30 pm), all creatives are welcomed to come visit, network, work on projects, draw, color, etc... there is WiFi available and plenty of room to relax. For updates etc. please join our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ThirdThursdayPopCulture/> all creative people in the Phoenix/Tucson area are welcomed to join!

WOD

Song River - CowGirlZen Photography  
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CowGirlZen.Photography>  
 - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/cowgirlzenphoto>  
 - Website: [www.cowgirlzenphotography.smugmug.com](http://www.cowgirlzenphotography.smugmug.com)  
 - Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cowgirlzenphoto/>  
 - Email: [cowgirlzenphoto@gmail.com](mailto:cowgirlzenphoto@gmail.com)  
 - CLAD: <https://www.facebook.com/CLADCosPlayers>



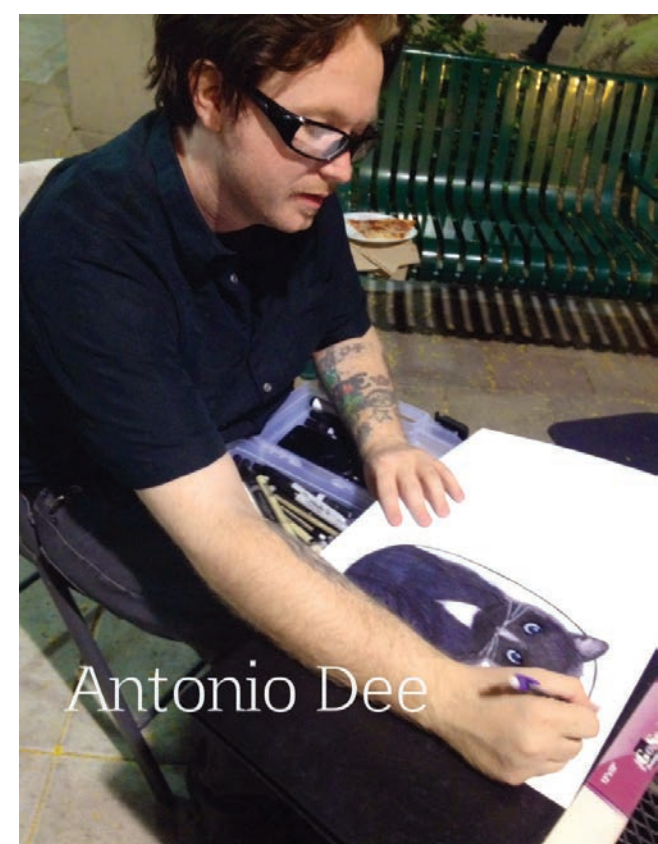
Judy Wood



Krysta Crawford



April Walterscheid



Antonio Dee



Meghan O'Connell



Ruben Rosas

## CASFS BOOK SOCIAL FOR 2014

Meetings are 7PM, the third Tuesday of the month at Samurai Comics, 1051 East Camelback Road, Phoenix. - Contact is Randall Whitlock.

### June - The Last Dragonslayer - Jasper Fforde

Fifteen-year-old Jennifer Strange runs an agency for underemployed magicians in a world where magic is fading away, but when visions of the death of the world's last dragon begin, all signs point to Jennifer--and Big Magic"-- Provided by publisher.

### July 15, 2014 -Nine Princes in Amber - Roger Zelazny

Amber is the one real world, of which all others including our own Earth are but Shadows. Amber burns in Corwin's blood. Exiled on Shadow Earth for centuries, the prince is about to return to Amber to make a mad and desperate rush upon the throne. From Arden to the Pattern deep in Castle Amber which defines the very structure of Reality, Corwin must contend with the powers of his eight immortal brothers, all Princes of Amber. His savage path is blocked and guarded by eerie structures beyond imagining impossible realities forged by demonic assassins and staggering Forces that challenge the might of Corwin's superhuman fury.

### August 19, 2014 - "Dr. Sleep" - Stephen King

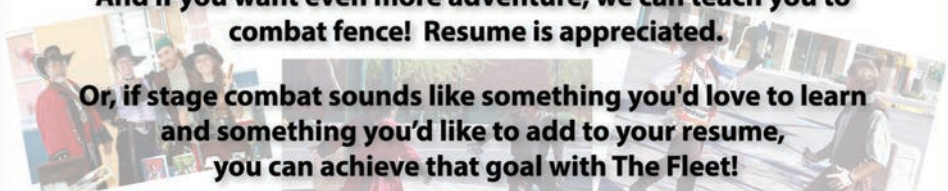
When we last saw him in Stephen King's 1977 masterpiece The Shining, little Danny Torrance was being comforted after the death of his father. Now, decades later, Danny is a middle-aged man, still living in the troubling images of the magic mirror prophesied by Lou Torrance. Eventually though, he finds peace and sobriety in a small New Hampshire town, where, with the help of a supernaturally attuned cat, he helps dying patients at a nursing home. That relative tranquility ends, however, when he meets 12-year-old Abra Stone and is introduced to the almost immortal children torturers of The True Knot. Born to be a bestseller and possibly most discussed novel of the year.

### September 16, 2014 - "Dead Witch Walking" - Kim Harrison

All the creatures of the night gather in "the Hollows" of Cincinnati, to hide, to prowl, to party ... and to feed. Vampires rule the darkness in a predator-eat-predator world rife with dangers beyond imagining -- and it's Rachel Morgan's job to keep that world civilized. A bounty hunter and witch with serious sex appeal and an attitude, she'll bring 'em back alive, dead ... or undead.

## The DREAD Fleet is now seeking new members who are experienced stage combat performers.

**Must be willing to perform on stage and/or in front of cameras.**  
**Must be able to take direction, act if required and able to attend any and all Fleet meetings.**  
**And if you want even more adventure, we can teach you to combat fence! Resume is appreciated.**



**Or, if stage combat sounds like something you'd love to learn and something you'd like to add to your resume, you can achieve that goal with The Fleet!**

**Either way, email us at [info@thedreadfleet.com](mailto:info@thedreadfleet.com).**

**Leave your information and we will be in touch with you!**

**Please visit us at [www.thedreadfleet.com](http://www.thedreadfleet.com)**



## CENTRAL PENN COMICON

By Michael D'Ambrosio

Central Pennsylvania Comicon is a relatively new convention held the first weekend in April in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, at the Embers Hotel and Conference Center. The convention was created by Alicia Lurye of AK Entertainment, the very same Alicia who created Roc-Con in Rochester and turned it into a success in a few short years.

The convention had a stellar lineup of artists, gaming and literary stars and a fantastic program to bring them closer to their fans. One of my favorite artists, Mark McKenna, brought his fantastic works to the convention, as well as several other great artists. Rick Stromoski, Award-Winning Creator of "Soup2Nutz!" JG Hertzler (Klingon General Martok from Star Trek DS9) was there, posing for pictures and signing autographs. Some really talented authors were also on hand, including Daniel Ackley-McPhail, Mary Louise Davie. Next year, the convention is expected to be larger with some surprise big name guests.

The hotel was very reasonable at \$69 a night.



Parking was ample on this sprawling facility. The staff were very good to me and I enjoyed food and drink in the cozy confines of the Embers Steakhouse. During the day, they offered affordably priced sandwiches, drinks and snacks as well. For more information about the convention for next year and lodging info, check out their website at <http://www.centralpacomicon.com>.

- Reviewed by: Michael D'Ambrosio, author of *The Space Adventures Series*, *The Fractured Time Series*, *Night Creeps*, and *Princess Pain*. You can find Michael in the dealers' room or in panels at many sci-fi conventions throughout the US. <http://www.fracturedtime.com> WOD

## BALTICON REVIEW

By Michael D'Ambrosio

BaltiCon is one of the longest running conventions in the country and is held over Memorial Day weekend in the Baltimore area. Their attendance averages between 1200 and 1500 every year. I've participated in this convention on numerous occasions and have never been disappointed. With twelve tracks of programming and an elite group of writers, artists and other genre professionals to fill these tracks, they have one of the most diverse and entertaining programs I have seen around the country.

This year, they featured Brandon Sanderson, an internationally acclaimed writer, as their author Guest of Honor. Also featured were Compton Crook award winners Myke Cole (2013) and Charles E. Gannon (2014), along with artist GoH Halo Jankowski and music GoH Kenneth Anders.

The evening entertainment was highlighted by exciting room parties by groups from DC, Montreal, and Kansas City lobbying for WorldCon in 2017. The weekend also featured several book launch parties hosted in the 50s diner 'Frankie and Vinnie's' which also doubled as the Con Suite. All weekend, the bloodmobile was kept busy as many of the attendees regularly donate at the convention. The charity auction was its usual success as well, with

The dealers room featured a number of interesting vendors from Chris Stuppi's The Griffon's Claw (swords, knives, flasks, etc.) to

Larry Sands The Sandscrafter (excellent leather goods, pouches and wallets).

Sunday night, the convention hosted their annual film festival featuring a competitive screening of short films in live action, animated and specialty film categories.

The Hunt Valley area is an excellent location with a multitude of stores, pubs and eateries across the street from the Hunt Valley Inn. The hotel is logistically ideal for a convention with free parking, a lovely restaurant and a full service bar.

I managed to stay up long enough to take in The Rocky Horror Picture Show for the first time in a long time with several friends and had a great time. I can only recommend you check out their website at [www.balticon.org](http://www.balticon.org) and plan for next year. I also understand that a very big name (hint: Game of Thrones) has been signed for next year.

Look for my next convention review from Sci-FiValleyCon in Altoona, Pennsylvania which is on June 27th to the 29th, followed by Inconjunction in Indianapolis over July 4th weekend.

-- Reviewed by: Michael D'Ambrosio, author of *The Space Adventures Series*, *The Fractured Time Series*, *Night Creeps*, and *Princess Pain*. You can find Michael in the dealers' room or in panels at many sci-fi conventions throughout the US. <http://www.fracturedtime.com> WOD

## WOD-DA CLASSIFIEDS

### HANDY MAN SERVICES

Don, the Handy Duck can take your HoneyDo List and Make it Ducky Done. FREE quotes. Many years of residential and commercial maintenance experience. Contact Donald Jacques at [djmitzlplick@yahoo.com](mailto:djmitzlplick@yahoo.com) or call him at 480-330-6119 to get started on your next home project.

### BOOK COVER DESIGN

Award winning cover designer, Patti Hultstrand, can find the perfect professional, and sales snagging book covers for any fiction genre or non-fiction subject matter. FREE consultations for every new project. Contact Patti at [phultstrand@yahoo.com](mailto:phultstrand@yahoo.com) or call her at 480-559-4134 to get started on your next book cover.

### THE TRAVELERS' CLUB AND THE GHOST SHIP BY MICHAEL BRADLEY

Steampunk Adventure at its finest in this book where what you read in your history books is not what happens in this action packed romp around the globe. Get your copy today in Kindle format on Amazon at: <http://amzn.to/11l4blD>

### BOOK PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

Trusted Arizona small publisher will be sharing her experience in book production and marketing for print and eBooks. Patti Hultstrand has helped to publish almost 70 books since 2009. She will be teaching Book Production, Marketing, and the Media Kit. Get on the invite list for upcoming classes at [phultstrand@yahoo.com](mailto:phultstrand@yahoo.com) or contact her at [www.facebook.com/pjhultstrand](http://www.facebook.com/pjhultstrand).

### ARIZONA BOOK AUTHOR SIGNINGS

Diana Gabaldon at Changing Hands bookstore on June 25 at 7pm signing *Written in My Own Heart's Blood*.



**Gil, the HandyMan, is special to Dierdre and some of the other women of Oak Hearth Apartments. But when a lady killer is on the loose, The HandyMan must do more than just clean their drains -- he must save their lives.**

Available at Amazon in print and in Kindle, Nook, and ePub

[www.donaldjacques.com](http://www.donaldjacques.com)

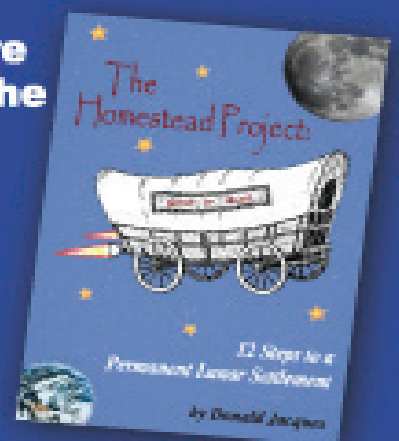
## Manuscript to Book Sales in 8 Weeks

Starts Monday, June 23rd; 6-8pm PT/AZ time

REGISTER HERE: <http://gowoa.me/i/2tF>



"Those few who give their lives, assure the continued march of human progress across time and space."



Available at Amazon in print and in Kindle, Nook, and ePub

[www.donaldjacques.com](http://www.donaldjacques.com)



new era larger than life productions a year prior, so jumping in feet first with Rob Liefeld's Extreme Studios in Southern California wasn't a very difficult transition at all.

*Song: How comfortable are you opening up to let your fans into your personal world?*

Shelby: I'm probably the closest to an open book as possible, but I also know that filter is needed for certain individuals. Too much information isn't a gray area for me, I see it all in black and white. My most recent years have definitely been the most interesting \*understatement\*. My moving from California to Arizona, changing from a hands on approach- to digital, and the various faces of the electronic gaming industry that I've been working with; most notably the contrasting working conditions that both comics and games project. Unforgivable missed deadlines headlining the one, and open minded-open schedule deadlines at the forefront of the other most notably.

*Song: What drew you into the industry? Was there something else you wanted to be?*

Shelby: I was always an avid comic collector always focused on the artwork side of things. I generally found myself disinterested in comics as a whole, being that I've seen comics being kind of the bottom of the barrel where storytelling, and good writing is concerned. So I focused on the dynamic line drawings and exciting characters of the various comic book universe's as inspiration. One thing was for certain, I didn't want to end up like my parents. And another driving factor, was growing up being told that there's no money in comics or the art market as a whole, and I'd have to depend on a 'real' job when I 'woke up'.

*Song: Out of high school you began working on the Glen Danzig Verotik line, correct?*

Shelby: That was actually a handful of years, post-Image Comics.

*Song: How did that opportunity come about?*

Shelby: A good friend of mine, who had also departed Extreme Studios in the mid-nineties, contacted me about their need for pencilers, and inkers. That led to a lot more than just my expertise as a traditional artist for Verotik. Which, included a ton of outside-the-box art gigs and digital prepress design. As well, CD creation for a lot of professionals on various record labels.

*Song: You traveled, you were surrounded by so many creative people. Were they good times, turbulent times?*

Shelby: A little bit of both.

*Song: Talk about some of the stories from those days, are there tales you've always wanted to share?*

Shelby: There's not a ton of stories that would be, in my opinion, extremely important or interesting to anyone looking at the comic subculture from the inside out. I'm relatively drama-free and keep my head down, pencil on paper. You know, you always have haters regardless of your caliber of work. 'Haters gonna' hate', and all that. I could really care-less, and I think that's sort of a fuel for them, the ignoring them. So... damned if you do, damned if you don't.

*Song: Do you have any regrets from those early days, or along the way?*

Shelby: I would say that my biggest regret would have to be turning down jobs. I've had a TON of opportunities following my design stint on Star-Gate's franchise

and watching them wither before my eyes. Well, I'll just say that if there was some sort of time travel device, I'd definitely be memorizing MegaMillions numbers to have alleviated a lot of personal business situations that were dealt to me through the years.

*Song: What pen did you begin with? Do you still have the first pen you used on your first commission?*

Shelby: I think that I have rulers and a few binders and sketchbooks from my childhood. The products I used to use for my early work is not near close to the items I use to pencil and ink these days. Art supplies are disposable to me. Most are likely to have been used until they break, donated to a budding artist drawing next to me at a show, or collecting dust in storage.

*Song: Do you recall your first commissioned drawing?*

Shelby: Nope. I have a cache of over 25,000 images scanned from commissions to interior pages, to preliminary sketches for magazines and album covers. They all sort of blend, but I have this weird memory where I can be approached by someone that got a commission from me, and their name or face will remind me of the exact piece that I did for them. I'm weird like that.

*Song: Is there someone you admired in the industry back then, that influenced your style?*

Shelby: Alan Davis is the best in the comic book market. For personal icing and details, I've always loved the works of Todd McFarlane and Marc Silvestri. Inpart because, their books looked and read good in the eighties, but also because their work wasn't cookie cutter- like most DC and the other Marvel books at that time.

*Song: Has your style of art changed over the years, if it has how?*

Shelby: Yeah, I got better. Plus, I figured out that hands and feet are easier to draw than believed.

*Song: How have other facets of arts influenced your work? Does music, politics, personal life?*

Shelby: I don't mix anything with my art. Not a whole lot of life or such. I think that if you want real life in art, it should just be a nuance or else it's just a tangible form of photography by hand. Kind of boring in my opinion. I'd rather approach stuff with dynamics, and style. Music is a constant in my life however. I dig some good music while I work. Get tired of whistling while I work.

*Song: Do any of your children share in your passion of creation?*

Shelby: Of course! Plus, I never told any of them that they couldn't make it in something or that art is a waste of time. Because it isn't, and I'm not down with squashing dreams. I only offer advice when asked too, makes things smoother and keeps that open door policy alive.

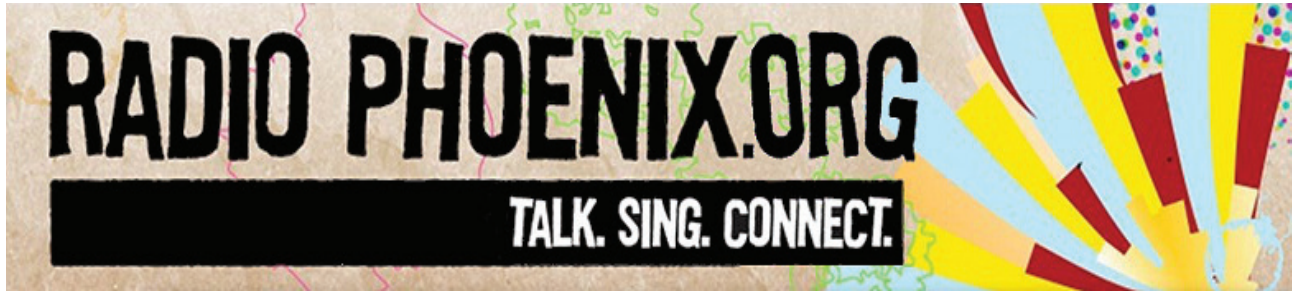
*Song: You've created the persona, you seem to be comfortable with who you are. Did your childhood days direct you here- to where you are now? Do you believe that everything happens for a reason, or is it all happenstance?*

Shelby: Everything does happen for a reason. I've had numerous issues, major life problems, and all that. For myself, personally, they've always worked out; made just enough, and gigs came right when they were needed. I'm pretty comfortable with myself, I'm the only one who has to make sure I come through in the things that measure success for me personally. I found early on that what others think will make you be looked at as 'successful' has never met my own criteria. Around that time is when I think I just sort of said 'f### everybody' and their wants, I got what it takes to fulfill my own. It may come across crass, but it's just a fact of life.

*Song: You made the venture out of commissioned works, and began a new approach to your creative side. Giving your diligence over to a project called, '94. First of all, why did you take this venture?*

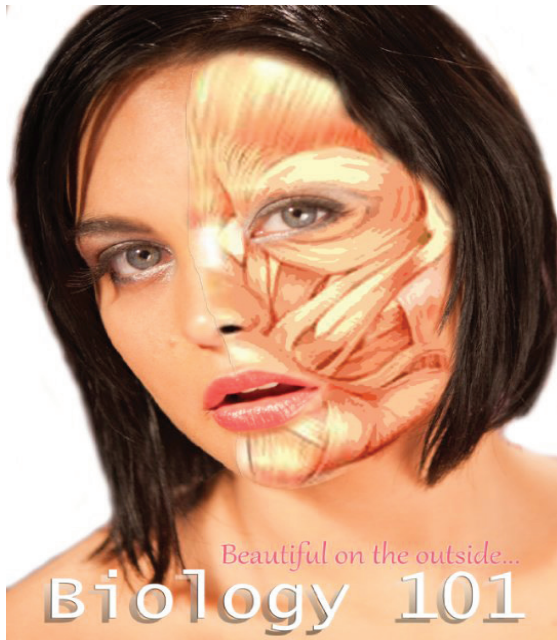
Shelby: I'll always do commissioned work, gladly people still want to own a piece of me. On the '94 comic book project; basically this is my 20th year as a comic book industry pro and I felt I needed to give myself 'homage' for this milestone.

Interview with Shelby Robertson continued on page 19



When I contacted local filmmaking couple Liz Bradley and Christopher R Smith to talk about their new radio show about local Arizona indie film, Papago Presents: The Podcast, I had no idea that they also would make it into another article I was writing for this issue of The WOD on the rise of Arizona Filmmaker Showcases.

It was by sheer coincidence that Matthew Robinson of Dark of the Matinee cited them and their feature film, *Biology 101*, as the proudest moment of his first year hosting showcases at the FilmBar, but it ably highlights that Smith and Bradley are filmmakers we should be paying attention to.



Now we're about to get the opportunity to do just that, as they launch their own podcast about how local filmmakers can find the next step forward, as indeed they did, landing a much coveted distribution deal for *Biology 101* after critics Bill Pierce and I reviewed it online and Robinson screened it at the FilmBar in Phoenix.

There's an irony in this pair becoming radio hosts as they're notoriously introverted characters who hate speaking in front of people. In private,

though, bend their ears about film and their eyes will light up and hours will pass unnoticed. They're enthusiastic and knowledgeable, exactly the sort of people I want to hear talk about film on a podcast, and judging from the live pilot episode which they broadcast in April, they have no trouble whatsoever with the format.



They're joined by a third host, Liz Manning, one of the stars in their second feature, *We Three*, which is currently completed and in post-production. Disclaimer: my wife was the set photographer and on set mom. Manning is a perfect foil for two reasons: one, she has absolutely no issue speaking in public because two, her background is primarily on the stage. Her degree is in Theater, while those of Smith and Bradley are both in Screenwriting.

I'm sure their respective backgrounds will emerge over the run of the podcast. Manning is an actor and comedian, who has worked with several theater companies in the valley; she moved into film on *We Three*. Bradley is a screenwriter who became a producer through necessity and found that she had a talent for it. Smith is a director and editor, in addition to being a screenwriter. He directed *Biology 101* and *We Three*, both of which Bradley wrote; he has a co-writing credit on the former.

However, the direction they want to take with the Papago Presents show is less about them and their two features and more about what they learned

over the course of making them. They especially want to focus on distribution, to 'turn hobbies into careers' as Bradley says during episode zero.

It's therefore highly appropriate that their guest on this live pilot was Robert Conway, the director of *Exit to Hell*, which I saw at Phoenix ComiCon when it was called *Sickle*. I remember talking to Conway about distribution because he has horror stories to tell about what happened with his first feature. Inevitably we get to hear some of them on Papago Presents too. With that experience, he was able to handle *Sickle* better; the result is that, as *Exit to Hell*, it landed a distribution deal and is now available everywhere: streaming Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, RedBox, you name it. *Biology 101* will be distributed through the same company.

All three of the hosts talk up the local film scene but are well aware of the difficulties that local filmmakers face in taking the next step towards landing that elusive deal that will allow their film to be distributed and seen. Manning points out that there are lots of films made in Arizona but very few are able to take that next step and actually earn money that would allow for their casts and crews to be paid.

As Bradley impeccably states during episode zero, 'If a film plays in the forest and no-one's around to watch it, is it a film?' As you might expect from my varied coverage of the local film scene at The WOD, Arizona is a rich and dense filmmaking forest, but sadly very few people from outside get the opportunity to see what goes on inside.

Smith points out on the show that, 'We want this to be a community,' and something that Bradley reinforced to me. 'Our focus is to build up the Arizona film community,' she said, 'by raising standards, forming stronger collaborations and encouraging higher exposure through festivals and distribution.' She added, 'Let's turn the Arizona film community into a film industry.'

'The Arizona Indie Film Show', Papago Presents: The Podcast, debuted online on RadioPhoenix in April with a live pilot, but has begun proper on May 2nd in a regular Friday night slot of 10pm. You can't fail to know you're listening to the right show when you hear their theme tune, a gloriously artificial lounge version of Ennio Morricone's theme to *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*.

Each episode will 'provide updates on recent and upcoming events, helpful information and an introduction to the people who are getting it done here in Arizona.' If you're working on a project and want people to know about it, you can get in touch with Papago Presents in a number of ways:

Tweet them @PapagoPresents.  
Like them at <http://www.facebook.com/papagopresents>.  
eMail them at [PapagoPresents@radiophoenix.org](mailto:PapagoPresents@radiophoenix.org).  
Most importantly, listen to them on Radio Phoenix (<http://www.radiophoenix.org/>) at 10pm on Friday nights, which started on May 2, 2014.

*Hal C F Astell writes reviews of films from the 1900s to the 2010s at Apocalypse Later, with a focus on what most critics don't cover. He is the author of two books, Huh? An A-Z of Why Classic American Bad Movies Were Made and Velvet Glove Cast in Iron: The Films of Tura Satana. Both are available at Amazon.*  
<http://www.apocalypselaterfilm.com/>

## VIP AIRSOFT ARENA

### SERIOUS BATTLE, SERIOUS FUN!

- Over 19,000sqft Entertainment Venue
- Air Conditioned Airsoft Arena
- Private Party Rooms!
- Concessions Stand
- Pro-Shop for Retail & Repairs

**BIRTHDAY PARTIES!    OVERNIGHTERS!**

**FUNDRAISING    PISTOL TOURNAMENTS**

**TEAM BUILDING    WOMENS DEFENSE**

480-507-9420

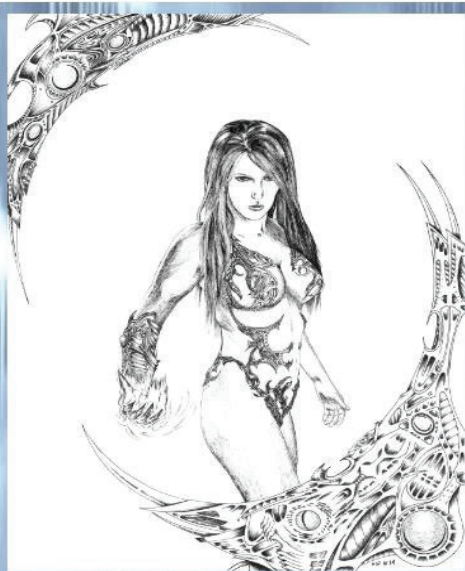
www.VIPAIRSOFT.net

S.E. Corner of Val Vista/Baseline | Gilbert, AZ



# KIPSWORLD

## THE ART OF KIP MUSSATT



**BRING THIS FLYER FOR**  
**\$5 OFF**  
**\$30 OR MORE PURCHASE**  
**WWW.KIPSWORLD.ORG**  
**FACEBOOK: KIPSWORLD**



### HIGHLIGHTS FROM PHOENIX COMICON 2014

Photo Credits: Cowgirl Zen Photography - Song River



# KEEPING THE BEAT: Settle in for a Little Shot of Black Mountain Moonshine

By Song River



Photo credits: Cow Girl Zen Photography

## Interview with Art C De Baca III- Drumer and Percussionist for Black Mountain Moonshine

It was around midnight a couple of months ago I had my first taste of Black Mountain Moonshine, it was during the Americana Music Fest- and to say the least they knocked us all off our feet. A group of racacious gents able to deliver a blessed infusion of Punk, Folk, and Bluegrass without missing a sip of “Mountain Dew.”

*Song: Tolleson, AZ. gave birth to Black Mountain Moonshine... tell us, where did you all come from, what is your background in music, musical tastes, and experiences that brought you all together to form BMM?*



Art: We all grew up in the greater Phoenix Metro Area; we are all huge fans of Punk Rock... and Folk music as well, some more than others. Also, we all share a strong interest in consuming alcoholic beverages (laughs). Thus the name “Black Mountain Moonshine”. Individually, we have all been playing music for 5-10 years. Art & Alec have been friends for about a decade, and the same goes for Ethan & Eric who went to high school together, which is where they met Luz. So in a way it was like two groups of friends joined to become one.

*Song: Music changes follow many times our economics, and cultural societal motions- how did this formation occur of mixing Country-Folk, Bluegrass, and Punk together?*

Art: That is a very tough question to answer. I don't really think it had anything to do with any Cultural or Societal changes that gave us the drive to start BMM. We just wanted to play music that we thought was fun and enjoyable. However, some our lyrics are about politics and other societal topics, but we try our hardest not to be too serious about any one thing.

*Song: Does BMM fit under the umbrella would you say of Americana Music?*

Art: Yeah, (pauses) we think that we do. Sure, we are a little “heavier” or “faster” than most other bands

in the category, but aesthetically we would say that we do.

*Song: Are you the original founding members?*

Art: Yes, we sure are. For the record, Luz came up with the name of the band. (Just wanted to throw that out there)

*Song: Did you all ever play under different band names or styles?*

Art: No, the five of us have never played under any other names collectively. However, Art & Alec were in a punk band called “ST8 48”, and Eric & Ethan were in a Folk Duo called “Darth Mcgarvey” prior to starting BMM. As far as others styles, only time will tell if we incorporate other styles. We do not want to limit ourselves, so it is very possible that we branch out musically in the future.

*Song: How has the Phoenix area received your sound? Your look?*

Art: The Phoenix area has been great to us, we are truly lucky to have received such an awesome response from the valley thus far. We can't express how thankful we are for all the support. A look?... We are just five below average dudes that wear band shirts and torn pants, not very original in that respect, but it's who we are (Laughs).

*Song: What is the reception been outside of Phoenix to your sound?*

Art: We have not actually toured outside of the general Phoenix Metro area. However, we have been played frequently on Radio Stations inside and outside of Arizona, such as Sick Boys Radio from Southern California and Loud Fast & Shitty Radio from St. Petersburg, Florida and have received a lot of support from those markets as well.

*Song: Are you finding more influences musically, culturally outside of BMM the deeper you go into creating your own signature sound?*

Art: Not quite sure if it is happening subconsciously or not, but yes we have noticed influences from places or artists that we may not have been influenced by before.

*Song: As a collective BMM really hasn't been playing that long. How did you all come about finding one another? Was it the sound of what you already were listening to that solidified the group?*

Art: Art & Alec have been playing music together for

about 10 years, and played in numerous bands prior to BMM. Alec had been friends with Ethan, Eric & Luz for a few years and introduced Art to them a few months before the initial idea for the band came about. One day we decided to get together, have a few beers and jam. We have all been fans of Punk Rock since we were in high school or before, and we all enjoyed certain aspects of Folk music as well. So we thought that merging the two styles would be a fresh and cool idea. As they say, the rest is history.

*Song: Does BMM follow the old punk standards of rebellion against the rule of law (IE Sex Pistols, Ramones, etc) or does the side of folding in bluegrass and the temperance of folk soften the edges to create the aspect of 'moonshine'?*

Art: This is a great question, yes in many ways we stay true to the standards of Punk, by doing what we want to do when we want to do it, whether it is accepted by the majority or not. One of the things we hear a lot is that we are not “Punk” because we have a folk twang to our sound. In our opinion we are punk to our roots, and by playing a style that mixes genres kinda sets us a part from many bands, hinting toward the punk counter culture. It is also apparent in some of our song lyrics (i.e. “Downfall”, “Snake Eyes”, “Hollow”, etc.)



*Song: What is it BMM wants to say to their fans, and to those who they want to introduce themselves to?*

Art: First, we would like to thank all of our fans for their constant support, everything from attending shows, buying merch, showing us love on the social media sites and sharing our music with people they think will enjoy it. We truly appreciate each and every one of them for that.

We introduce ourselves to new people as five misfits who enjoy playing a mixture of Punk Rock & Folk and like to drink a little bit too (laughs).

*Song: Explain the writing process for BMM. Where do the ideas come from, is a collective formatting or is the writing of words, then instruments all divided?*

Art: Ethan & Luz handle most of the writing, “Lyrics” anyway. In that respect the instrumentation & lyrics are somewhat divided, but the usual process contains us sitting in a room together with a general idea or “riff”, drinking beer and tossing ideas back and forth until we find something that clicks

*Song: What part does BMM wanting to have over the art and music scene?*

Art: We just enjoy playing music, and like being a part of something fun and larger than any one person or band. We have no real expectations of what we should be or what kind of respect we should receive, we just want to play music, have fun, party & make new friends.

*Song: New EP or CD in the works? Release date projected?*

Art: We released our debut effort in October of 2013 titled "100 Proof" it is a 4 song EP. It is available for free download to anyone on our Band Camp Website. Here is the link <http://blackmountainmoonshine.bandcamp.com/>

To answer your question, yes we are working on our 1st full length album, but have no release date set in stone.

*Song: Art you've just found out you've won the super bowl... what do you want to do now?*

Art: First, I'd thank baby Jesus, then Tom Cruise, my family, friends & all my loved ones. I would head straight to the nearest pawn shop, trade in that ridiculously large ring and never work another day in my life. (laughs) I honestly don't know, but my previous statement sounds like a good plan.

We would like to thank Song River for taking the time to interview us, we truly appreciated all the support we have received in the short time that we have been a band. We are excited about our future and hope to continue doing what we do for many more years.

If you are interested in Black Mountain Moonshine and would like to find out more about the band, stay up to date on our concert schedule or to receive updates on the band please check out these links:

<https://www.facebook.com/blackmountainmoonshine>  
<http://www.reverbnation.com/blackmountainmoonshine>  
<http://blackmountainmoonshine.bandcamp.com/>

Black Mountain Moonshine is a five piece band of misfits from Tolleson, AZ. Their sound is an eclectic combination of Punk Rock and Folk with a taste of Bluegrass. The band was formed in mid-2013 and are heavily influenced by the likes of Punk/Folk bands; Social Distortion, Flogging Molly, Tiger Army and Against Me! as well as some Country-Folk and Bluegrass influences such as Johnny Cash, Dan Tyminski and Ron Block.

BMM is:  
 Ethan Minney- Mandolin/Vox  
 Luz Gamino- Rhythm Guitar/Vox  
 Eric Dent- Lead Guitar  
 Alec Rodriguez- Bass/Vox  
 Art C De Baca III- Drums/Percussion



Song River - CowGirlZen Photography  
 Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/CowGirlZen.Photography>  
 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/cowgirlzenphoto>  
 Website:  
[www.cowgirlzenphotography.smugmug.com](http://www.cowgirlzenphotography.smugmug.com)  
 Flickr:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/cowgirlzenphoto/>  
 Email: [cowgirlzenphoto@gmail.com](mailto:cowgirlzenphoto@gmail.com)  
 CLAD:  
<https://www.facebook.com/CLADCosPlayers>

Interview with Jimmy Jay -  
 Continued from Page 1 & 3



As for planning the AMAZING LAS VEGAS COMIC CON- Our director of Operations- Holly Jensen lives in town, and urged us to consider the location. Las Vegas has one of the strongest cores of direct market stores, but the city lacked a full fledged "comic con." After reviewing a number of properties, we found the SOUTH POINT Hotel & Casino, which turned out to be perhaps the best fit of any convention that we have gone to- as a fan and as an exhibitor. The hotel is a short walk down the corridor to the main hall, and there are dozens of great dining options available from Steak & Shake, to a Vegas style buffet, with multiple gastronomic options including Italian, Mexican, Asian, and a New York deli and more. For locals, ample parking is free, and access to the South Point is easy. Again, this is an ideal location.

For AMAZING HOUSTON COMIC CON, we selected George R Brown Center, based on its central location in the heart of the downtown district. Houston is the 4th largest population center in the US, and while a number of other conventions take place in town, none feature comic books and the creators as their primary focus.

*Song: Why should we go to Amazing Las Vegas Comic Con?*

Jimmy: One fan recently described AMAZING LAS VEGAS COMIC CON as his favorite show ever- and this guy is a complete convention warrior attending SDCC for over a decade, going to all the SoCal events like Wondercon, Long Beach, and Comikaze Expo too. I was blown away by that- but his reasoning was simple. He was able to go to a convention with great guests during the day. He could take a break from being on his feet all day and go to the movie theater. When his family joined him the next day, they all could go to bowling and pizza for the evening, before meeting up with his friends to play the tables. All of this is one place, SOUTH POINT Hotel & Casino.

Activities are so diverse at the South Point itself- Amazing Las Vegas Comic Con allows you to partake in the "whatever happens in Las Vegas" hoopla, or just relax with your family at the event, and have a ton of things to do IN ADDITION to the convention. With all this said, AMAZING LAS VEGAS COMIC CON is a great venue to start your summer vacation.

Individuals, friends, families, groups, and fans are all looking to be a part of something- to feel a sense of belonging. Amazing Comic Con has created this atmosphere that brings about an intimacy the public has been longing for. Within an industry that is full of color, imagination, hopes and dreams. Where everyone can build long lasting memories for years to come. Always remembering

what works- accessibility, great times, and lasting relationship building.

Come meet your favorite artists, spend time talking to them, watching them create live, visit some of your favorite panels, shake hands with some of your favorite creators all within a world of great imagination- Amazing Comic Con- Arizona, Las Vegas and Houston.

For further information visit:  
 Twitter @ Amazing Comic Con: <https://twitter.com/AmazingComicCon>

Facebook @:  
<https://www.facebook.com/AmazingArizonaComicCon>

<https://www.facebook.com/AmazingLasVegasComicCon>

<https://www.facebook.com/AmazingHoustonComicCon>

Websites @:  
[www.amazingarizonacomicon.com/](http://www.amazingarizonacomicon.com/)  
[www.amazinglasvegascomiccon.com/](http://www.amazinglasvegascomiccon.com/)  
[www.amazinghoustoncomiccon.com/](http://www.amazinghoustoncomiccon.com/)

WOD



**Vintage  
 Note  
 Records**

Specializing in Demos for Local Bands  
 Recording - Mixing - Mastering

**Jennifer Ives, Studio Manager**  
[vintagenoterecords@gmail.com](mailto:vintagenoterecords@gmail.com)  
**480-688-8220**

# KEEPING THE BEAT: Indie Music Scene with the Mill's End

By Song River

Interview with Jeff Bump, lead singer and guitarist of Mill's End



Independent music is continuing to grow world-wide, those who don't fit, nor do they want to fit in the top 40 playlist are just fine being who they are. The freedom to create what is pleasing to self, rather than to a corporate mongrel

keeps this extremely large base of artistic creatives growing on a daily basis.

The term "alt country" began being used in the '90s to describe those outside the mainstream of country music, and this style is continuing to grow among the hardworking class and spinning of variants that link themselves to this genre.

Mill's End lead vox and guitarist Jeff Bump recently discussed this style of music with me. Jeff relayed how their band, along with their enormous number of growing fans, have been spinning this infusion to meet the musical needs of an overgrowing population that relates to hardwork, a beer, some friends, and a week night out to relax.

"It's only Rock 'n' Roll... (but I like it.)"- Rolling Stones 1974

*Song: When I think of American Alt-country I recall bands such as The Marshall Tucker Band, and the song by Pure Prairie League... "Amy what you want to do..." but when I read your bio it sounds as if you've pulling more in description from the '97s era? Can you help my confusion?*

Jeff: That description really is about the alt-country bands that influenced us early on, the 90's alt country scene like Whiskeytown, Wilco, Jayhawks and Old 97's were big influences on our early stuff but certainly the bands you mentioned along with Gram Parsons, Neil Young, Allman Brothers, The Band, etc. really started it all.



*Song: How is it Jeff that when we create music we feel the need to label it with an infusion name? Or just even a label? How do you feel about giving a definition to your music?*

Jeff: Like a lot of musicians I really don't like labels but when you are marketing yourself the first thing people ask is to describe your sound and using other artists and labels gives people some kind of reference but we just think of ourselves as a rock band, we really want to try different styles and bring them in to what we do, it just makes things more interesting. The only definition or description that really matters to me is "is it honest and real".

*Song: Where did you grow up as a young child? Teen? Young Adult?*

Jeff: I grew up in Upper Michigan and moved to AZ in '92 when I was 21.

*Song: At times when listening to your CD I'd pick up nuances of early REM and even WILCO... What are some of your early influences musically?*

Jeff: Those two are definitely influences, I can honestly say my musical tastes are all over the map, writing wise I would credit lots and lots of late 60's early 70's rock, Floyd, Beatles, Who, Stones, Allman Brothers, Jim Croce, Neil Young, Bob Seger, Queen, Rush and the list goes on and on. There is also a significant 90's influence by people like Pearl Jam, Wilco, Elliot Smith, Ryan Adams, Jayhawks, Smashing Pumpkins, I listen to a lot of stuff.

*Song: Could you as a musician personally ever play, or record something out of your norm of chosen style? Lets say... write, and perform a hip-hop song or some other genre outside of where you are now.*

Jeff: Absolutely, I could easily see a project that was heavier like Queens of the Stoneage, more Americana like Avett Brothers, R and B would be really fun to do, even EDM. Always fun to try new things.

*Song: What other fields of the arts are you involved in?*

Jeff: I do video editing, graphic design and motion graphics.

*Song: Do the other fields you're involved in- cross over into your music?*

Jeff: Yes, I do a lot of our flyers, website and edited all our videos.

*Song: When it comes to song writing for Mills End is it a collaborative effort?*

Jeff: Very much so, Keith and I will bring in basic structure but everyone adds his input and parts to the final result. The more we write the more collaborative it is becoming.

*Song: The Phoenix valley has demonstrated that musically we've a huge market. Not only great musicians, but supportive fans. What have been some the nuances you've witnessed that have changed here over the years?*

Jeff: The biggest change I have seen is pure growth, pick any musical style or type of band and there is a significant scene to represent it. Also there is such a wide range in age it's not just 20 somethings it's 30 and 40 somethings who have a desire to create. It can be a bit overwhelming at times but I think overall it's a positive thing.

*Song: Do you see the music here in Phoenix influencing bands outside of this state? What influences do you see coming in from other places?*

Jeff: I think overall our scene is still pretty influenced by other areas but I do see some bands that may change that. The big influence from other places is really how they do business; bands here are looking at the big picture and learning how these out of state touring bands are making enough money to sustain themselves without a huge record label.

*Song: Tell us a bit how the gig came about with the Phoenix Metro system?*

Jeff: We heard they were looking for local bands for a campaign so we sent over a demo, they liked it and asked us to record a demo about a given topic for the Light Rail. They liked what we did and got us into the studio to record "Just One Pass".

*Song: Overall what did you all think of the experience, and would you do it again?*

Jeff: It was great, we would do it again in a heartbeat, the money basically paid for our last CD and the press and exposure was amazing. The Valley Metro People were really fun to work with.

*Song: Down to earth creations... is that a measure of grass roots that speaks to who you are as a person? Jeff?*

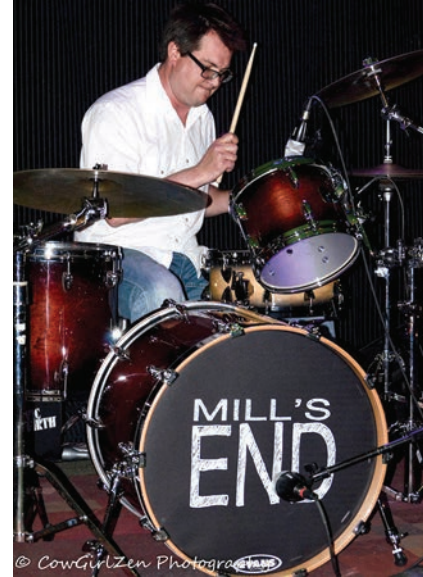
Jeff: I guess so, it's really just a matter of practicality, I usually write with an acoustic so it's really just about starting with a basic structure that has a strong melody. Keeping it simple allows everyone to add as much or as little to it but no matter what you have a good structure at the center. Hopefully that answers the question.

*Song: How much of your beliefs, and life givings enter into your music?*

Jeff: All of it, it's all personal experience or personal observation so it's all in there.

*Song: When you're playing... on your own, with your band, or live- are there three separate things that take place in your connection to the music created or are you connected to your music, as in engaged, the same no matter where you are playing?*

Jeff: I think when I play live I'm more connected to the song and getting into it, at practice. I'm getting into the song but also listening to make sure my part works and



## CowGirlZen Photography

Story Telling Portraits  
Family, Sweethearts, Engagements, Maternity, Children, Infants, Seniors  
CosPlay, Portfolios, Bio's, Theatre,  
Film Set, Artistic, Commercial, Photojournalism

### Contact Information

Website:  
[cowgirlzenphotography.smugmug.com](http://cowgirlzenphotography.smugmug.com)  
Email:  
[cowgirlzenphoto@gmail.com](mailto:cowgirlzenphoto@gmail.com)

### Social Media

Facebook:  
[CowGirlZen.Photography](https://www.facebook.com/CowGirlZen.Photography)  
Twitter:  
[cowgirlzenphoto](https://twitter.com/cowgirlzenphoto)

listening to what everyone is doing to make necessary changes.

*Song: Mill's End- how did the name come about? And what year were you formed?*

Jeff: We formed in 2008, Mark and I started jamming, then we added a guitarist and Geoff joined shortly afterwards. In the early days, the original guitarist and I would meet at a coffee shop called "Mill's End" at the end of Mill Ave. We got offered a gig and needed a name and the coffee shop name seemed to fit. It has closed since then FYI.

*Song: If you had to choose one song off of your current CD, that you could play everyday, what song would that be, and why?*

Jeff: Probably "Believe" it's a positive song, I think we play it well and I think because there is a long jam at the end we play it different every time which keeps it interesting.



*Song: What would you like to see happen in the music scene, something that you think would be very beneficial?*

Jeff: I think more high-end venues would help, Sail Inn just closed and there is

a pretty big waiting list for venues downtown. I think the scene is in pretty good shape but we need to remember to stick together, promote and attend each others shows when possible and really try to respect everyone regardless of style. Metal or Hip Hop may not be your style but that doesn't mean the bands aren't as dedicated and professional as everyone else.

*Song: I understand a new CD is being slated for production and or release this fall? Please share what you can.*

Jeff: We will take a break this summer because my wife and I are expecting but, around August we will start rehearsing what we want to record and hit the studio in September. The goal is an early fall EP release.

*Song: Appreciation is a two way street, sometimes it can be a multiple interchanging freeway in this life too. What have been some special things that have taken place between the band and your fans over the years?*

Jeff: Our supporters are our friends so we are close to them and their support is always appreciated and we try to support them any way we can.

Personally it's really cool when people you respect like what you do but the coolest thing is when your young son plays your stuff on the iPad and says, "that's daddy playing guitar and singing."

For more information on Mill's End, Tour dates, CD releases/purchases:

<https://www.facebook.com/MillsEnd>

<http://millsendband.com/>

<http://www.reverbnation.com/millsend>

<https://twitter.com/MillsEndBand>

Song River - CowGirlZen Photography

Facebook:<https://www.facebook.com/CowGirlZen.Photography>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/cowgirlzenphoto>

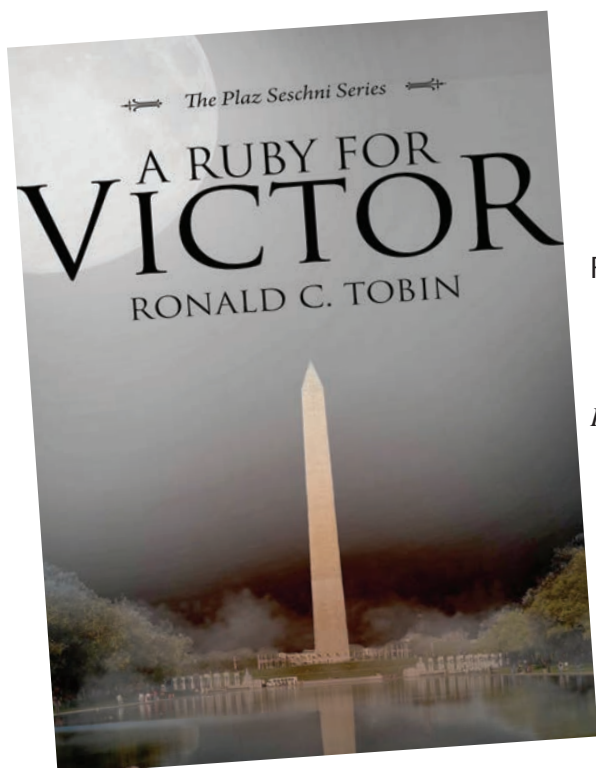
Website: [www.cowgirlzenphotography.smugmug.com](http://www.cowgirlzenphotography.smugmug.com)

Flickr:<http://www.flickr.com/photos/cowgirlzenphoto/>

Email: [cowgirlzenphoto@gmail.com](mailto:cowgirlzenphoto@gmail.com)

CLAD: <https://www.facebook.com/CLADCosPlayers>

WOD



From Arizona Author,  
Ronald C. Tobin

*Well done, Ronald Tobin,  
I am hooked on your vampire  
series and looking forward  
to the next book!*

*-- Reviewed by Jenn Czep  
author of "Blackstrap's  
Ecstasy" and "Trolls"*

*Victor Trent was stuck in a dead end job at a second-hand store, until he came to the attention of a vampire. His life will never be the same as he is given a job in Washington D.C., the imperial city with no honor.*

*Victor learns much more than he imagined about himself and the world around him.*

**Autographed paperback copies are available direct from the author at [www.ronaldctobin.com](http://www.ronaldctobin.com)**

**for only \$20 with Free Shipping, or \$25 hard cover.**

**This book is also available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.**

# DON, THE HANDY DUCK

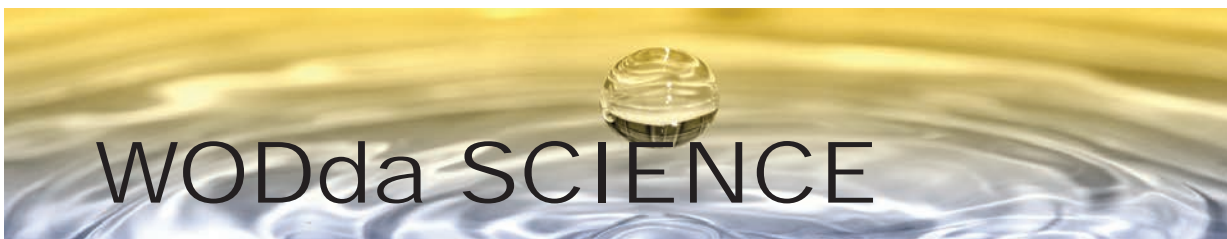
No Quack, Just Honest Service

Residential Handyman

480.330.6119

[djmitzlplick@yahoo.com](mailto:djmitzlplick@yahoo.com)





# NEWS FROM THE NEXT SPACE

Science Columnist: Donald Jacques

NASA continues to fight her battle to remain relevant in a time where diminishing budgets, and bureaucratic business-as-usual hampers her attempts at manned spaceflight progress. After nearly forty years in space, NASA's Voyager Probes are both still healthy, and continuing their progress towards interstellar space. Recently, SLS and Orion both passed milestones in their progress towards a launch in coming years. Their Morpheus automated lander successfully completed multiple lift-offs and landings under it's own control this year. Dextre and the Canadarm became the first self-repairing robotic system in space, replacing a faulty camera without leaving orbit or relying on pesky astronauts. Speaking of astronauts, several have come and gone from the ISS this year, raising the bar of public relations efforts after Canadian Chris Hadfield performed David Bowie's Space Oddity on board. NASA's efforts are continuing on advanced research into the effects of microgravity on humans with an upcoming study that includes twins Mark and Scott Kelly.

And just this month, a private group using crowd-funding, successfully communicated with and took control of a NASA satellite that had been sent to study two comets. The satellite had been launched nearly 30 years ago to study the Sun, then was tasked to meet up with two passing comets. This past month, the private company took control of that satellite in preparation to returning it to its prior mission to continue studying the sun.

The U.S., and Russian governments have been playing ping-pong with sanctions, and threats to future space development in what appears to be a "you don't like what I'm doing, well, then I won't play in your sandbox - and I'll take my toys home" banter. All this over Russia's involvement with Crimea's break-away from Ukraine, and further unrest in that country.

In NewSpace news, SpaceX unveiled their new Dragon V2 capsule, intended to be America's next astronaut taxi to orbit, and eventually to Mars. The glitzy, hollywood style event was all over the web for nearly a week. SpaceX has been flexing its political, and PR muscle in filing a suit against the Air Force, challenging a contract that awarded a long term launch contract to ULA, without any competitive bidding - never mind that SpaceX wasn't ready to bid when the contract was made available. Now the USAF is working to certify SpaceX and the Falcon series for National Security launches. Of Course, SpaceX launched another salvo when they challenged ULA's use of the Russian RD-180 engines on the ULA rocket intended fo use in that contract. This new can of worms got opened as a result of the U.S. sanctions on Russian imports because of Crimea. Now a concerted push has begun to develop a new American engine to replace the RD-180. Interestingly, SpaceX has already been working on their next engine, the Raptor, to power larger rockets to orbit and beyond.

Are we dizzy yet? Dennis Tito's Mars Inspiration has been whittling down the applications for it's fly-by of Mars, Mars One's 200,000 applicants have been reduced to 700 or so, Nasa confirms it intends to land humans on Mars by 2035, Golden Spike plans on landing people on the moon in the same time frame, private citizens are taking control of NASA satellites, the ISS's Life has been extended to 2024, and ... oh yea, ISS astronauts are getting some new shoes to learn how much force is acting on their legs while in orbit. Whew!!

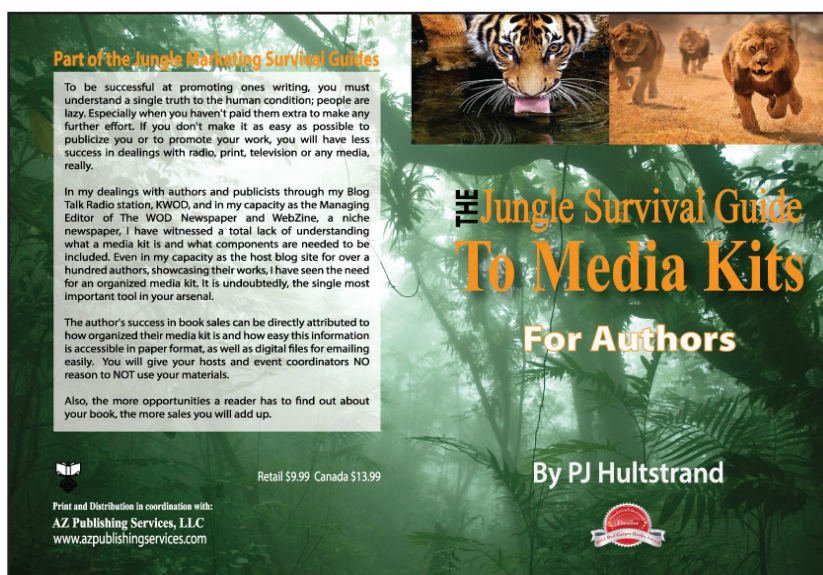
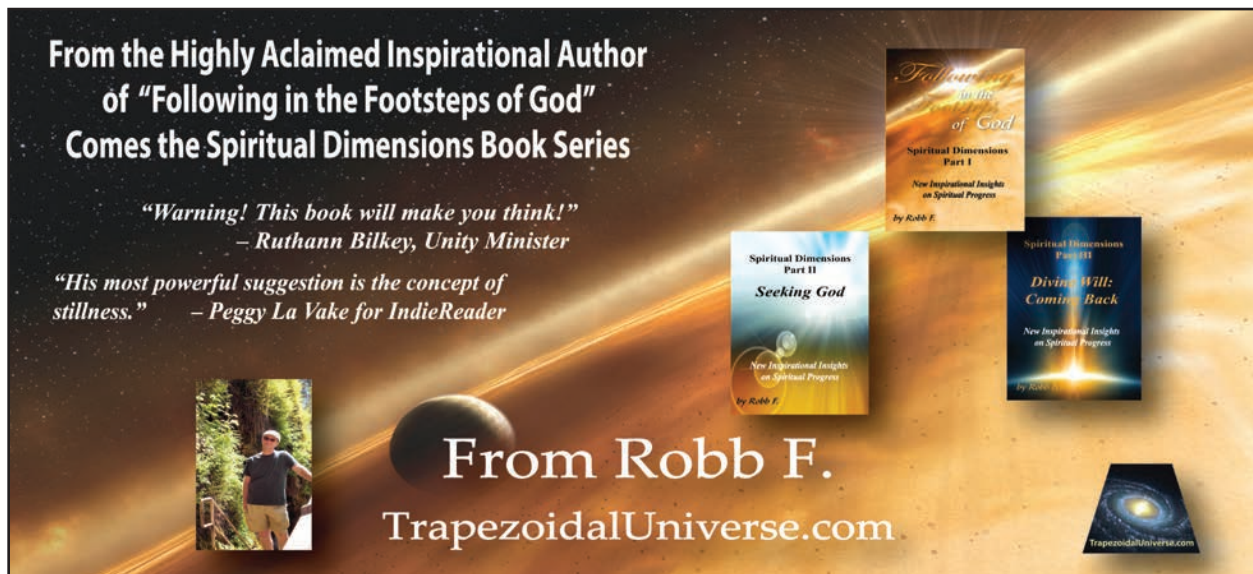
WOD Media announces our new weekly news and commentary show "The Next Space" broadcast Sunday nights at 7 pm MST on KWOD radio hosted on Blog Talk Radio. Listen, follow, and comment on the latest news in and about space.

WOD

The NeXt Space Show  
with Al & Jo  
For Space News and Commentary  
Every Sunday Night; 7pm PT (Az Time)  
<http://bit.ly/1vpHrnl>



Donald Jacques was born in 1957 as an Air Force brat. He has lived in ten states over the years, enjoying 8 kids, and 6 grand kids. He spent 16 years as a computer programmer, has served as a past president of Phoenix Moon Society, chair of LepreCon 2014, is the designer and builder of the Black Scorpion Trebuchet, and the author of "The Homestead Project: 12 Steps to a Permanent Lunar Settlement" and three other fiction books.



AVAILABLE  
June 27th  
The Jungle Survival  
Guide to Media Kits for  
Authors  
In Print and eBook  
Watch for Classes  
on Media Kits for Authors.  
<http://www.azpublishingservices.com/Bookstore.php>



I've worked with plenty of artists who've bailed on the industry a dozen years ago to pursue money, girls, or just something non-art-based in general. That's unacceptable for me personally. I deserve a cake with a candle. '94 is my cake.

It's just me having fun, and haphazardly, almost accidentally... writing something good at the same time. '94 is my most current creator owned series. We launched a preview edition at this years, Amazing Arizona ComicCon, and it sold out during the show. I haven't had a book sell out since 1998, so that's an accomplishment in itself.

*Song: Why '94 how does it connect to who you are as an artists/storyteller?*

Shelby: '94 started out as a push-up, and turned into a circus. I'm not really sure how it did, but we initially planned on just doing one book for fun. That became three, and three became six. I'm up to twelve plotted out. This might accidentally become an ongoing title. It would be fitting if it became the book that people remembered me for in some respects. Just having a ton of fun with it, I've had this idea that fun has been missing from comics in general, and this is to be the syringe that gives that to my own creativity.

*Song: The venture into '94, as been shared on social media, you've created a panel a day- how have you gone about setting this up? Was the back- story already in place or was it done on a whim?*

Shelby: It was on a whim. Plus I'm not too good about keeping up with a panel a day for the most part. I tend to post 3 to 6 panels on different social media pages because I knock out so many pages per week on this '94 book\*s\*. I'll be thinking that hey, that panel I posted wasn't as good as this one. It get's progressively annoying for anyone following me after that.

*Song: Are there advantages/disadvantages to creating a panel a day?*

Shelby: Well the advantage of posting artwork is that you avoid the whole 'out of sight, out of mind' mentality that a ton of people share.

*Song: How are you balancing all of this while selling your art at con's all across America?*

Shelby: There is no balance, only controlled chaos. I'm pretty good about staying on task and really the hardest person I know, is me. I push myself harder than I should. I've heard this several times recently, but it's just my work ethic. If I'm not working, I feel like it's just counterproductive to what goals I've set for myself.

*Song: When formulating this work, did you have others you bounced ideas off?*

Shelby: Well again, the idea is a homage-to-Shelby. For most of my creator owned projects I would generally get somebody impartial to review my idea,, and tell me what they think is the strong-point and the weak-point, and focus on fixing the weakest. This one is literally me taking on a story, page to page, then handling the story as I go.

*Song: How has the project been received?*

Shelby: So far people have been really excited for the book. The nicest thing about it is I'm getting messages from people that took the time to read '94 and they're super impressed with the story. I'm flattered by this, but also a bit sad, does this mean that most artists can't tell good stories or that my other creations tales were total crap in their eyes? I'm just glad that people dig this project.

*Song: What things have you learned from your past projects that you are bringing forward to today?*

Shelby: I'm still pushing the dynamics of comics as a whole. Or at least I'd like to think so. There's more bad than good with comics up until around ten years ago, but there's definitely still bad books coming out on a regular basis. I guess I'm just trying to be the best that I can be.

*Song: Your future is open, '94 has been well received. Who is Shelby Robertson? What course, path, journey- are you setting forth?*

Shelby: The ride for '94 has been a smooth one so far. I don't foresee any path or ideal that I'm going to push on others with my books. I'd rather broadside them with creativity, and an approach that they've not seen in a long time. Possibly even inspire others to follow a particular idea, to see that they can make things happen. Even though '94 is just a comic, again, it's a homage to my journey, so far, but also a new untraveled road.

*Song: A young person, fresh out of high school has just entered your independent publishing company as an apprentice...American Dischord. You see they've potential. They are now looking to you Shelby... what do you say?*

Shelby: Focus on your strengths, listen to those that are impartial to your workings, because they will lead you to the cracks that need patching, and who's buying lunch today? I got 20 dollars in my pocket.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shelby\\_Robertson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shelby_Robertson)  
<http://www.americandischord.com>  
<http://www.facebook.com/OfficialAmericanDischord>

Song River - CowGirlZen Photography  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CowGirlZen.Photography>  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/cowgirlzenphoto>  
Website: [www.cowgirlzenphotography.smugmug.com](http://www.cowgirlzenphotography.smugmug.com)  
Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cowgirlzenphoto/>  
Email: [cowgirlzenphoto@gmail.com](mailto:cowgirlzenphoto@gmail.com)  
CLAD: <https://www.facebook.com/CLADCosPlayers>

WOD



Upcoming Signings / Events at The Poisoned Pen

**June 13th - Jenny Milchman signs Ruin Falls - 7pm**

**June 15th - Writer's Workshop with Anne Perry - 2pm**

**June 17th - Kevin Hearne - Shattered - 7pm**

**June 18th - Linda Fairstein - Terminal City - 7pm**

**June 21st - Jenn McKinlay - Death of a Mad Hatter & Sugar and Iced - 2pm**

**July 21st - Daniel Silva signs The Heist - at the Arizona Biltmore - 7pm**

**June 30th-Jacqueline Winspear-The Care and Management of Lies - 7pm**

**June 14th-10:30am-Coffee & Crime Discussion Group**

**June 26th - 7pm - Hardboiled Discussion Group**

**Discussions for June - Check website for book title**

**Stop by the store or visit the web site for a large selection of signed mystery and science fiction and fantasy books.**

The Poisoned Pen  
4014 N Goldwater Blvd. Suite 101  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
[www.poisonedpen.com](http://www.poisonedpen.com) 1-888-560-9919

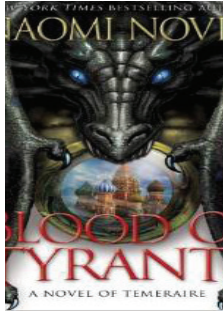
In order to participate in the signing, we ask that customers purchase the author's new book from the Poisoned Pen.

# WOD Bookshelf

## BLOOD OF TYRANTS

by Naomi Novik

Blood of Tyrants is the eighth book in the Temeraire Series by Naomi Novik. Generally, it is difficult for me to properly evaluate a book starting at book eight. I must admit



I had never read any of the series prior to this one. The two main characters are Captain William Laurence and Temeraire. Temeraire is a dragon, though one of remarkable intelligence and character. What helped me out surprisingly is one of my most hated overused writer tropes or devices - the character with amnesia.

Still, Captain Laurence is washed ashore with amnesia, which being the eighth book in the series, actually let me discover who he was and his relationships as if the first book in the series. Please authors, stop with the amnesia though. It just doesn't happen like that. But back to the book...

I was immediately impressed by the pacing and the outstanding prose of Naomi Novik who immediately makes you interested in the characters and their adventure. This particular book takes place in the orient during the Napoleonic Wars, early nineteenth century. I was so impressed that I went out and bought the early seven books so I could read them as well. I have finished the first two but seem to have missed buying number three, so I am stuck for now. I definitely recommend reading them in order.

Naomi Novik creates a world that in many ways is a realistic historical novel of the Napoleonic period, heavily reminiscent of Patrick O'Brien's Master and Commander series, the Horatio Hornblower series by C. S. Forester, or the Sharpe series by Bernard Cornwell. In this way, her novel is far from revolutionary.

Then Naomi Novik mixes in the concept of dragons used to fight in the war. This is not very original either, as other authors have done so, such as Harry Turtledove's Darkness Series which recounts World War 2 in a medieval setting with Dragons as aircraft, behemoths as tanks and magic for nuclear weapons. Similarly, local author Michael Stackpole uses the same concept in The Crown Colonies Series, only set during the American Revolution. Dragon Riders of Pern by Anne McCaffrey and countless others have trod this literary path.

What makes this book worth reading, is not the historical sense, nor the use of dragons in an otherwise near historical tale, but instead her excellent characters and writing. Any published author will tell you that excellent writing has very little to do with the story and very much to do with the characters.

The relationship between Captain William Laurence and his companion Temeraire is as engaging as Captain Jack Aubrey and Doctor Stephen

Maturin or Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson. She captures every detail and nuance of their characters, friendships, conflicts, self-revelation and discovery in a delightful and artful way. I was unable to find any fault at all in the book and strongly recommend the series to any science fiction or fantasy readers.

The series also deals with war and adult issues but refrains from any language, violence or situations that would be inappropriate for younger readers, so I can safely recommend it for everyone age twelve and above. The first book in the series, which I recommend you start with is entitled His Majesty's Dragon and is widely available in bookstores and online..

-- Reviewed by Michael Bradley  
Author of *The Travelers' Club* and *The Ghost Ship, Fire & Ash, Twisted History, and Twisted Nightmares*  
Web Blog: <http://mbtimetraveler.com>

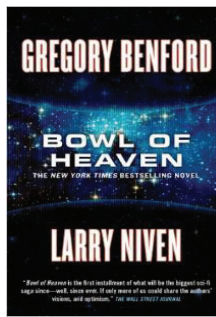
## BOWL OF HEAVEN

By Gregory Benford and Larry Niven

For those of you who enjoyed the RINGWORLD books and the FLEET OF WORLDS series, this is the first book of a truly mind blowing series. Gregory Benford and Larry Niven are very talented hard science fiction writers. It starts as a story about another group of humans heading out into interstellar space. Their destination was a star system over 60 light years distant that appears to have a planetary system containing an Earth-like planet to settle. They have built a ramship named Sun Seeker. This spacecraft can only reach a top speed of about 10% of the speed of light, so most of the crew is in suspended animation for the over 600 year spaceflight. A skeleton crew is kept out in three year rotations.

The story really gets going about 80 years into the voyage. The watch crew had discovered an 'artifact,' an alien space going vessel of epic proportions heading towards the same star that they were. How epic? This other race had created a starship powered by controlling an actual star. Around this star they had made a habitable bowl with a surface far larger than Earth. Besides this, it had turned out their ship was only traveling at 8.1% of the speed of light instead of 9.5%, meaning they would run out of supplies before they reached their destination. Bringing the captain and some of the other crew out of hibernation, they decide to match up and attempt to enter this alien artifact in the hopes of replenishing supplies.

As it would happen, the alien race that built the Bowl viewed these humans as being late invaders. Of the landing party half were initially



captured and the others started on a hide and seek chase in various areas of the Bowl, meeting other various adopted races and learning bits and pieces of the history of the race that built it. A race still very much alive...

So what happens? Do the humans on the ship contact the aliens? Do they get resupplied? Are the humans able to eat the plants and animals there? Do the prisoners escape? What are the builders of this Bowl like? Read the book and find out! It's worth it.

*BOWL OF HEAVEN* has a lot of suspense and it really made me think. First contact by accident? There is a certainly plausibility to the concept. As hard science fiction writers, Benford and Niven do not contemplate the possibility of Einstein and Relativity not being the ultimate arbiter of speed of travel in the cosmos. This is fine, their story and the complexity more than make up for that. This book really kept my attention, the lead characters were very believable and the different races all had succinct character. Ready to see what the future of humanity just might hold? Willing to contemplate aliens being able to build huge space going structures with whole biomes? Then this book is a must read. Check it out!

-- Reviewed by: Ronald C. Tobin, author of *A Ruby for Victor*. <http://www.ronaldctobin.com/>

## LONDON FALLING (2012)

By Paul Cornell

*Forge (Tor)*, ISBN: 9780765330277, hb, 399 pages with glossary of terms

Similar in atmosphere to Daniel O'Malley's *The Rook* and with the police procedural feel of Ben Aaronovitch's *Rivers of London*, Justin Richard's *Dept. of Unusual Things* series or Alex Hughes' *MindSpace* urban fantasy series, this is the story of four law enforcement officers in London who suddenly get the Sight after an encounter with what might be a true witch. How they deal with the terror of seeing things that only they can see and how they use police work to go after a soccer-obsessed, supernatural, serial killer who can walk through walls, is what drives the story. It's an alternate London so the worldbuilding is minimal; but the tweaks that make the history fit the story are very well-placed. The characters are fully-fleshed and unique and their backstories each contribute nuance and weight to how they solve the case. A little bit of the supernatural and a little bit of firepower together make for a telling offense against the Dark Arts and the group uses their new-found powers to the best of their ability and learn as they go. Short humorous bits are quickly glossed over as the story returns to the violent and bloody chase. The end leaves room for a sequel and the group is just starting to work well together so when *The Severed Streets* comes out in May 2014, I'll definitely be reading it.

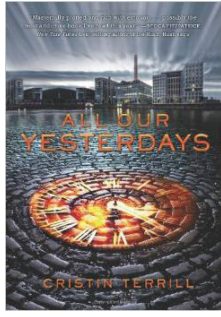


-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman  
Adult Services Lead Librarian,  
Prescott Public Library - [www.prescottlibrary.info](http://www.prescottlibrary.info)

## ALL OUR YESTERDAYS (2014)

by Cristin Terrill,  
*Hyperion*, ISBN: 9781423176374, hb, 360 pages

We first meet Em in a prison cell waiting to be tortured yet again by a mysterious doctor. In the next cell is a boy she can't see but may know. When they escape the prison, we start to get flashbacks that explain why they have to go back in time to kill someone. As the stories start to come together you find more empathy for both the two and the one they are supposed to kill. Time travel isn't explained very well but Em leaves herself notes every time she fails, so that she will know she has to try something else next time. The revelation at the end is not what I was expecting for a teen book as it was a more violent ending than I thought was needed but it put a pretty resounding end to the story so that no sequel will be needed. It was similar to *Bunker 10* by J.A. Henderson or *Ruby Red* by Kristin Gier, but I liked it and I'll keep this author on my to-be-read list.

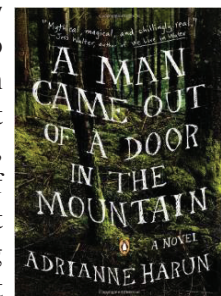


-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman

## A MAN CAME OUT A DOOR IN THE MOUNTAIN (2014)

By Adrienne Harun  
*Penguin*, ISBN: 9780670786107, trade pb, 256 pages

Who knew physics could so easily explain evil? In this debut novel by Harun, we see some of the same excellent wordsmithing shown in her short story collection, *The King of Limbo* and other stories. This isn't a horror gore-fest, but is a very quiet revelation of how easily people can slip into evil with just a touch, a glance or a whispered word. Set in British Columbia in a small town with teen protagonists who are just trying to get by, yet beset with neglectful parents, drug runners, teenage angst, lack of good jobs and the arrival of seemingly-ordinary Hana Snow and Keven Seven. Leo recognizes that something is wrong based on the stories that his uncle Lud has told him, but he can't stop his friends from falling under the spell of these two tricksters. The slow, quiet fall into evil is lyrically and powerfully supported by Leo's recollections of Lud's stories and the tales' eerie correlation to Leo's physics assignments is chilling. As with Stephen King's son, Joe Hill's psychological horror tales, the ease with which the author relates acts of cruelty or neglect can be off-putting, but life is what it is and if the gritty side of life offends you, this may not be the book for you, but I couldn't put it down.

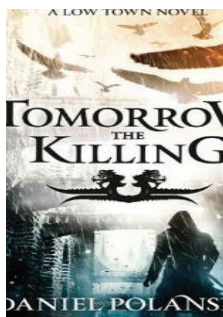


-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman

**TOMORROW THE KILLING (2012)** by Daniel Polansky  
 Hodder & Stoughton,  
 ISBN: 978144721348, hb, 341 pages

The first one was supposed to be called The Straight Razor Cure but ended up being called Low Town which I think does the first book an injustice. This is the second one and we catch up with Warden in his bar soon after the end of the first book. He gets an assignment from a retired general to find his granddaughter who is looking to stir up trouble in Low Town. Warden puts out feelers trying to find the girl and when she turns up dead, he starts a chain of dominoes to get to the people he thinks is responsible, but in Low Town you can never dig deep enough to find the final answer and Warden has to scramble to set right what he started. I loved the double and triple crosses and hidden betrayals and you can always count on some violence to liven things up if the story starts to slow. I have the third one, She Who Waits (2014), in my hand right now and will start it immediately.

--Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman* - [www.prescottlibrary.info](http://www.prescottlibrary.info)

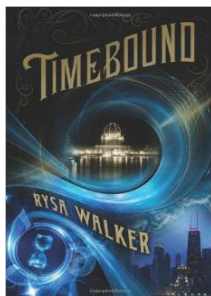


**TIMEBOUND (2014)**

by Rysa Walker  
 Paw Prints, ISBN #98180638478

Kate sees a blue glow around her grandmother's necklace and this means she has the ability to time travel. The reasons are compelling and the stakes are high. As with all time travel stories there are just enough limitations on time travel mechanics that you have to take it on faith that it really works, but the plot is so fun and the friends who help her in this are so well-developed that you can't put it down. I loved it and while it had a satisfying resolution, there is room for a sequel or two and if they show up, I'll read them.

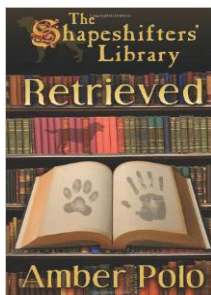
-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*



**RETRIEVED (2012)**

By Amber Polo, 287 pgs  
 Blue Merle Publishing, ISBN:  
 970985774806, trade pb

Second in the Shapeshifter Trilogy, this tells the story of the ongoing struggle between the library-loving dog shifters and the book-burning wolf shifters at the Shipsfeather Library. This story concerns the new-found mound uncovered in a field near the town that may have been built by early dog shifters to contain remnants from the great libraries that were saved and hidden. The humor is still whimsical and the characters are well-developed; the story is light-hearted and fun and doesn't take itself too seriously. The resolution should neatly lead you to book three, Recovered, out in 2013



and on my list.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**THE MIRK AND MIDNIGHT HOUR (2014)**

By Jane Nickerson, 287 pgs, hb  
 RandomHouse Teen,  
 ISBN: 9780385752879.

This teen novel reads much more like an adult novel that I expected. It tells of a Mississippi girl during the Civil War who discovers a wounded Union soldier being taken care of by a strange family of Africans who may or may not be human. What they want with the soldier is unknown but Violet wants to save him. The forces arrayed against her are, both near and far, easily overcome and seemingly impossible to fight. The characters were wonderfully developed and the story had enough depth and interesting twists to it that I couldn't put it down. You think this is the evil stepmother but she isn't and you think this is the evil stepsister but she isn't. You have to read it to see what I mean because it defies being fit into any one niche; I think teens and adults will both love this book.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**THE WINTER PEOPLE (2014)**

By Jennifer McMahon, hb, 314 pgs.  
 Doubleday, ISBN: 78038538497

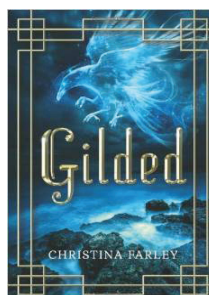
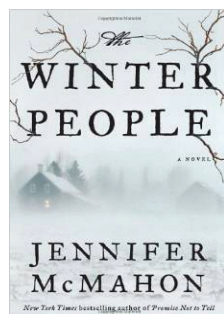
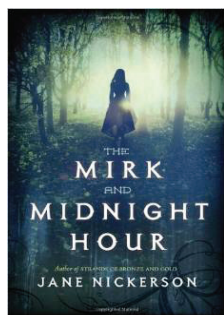
For all that this book covers several time periods and multiple main characters, the underlying story of a parent's love for their child and how far they will go to see them again is haunting and compelling. In this small town in Vermont, there have always been rumors of 'sleepers', people whose loved ones miss them so much, they bring them back from the dead; but sometimes all does not go as planned. In 1908, you have the story of Sara Harrison Shea brutally murdered and, Ruthie and her younger sister Fawn's stories intermixed with Katherine's story in the present day, that tell of the effect of these sleepers on generations of the town. The horror of what can go wrong unfolds slowly and the foreshadowing is atmospheric and well-developed. While I really liked the book, I'm glad I finished the last part during daylight hours.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**GILDED (2014)**

By Christina Farley, hb, 339 pages  
 Skyscape, ISBN: 981477847015

I would never have guessed this was Farley's first novel; that's how good it was. This is set in modern-day Korea but the impact of Korea's mythology is still



felt. Jae Hwa Lee is a half-Korean transplant to Korea when her father gets a job there. She's very good at martial arts but when a visit to her grandfather's house leads her to an alternate dimension where she is mistaken for a princess betrothed to a god, things get a little out of hand. Yet Jae Hwa is more than an empty-headed fluff, she's strong, resourceful, thinks quickly and has a great support team to help her figure out how to fix this small problem of a god pursuing every oldest daughter of her line to death or madness. I loved that this was set in Korea and that our heroine had some moxy. The end felt like the best Mission Impossible show ever and I loved the resolution. It is setup for a possible sequel, so I am ready for the next one. If you loved this, then you might also like Jay Kristoff's Stormdancer, set in a steampunk version of China with an equally strong female lead character.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman* - [www.prescottlibrary.info](http://www.prescottlibrary.info)

**ANNIHILATION (2014)**

By Jeff Vandermeer, 195 pages  
 Farrar, Straus and Giroux,  
 ISBN: 978037104092, trade pb

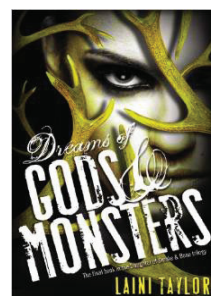
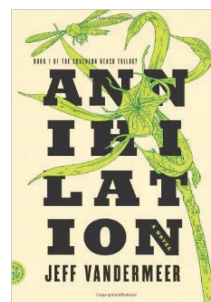
This feels like a very long short story concerning a journey - but what a journey. The 12th expedition, consisting of four people, are thrust through a portal into Area X with little support and no tech and told to survey the area. We learn about it as they learn about it, but we are unsure if our narrator is reliable and it seems as if at any moment we will be told this is a dream sequence, because that is so much what it feels like as you are reading. All the way through I kept expecting something huge to happen and it doesn't really, it is the journey of discovery that is important. Vandermeer has won many awards and this is a very short book that will make you think long after the last page has been turned. While I can't think of another book similar to this, I got the same existential feel from reading Lexicon by Max Barry or The Rook by Daniel O'Malley.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**DREAMS OF GODS AND MONSTERS (2014)**

By Laini Taylor  
 Little Brown and Co.,  
 ISBN: 98031613071

I have waited for this book ever since reading the first one, Daughter of Smoke and Bone, where we first meet Karou who steals teeth and her friends who don't know of her secret life in an alternate dimension or universe where she helps a resurrectionist revive her people to be soldiers in a never-ending war against what look like angels. From there I had to have each one as soon as it came out and I put anything else away until I got



it read. I love the story, the characters, the setting and nothing I could tell you would be better than just saying "You have got to read this series." I also loved her series about Blackbringer, which is equally fantastic, but totally different. She is on my list of authors' that no matter what she writes, I'll read it and know I'll love it.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman* - [www.prescottlibrary.info](http://www.prescottlibrary.info)

**DARK WOLF (2013)**

By Kate Douglas, 310 pages  
 Kensington Publishing,  
 ISBN: 9780758288189, trade pb



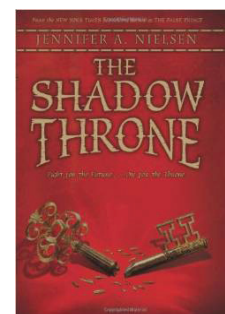
This feels like a very long short story concerning a journey - but what a journey. The 12th expedition, consisting of four people, are thrust through a portal into Area X with

little support and no tech and told to survey the area. We learn about it as they learn about it, but we are unsure if our narrator is reliable and it seems as if at any moment we will be told this is a dream sequence, because that is so much what it feels like as you are reading. All the way through I kept expecting something huge to happen and it doesn't really, it is the journey of discovery that is important. Vandermeer has won many awards and this is a very short book that will make you think long after the last page has been turned. While I can't think of another book similar to this, I got the same existential feel from reading Lexicon by Max Barry or The Rook by Daniel O'Malley.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**THE SHADOW THRONE (2014)**

By Jennifer Nielsen, 317 pages  
 Scholastic Press,  
 ISBN: 9780545284172, hb



It seems this is the time for all good teen-friendly trilogies to have their final volume come out. Ending the series that started out with The False Prince, then The Runaway

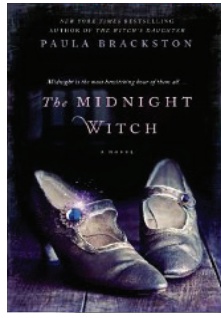
King, this one has a great climax. I really wanted to see how this ended as Jaron's early life was so terrible, that we want to see good things happen to him. However, everything comes too easy to King Jaron as he's a noble and likeable fellow, so you don't mind following him and his friends on his journey to recover his kingdom and get the girl. There is only implied sex that is barely hinted at and there is a lot of violence that is pretty intense although the repercussions of torture seem low and quick to heal. While the character development in the first two books is enough to keep you reading, this one doesn't do much to move the characters along. It seems the obstacles are insurmountable, but circumstances fall out just right so that everything goes Jaron's way. I liked how it ended and every book has made the NYT bestseller list so lots of other people liked them too. Start with the first one and enjoy.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**THE MIDNIGHT WITCH (2014)**

by Paula Brackston

St. Martin's Press, hb, 339 pages  
ISBN: 9781250006080



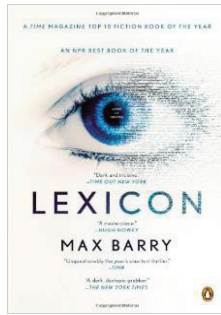
Lady Lilith Montgomery, a witch, is the newly appointed head of the Lazarus Coven but there is evil pursuing her. She holds the secret of an elixir for returning from death a stronger witch and the dark witches want it enough to use all means at their disposal to get it from her. This aspires to be another A Discovery of Witches by Deborah Harkness by adding in lots of history and alchemy; but all it does is slow down the story and make you have to skip pages of exposition as it doesn't really add to the plot - but you want it to so you keep reading. The end is done very well and you don't see who the traitor is until the very end so that part is cool.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**LEXICON (2013)**

By Max Barry, Penguin,

ISBN: 981594205385, hb, 387 pgs



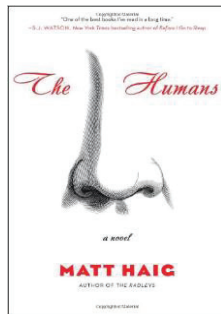
Many cultures have a myth similar to the Tower of Babel where language is fragmented and cultures divide. This is the story of a group of people who have learned to use language as a control mechanism for making people do what they want; but when there is mention of a word that controls masses of people once you set it loose, they want it. This group finds there is one person who is immune to the WORD and everyone wants him. The story jumps POV from character to character and so it might be harder for some to get into right away. It is a book that requires you to think about many things differently; Lev Grossman called it 'cerebral' and 'ridiculously funny.' If words were weapons, this would be a book about nukes. I loved the end and how it made me think about power, relationships, compromises and the ramifications of actually getting what you want.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**THE HUMANS (2014)**

By Matt Haig, 279 pages

Simon & Schuster,  
ISBN: 9781476727912, hb



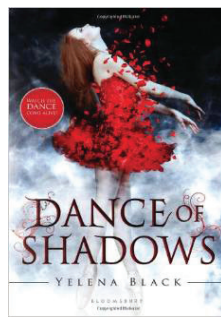
This book got so much hype that pre-publication greatness was predicted and expected. The book is in first person, so we only know what the narrator knows and he is an alien with no knowledge of humans and no experience with emotions which makes him crazy hard to relate to. After page 60 when he is still coming to grips with emotions, his senses and humans, I got tired of reading cute and quirky, but very judgmental explanations for what clothes are and what food is and how ugly people are compared to his race. I didn't like the character, I didn't buy that he changed so drastically even though he tells us that he has changed at the very beginning, when he repeatedly states his race is so much better and smarter and evolved than humans; but a human solved the Riemann equation and the galactic aliens had to wipe that information out of the human consciousness and I never really got why he was the best one to fix it. I didn't love it, I liked the premise but never felt the character was real - if the aliens are that evolved, there were better ways to do what needed to be done and so I wanted more than what I got.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**DANCE OF SHADOWS (2013)**

By Yelena Black

Bloomsbury, 369 pages  
ISBN: 978159990940, hb



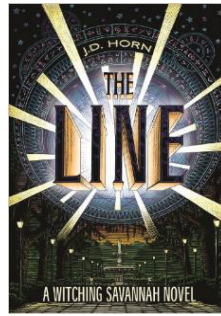
ballerina so she can get accepted to the school and find out what happened. Vanessa and friends are stock teen characters, but something else seemed missing even though I loved the premise. I loved the idea that dance can bring forth gods or demons from other realms and, of course, who doesn't love an evil ballet master who wants to control them. It is a little dark and the requisite love triangle isn't believable. How many times have I said love here? Well here is one more - I really wanted to love this one and I feel bad that I didn't because it had all the things that I love about urban fantasy and teen romance, yet it fell flat for me.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**THE LINE (2014)**

By J.D. Horn

trade pb, 285 pages,  
47North,  
ISBN: 9781477809730



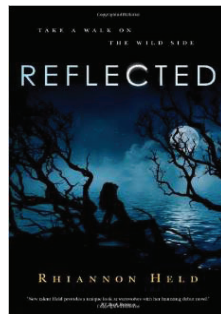
You start out thinking this is a book about ghosts in Savannah, but it's not. It's about witches who through their link to a power source have created a barrier called The Line that keeps demons out - well sort-of out. While I've read this basic plot many times before, this author keeps me guessing to the end as to how he makes it work. I liked how he tweaked the world building to make the plot make sense. I loved all the characters and it was fun to try to figure out who our main characters should trust. Nicely-interspersed dribbles of alternate history on the witches, their magic and how they choose the Anchor were just enough to keep me interested without being overwhelming. Now I'm hooked and I want to read the rest in the series but will have to wait as this is the first in a NEW series and he hasn't written them yet.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**REFLECTED (2014)**

By Rhiannon Held,

336 pages, trade pb  
Tom Doherty Associates,  
LLC,  
ISBN: 9780765330390.



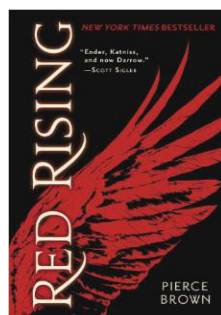
This is the third in the series about the werewolf alphas Silver and Dare that started with the awesome book, Silver. This story concentrates on Felicia, Dare's daughter who has come to live with them from her extended family in Spain. Felicia is your standard insecure teenager filled with angst and swimming in parental issues, but when she lies to protect one of the Spanish werewolves who she is sure is there to cause trouble, she starts a series of events that may cause her to lose everything, destabilize the entire North American werewolf hierarchy and put Silver in a mental institution which is exactly what the werewolves in Madrid want. How she fixes the problems that she created is pretty cool and yet still teenager-y, even though the books aren't written for teens and address some complex adult concepts.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*  
[www.prescottlibrary.info](http://www.prescottlibrary.info)

**RED RISING (2014)**

By Pierce Brown

Del Rey, 382 pages  
ISBN: 9780345539786, hb



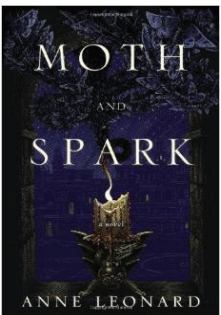
This is The Lord of the Flies meets Chronicles of Riddick in the best of all possible ways. You have

the downtrodden miners of Mars, the Reds, who are controlled, lied to and punished by the perfect Golds. The other colors fall in along the lines of a regular hierarchy and don't contribute much to the story at this point. Darrow is one of the best Helldivers the Red community has seen and when his wife is killed for a minor transgression, he is recruited by the resistance to be surgically-modified and trained to become a Gold and sent to infiltrate and take down the tyrannical government. This conversion and training part reads like a very violent and painful version of My Fair Lady. But as he learns more about the system and its brutal training program for Gold leaders, he finds friends and makes enemies and shows just how much the system needs to change as the brightest are mowed down by the most brutal and the game is rigged in favor of the powerful. I loved the innovative use of tech, the worldbuilding, mythology and history was stellar and the characters were very real and unique. This is the first in a new series and a debut novel by this author. For other books on the evils of social stratification in a fabulous setting with intriguing characters, read Anne Bishop's Black Jewels series, one of my favorite re-reads. This is not a teen book but it could easily be offered to more mature teens or fans of Ender's Game.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**MOTH AND SPARK (2014)**

By Anne Leonard, 368 pages, hb  
Viking, ISBN: 9780670015702



A prince who talks to dragons and a common girl who has visions meet at a castle. Sparks fly but their stations make it impossible for a relationship to last. The dragons are held captive by an evil ruler and Prince Corin has been chosen to free them - this changes the game drastically. With war on the horizon and dragons in the air, Corin and Tam have to work together to find a solution that sees the most people come out of the conflict alive because the dragons will be free no matter who dies in the struggle. The character development was superb and I really cared about the humans, the dragons and their riders. The dragons actually play a small part in the action while their motivations are the landslide that propels the story. The setting was well done and the resolution was exceptionally well written so as to not be a cliché yet give resolution to this story line and leave it open for a sequel, which I will be reading as soon as it comes out.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*  
Adult Services Lead Librarian, Prescott Public Library - [www.prescottlibrary.info](http://www.prescottlibrary.info)

**“Nothing worth everything comes without a price”**

**THE BOOK WAITRESS SERIES**  
VOLUME ONE  
**DEENA REMIEL**

*From the*  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**BEST-SELLING**  
**KINDLE AUTHOR**  
*of* **GOTHIC**  
**ROMANCE**

**THE BOOK WAITRESS**  
*Serving up evil and oh, so good...*  
**by Deena Remiel**

<http://www.deenaremiel.com>

**RED DEVIL 4 (2014)**

By Eric C. Leuthardt, 365 pgs  
St. Martin's Press,  
ISBN: 9780765332566, hb

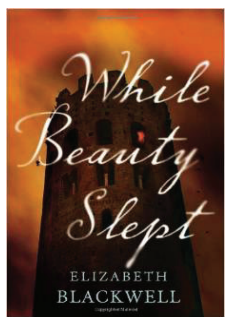


This is a book about a game virus and a fledgling AI that meet and have conflict. The supporting characters are all people who interact with the two entities and are either part of the problem or trying to solve it. The character development takes forever to get off the ground and by page 100, I'm still having trouble with the plot which has not yet developed enough to keep my interest. I'm not sure if it is because of the short chapters that don't allow a lot of character or plot development or the number of POVs that the story presents. Either way I couldn't relate to the characters or the setting. Ready Player One would be a better choice.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*  
Adult Services Lead Librarian, Prescott Public Library - [www.prescottlibrary.info](http://www.prescottlibrary.info)

**WHILE BEAUTY SLEPT (2014)**

By Elizabeth Blackwell, hb, 421 pgs  
Penguin, ISBN: 9780399166235

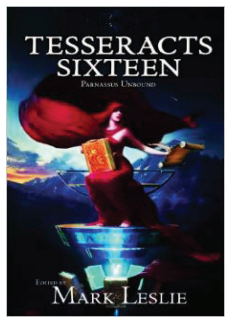


This adaptation of the Sleeping Beauty legend is told from the handmaid's point of view. It is set in a medieval kingdom, with commoners and nobles, traitors and loyalists, a witch and her sister, and a well-hidden royal bastard. The story starts very slow and the buildup to the climax is painstakingly developed with much heavy-handed foreshadowing. There is no spindle, no sleeping for a hundred years and no thorny hedge; there is a mean-spirited spoiled princess who will stop at nothing to get what she wants and it goes from there. The beginning and end were very well-written, tying the first and last parts together into a satisfying whole, but the book is about 50 pages too long.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**TESSERACTS SIXTEEN: PARNASSUS UNBOUND (2012)**

By Mark Leslie and Ryan Oakley  
Tor Publishers, 317 pages  
ISBN: 9780765334145, hb,



Wading through Mark Leslie's collection of speculative fiction could be likened unto, diving head first into a lost civilization's library. This could be a cavern of unnerving observations about what is, and what could be.

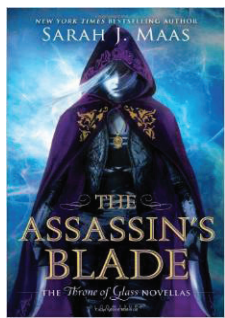
Each writer perpetuates language's viral need to control mankind while continuing life-giving validation to Sasquatch and the living ghosts. The computers simulate the Apocalypse and zombies list personal want ads.

The collective writers of Tesseract Sixteen offer up these delectable nibbles, leading the reader on a progressive Parnassus-tic mind dinner.

-- Reviewed by: *H. Reavis*

**THE ASSASSIN'S BLADE (2014)**

By Sarah J. Maas



This book contains five novellas all in one edition. I didn't realize they were all prequels leading up to the novel The Throne of Glass until I got to the end. I loved this and it is fun to read about Celaena and how she got the way she is. If you can read this one first before you get to the rest, it will make more sense but knowing more about her when you get to this one, helped too. She is still a kick-butt

assassin but you see more of her caring side in these stories and the character development is awesome.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*  
- [www.prescottlibrary.info](http://www.prescottlibrary.info)

**SHE WHO WAITS (2014)**

By Daniel Polansky

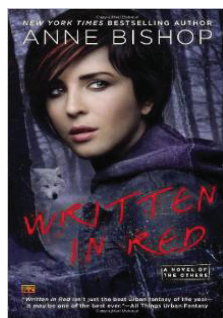


This is the third in the series about Warden, a drug-peddling ex-cop in a medieval world with magic and royalty that is still recovering from a major war. Warden isn't really likeable because of the drug-peddling rationalizing he is always doing. But he cares about Low Town and only a very few other people. These are the things he is willing to fight for and it doesn't matter how dirty his hands have to get. In this story we learn more about his past and of course there was a woman in it. We get to see Wren grow up and learn to use his magic better and Adolphus is his same huge loveable self. I don't think there will be a sequel to this one because the resolution was pretty final, but I've been wrong about that kind of thing before. Polansky is on my list of great authors and I can't wait to see what he'll come up with next.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**WRITTEN IN RED (2012)**

By Anne Bishop

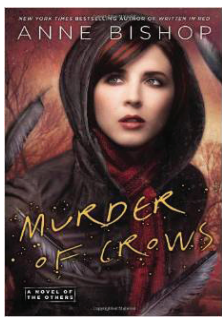


Bishop is best known for her fantastic Black Jewels series but this newer series about the Others is equally good while being very different. The second one, A Murder of Crows just came out in March 2014. Bishop's characters jump off the page as fully-formed people we care about and the world building is seamlessly interspersed throughout the story. Meg is a blood prophet, but in the beginning we don't know what that means. However improbable, she has just escaped from a secret holding facility and found her way to the Others compound where she thinks she might be safe; but her presence destabilizes the power balance between humans and Others. The Others are not human but can appear in that form, some are elementals, shapeshifters, vampires or something else and are very powerful. Making them angry can have extreme consequences and they are willing to go to extreme lengths to keep Meg, their new Liaison, safe. Humans beware!

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**MURDER OF CROWS (2014)**

By Anne Bishop  
Orbit Books, 384 pages  
ISBN: 9780316246620,  
Trade pb.



The second in The Others series ramps up the tension as the conflict between The Others and the humans gets more violent and widespread. War may be coming and the humans don't realize they will lose if this happens. Can the Wolfgard, Meg and their humans stop this before it goes too far? We learn a little more about the Others and Meg's background gets a little clearer, but the most fun part of the story is watching Sam grow up. Now I have to wait a year for the next one.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**RUNNER (2014)**

By Patrick Lee

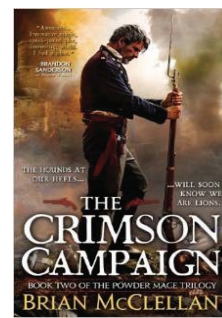
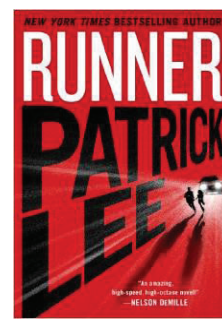
Rachel Grant is running for her life when she collides with Sam Dryden, possibly the only man with the skills needed to keep her alive. Together they must stay ahead of shadowy government

agencies and defense contractors for whom Rachel is both a weapon and an obstacle. Lee's other series was very good and I expected no less from this. It delivered on all counts: great characters, nonstop action, plot that wouldn't let me put the book down. Mr. Lee is on my list of favorite authors and I'll read anything he writes as fast as I can get my hands on it.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**THE CRIMSON CAMPAIGN (2014)**

By Brian McClellan

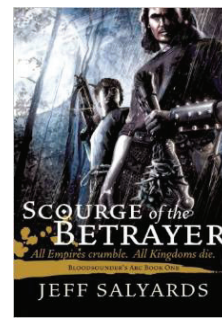


While this is the middle book in the Powder Mage trilogy, the set up for the finale is wonderfully done. There aren't too many POV changes but there are enough that we get the full flavor of how things will go in the third book. We learn more about Taniel Two-Shot, Godkiller and his sorceress friend, Ka-Poel, more about Field Marshall and Powder Mage Tamas and how he recovers from what others might call defeat but he just calls a change of plan. The other subplots are interesting and add to the feeling of weight behind the main plot arc, Taniel's changes are cool and watching both him and Powder Mage Vlora grow beyond their mistakes is both touching and painful. I can't wait for the third one where I find out how it all ends but that will be next year.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**SCOURGE OF THE BETRAYER (2012)**

By Jeff Salyards



Book one in the Bloodsunder's Arc series starts off like any other sword and sorcery story but we soon learn there is more going on behind the scenes that we thought. Bloodsunder is a flail with two heads representing the faces of the Deserter Gods, but there is more to the flail than just a weapon. It gives to its wielder, the memories of those it's killed and eventually they will drive him insane unless those memories can be purged. The story builds slowly and you don't learn much of this until close to the halfway point. As a commentary on how much darkness one person can hold, it is a well-balanced story, as S&S, it is a little slow to take off but worth it in the end. I liked it and the second one is coming out soon, so I'll read it just to find out more about Bloodsunder, Arki the scribe and Captain Braylar of the Syldoon Mercenaries.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*  
Adult Services Lead Librarian, Prescott Public Library - [www.prescottlibrary.info](http://www.prescottlibrary.info)



ONLINE Classes and In-Person Classes Now Available

The Jungle Survival Marketing for Authors

Classes and Webinars from PJ Hultstrand Also Available to Speak in Arizona

Find upcoming classes: <http://bit.ly/1iAanS8>

POP CULTURE PARADISE HAS COMICS, BOARD GAMES, TOYS AND COLLECTIBLES! MORE THAN COMICS! -MARCO

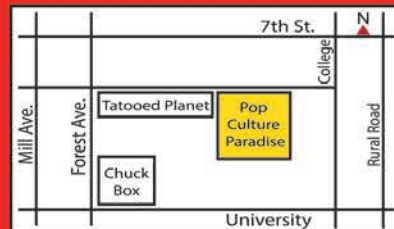
Our Staff is AWESOME!

COMICS GAMING TOYS

**POP**  
C·U·L·T·U·R·E  
*Paradise*

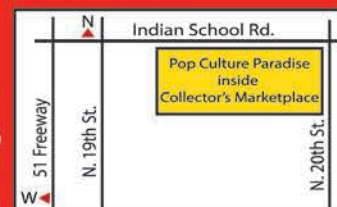
NOW 2 Locations to Serve You!

**TEMPE LOCATION**  
715 S. Forest Ave.  
(480) 557-6640



MONDAY TO SATURDAY 11AM TO 10PM.  
WEDNESDAY WE OPEN EARLY AT 9AM!  
NEW COMICS!!  
SUNDAY 11AM TO 6PM

**PHOENIX LOCATION**  
1945 E. Indian School Rd.  
MONDAY/TUESDAY CLOSED



WEDNESDAY WE OPEN EARLY AT 9AM!  
NEW COMICS!!  
THURSDAY TO FRIDAY OPEN 11AM-6PM  
SATURDAY OPEN 10AM-4PM  
SUNDAY 11AM-4PM

Bring this Ad in or Mention "THE WOD AD"  
for 25% OFF of One Item\*  
OR Get \$3.00 Booster Packs! (Limit 3 Packs)  
\*Cannot be combined with any other store offer.

[www.popculture-comics.com/](http://www.popculture-comics.com/)  
[www.facebook.com/PopCultureParadise](https://www.facebook.com/PopCultureParadise)

**IMPERIAL OUTPOST GAMES**

Open Friday & Saturday until Midnight

Open Game Tables Always Available

We carry an extensive line of FLAMES OF WAR Products - Plus Hundreds of other Board, Miniature and Card Games

4920 E. Thunderbird Rd., Ste. 121 • Glendale, AZ  
**602-978-0467**  
[www.google.com/#q=imperial+outpost+games](http://www.google.com/#q=imperial+outpost+games)

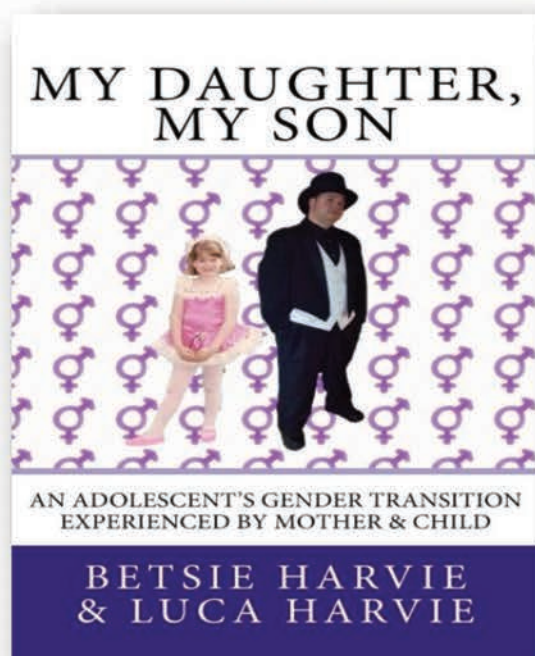
**Stock up for your Summer Vacation!**

**Wine Bar/Lounge**  
**Wine Storage**  
**1500 Imported & Domestic Wines**  
**1000+ Spirits**  
**1000+ Craft Beers**  
**350+ Keg Beers**

235 N Country Club Dr. • Mesa, AZ 85201 • 480.834.5050  
**Sun Devil Cellar & Pub**  
Weekly Wine Tastings, Beer Tastings, Private Party Room, Lounge & Art Openings  
[WWW.SDLIQUORS.COM](http://WWW.SDLIQUORS.COM) • [facebook.com/sundevilliquors](https://facebook.com/sundevilliquors)

## My Daughter, My Son

An Adolescent's Gender Transition Experienced by Mother & Child



A true-life, no-holds-barred account of gender transition, from local author Betsie Harvie, and her son, Luca Harvie.



**What if You or Your Child Were Born in the Wrong Body?**

Could you live with a secret?

How young is too young for sex reassignment surgery?

Would you have the courage to show the world your true self?

A tell-all journey of one of America's youngest transsexuals to undergo controversial gender reassignment surgery, spanning more than 20 years. Join Luca, and his mother, Betsie Harvie, as they struggle with childhood depression, multiple arrests, bullying, and transphobia—as Luca grapples with body dysphoria, drug addiction, and dating. Cheer them on as they fight for the rights of transsexual juveniles!

"I loved this story ... an amazing look into the lives of a mother and child who are dealing with difficult and real issues that a lot of people are facing today..." — *Matthew, Amazon.com*

"... whenever I put it down I wondered about the next chapter ... It's written by a mother and son who are both brutally honest people..." — *Florrie, Amazon.com*

"... an incredible journey detailing gender transition, it also has humor [and] love... you can hear Luca's message loud and clear, don't let anyone hold you back from the person you are meant to be. This book has made me laugh and cry... I was glued to every word..." — *Christina, Amazon.com*

◆ Facebook ◆ Goodreads ◆ [www.mydaughtermysong.com](http://www.mydaughtermysong.com) ◆ Kindle & Paperback Available on Amazon ◆