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Interview with Sylvester McCoy - Doctor Who

By Song River

Whether playing, “The Fool” in King Lear’s production, or the wizard known as- Radagast the Brown, in The Hobbit; the Seventh Doctor, Sylvester McCoy, carries a sweet spot in our hearts. Such a diverse thespian with knowledge that spans the gamut of political savviness, to his various chameleon abilities of acting. He encompasses roles on stage, film, and television- while incorporating endearing renderings that mount the dramatic flair, to the comedic joviality... succinctly put, Mr. McCoy is without pretense- an actor with surpassing abilities.

Born in Dunoon, Scotland, birth name: Percy James Patrick Kent-Smith. he spent most of his childhood in Ireland, before moving to England. He studied to become a priest, and worked various

jobs, acted as security for the Rolling Stones, joined the, Ken Campbell Roadshow, where he began his acting career performing plays alongside Bob Hoskins, Jane Wood, and Dave Hill, finally leading him to his true destiny as Sylvester McCoy, the actor. Mr. McCoy is in truth a multifaceted person with a heap of assorted layering.

“What is it that makes Sylvester McCoy a treasure? When one meets him immediately you know... it’s that Twinkle in his eye, and a spark of ignited passion for his art.”- Song River

It was during one of his most recent comic con tours, The Amazing Las Vegas Comic Con stop, he and I were able to take a few moments and chat. He spoke of politics during the years of

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COSPLAYER INTERVIEW WITH AURORA O'BRIEN

Interviewed by Michael Bradley

MB: Today our interview is with Aurora O'Brien, an outstanding young cosplayer and professional model. Most people see you at events or photos and have no idea the true diversity of your interests. You studied at the Art Institute of Phoenix and are an artist as well as a model correct?

AO: Yes! My dream has always been to be an artist. To create something from nothing is the best feeling in the world. After attending though, I lost interest in art completely, not drawing for over five years. I soon realized I had to let out my creative energy somehow so I decided to give modeling a try. I later linked up



Photo Credits: Varied but connected to Aurora O'Brien

with famous American comic book artist Steve Rude and became his model in exchange for lessons! He helped me regain my passion for art, and now I can't stop!

MB: Tell me about your outdoor lifestyle. I know you have an interest in motorcycles, riding horses, and even welding.

AO: Oh yes! I'm just one of those people who loves an adventure! These are my escapes from reality. There is nothing like hopping on my bike to go see my horse, spending the afternoon

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Interview with Author/Artist Travis Hanson

Interviewed by Song River

Come be a part of Travis Hanson's incredible Patreon Project

Coloring the entire Bean comic (all 590+ pages) and to continue to have weekly story updates.



Your continuing support makes projects like Bean possible... Thank You.

Photo credits: Travis Hanson

Can a dishwasher really be a hero? The Bean shows us we certainly can!

Interview with Author and Illustrator: Travis Hanson creator of the web-comic, The Bean.

“Life is a whole new adventure”- I believe would be Author and Illustrator, Travis Hanson’s, mantra. Travis recently began the process of coloring his long time dishwasher’s adventure web-comic, The Bean, and I asked him to share with us the process and legacy of this regular ‘Joe’ turned hero.

Song River: Travis share with us a little background about The Bean, this dishwashers journey to self-discovery.

Travis Hanson: The Bean is the story of a young dishwasher who lives in an inn called the Silver Dagger. The Bean is not happy with his lot in life; as he

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Chad Heinrich Celebrates Batman Day at Samurai

By Song River



Photo credits: CowGirl Zen Photography

The Impressive Art and Passion of Comic Illustrator: Chad Heinrich

Song River: Chad it would seem by looking at your illustrations, that art is an extension of who you are. Thinking back, was there a favorite character that you drew repeatedly?

Chad Heinrich: A long as I can remember I've drawn Batman. My grandmother recently sent me a bunch of artwork I had done as young as 5 years old, all Batman. But I have to admit I also spent a fair amount of time on Spidey, Spawn, and the X-Men.

Song: I understand you are quite diverse in your artistic expressions, what are some of the other mediums you enjoy?

Chad: I have dabbled in just about every medium I can think of. As for other mediums I enjoy, I find sculpture particularly relaxing, there is something really fascinating about shaping and creating with your hands. You are literally

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Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, and how some of the decisions made during that time affected the actors, and other artists, as the political decision hit the arts financially. Not dwelling too long on her changes and their rippling affects, Mr. McCoy spoke fondly of his time as the Seventh Doctor, and of his two traveling companions, Mel, (Bonnie Langford), and Ace, aka Dorothy Gale McShane, (Sophie Aldred). He was quite proud of the fact that he was the favorite Doctor of director Peter Jackson, which led him to obtaining the role of Radagast the Brown, in The Hobbit. It was a bit of a wonky occurrence, as Mr McCoy had auditioned originally for the part of Bilbo, but it went instead to actor, Ian Holm. However, while traveling to New Zealand Mr. McCoy met Peter Jackson, and as he put it,

“we got along well.” At that time though, the director of The Hobbit was to be, Guillermo del Toro, and he wasn’t familiar with Sylvester McCoy. Mr. McCoy auditioned for the part of Radagast and he landed it. Del Toro ended up leaving The Hobbit project as director, and Peter Jackson came in to direct it. The rest for the wizard is history.

“It was 1987, and I attended my very first panel as a guest in Atlanta, Georgia, it was late summer, and all I can say is- WOW! It was a heatwave, and these girls with curly wigs, big hats, scarves, long coats came to meet me. I remember ladies wearing leather chamois... I fell in love with conventions, and twenty-eight years later...”

Mr. McCoy went on, “One time I was asked to ride in a parade in Maine, they put me in ‘Bessie’ (Bessie was the Third Doctor’s mode of transportation while exiled here on earth) and I had no idea what to do.”

Mr. McCoy turned to me and asked, “Do you remember Ronald Reagan? He was a Hollywood actor before he was president. Well, I remember what he would do... he would point at people, wave, and smile... so I did the same thing. It worked.”

(At this moment, with a sly grin, Mr. McCoy proceeds to point at a passer by, smiles, and waves. Response? A huge grin from the



receiver).

Never lacking in performing, Mr. McCoy appears in a short film, directed by Andy Collier, released in August, called, The Seventeenth Kind. A production about strange sale items on late night cable, he plays the part of Rusty.

In post-production be looking for: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies, When the Devil Rides Out, and Journey Bound.

In addition there is a new BBC TV comedy with a working title of, Crims, where Mr. McCoy portrays a one-eyed, wooden legged teacher in a prison, and if that wasn’t enough to leave his fans feeling exhausted, this juggernaut in the world of acting will be in a play due out this September, an adaptation of Chekhov’s Three Sisters.

Without question, Sylvester McCoy, is a ball of energy that reaches for the stars! An absolute delight of zeal and passion for his beloved profession. Above all, in truth an artist of the highest degree, and a thespian who brings life to all his beloved character roles. WOD

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

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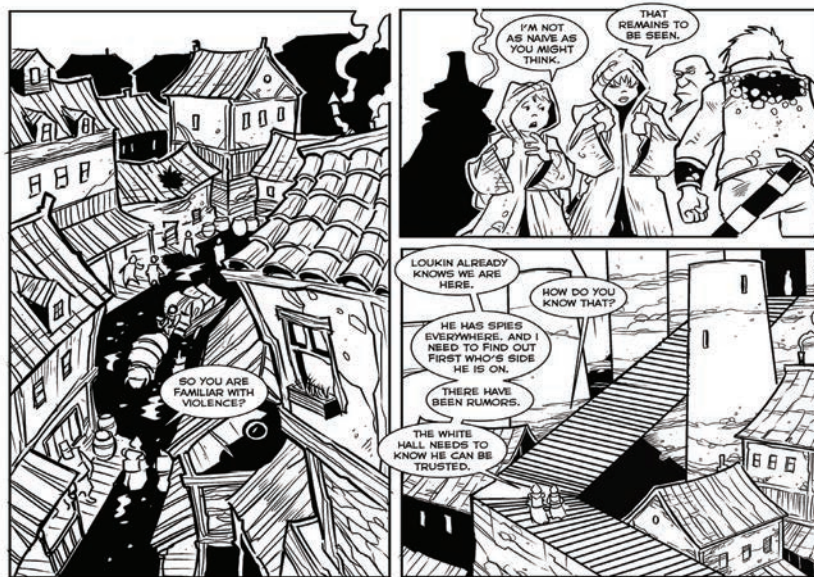
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was abandoned by his father to the owner of the inn, a mean ogre named, Gort.

One day, when he was sent on an errand to find some mushrooms, he was kidnapped by a crazy old troll who needed the boy to find a weapon of incredible power. The weapon, a broken sword, eventually ends up in the hands of Bean, who is given a charge to heal the sword.

It's a story about not always being in control of what happens to you, but learning to be in control of how you react to it. Bean finds out that even a dishwasher has the potential for being the hero.

Song: What were some of the nuances you were thinking of when creating this story?

Travis: My disdain for washing dishes. (laughs)

Actually, I am a strong believer that you might not be able to control a situation - yet you can control your reaction to that situation. Which in the end allows you to control your future.

I also watch my own children as they grow-up and observe how they deal with choices and situations. Sometimes, not everyone you meet can be trusted, while other times you meet people that look scary or intimidating, and they turn out to be your closest allies. That's basically what The Bean is about.

Taking old stereotypes and tossing them out the window.

Song: Did you draw from any personal experiences in its creation?

Travis: I did. I took from my love of day dreaming and eating in dinners, while listening to the conversations around me when I was little.

You learn that the world is a much bigger place than you thought.

I also took the story from other experiences. When I wrote the refugee scene... I spent many hours talking to a friend who was a soldier and Chaplains' Aide. He had served in Africa, and had seen some pretty rough stuff. It helped me add a level of realism to my tale.

When dealing with wounds, I asked my cousin who studied to be a trauma surgeon on how one would deal with taking care of injuries on the battlefield, and also symptoms of fevers etc.. I love doing research.

Song: What year did you begin Bean?

Travis: 2002 really, but I did not put it into the current format that you see today, until 2009.

Song: Why did you originally begin in black and white, and were your intentions to keep it in this format?

Travis: I wanted to keep the story going. The story is an epic and I struggled with balancing a job/family/faith and the comic. To color it was way too taxing in the beginning, so I took the, "Jeff Smith Model", and went for b/w with the intent to color it later. It allowed the story to continue and keep it going - there are many web-comics that start in color, and quit because they cannot keep up with the demand a comic creates. Plus, there is little money at the moment in web-comics, so most creators need to have other jobs to keep the bills paid.

Song: What made you decide to begin this coloring process? Do you think it will enhance the story?

Travis: Because as much as I love black and white-color is what sells. I found that a lot of doors were closed because it's b/w, so I decided to go back and start the coloring process. I had too. I want this story to be told the way I see and though I am still updating in b/w it has always been my dream to do it in color.

Song: You chose Patreon as your instrument to use to take your passion for this story to its full glory. Why did you choose this particular venue to reach your goals?

Travis: I chose Patreon, because Jason Brubaker, reminded (pause), encouraged me to. I found it to be a nice model that allowed fans to help finance a project. It is allowing me to speed up the process. This is important, because Patreon is making it possible for creators to spend time on their own dreams and projects, with the help of others.

It's like the renaissance where patrons helped artists be what they were good at, and that was being an artist. Also, I like Patreon because you

can control how much you choose to donate. Most people donate just a \$1 per color update, about \$8 per month. That's it, and you can cap it. So you control how much you donate. It's very, very cool.

There's no time limit either, there is a reward system, and for me to color 600 + pages I needed a way to ease the burden of a free web-comic - which will still be free.

Song: How can those who want to support The Bean, get involved, and read how it works find your information?

Travis: Here is my link: <http://www.patreon.com/travishanson>.

Patreon allows people to donate money to help fund creators projects. Since my project is intense and big (600+ pages and constant b/w updates) Patreon allows people to lift the financial burden that a project like this creates. Especially when it is a labor of love. Some rewards included are; Free art, mentoring, secret blog, etc... The other thing is a patron can control how much they choose to donate. It could be just a \$1 each month or it could be more. It is all up to the patron.

The main thing is this opens a way for indy creators to produce some incredible projects, and do some wonderful things, while rewarding fans in a way that they have never done before. It is opening doors.

Travis Hanson is an Eisner nominated fantasy illustrator with a huge imagination. His works include comics, children's art, fantasy and just fun illustrations that encourages the need for people to be creative.

For more information on Trav's works, rates and ideas, just send a note to thanson@beanleafpress.com

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How to Make People Care About Your Projects

by **Brandon Mullan**

Photo credits: Brandon Mullan



In the last 15 years the world has seen an explosion of content platforms. Facebook, twitter and youtube are all gigantic platforms for users to distribute their own content. An artist who creates material has more access to outlets than ever but that accessibility has clogged those platforms and made it harder than ever for projects to carry any substantial meaning.

As a consumer, getting asked to follow a person or organization on twitter 20 times a day doesn't exactly perk my interest. It doesn't make me feel that the supplier understands my ever-changing needs as a person in demand of things. We as artists play the role of suppliers of our own creative content, and unfortunately, we're programmed to believe that if we get a twitter account people will magically follow us. The cold truth is a large portion of the people and organizations with tremendous twitter followings have other distribution outlets such as TV shows or well promoted films. There are only so many TV channels a person can surf through, making it possible a show will always be getting some views. Few people are going to flip through every page on the internet or every account on twitter just to find your material.

When I first started, I fell into the artistic trap of spending more time creating the project than understanding why someone would care. I had grandiose visions of a creative world called Socially Acceptable with modern day Mickey Mouse-type-characters that would be in movies, TV shows, and books and on cups, shirts, and toothbrushes. I had all the characters developed. There was Larry Chovaka, the suave, alpha male meteorologist who people love because of how he prances through his weather reports with charm and grace yet his followers remain unaware he is really an evil scientist attempting to take over the town; a satirical play on false leaders trying to take advantage of people. Then there was Fifi

Furfurfester, Larry's journalist girlfriend and co-host of the news. She represented the drifting, confused, misguided person seeking a higher quality of life and pursuing glitzy, dead-end avenues to achieve it. I wrote countless online stories about these characters that got lost on the internet. Something that's meaningful, creative, and informative can too easily get swallowed in the internet's black hole of everything ever made or plain ignored in our "check this out" rich society.

All of us independent artists are content providers and the hard, binary truth is that either people care or they don't. Without an audience our dreams and ideas remain just dreams and ideas. But luckily for us, we can use our brilliant creative minds to make people care.

How do we make people care about projects? When I started out with my Socially Acceptable idea and wrote internet stories about Larry and the rest of the characters, I knew I needed a way to advertise them. I made a flyer and handed it out but instead of just putting "go to this site" on the flyer, I wrote more stories specifically for the flyer and called it The Voice of Laborliss (Laborliss was the original name of the town the characters lived in). These stories were written from the point-of-view of the people who lived in Laborliss. People responded by picking the issues up and it took off. The Voice of Laborliss changed to Laborliss Magazine and I had birthed a magazine. I bought stands, printed more copies, and sold ad space. It meant something to people to be able to pick up a copy at a bus stop and suspend themselves from reality with a fresh issue each month.

People care about projects for different reasons. One reason is because of how they felt or what it meant to them when they were initially introduced to it. A first date to a concert with your future husband is going to make you care years later when that same artist puts out a new album. An enthusiastic artist getting you excited about their painting at a Friday night art show--allowing you to completely disengage from your work week--could make you remember them and their art later.

After a 36 issue run with the magazine and lots of learning, my days as a magazine publisher expired. A few years after the magazine was out of circulation, I assembled all the issues into a paperback anthology with a foreword before each issue that chronicled my journey as a publisher. I printed one batch of the books and sold them at art shows. Time had passed and people only cared because of how it made them initially feel when the magazine was in print and because they could find something about themselves in the forewords. Hearing an artist's journey about what they had to do to attain the resources, find the time, and go through to make their project a reality can make a consumer measure their story against the artist's, discover something about themselves, and care. Watching an artist go to great lengths to get their message out can make an onlooker say to themselves "wow, I should check this out, it must mean something if they're doing all that." The public is numb and unimpressed with artists just clicking the "submit" button and expecting legions to flock.

Once they care, we want them to accept it and buy it. I noticed that people were responding best to Larry, Fifi, and the rest of the characters and to the name Socially Acceptable. I sold all the copies of the anthology and started over. I rebranded everything Socially Acceptable, started writing a much-easier-to-print-and-understand novel titled Here We Go, Kent, and made figurines of the characters to promote the forthcoming novel. I had an artist make one 8" figurine of Larry from wire, tin

foil, and clay, had a mold manufacturer make a mold, purchased liquid plastic, and began making my own figurines of Larry. I once again hit the art show scene and was back to making people care and buy.

The first reason people buy is because of support. They respect what you're doing and they know a sale is a ticket for you to continue. Another reason is general interest. They're interested and they like it. They are at the beginning stages of becoming a fan. They get what you're doing, see potential and enjoy it. Another is they're a legitimate fan. They enjoy it where it's at and it does something for them. It entertains them, takes them away from their world, reminds them of a time in their lives, or brings them closer to a loved one. Another reason is self-expression. What you're conveying in your art agrees with them and their way of life. Your art on their wall will express who they are as a person when their friends come over.

Once we can get people to care and buy, we focus on distribution. Somehow, we have to continually expand the ways we get our creative worlds to people. All too often we think of distribution only in the form of the internet, TV, or publications. But as independent artists, thinking of outside-the-box distribution is paramount. Using the mail to send a hand written note describing your art, your process, and how stunning it will look in the prospect's living room is distribution. That booth at your art show and people stopping by is



distribution. Handing someone a flyer with a sample of your art is promotional distribution. A stage and people in the audience is distribution.

If we study why our potential fans care, why they buy, and creatively distribute our art and message, we have the model for being wildly successful artists and graduating to the next level.

"Brandon Mullan is a writer and founder of the promotion Socially Acceptable. He develops characters, writes stories, and markets projects. He's a regular vendor at the 2nd Friday Night Out Art Show in Mesa and enjoys problem solving, creativity, and selling."

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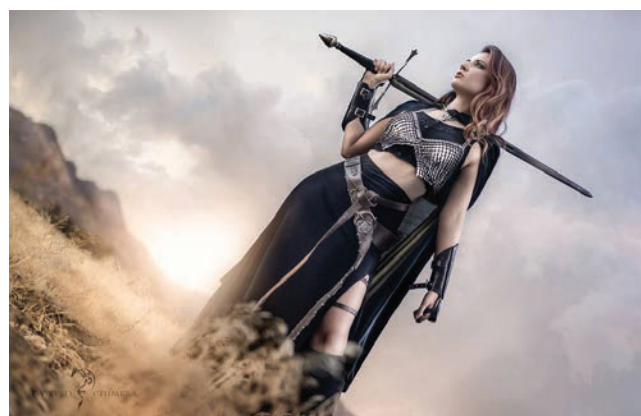
with her, then making my way back home to help fix something. A fun lil fact, is that I did not learn to ride before getting my bike or horse. I just decided I wanted to do it, and learned along the way!

MB: How long have you been into cosplay now, and what got you started?

AO: I first became interested in cosplay in middle school...well, I mean I wanted to dress up like my favorite anime characters. I went to my first con in 2009 and had the time of my life! I felt like I had finally met people I could connect with. Sadly, I did not have much money and I was only able to attend two others in the next few years. After I began modeling though, things changed. One my amazing photographers paid for my ticket and gas costs to get in just so he could take my picture and hang out. Then I began getting paid to be a booth babe and asked to cosplay more characters! It's so amazing how things work out sometimes!!

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

AO: Revy from Black Lagoon & Red Sonja for sure! I just love their rough around the edges attitude and the way they rose up from a rough past. As they say, the flower that blooms from adversity is the most beautiful...or in this case, badass!!



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

AO: Yes, 100%. I cannot cosplay the character unless I can connect with them in some way. Otherwise it just isn't all that fun. If I have a request for a cosplay, I will check out the series first. Besides, it's just another excuse to watch more anime!

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

AO: That is a hard question...Sadly I cannot afford to attend many cons. Usually, I only get the opportunity to go to about three or four a year. As far as photo shoots go, I average around 75 per year and the events are always a surprise. I am a brand ambassador so I work anything from a cigar girl at Barrett Jackson



to promoting liquor at clubs on the weekends or holidays, and even caddying for golfers (including the D-backs) for charity events. What can I say? I am all over the place.

MB: You look a lot different in many of your shots, which is a credit to your modeling skills. When I saw you at Amazing Arizona Con with Mary DeBalso, I at first did not recognize you. You even had a contest to find you this year at Phoenix Comic Con. How many people were able to find you each day?

AO: Thank you so much, it's something I take a lot of pride in. I was shocked at how many people found me each day! I certainly felt the love! It was so great to finally meet the people who follow my page in person! It's much better than just reading messages!

MB: No one naturally looks good on camera. I never met a model who had it easy. When you wore your Red Sonja outfit one day at Phoenix Comic Con, I was kind of shocked at how ripped your abs were. It reminded me of Toni Darling, and I know she does physical training for a living. Do you have a special diet and exercise regimen as well?

AO: Oh my, you are so sweet to say that!! Well, honestly I don't enjoy working out in conventional ways. Sure I do some crunches and yoga from time to time, but I find that hula hooping, dancing, riding my horse, jump roping, and playing Kinect on Xbox is WAY more fun!

MB: Are there certain photographers you have recently worked with that you would recommend to other cosplayers/models?

AO: Adam Patrick Murray is fantastic!! He is so easy to work with, creative, and catches the character in a simple, clean, yet engaging way. Another one would be Dave Kelley. He is sort of my go to guy, and one of my best friends. We just had our 30th shoot together the other day!! He is amazing and SOOOO creative!! As far as professional modeling photos go, Michael Luna is the best Arizona has!!

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

AO: The geek in me loves Amazing Arizona Con! It's not too big, not too small....its juuuust right! You have much more time to get to know your favorite artist and authors. Not to mention you can actually walk in the aisles without getting bumped and crinkling your brand new comic book!! The rebel in me however, loves working bike week selling cigars! The crowds are so free spirited, fun, and are always offering me free beer!

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

AO: Here is where the pros will get mad at me... I cannot sew. Instead I go on the hunt. Thrift stores are wonderful for piecing together outfits, and finding other clothes to bring to photo shoots.

MB: What are some of your best cosplay moments?

AO: Meeting fans is always a touching moment. It's still hard for me to believe that people are legitimately interested in meeting me and hearing my opinions. That being said, one of my all time favorite moments, was at an anime con before I was a 'public figure'. It was help at a hotel that had a bar in the center. Since I was cosplaying Revy, it only seemed appropriate to have a drink...you know, get into character and all. As soon as I sat down, a man ordered me a shot of rum, winked, then walked away (Black Lagoon fans will understand).

Soon after another guest approached me & bought me a shot then handed me a six inch moveable Revy statue (which I still use today for my art). He said I did an excellent job with the cosplay and he would consider it an honor if I took the gift, and a shot with him! We downed our drinks, hugged and



he left...I think there were about three others that came almost immediately after to have a shot with "Revy" before I decided that was enough.

MB: Do you cosplay just for fun, or do you have a store and blog site we can plug for you? Also, for photographers out there and people needing advertising or spokespersons, what is the best way for them to book you?

AO: I cosplay for the fun of it! What other reason is there? I do have a store where prints are available, but that's only to help with some of the costs of cosplaying. You are welcome to visit my store at aurorart.storenvy.com. If anyone is interested in hiring me for an event they can contact me on my website, www.auroraobrien.com or send me an email at dmobrien88@gmail.com

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

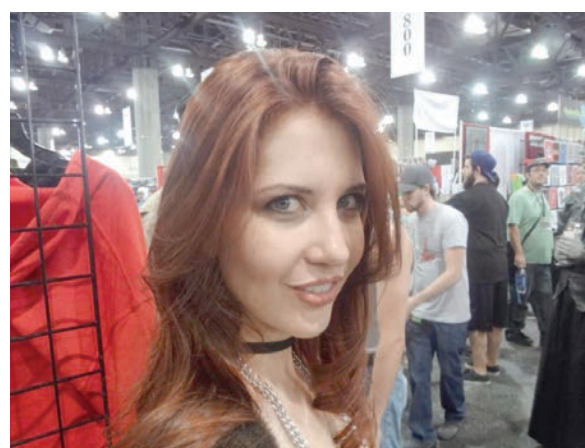
AO: I am exceptionally thankful to say I don't really get messed with at cons. I think I have a natural aura around me that says, "I may be cute, but I can kick your a**". I'm pretty thankful for that too, because I would hate to subconsciously knock someone out over a wandering hand... again.

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

AO: HAVE FUN!! There are no rules, you are among friends. Be fearless, and if anyone makes fun of you, just laugh it off. For those people, just aren't your people, and are probably just jealous of how awesome, brave, and fun you are!! Just be you, and make new friends. That's what it is all about, don't forget that.

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

AO: My shout out would be to all of my amazing fans, photographers, family, friends and supporters! If it wasn't for you all, I wouldn't have the confidence, nor the drive to get as far as I have. Before I entered the modeling world I was not in such a good place. Since then though, I have met countless amazing people who have shown me what it is to be happy, strong, loved and simply not ashamed to be me.



WHAT MAKES A CONVENTION GREAT?

By Michael D'Ambrosio

Back in July of 2004, I was invited to WesterCon in Phoenix for my first convention. The third book in my Fractured Time Trilogy, *Dark Horizon*, had just been released and I never knew that conventions existed for literary or multi-genre groups. I remember the Guest of Honor took sick and couldn't come and my very first panel at the WigWam Hotel was in a large ballroom. I was both excited and nervous as I entered and took a seat at the table. Start time approached and I was the only panelist with a room full of anxious fans. A young man came up to inform me that the main guest wouldn't be coming, who I'm sure most of those in the seats came to see, and the other panelists hadn't arrived yet. What a shock to the system that was! It was a defining moment for me in many ways as I seized the opportunity to entertain the fans, even if the GoH wasn't there. When the panel was over, the people awed me with a standing ovation and lengthy applause. I was so surprised that I trembled. Why am I telling you this? Keep reading and you'll understand.

Since that time, I've learned much about conventions and what goes into building one. The programming, costuming, location, coordination and interaction with the community, gaming, film festivals, media, parties and many other things come together to give the fans a chance to come out and meet some of the rising stars in the various genres as well as some of the greats who have reached the top. There is also the dubious task of finding enough reliable volunteers, yes all those people you see at a convention are volunteers (excluding some comicons), to run the convention and make sure you have the best time that you possibly can.

I've been to many conventions since that first one in Phoenix and, if I've learned anything, it's the fans, more than anything, who make the convention great. I attended some conventions that were very well planned and executed but the fans who attended were passive and lackluster. The dealers' room had plenty of traffic but was very quiet. Sales were minimal and many dealers, artists and writers were dejected by the lack of interest. By noon Sunday, the convention was a ghost town.

On the flip side, I've been to conventions that struggled through changes, be it a change of venue, staff in key positions, or just logistical problems that always seem rear their ugly heads at the worst time. The irony is that some of those conventions still did exceedingly well due to the enthusiasm of the fans who attended.

Back to 'Why am I telling you this?' The fans are the most important part of any convention. The participants feed off of your enthusiasm and strive harder to raise the bar. Some are amazed that authors and artists come from far away to participate at their convention and really savor the opportunity to meet new talents from across the country. I purchase a table in the dealers' room at each convention I am invited to just so I have the opportunity to meet new people and have fun speaking with them. A noisy dealers' room is usually indicative of a great convention, not because of the sales that usually transpire, but because of the social interaction. The worst feeling in the world for a vendor, artist, or writer is the feeling of being ignored. It's amazing how much we all learn and enjoy about each other when we take the opportunity to speak to each other. As an author, my goal at a table is to meet people and let them see who I am. Book sales will take care of themselves. I look forward to returning to a convention and seeing fans from the previous visit. To me, they are now friends, not just fans.

There are one or two conventions I attended that fizzled and died because there was no excitement, no enthusiasm and that drove fans away until those cons were no more. A weekend away at a convention is as good as it gets as far as I am concerned. I want to make that weekend one to remember by interacting with as many people as possible and entertaining them to the best of my ability. When I can raise their level of enthusiasm, either through a great panel or from dialogue, stopping by one of the parties or donning a costume, it's one of the best feelings in the world.

From a fan's perspective, there's nothing better than leaving the 9-5 world and all the weekly problems behind for a fun weekend. If there's something you'd like to see or do, let the convention chairman know through their website, in person or at the con wrap-up session at the end. They want to give you the best show possible and your feedback will help make that happen. If you take anything from this article, realize that there is no show without an audience and a show can only be as good as its audience. The fans are the most critical part of the convention. So the next convention you attend, don't be bashful. Don't just have a good time. Have a GREAT time!

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.
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Merchant Room	Literature		Author Guest Gini Koch
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Make-and-Take	Gaming		Science Guest Dr. David A Williams
Charity Auction	Science		Sci-Fi Sound Expert Dr. Emmett Plant
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MUSING EXHIBITIONS: MUSIC, LIFE, AND FAMOUS

By Judy Wood - Mixed Media Artist/Poet



Arizona Resident since 1962

There are three local museums well known for their creative presentations. They are the world famous Musical Instrument Museum in North Phoenix, The Superstition Mountain Museum east of Apache Junction, and The DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun located in North Tucson. Each one is unique and features a variety of interesting exhibits.

Musical Instrument Museum is located on Tatum about a half mile south of the 101. The hours are Monday through Saturday 9 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 5 pm.

The "MIM" is two stories. It's fun to visit the interactive musical galleries downstairs, but make sure you save plenty of time to see instruments from around the world upstairs. Bring your own ear buds for a complete sensory experience. There is a wonderful café, bring your appetite if you plan to spend the day.

The Superstition Mountain Museum is located at 4087 N Apache Trail, East of Apache Junction. The museum is open from 9 am - 4 pm every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day.

The museum has events throughout the year. Meet local artists and authors, learn how to make pancakes from Mesquite tree seed pods, attend an evening lecture and learn more about the gold hidden in the mountains, visit the set of several Elvis movies at the Elvis Chapel on the grounds (relocated from 1960's movie set Apache Land east of the valley).

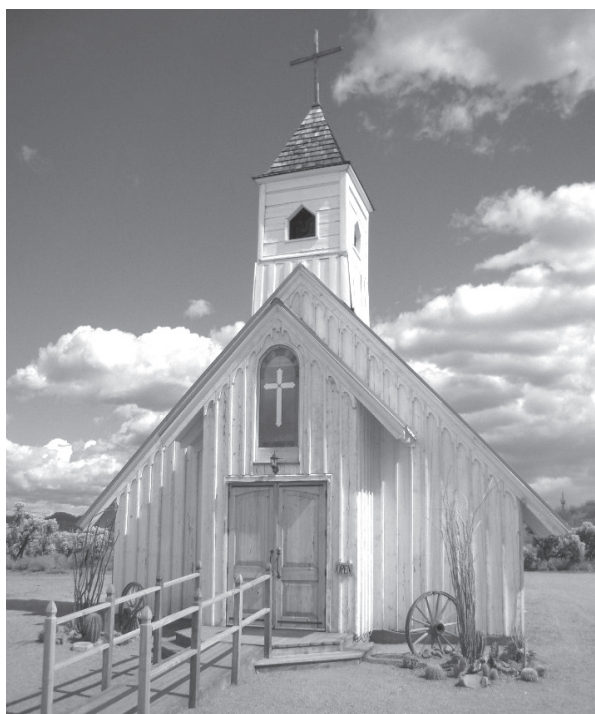
The DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun is located at 6300 N Swan Rd, Tucson. The gallery hours are 10 am - 4 pm every day except Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day.

The museum features the largest collection of Arizona artist Ted DeGrazia, and also hosts a rotating gallery featuring local artists. There is something to see in every nook of the gallery. Very inspiring for local artists or guest visiting from out of state.

More to come from Ms. Wood as she explores various galleries, exhibitions, and the artists that make them come to life!

The photos are of DeGrazia Gallery, next three are of MIM, and lastly of the Superstition Museum.

Judy Wood is a mixed media artists and poet here in the Valley. Has been a resident since 1962. She is the mother of artist, and tattooist Chris Wood, and guitar and song writer Jeremy Wood. She and her husband David enjoy spending time with their kids and grandchildren.



AUGUST 2014 HOROSCOPES

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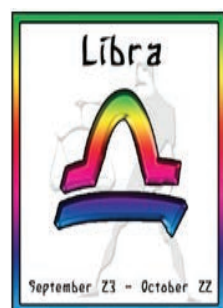
It is time to evoke the phenomenal cosmic powers of the Palamaran Supreme Sorcerer Oliver Wendell Enalan! Yes, somehow John Ried was able to consult Professor Enalan across the multiverse through the astral plane and sent him our astrological data! Hopefully this communication will be completed monthly and this amazing sage Enalan will grace us with his observations. Take Heed because forewarned is forearmed and the future should never be taken lightly. Horoscope images were created by Denise Garner. Here are your arcane, carnal and astrologically aligned horoscopes for August 2014!



LEO THE LION - One thing you enjoy most is reveling in the adulation of your friends and peers. If you are single, it is time to take some risks and get out into the public limelight to meet new people. Try some nightclubs or perhaps get involved with some community or church activities. If you are married with children, the summer is ideal

for 'quality time,' with your family. If you are able, throw a party at home or suggest a family reunion by all means do so! Travel always unsettles you so try to control the arena by inviting friends, relatives and colleagues to come to you. You may even be able to encourage someone to attempt great things.

VIRGO THE VIRGIN - This is the time for fantastic summer fun and you cannot help but lighten everyone's moods. If you are considering a new creative path, now is the time to run down that path as fast as you can! Write that novel! Draw or paint that artwork! Build that creation or sculpt that statue! Use your latent creative paths for something very positive. Your relationships with your friends and partner will also reflect your positive energy and everything you do will be popular and encourage others to join in. Whatever happens, please do not let yourself get careless with your finances. Money wasted today will definitely be gone next month. As you are assembling your artistic materials, try to get the very best with the most reasonable price. Always bargain whenever possible!



LIBRA THE SCALES - You ability to judge impartially among competing or even quarrelling friends, colleagues and associates is highlighted especially for this August. It seems that almost every person you know is coming to you for advice, suggestions and strategies for dealing with important issues. Do not let this go to your

head and respond flippantly or humorously. The persons most likely to listen and act on what you tell them will be the ones you least expect. Better to avoid a joke or jibe rather than risk a serious and lasting insult. Be kind, compassionate and thoughtful as none of this should be too hard for you. You should also enjoy good health and security as another birthday approaches.

SCORPIO THE SCORPION - Have you been having trouble with your romantic partner lately? Do the silliest, simple things suddenly become major quarrels and disagreements? August is a great time cosmologically for Scorpios to become conciliatory and attempt reconciliations. Your health should be excellent right now and your paramour or spouse will appreciate your 'softening,' and reasonableness. Once you have them at the bargaining table, wine, dine, and tell them how fine they are. You may actually get almost everything you originally wanted simply by smiling more broadly and making concessions that in the end will not hurt you too much. Perhaps a nice, romantic vacation with those you love would be exciting and provide the proper setting for this. Remember, you really do love your loved ones and show them why they should love you.



SAGITTARIUS THE CENTAUR ARCHER

- One of the hardest things for you to do is to slow down and listen to the people around you. You always enjoy a fast paced lifestyle but sometimes you have to reduce your pace and LISTEN! If you do, then the solution to one of the challenges you have been facing will literally appear right in front of you.

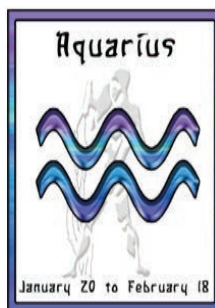
Your financial outlook has never been better and you may want to think about rewarding faithful friends around you. If someone is misrepresenting your views, politely and privately ask them why? Romance is the least of your worries right now and that loyal supporter may need some extra attention and encouragement. Do not let summer activities confuse or distract you from what you are supposed to be doing. Work, play and everything else in moderation this month.



CAPRICORN THE GOAT - You really do have an amazing ability to read people and understand their motivations. If your family and friends are pulling you in many directions at once, take a moment to reflect on why. You should be able to get right to the point and then have some fun with it. If you have children, get them thinking about their goals and what suggestions you may have but do not be heavy handed with a 'this is what you should do,' approach. If you are single, then find yourself a Leo and both of you may carry yourselves away with mutual enjoyment and understanding. Almost any other sign would do as well but Leo's should be dancing in the streets with you. If you are married, then seek out that pesky relative that always seems to shy away from you and spend some time understanding them. You may get a very positive response.



AQUARIUS THE WATERBEARER - With the planet Venus moving through your star cluster, it may be time to let yourself go out and party! With the 45th Anniversary of Woodstock this month, you may want to rekindle old memories or strike out for new adventures. Be very careful though if someone tries to offer you the "deal of a lifetime,"



with vacations, cars or electronics. If you have been experiencing health problems lately, you will find greater ease and comfort than previously. Try to keep track of all the new friends you are making. Career opportunities abound for you and one of your new friends may even help you find a better job if you let them. Your romantic partner or spouse will be falling all over you for summer fun so maybe you should try a rock concert or similar activity. Age of Aquarius rocks on!

PISCES THE FISH

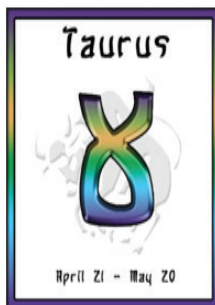
- You are so good at participating in community activities and events this August it is scary! While you usually enjoy swimming with the school of other fish, your friends and relatives will ask you to lead them on to glory and this refreshing change is welcome. If you have never tried something before, take a moment to learn about it and enjoy it as much as you can.

The warlike planet Mars is visible in the evening sky and this makes you feel more competitive than usual. Here is your chance to step out in front of others and take command. One of your dearest friends who usually runs things will be irrationally jealous of your impending success so try to have them feel involved and appreciated. Movement and travel for you are highlighted and be prepared for new neighbors as well!

ARIES THE RAM - As mentioned above, Mars your special planet is in the skies and stirring up deeply rooted competitiveness for August. Though it may gall you, try to step aside from leadership for once and let the Pisces or the Leo's step forward for once. Your romantic blood will also be hot right now and you should be focusing more on your paramour or spouse because they will be very eager to focus on you. Since your financial stability may be a bit unusually rough for you right now, you might want to consider the perfect staycation. No matter how long you have lived where you do, there are many local places you may not have explored yet. Try a museum, zoo, baseball game or new restaurant and take your romantic partner with you because you may find your relationship intensifying.



TAURUS THE BULL - Your friends have never steered you wrong before but your love life will be in turmoil this month. Somebody you know is suddenly interested in your partner and it will not matter to them if you are married or not.

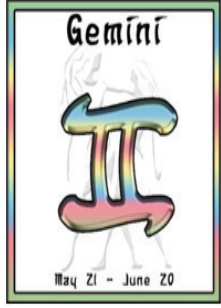


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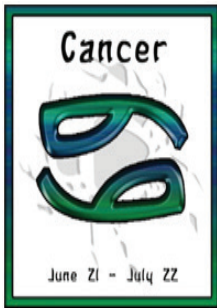
Your romantic interest may simply be just flirting to make you jealous but they may be doing too good a job of it. Take them aside and confess to your lover that you are jealous and ask them what is motivating them to tease you so. By playing the touchstone, you may be able to determine if your paramour is pure gold and perfect for you. If you have an impending relationship change, take it on the chin and move on quickly. Your finances, health and confidence will reinforce your decisions.

GEMINI THE TWINS - One of the best things about summer is the weather is usually beautiful! You should try to get outside more often. Your career prospects could not be better and if you are a teacher than you are the luckiest right now. This August is also a great opportunity to look up some old friends and mend some fences if possible. Sometimes if you are willing apologize first then you



appear more reasonable and open minded to others. If you have children, they will be the bright spots of your month and one of them may give you an excellent idea in solving a perennial problem. Just be careful of relatives that wish to move in with you "for just a couple of weeks," because the time ends up always longer. Just remember that just because someone is poor...oops...not as successful as you, does not mean that they are stupid, evil or greedy. Be sympathetic yet firm. Tough love is always better than a handout.

CANCER THE CRAB - Let's admit it. Cancers LOVE the beaches and this is why summer is always your favorite time of year. Grab a towel, your suntan lotion, your family and/or friends and head for the nearest beach! Purchase the Beach Boys Endless Summer Album and get in the water! Your unusually outgoing nature may take that special someone completely by surprise and they will love it and encourage you. If the beach is not practicable then find a nightclub or disco where you can dance the night away. Your health should be excellent and you will have an amazing ability to bounce back with any recovery now. You might also want to find some Pisces' or Leo's and have some unexpected fun. Watch out for Taurus as they may be cranky this month. Build a sandcastle and relax!



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SciFi Valley Con: A SciFi Weekend to Remember

By Michael D'Ambrosio

This was my first time appearing at SciFiValleyCon in Altoona, Pennsylvania. For those of you not familiar with the area, Altoona is located at the base of Brush Mountain in Western Pennsylvania, nestled within beautiful Logan Valley and Pleasant Valley just off I-99 and 220 at exit 32. With a comicon atmosphere, the convention has grown to well over two-thousand fans in this the third year of its existence. Owner Casey Bassett has done a great job nurturing this convention into something very special. SciFiValleyCon boasted a full lineup of entertainment including actors Brian Ohalloran and Scott Schiaffo of the movie Clerks, an awesome display of movie cars (1966 Batmobile, Back to the Future's Delorean, Christine, Ghostbusters' Ecto-1, and the Jurassic Park Jeep), and an incredible group of authors, artists, indie film companies and dealers with plenty of unique and interesting merchandise. Both floors of the Jaffe Center were used to accommodate all the groups.

The volunteer staff were outstanding, probably the best I've seen yet at any convention. They took so much pride in their assignments and really went out of their way to make everything move along smoothly. I hosted three panels (New Writers, Screenwriting Fundamentals, and Books to Movies) which were very well attended but what really impressed me was the enthusiasm of the audience and their appreciation for what I shared with them. That was the kind of atmosphere that



made up the convention and made it so special. I really felt at home with everyone.

The hotels in the area offered great rates and there were plenty of restaurants to choose from. Everyone knew about the convention and appreciated having us there. I understand SciFiValleyCon will be moving to the Blair County Convention Center next year and will most likely move back to their original time, the third weekend in May, for another three-day extravaganza. I encourage anyone who has the opportunity to attend the convention next year to do so. For more information or details about this convention, visit their website at www.scifivalleycon.com. My next convention and review will be for InConjunction in Indianapolis, IN on 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>*

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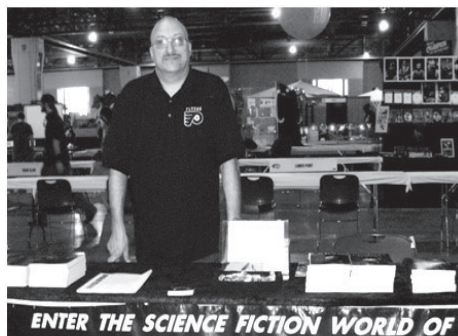


INCONJUNCTION REVIEW

By Michael D'Ambrosio

July 4th weekend, I made my first visit to InConjunction in Indianapolis, Indiana. They have an attendance that numbers approximately seven hundred, although I didn't have a count for this year's con. While I was unable to get into the programming due to the overwhelming number of authors who applied, I did have a table in the Dealers' Room and was also able to check out some of the activities. First of all, I have to comment about the Marriott East, which hosted the event, and the Fairfield Inn & Suites across the parking lot. Both were outstanding in their support of the convention and its patrons. I would go back there just for the hotels alone. I flew into Indianapolis and used the Carey Limousine service to get to the hotel. It was much cheaper than a taxi and I received VIP treatment in a stretch limo. Wow!

The layout of the convention was excellent in that the hotel had an abundance of space that was logistically perfect for a convention like this. There were several filk concerts throughout each day, costuming events as well as a contest, and several tracks of programming.



The panels were well attended and the panelists did a great job with their topics of discussions. I found it interesting that they had a Dr. Who room with Dr. Who episodes running throughout the weekend. I also noticed an anime room where they had related events as well as show episodes.

The Dealers' Room was probably the most spacious that I've seen for a convention of this size. They layout ensured there was adequate room for patrons to stop and browse at the booths or tables. Jeff Thompson, the coordinator, did a great job to make sure everything went smooth.

As many of you read my reviews, there are some things that seem repetitive. I'd like to point out that, while many conventions follow a basic template, each one has its own character. The success of a

convention is how they execute activities like costuming, the dealers' room, programming, and most importantly, the atmosphere they create for their fans. As a fan, you want to have fun, be entertained, and come out of the convention knowing a little more about science-fiction, fantasy and other genres than when you first arrived.

I do recommend this convention to any of you who are looking for something to do on July 4th weekend and hopefully will see you there as well. Visit their website at <http://www.inconjunction.org> for details on next year's convention. You can find a link there as well on my website at www.fracturedtime.com. My next review will be from beautiful Denver, Colorado in October at MileHiCon. Until then, I hope to have some others articles of interest about upcoming conventions as well as some appearances by a very sought after guest right now. (Hint: Game of Thrones).

- 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>*

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building a 3-dimensional rendering of what you see in your mind, I have the utmost respect for anyone who can sculpt. I also really enjoy digital painting, which I tend to do more for 'fun' no pressure, just experimenting and learning new techniques. It's nice to have an outlet where there's no pressure, one that's just for you.

Song: Did you read, or collect comics growing up?

Chad: I started collecting comics very young, I will never forget how the Batman Story arc Knightfall and the Superman story 'The Death of Superman' completely sucked me in as a kid. Those and Jim Lee's X-Men, Todd McFarlane's Spider-Man, and Spawn. I can vividly remember running down to the local convenience store to get my new issues on release day!

Song: Why and when did Batman and the surrounding characters become an integral part of your comic art creations?

Chad: I didn't start drawing Batman on a regular basis until the launch of the new 52 by D.C.

Greg Capullo is and has been my favorite artist for the majority of my life, so when I heard he would be taking over art duties on my favorite hero of all time, I naturally became even more interested in drawing the character. It quickly became what people identify me with as an artist. Brandon James, another fantastic local artist started calling me "the Gotham guy" and I couldn't have been happier with the nickname. I put my heart and soul into whatever I create, and that just told me I was doing something right.

Song: Is there a certain period of time in the past 75 years of Batman that you have found yourself drawn to?

Chad: I LOVE what D.C. has done with Batman for the new '52 relaunch, but what will always be my pinnacle for Batman has to be Knightfall. When Bane actually broke the bat, I was a completely rabid fan, that story was so dark and gritty to me. I'll never forget the impact that it had on my life creatively and artistically. Tied with Knightfall though has to be the animated series, my brother Bryce and I would watch it religiously, all the way through Batman Beyond, those series defined my childhood.

Song: I recall my older brother watching the caped crusader series many years ago. Who has been your favorite actor to portray in art as Batman? Are you more fond of the series, or particular movie?

Chad: I get into a lot of trouble for this one, honestly I don't have a favorite Batman actor, I haven't been a tremendous fan of anyone that's portrayed the Dark Knight with the exception of Kevin Conroy. As far as I am concerned he IS Batman. Whenever I pick up an issue or read a story, graphic novel, script, whatever it may be, I hear Bruce/Batman as Kevin Conroy in my head. Mask of the Phantasm was also the first Batman motion picture I saw in theaters, so it will always hold a very special place in my heart.

Song: If you could, would you don the black mask?

Chad: My gut reaction is to immediately scream ABSOLUTELY!!! But if I'm 100% honest with myself, I don't think I'm mentally strong enough to endure everything they've put Bruce through in his 75 years. It would take a much stronger man than I to live up to that kind of stress, I'm an artist! My hands are too soft for that kind of street justice, criminals aren't going to be intimidated by being punched in the face by baby soft fists! (laughs).

Song: How do you prepare your time, space, mind for creating? Do you have a set schedule? Is there a particular setting that you work in better than another? What mediums do you like to use when illustrating?

Chad: I don't really have any particular schedule. I do tend to do most of my art, and creating at night, my best work comes out at night. I usually hit the drawing board at the earliest around 11pm, and I've caught myself drawing until 7 or 8 in the morning. Between my job, my children, and just life in general I find that I do my best work when the world is asleep and I can completely hone in and focus on what I'm creating.

My favorite medium has to be pencils and inks, in comic style. There's something about bringing these comic book characters to life that is so fulfilling, I'm taking a character with an incredibly rich 75 year history and portraying him through my eyes, the eyes of a fan who's lived with, and drawn inspiration from him for over 30 years, there isn't much that can compare to that.

Song: Do you recall your first comic con, as a fan? How about as an artisan selling your wares?

Chad: My first Comicon ever actually wasn't until 2012, and I went as a fan. I was always terrified that I'd go and see all these incredible artists that were so much better than I am, that I'd be crushed as an artist to see so much incredible work. When I finally walked through the convention hall doors though, I couldn't have been more wrong. The local artistic community has been tremendously supportive of me, so nice, and so friendly. Artists like Mike DeBallo, Brandon James, Eric Mengel, James Potter and so many more, too many to name. Ever since then I've been attending as an Artisan, and there is nothing like it. I have been so fortunate to meet, work with, and become friends with people I have looked up to and admired for years. People like Thomas Mason, Jonathan Glapion, Joel Gomez, just the most genuine, talented, and upstanding people.

The fans you meet at cons are just mind blowing as well, the support from the local community is overwhelming. You'll find these fans that stick with you through thick and thin, and not only purchase your creations, but promote you to their families and friends, the word of mouth is like wild fire, in just the last six months I've encountered over 1000 people who support me and what I do, there aren't words to thank them appropriately.

Song: How would you like to see the story of Batman progress? We've witnessed 75 years of Batman in multiple scenes in the creators 'current times' through history- do you ever really envision Batman's attire or attitude of heart changing drastically?

Chad: For me, Batman is at his best when he's dark and gritty. Story lines like Frank Miller's, Grant Morrison's, and Scott Snyder's. As long as he stays true to who he is, strong and resilient, I will always love watching him progress.

Song: What are some of the other characters you enjoy creating?

Chad: I love drawing a huge variety of characters, from Spider-Man to Wolverine, Spawn, Invincible, and I actually really love doing portrait work of people who have inspired me in my life, I'm probably most proud of my Heath Ledger and Corey Taylor portraits. I also have a character I created along with the uber talented, J Wade Webb, that we are developing that I absolutely love to draw.

Interview with Chad Heinrich continued on page 19





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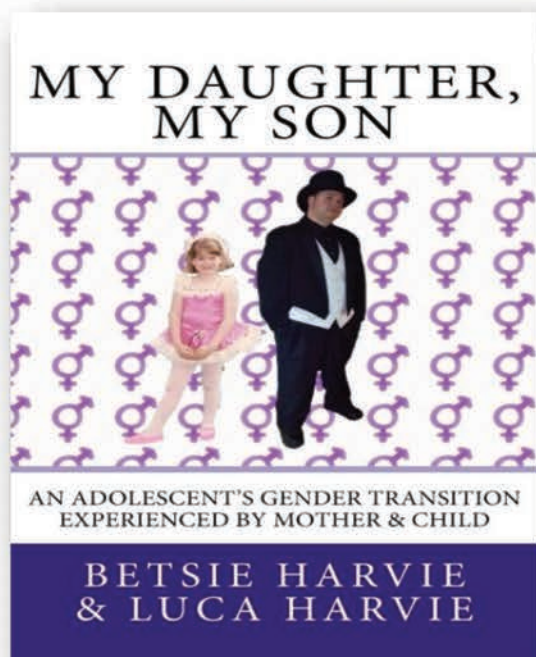
EVENTS IN PHOENIX: Comikaze- San Tan Comics - Geeks4Good

Photo Credit: CowGirl Zen Photography and Dee Astell for Geeks 4Good Charity Auction



My Daughter, My Son

An Adolescent's Gender Transition Experienced by Mother & Child



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!

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

"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..." — *Christina, Amazon.com*



◆ Facebook ◆ Goodreads ◆ www.mydaughtermyson.com ◆ Kindle & Paperback Available on Amazon ◆

Mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle

By T.M. Williams

It was around midnight a couple of months ago I haWhen I was a child, this was one of those things that spurred my imagination. I remember hearing stories from my father, an Air Force pilot, about disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle - or Devil's Triangle. Ask him today and he'll repeat those stories with a completely serious face. But, if you pay close enough attention, you'll recognize the deceitful glint in his eyes. The only tale-tell signs my father would show whenever he was telling a joke. That's his sense of humor.

I grew up often saying the words 'he's just joking'. Because no one could ever tell, they would have that look on their face, the one that says 'is he being serious'? What they didn't know was that the joke was always on them. That was the same when he would share stories of the Bermuda Triangle. He would talk about strange objects seen in the air, his compass going haywire, and people would eat it up. He'd walk away with that humorous glint in his eye and no one was the wiser - except those who knew him well. We'd just shake our heads in return.

Knowing that my father was messing around and telling tales didn't stop my imagination from going wild. I was fascinated by the Bermuda Triangle; the disappearing pilots, mysterious boats just vanishing. I wanted to check it out for myself. This is who I am -- the person who hates to fly and can't get on a plane without a healthy dose of Xanax. Yet, tell me that we're going on an airplane flying into the Bermuda Triangle and I get excited.

What I didn't realize was that I had flown through the Bermuda Triangle several times already. I was looking at a flight map in one of those magazines stuck in the seat back cushion of an airplane when I realized I had already had my adventure and it was uneventful. It was a regular flying route that I had already been on, as well as thousands of other people.

So, where's the mystery?

Unfortunately, nearly all of the disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle can be explained -- either by natural causes, faulty mechanics, or human error. Geomagnetic storms can cause the compass' to go wild as well as other gadgets. Bad weather can certainly wreak havoc on a boat. But what else is there?

What couldn't be explained, to me, were the boats and planes that simply vanished. Then, when (and if) they were found, the circumstances became even stranger. A boat at the bottom of the ocean with the nets still attached as if it had just all of a sudden sank. There were no signs that the ship crew had

done anything to prevent the sinking. There were the airplanes that vanished from sight only to be found at the bottom of the ocean when there wasn't even one single radio call for help.

How can so many ships, some with hundreds of people, some weighing tons, just vanish? To put things in perspective, here are just a small number of the ships gone missing:

1917, between March 6th & 27: the 1,579 gross ton freighter Timandra,

bound for Buenos Aires from Norfolk in cargo of coal. 21 crew under

Captain Lee.

1918, after March 6th- U.S.S. collier Cyclops, after leaving Barbados

for Baltimore; 309 crew and passengers under Lt. Comm. George

Worley.

1925, December 1: tramp steamer Cotopaxi; 32 crew under Captain Meyers; left Charleston, SC, for Havana, Cuba.

1926, March: freighter Suduffco sailed from New York to Los Angeles

with 4,000 tons of assorted cargo. Never arrived Panama. 29 crew. (Owner unfortunately waited about a month before reporting her overdue)

1938, March: 426-foot, 5,500 ton British freighter Anglo Australian bound from Cardiff, Wales, for British Columbia; 38 crew under Captain Parslow. Last reported herself off the Azores: "Passing Fayal this afternoon. All well."

1940, February 4: Schooner Gloria Colita, Gulf of Mexico, found derelict and awash.

Losses in the war years cannot be counted, since so many occurred from enemy submarines and mines. Beginning after World War II:

1946, December 5: schooner City Belle, 10 persons, Bahamas, found derelict.

1948, February: 416-foot, 7,219 ton British freighter Samkey reported herself at 41o 48' N longitude, 24o W latitude on January 31. "All well." Crew of 43.

1948, March 6: yacht Evelyn K. is found deserted in

the Florida Keys; 3 persons missing

1950, April 5: the 185-foot coaster Sandra, with a cargo of DDT, disappears in passage to Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, from Savannah, Georgia.

1955, January 13: yacht Home Sweet Home, Bermuda to St. Thomas

1955, September 26: yacht Connemara IV found derelict 150 miles southeast of Bermuda.

After watching a documentary on the Bermuda Triangle disappearances an answer came. It was so ridiculous it was almost sad. How could this simple explanation be the answer? Yet, it fit the bill.

The answer? Methane. Yes, the very thing that makes my five year old son giggle is the same cause of disappearances that have baffled people for over a century.

Scientists at Cardiff University have discovered the presence of large concentrations of methane gas trapped in the ocean floor. This gas is due to dying and decomposing sea organisms. The sediment contains bacteria that produce methane, which accumulates as super concentrated methane ice, called gas hydrates. The layer of ice traps the methane gas, and scientists are studying it as a potential energy source.

Within seconds of a methane gas pocket rupturing, the gas surges up and erupts on the surface without warning. If a ship is in the area of the blowout, the water beneath it would suddenly become much less dense. The vessel could sink and sediment could quickly cover it as it settles onto the sea floor. Even planes flying overhead could catch fire during such a blowout.

Even if a person with a life jacket jumped off the boat, they would sink to the bottom. It goes back to the basic concept of why we float in water in the first place. It's due to the density. Change the density of water and we can no longer swim in it. Boats can no longer float in it. We would literally just sink to the bottom, unable to pull ourselves out.

It's both a cold sobering realization and one more worry for those of us who like to worry. Two summers ago my husband, son, and I went on a cruise that went through the Bermuda triangle. Methane gas bubbles, rogue waves, pirates, geomagnetic storms, water spouts, were all things I enjoyed worrying about while on the cruise ship, not to mention the stuff that can happen on the cruise itself.

The biggest lesson learned from the Bermuda Triangle is that cognitive dissonance is probably our biggest challenge of all. So many unexplained events in our lives have a logical explanation but as humans, we tend to prefer the illogical instead. Common sense should tell us that chances are, in a high-traffic area of the ocean, there is going to be a higher number of accidents. There are so many dangers that face us on a day to day basis. Some are known and some aren't. Yet, that's no reason to automatically assume space aliens or a strange government cover-up is in action.

Perhaps the biggest mystery of the Bermuda Triangle isn't the triangle itself, but our own reaction to it.

2 Howstuffworks.com Adventure, Bermuda-Triangle

WOD

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.

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Leave your information and we will be in touch with you!
Please visit us at www.thedreadfleet.com

Chess in the Valley! The Phoenix Chess World!

By John Paul Ried

Chess is a passion in the city of Phoenix AZ. Thousands of children and adults play chess in official tournaments and belong to chess clubs in both schools and community centers. Chess is the ultimate intellectual game where two people match their wits against each other with no random factors such as dice involved. Quoting the emotionally unstable yet invincible chess master Bobby Fischer - "Chess is war over the board. The object is to crush the opponent's mind." Chess can be ruthless, exciting and especially incredibly FUN!

The organization that practically has the monopoly on chess in Phoenix is the Chess Emporium. Founded by Mr. Scott Freneau in 1993, the Chess Emporium has two store locations and coordinates hundreds of children's chess clubs within public schools from Surprise AZ to Mesa AZ and beyond. With over sixty chess coaches and annual programs set with most of the local Phoenix public school districts, the Chess Emporium instructs thousands of children beginning to learn chess from Kindergarten through 12th Grade. The Chess Emporium also hosts weekly chess tournaments for both children and adults at their two locations. The website for the Chess Emporium is: <http://chessemporium.com/frontend/> and their two store locations are:

10801 North 32nd Street, Suite 6
Phoenix, AZ 85028
(602) 482-4867
Hours are M-F 10AM-8:30PM and Sat 12Noon-6PM.
Sundays by appointment only.

AND

1835 E Elliot Road, Suite 103-104
Tempe, AZ 85284
(602) 482-4867
Hours are Tues, Wed & Fri 3:30PM-8PM, Sat. 3:30PM-8:30PM,
Sun, Mon, & Thurs by appointment only.

There are many other options for additional chess play including local restaurants and coffee houses. One such venue is Summer Chess Fun every Monday from 11AM-1PM located at Giant Coffee house at 1437 N. 1st Street, Phoenix AZ 85004. Hosted



by Mr. Hugo Medina and his wife Ms. Kira Olsen, this weekly unofficial tournament has been drawing imaginative people.

The history of chess is an amazing story. Did you know that many Popes, Caliphs, Kings and Maharajahs over the centuries have both endorsed and condemned chess play as either essential or heretical? The game of chess originated in India supposedly about 500BC and many crusader knights brought home chess sets to Europe after 1100AD. Benjamin Franklin was an avid chess player who enjoyed playing especially with beautiful women and even published a pamphlet entitled 'The Morals of Chess,' in the Columbian Magazine in December 1786. French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte also enjoyed playing chess though many of his Field Marshals were afraid to best him. For an excellent chess history resource, David Shenk's book entitled The Immortal Game published first in 2006 is a terrific read for more information.

What most people do not realize is that the game of chess is for everyone. Anyone may learn how to play chess is about twenty minutes and then you can spend the rest of your life trying to get better at it. Mr. Magnus Carlson is the reigning 2014 World Chess Champion and International Grandmaster. Mr. Carlson is from Norway and is only in his mid twenties. Whether you are a novice learning the game for the first time or perhaps you have not played chess for decades and wish to resume playing, there are many exciting chess venues, events and tournaments to enjoy here in Phoenix AZ. The sixty four squares and thirty two pieces can become addicting. In 1927, the French artist Marcel Duchamp's new bride glued his chess pieces to his chessboard to remind him that they were on their honeymoon. Duchamp got a divorce three months later. Chess can change your life!

WOD

A promotional graphic for the book 'The Homestead Project' by Donald Jacques. The background is dark blue. On the left is a cartoon wizard with a blue hat and a yellow crescent moon and stars on it, sitting at a desk with a laptop. On the right is the book cover, which features a white rocket ship on a blue background with stars and a moon. The text on the book cover includes 'The Homestead Project', '12 Steps to a Permanent Lunar Settlement', and 'by Donald Jacques'.

"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



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KEEPING THE BEAT: MJ Brown of the Delta Fifths

By Song River

Interview with MJ Brown of The Delta Fifths



Some of the greatest blues music comes from the heart-felt souls of women. Recently, MJ Brown lead vox, and guitarist of, The Delta Fifths, sat down with me and shared where her passion comes from.

Song River: It's a pleasure to be able to talk to you today, MJ, and get to know another formidable powerhouse- female front of a band. There's something quite involved, and even notably sexy when a strong personality kicks it out in the realm of rock and rhythm.

MJ, I've always been intrigued as to how bands select their names, your band chose, The Delta Fifths. I am sure it isn't this complicated, but I am curious, as I read delta is a Greek word, and it is also used in coding applications.

MJ Brown: This is probably the most interesting take I've heard yet on the band's name. When I came up with the band name I was thinking about music historically. I have a ton of old blues LP's and "Delta Blues" is written on many of the covers. There's so much musical history from that part of the country - the delta. As we know before TV and the radio, people made their own entertainment. Gathering on the front porch for a musical performance was common. So the word "Delta" is about symbolization. I wanted our name to pay tribute to the heart-felt music played on the front porches of the past.

I'll probably disappoint you with how I came up with the "Fifths" as it has no deep meaning what-so-ever. A fifth is a measurement for alcohol. We are a rock band and in a rebellious, yet covert way I decided using a drinking reference was a good twist to the name.

Song: Your sound has been described as, "music played and shared on front porch steps across America." Today that can mean so many different things. As cultures now have rap, metal, pop, and hip-hop blaring from their front stoops... what does, "front porch steps across America," mean to you?

MJ: The Fifths sound is defiantly influenced by the music played on the front porches of the past; blues, folk, and country. Each of us have our own reasons for being in this band, but for me personally, playing music at the end of the day is what gives me peace. So, whether I'm on my own front porch, the studio, or playing a show, I'm at peace if I have my guitar in hand.

Song: The band is quite a mixture of various genres, many influences coming together, do those assorted determinants ever work their way into the mix of music produced?

MJ: I think what makes us unique is we have gritty blues-tone all the way to an alt-country finesse. Different versions, and mixes of these sounds are the backbone of the fifths.

Song: What brought you into the music scene? Did you just wake up one morning and decide you could sing so you called up a few friends and said, "Hey, lets start a band!"

MJ: I think I have slowly eased my way into the Phoenix music scene. A little secret about me is that I have major stage fright. Due to this, I spent many years on the sidelines. I'd go out and watch bands play, and wish that I was in a band, but I was too afraid to actually start one. When I was twenty-seven I finally decided to jump. My progression didn't happen over night and there have been struggles. My first lead guitarist was, RJ Naylor. RJ gave me confidence. He pushed me to believe in myself and I'm grateful for that. I look back at those days and I know I've come a long way. I'll always be very honored to be a part of the scene here.

Song: When you sing, MJ, or even write do you ever feel you are channeling a singer you've always admired?

MJ: When I sing, I focus on one thing- and that's being honest and sincere. When I write a song and then sing it to an audience I try to be vulnerable and

genuine. Audiences are smart and can sense when you are being fake. I want those who listen or come to a show to feel a connection, and be apart of what The Delta Fifths are.

Song: As the principal song writer for the band, do you have a favorite time of day you like to write, or a place that helps you let the words flow?

MJ: Ha! Most of my best stuff comes out at night and over a bottle of red wine.

As far as my musical space, it's in my home, next to my vinyl records, and turn table.

Song: How many songs in the last three years would you say you've written? Are there any that you've set aside, because they were just too hard to finish or the complete thoughts wouldn't come?

MJ: Honestly, I can't say how many songs I've written in three years. I know I've written a lot. Yes, there are some songs that are not finished, but that's because that magical moment where the music and words become one hasn't happen yet. The title track off the EP, Let the Record Play I wrote in about three minutes... it just flowed out of me. Adam Klawonn and I wrote Coochie Smith together in a matter of minutes as well. Songs that come effortlessly always seem to be the strongest.

Song: Did you write lyrics growing up? Were there any authors or writers that inspired you to become a song writer? Who were some of your favorites?

MJ: Oh yeah, I have a teenage angst lyric steno-pad. Lets hope no one ever finds it!! As far as authors, I love James Joyce, Hemingway, E.E Cummings, Poe, the classics. I don't think I can say they inspired me to write songs, but they definitely inspired me to dig deep from within.

Song: Would you consider yourself to be a modern day blues singer?

MJ: Ha no! I just sing and hope it comes out good and this is the truth! I'm not joking!!

Song: How have you seen music progress over the last few years? Are you liking it or still waiting?

MJ: I am a fan of all types of music. I think music is constantly changing. Do I like everything that's out there?, no, but I respect it and I regard the artists who create it. As musicians and song writers we all have the option to support one another, and that's what's so promising about the Phoenix scene here. Not long ago we played the Monte Vista in Flagstaff and a local jazz band, the Phoenician Four made the trip to support us. So overall, yeah I like what I see!

As far as the future, I'll always be waiting for another song to blow me away.

Website: <http://deltafifths.com/>

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/thedeltafifths>

Song River - CowGirlZen Photography

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

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

Website: www.cowgirlzenphotography.smugmug.com

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

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



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KEEPING THE BEAT: THE HAY GIRLS SHOW JULY REVIEW

By Song River



Manic Monkeys

Rolling through the house, at the Ice House Tavern, in July on The Hay Girls Show were the Manic Monkeys. A mashing of manic that brings a powerhouse couple (Tiffany Hilstrom, and Mike Hilstrom) of rock n roll together with the incredible bass player, Joel Ekdahl, and keeping the righteous beat, Gabriel Gonzalez= The Manic Monkeys.

Manic Monkeys began their journey several years ago, and their formula continues to work today. To describe their style would be to coin a phrase, as their originality lends itself back to some of my younger days of mid 80's in the band scene of striking quirks reminiscent of hanging with a band out of L.A. called, The Mutts. Many nights were spent listening, and chatting with bands out of the Whiskey a Go Go on Sunset Blvd, and Nino's in Tucson. Where everything twisted from Poison, to Concrete Blonde dumping itself onto the abundance of hair, blues, beats, rock, synth, and sweat... all that kept the audience dancing in dark smoke filled rooms.

Manic Monkeys stirs those memories, but with a twist of their own 21st century originality... and if this is only rock n roll... then Roll the Dice 'cos Chico Chism's spirit lives on in the Manic Monkeys.

Catch Manic Monkeys on social media to keep up with all their scheduled events.

Once a month, 12x's a year, The Hay Girls Show invites a band to play their original music live down at the Ice House Tavern in Phoenix. We chat with the band in between their set, encourage audience participation, calling in, messaging us to involve the community as a whole into our realm of supporting Independent Music. We video tape the band, photograph the band, and write up an interview that appears in the local PopCulture and Entertainment music section of The WOD.

During our show we talk about various entertainment and pop culture events, share our own personal news, and play music sent into us by various unsigned independent musicians/bands. It is a simple formula really, one that reflects the heart of the Hay Girls team: support, and independence. We genuinely care about the arts, and the creatives who work tirelessly in their passions to deliver themselves, open-wide. Our goal is to help promote you. Live and no cover.

If you would be interested in sharing your music with us please send us a clean and clear single copy of your original music in Mp.3 to thehaygirlsshow@gmail.com.

We accept a broad range of music under the umbrella of Americana: Alt-Country, Blues, SKA, Bluegrass, Punk/Grass, R&B, Folk, Punk, Reggae, Roots-Rock, CowPunk, Rockabilly, Indie, Alt in pure forms and infusions.

We are fiercely independent and play anything we pretty much just like, just please make sure it is of awesome, radio quality. Please send radio-awesome tracks to thehaygirlsshow@gmail.com and thanks!



The Hay Girls Show:

Co-hosts: Carol Pacey and Song River

Sound-works: Vintage Note Records

Location: Ice House Tavern, Phx. Az.

Promo: Devin James and Chris Marz

Video: Jeff Jones and Harrison Tyler

GM: Patti Hullstrand

Email: thehaygirlsshow@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thehaygirlsshow>

*Social Media/Web tags:

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

www.vintagenoterecords.com

<https://www.facebook.com/jeff.jones>

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

<http://thewod.net/>

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

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

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ice-House-Tavern-Phx>

<https://www.facebook.com/christopher.marsala>

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

WOD



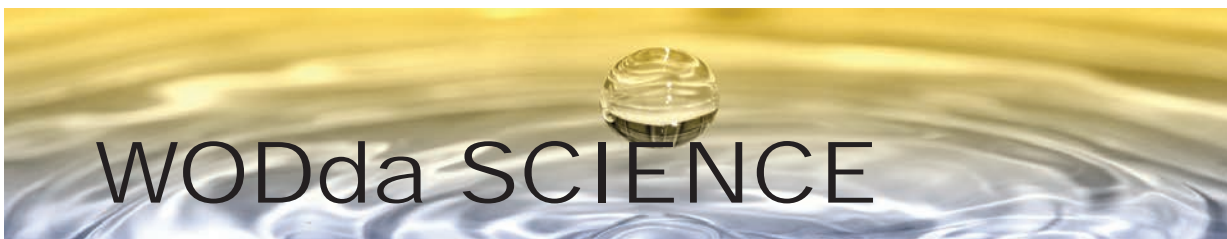
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NEWS FROM THE NEXT SPACE

Science Columnist: Donald Jacques

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.

NASA

Nasa validates 'impossible' space drive - Nasa is a major player in space science, so when a team from the agency this week presents evidence that "impossible" microwave thrusters seem to work, something strange is definitely going on. Either the results are completely wrong, or Nasa has confirmed a major breakthrough in space propulsion.

<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2014-07/31/nasa-validates-impossible-space-drive>

Audit: NASA Doesn't Have the Money for Big Rockets - NASA doesn't have enough money to get its new, \$12 billion rocket system off the ground by the end of 2017 as planned, federal auditors say. The Government Accountability Office issued a report Wednesday saying NASA's Space Launch System is at "high risk of missing" its planned December 2017 initial test flight. The post-space shuttle program would build the biggest rockets ever -- larger than the Saturn V rockets which sent men to the moon -- to send astronauts to asteroids and Mars. "They can't meet the date with the money they have," report author Cristina Chaplain said.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/audit-nasa-money-big-rockets-24686349>

NASA Eyes Robotic Space Gas Stations for Satellites - NASA wants to create a robotic gas station in space. While that might call to mind visions of interstellar starships, the unmanned depot won't actually be used to refuel rockets leading to the outer solar system or other worlds. Instead, it will service satellites orbiting Earth.

<http://www.space.com/26675-nasa-robot-satellite-gas-station.html>

International

Europe to Launch Robotic Space Plane Prototype in November - ESA officials plan to launch the unmanned space plane, called the Intermediate eXperimental Vehicle (IXV), on a Vega rocket in early November. The flight plan calls for Vega to make an eastward flight -- different than its usual polar orbit track -- to release IXV into a suborbital path that would end in the Pacific Ocean.

http://www.space.com/26673-european-space-plane-launch-november.html?cmpid=514630_20140803_28725356

Isle of Man's Space Tourism Ambitions a Distant Dream - Mission abort! That's the status of Manx-registered Excalibur Almaz's space tourism plans. The company's founder and chief executive, Art Dula, told the Manx Independent plans for a hotel 400km up in space had been shelved due to a four-fold increase in the cost of getting into space which would have meant tourists would have needed \$80m just to get off the ground. 'We planned to rebuild a space capsule and take tourists. That's not going to happen now. 'There are no tourists at that price.' Excalibur Almaz is now working with the International Space University in Strasbourg to transform a space capsule into a reusable orbital scientific spacecraft. This space laboratory would be used for microgravity research.

<http://www.astrowatch.net/2014/07/isle-of-mans-space-tourism-ambitions.html>

Private Space - NewSpace SpaceX Roadmap building on its rocket business revolution - Following the recent success of the Falcon 9 launch with six ORBCOMM spacecraft, SpaceX is in the midst of speedy turnaround of its Cape Canaveral launch site, ahead of the ASIAT-8 mission. While SpaceX remains on track for a record year, CEO Elon Musk believes the time is coming where there will be thousands of launches each year - as humanity becomes multi-planetary.

<http://www.nasaspacespaceflight.com/2014/07/spacex->

[roadmap-rocket-business-revolution/#.U9ZPIZL](http://www.space.com/26665-european-cargo-launch-space-station-atv5.html)

European Cargo Ship Launches on Last Space Station Delivery - A rocket launch from South America Tuesday evening (July 29) will mark the beginning of the end for a venerable line of European cargo spacecraft.

The European Space Agency's fifth Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV-5) is scheduled to blast off toward the International Space Station atop an Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana at 7:47 p.m. EDT (2347 GMT; 8:47 p.m. local time) on Tuesday. You can watch the liftoff live online here at Space.com, courtesy of NASA.

<http://www.space.com/26665-european-cargo-launch-space-station-atv5.html>

SpaceShipTwo Takes Flight for First Time in Six Months - Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo rocket plane glided through the air for the first time in six months on Tuesday, signaling a new chapter in a test program that could soon lead to outer space. The rocket plane went for a ride from the Mojave Air and Space Port in California, hooked beneath its WhiteKnightTwo carrier airplane. About 45 minutes later, SpaceShipTwo was released and glided back to the airport. It counted as SpaceShipTwo's 52nd flight and WhiteKnightTwo's 156th.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/virgin-voyage/spaceshiptwo-takes-flight-first-time-six-months-n167751>

How to Bury Your Pet in Space - A Texas company is offering a unique send off for beloved pets by placing a portion of their cremated remains in a capsule and blasting them off into space. Celestis Inc, which has provided memorial space flights for human remains since 1997, will launch its first commercial pet memorial spaceflight in October 2014 with the remains of a blue merle Australian shepherd, named Apollo, the company said.

<http://time.com/3066488/how-to-bury-your-pet-in-space/>

SpaceX scores an early win in its lawsuit against the US government - SpaceX, Elon Musk's rocket and spacecraft company, has scored a partial victory in its bid to get a slice of government contracting. Court filings show that a federal judge will review a multi-billion-dollar contract that was awarded without competition last year to the United Launch Alliance,

The NeXt Space Show with AI & 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.

a joint venture of Boeing and Lockheed Martin with a monopoly over US national-security space launches. SpaceX had charged the government with violating fair contracting procedures in a lawsuit. The ULA had asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit. The court denied that motion (pdf), and also ordered the US Air Force to enter formal mediation (pdf) with the space start-up.

<http://qz.com/240530/spacex-scores-an-early-win-in-its-lawsuit-against-the-government/>

Amazing SpaceX Reusable Rocket Test Caught on Video - new video shows the first stage of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket making a soft ocean splashdown as planned after its launch earlier this month. Over the past few years, for example, SpaceX conducted increasingly complicated flights of its prototype Grasshopper rocket from a facility in Texas. And the company has now attempted three first-stage returns during Falcon 9 launches.

WOD

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From Robb F. TrapezoidalUniverse.com

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To be successful at promoting ones writing, you must understand a single truth to the human condition; people are lazy. Especially when you haven't paid them extra to make any further effort. If you don't make it as easy as possible to publicize you or to promote your work, you will have less success in dealings with radio, print, television or any media, really.

In my dealings with authors and publicists through my Blog Talk Radio station, KWOD, and in my capacity as the Managing Editor of The WOD Newspaper and WebZine, a niche newspaper, I have witnessed a total lack of understanding what a media kit is and what components are needed to be included. Even in my capacity as the host blog site for over a hundred authors, showcasing their works, I have seen the need for an organized media kit. It is undoubtedly, the single most important tool in your arsenal.

The author's success in book sales can be directly attributed to how organized their media kit is and how easy this information is accessible in paper format, as well as digital files for emailing easily. You will give your hosts and event coordinators NO reason to NOT use your materials.

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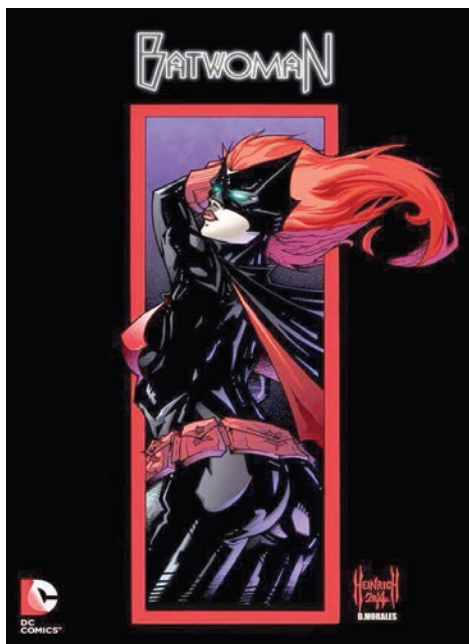
The Jungle Survival Guide To Media Kits For Authors

By PJ Hultstrand

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Song: You mentioned how much you admire Greg Capullo's work, do you as well have other artists in the industry and outside the industry you admire? Who would you like to meet, work with?

Chad: I cannot stress Greg Capullo enough. I've gotten to meet him, hang out with him a few times, and there is no other artist I admire or respect more than that man. He's my hero and I've been fortunate enough to spend little bits of time with him, I can't describe how it feels when your hero calls you out by name in a gigantic group of people at a con to just come over and say hello.

There are so many artists I admire and respect, not to mention love to work with, and some I have been fortunate enough to do so. Greg Capullo, Jim Lee, J.H. Williams III, David Finch, Tony Daniel, Jonathan Glapion, Thomas Mason, Ryan Ottley, J Wade Webb, Bryce Heinrich, the list could go on and on, all artists inspire me in some way, I simply can't get enough.

Song: Lastly Chad, Batgirl just called, she said she and Robin were meeting Alfred for pizza in about an hour. They want to know what you, Batman, would like on your pizza?

Chad: (with a half cocked grin throw back his cape over his shoulders, leaning forward he states) "Black olives and Justice..."

Follow Chad Heinrich on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Chadheinrichart>
Website: <http://chadheinrich.deviantart.com/>
Email: Chad.n.heinrich@gmail.com

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WOD

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- August 20th - Emily Arsenault - What Strange Creatures - 7pm
- August 26th - Chelsea Cain signs One Kick - 7pm
- Sept 11th - Reed Farrel Coleman signs Robert B Parker's Blind Spot - 7pm
- Sept 14th - Writer's Workshop with Dana Haynes - 12noon
- Sept 29th - Kim Harrison signs Witch with No Name - 7pm
- Sept 29th - Richard Kadrey-The Getaway God - 7pm
- October 18th - Betty Webb signs Desert Rage - 2pm

Livestream Events: <http://new.livestream.com/poisonedpen>

- August 23rd-12pm-Nancy Drew Book Club
- September 13th-10:30am-Coffee and Crime Discussion Group Discussions for all months - Check website for book title

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WOD Bookshelf

THE APOCALYPSE (2014)

By T.M. Williams

Publisher: Az Publishing Services

Perhaps you have read many zombie stories. If you have, you likely also have a certain expectation of how the zombies are going to behave. You know, just a bunch



of shambling, decaying reanimated bodies bent on eating brains (or simply live human flesh) to sustain their mindless undead existence. They can generally be killed via head shots or decapitation. If you get bit, then you will turn into one unless you get your brains blown out prior to the change. Some stories do have some interaction between 'normal' humans and zombies, however the pattern is not strayed from too far...usually.

With *THE APOCALYPSE*, T.M. Williams takes the zombie apocalypse story in a very different direction. These zombies are not slow moving, brainless shambling undead. Oh no, these zombies are the very essence of what nightmares are made of. These zombies are smart. They are quick. They are preternaturally intelligent and they have no moral compass. Even more frightening, they actually evolve. Yes, there is plenty of blood and gore to be found between these pages, it is definitely NOT for the squeamish. This book is for those who appreciate also having to THINK while they read and watch out for the subplots, as this book certainly has them. Paying attention is vital, not a single scene can be legitimately regarded as superfluous or redundant. This book frightened me often, something that rarely happens.

The novel takes place in the very near future. Starting in a FEMA camp. Yes, the government played a very large role in bringing these zombies into being and in creating the conditions for their evolution. To find out just HOW, well you will need to read the book. Suffice it to say I doubt this novel will be popular in government circles and yes, I can see the government doing all the things that happen here. In that regard it is coldly sobering.

The novel has several well developed characters. The two that I found the most fascinating were the First Lady of the United States and Danny Ruiz. As to an actual favorite? This a very DARK novel. What many may find unsettling as they read it is that it is often difficult to decide who is 'right' and who is 'wrong.' As such it really keeps your attention. I read it over the space of three days and when I was done I spent a few days really digesting it.

So who prevails? How does the story close? For that you will need to read it, and it is very much worth doing so.

Kudos to the editor, the book has no major typos, nothing happens that will

toss the reader out of the story, and that I appreciate.

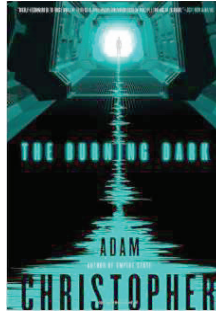
T.M. Williams can write a story that nightmares are made of. This surely proves that. If you enjoy horror that will make you THINK, then grab this book!

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

THE BURNING DARK (2014)

By Adam Christopher

You learn as the main character learns and the scary bits often outweigh the learning bits. The character is cool - a starship hero set out to pasture the decommissioning of a space station orbiting a purple anomaly star. The plot is similar to the movie, *The Ring*, where when you watch the video, you die. In this instance, something came out of subspace and it is not friendly and people who come into contact with the strangeness disappear. When the captain tries to find out what happened to his friends and crew, their lives have been erased just like his record. It does all tie together, even though in the beginning it is difficult to see how, but the author does a great job of making it seem real. I liked it a lot and read it really fast - but only during the day.

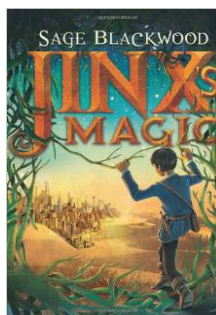


-- Reviewed by: **Normalene Zeeman** Adult Services Lead Librarian, Prescott Public Library - www.prescottlibrary.info

JINX'S MAGIC (2014)

By Sage Blackwood

I loved the first one (Jinx from earlier this year) and loved this one too, even though it is a kid's book. Jinx grows more in this book as he is forced by Simon Magus to go to Samara and enroll in knowledge school to learn KnIP (Knowledge Is Power) and find something Simon desperately needs to break the Bonemaster's spell on his life force. The moral quandaries Jinx confronts would make most adults squirm; but while Jinx's moral compass never wavers, the author does a great job of not turning Jinx into a goody-two-shoes. He does finally learn something useful, rescues Sophie from prison and opens a portal to the Urwald while trying to escape. Reven makes it clear why he is considered the Terror and Simon again becomes the prisoner of the Bonemaster. There is a good ending to this one, but now I have



to wait for the next installment. This is a great series for kids and even adults will love it.

-- Reviewed by: **Normalene Zeeman**

THE NETHERGRIM (2014)

By Matthew Jobin

When children start disappearing in the town of Moorvale, the return of the Nethergrim is assured. Only three people know what happened when the heroes sent to dispatch the evil return; but now it appears they didn't dispatch it entirely. Edmund and a few companions travel to find and kill it, but this may be more than they can handle if the three greatest heroes of the land couldn't manage it. Edmund just wants to be a wizard, but when he finds out what that entails, it may be too late to change his mind. The characters were great and while the setup is a little longer than you might want, it sets up the character's backstories and gives some serious foreshadowing. The end seems to be the end but there is room for sequels or stories set elsewhere in this world. I'll definitely be reading them, even though this is a kid's book.

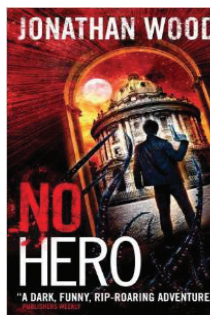


-- Reviewed by: **Normalene Zeeman**

NO HERO (2014)

By Jonathan Wood

If you liked, Ben Aaronivitch's Rivers of London series you'll like this one too. It has cops out of their depth, magic and an alien invasion that puts the entire universe at risk. The characters are fun and quirky while still being serious about the gravity of the situation. London police detective, Arthur Wallace's hero is Kurt Russell, but Arthur is no hero and he reminds us of that often. The author isn't afraid of killing off major characters and the red herrings lead us in many directions other than the one that gives us the answer and when we get there, I totally hadn't seen that twist coming and I love when that happens. There is lots of room for sequels as the back of the book tells me that Yesterday's Hero is coming in September 2014 and Anti-Hero is coming in March 2015.

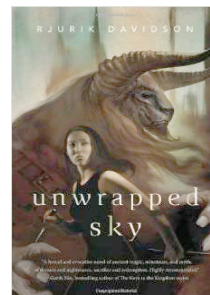


-- Reviewed by: **Normalene Zeeman**

UNWRAPPED SKY (2014)

By Rjurik Davidson

This book has been getting a lot of hype for its unusual take on mythology - it has minotaurs; but they play such a small part in the story that their history feels



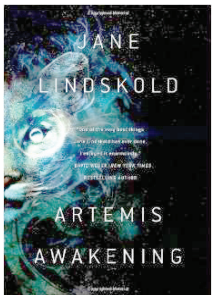
wasted. The author could have used satyrs or aliens or dolphins and it would have had the same impact on the story. The post-apocalyptic setting is the basis for everything that happens - the alien overlords want things to remain the same, but the human servant class/revolutionaries want things to change for the better and are willing to fight to make that happen. Kata is a philosopher-assassin, (it's never made clear what that is, other than errand-girl for her boss) who kills minotaurs to pay off her debt. Her new assignment is to infiltrate the revolutionaries and I hoped the action would pick up but the characters never seem to lift themselves off the page no matter how much I loved the setting and the idea of the plot. However, it's been a week since I finished it and I can't get it out of my head, so this one is a sneaky-sleeper and I like it much more now than when I first finished it - maybe because all the history and mythology bits have to percolate in your mind a little.

-- Reviewed by: **Normalene Zeeman**

ARTEMIS AWAKENING (2014)

By Jane Lindskold

Post-apocalyptic scifi is what you get here with great characters and a plot that leaves room for a sequel, but still has a complete ending. Artemis has been hidden for so long, it is a mystery world; but when one historian crashes there trying to be the first to reveal it to the galaxy he's not sure what he will find. Rescued by a gorgeous woman from the terminal loss of his shuttle in a series of landslides, they must make their way to the largest town to try to find help for him from The Old One Who Is Young, who may not be human. There are double-crosses, romantic triangles, stolen children and Griffin's search for a way off the planet. This could easily become a great series along the lines of Catherine Asaro's Ruby Empire series, which also has star-spanning empires and great characters. Asaro is still the only writer to win both a Nebula Award for science fiction and a RITA Award for romance for the same novel (*Quantum Rose* [2000]), but if this turns into a series, it could be a great candidate for that to happen again.



-- Reviewed by: **Normalene Zeeman** Prescott Public Library

BOHEMIAN GROVE

by T.M. Williams

I absolutely love alien conspiracy stuff! I also totally love shadow government conspiracy! Combining both! Too good to pass up!

This is this stuff of T.M. Williams's Bohemian Grove. The first novel in this series is fast paced and full of information about the real, yes real, Bohemian Grove. Williams drags readers along with her kidnapped main character as she is whisked away and dumped into a world of ancient bloodlines, alien hybrids, and government cover-ups. Bohemian Grove is an action adventure novel for the conspiracy geek.

Don't worry if you have no clue that much of this information can be traced to real locations and events, the fantasy of it will sweep you away with just as much fervor. Enjoy the ride, enjoy the characters, but please, do some research after. You will be glad you did!

I am eager to read the next installment of Williams's alien hybrid heroine and heroes. She leaves the readers with just enough of a cliffhanger to want more, but not feel cheated at the end.

-- Reviewed by J.J.M. Czep
Author of *Blackstrap's Ecstasy and Trolls*

QUEEN OF DARK THINGS (2014)

By C. Robert Cargill

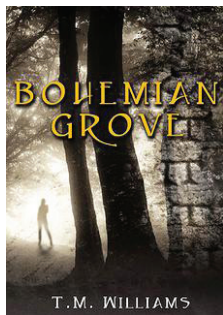
The end of the first book *Dreams and Shadows* left me in a fury. I needed to know what was going to happen with Colby after the loss of his best friend, Ewan, but I had to wait a whole year to find out, but this one gave me everything I wanted and more. We find the wizard Colby wallowing in guilt, we meet the avatar for the city of Austin and a young Australian girl caught in the web of demons and blaming Colby for putting her there. It will take all of Colby's wizard skills and a ton of tricky tact and diplomacy to make a bargain with demons and djinn that will see him live through this. The ending is masterfully contrived to tie up every loose end and the big question is - can Coyote be trusted? Read it and find out.

-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman - www.prescottlibrary.info

THE MARTIAN (2014)

By Andy Weir

This book states that everything in it is theoretically possible with the technology we have now, so this could be considered more fiction-about-science than science-fiction, but I still finished it in about 5 hours



as I couldn't stop reading. An astronaut gets left on Mars when a storm forces the rest of his team to evacuate. NASA and the flight crew think he is dead, so he has to find a way to let NASA know he isn't and then he has to survive until they can get a ship back there to rescue him, which will be at least a year, maybe two. What he does to let them know and how he survives with going crazy is well within our present technological limits - but sometimes it isn't pretty. You will never look at potatoes the same way again. I loved the ending and whatever else Andy Weir writes, I'll read.

-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman

THE PILLARS OF SAND (2014)

By Mark T. Barnes

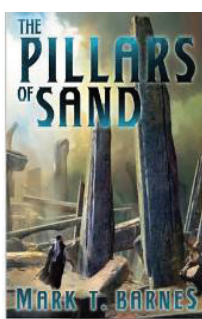
47North is an offshoot company of Amazon, but don't let that stop you from enjoying it. This is the finale to the Echoes of Empire trilogy that began with *The Garden of Stones* and *The Obsidian Heart*. While this is the end of this trilogy, it still leaves many unanswered questions that I hope will create enough interest for the author to carry the series forward, perhaps from a different character's storyline. I did like how this story arc ended and there was much to learn about the history of the world and of Indris and the families, but it was very nicely spread out over the 450 pages. The battle at the end was, somewhat, a foregone conclusion, but it was fascinating how Indris, Mari and their companions brought it all together. The worldbuilding was unique and intense and kept me hooked from the beginning to the end. As soon as I got each book, it went right to the top of my to-be-read pile as I couldn't wait to find out what happens. Once you start, you'll see what I mean; this is epic fantasy at its most epic, yet still tightly plotted with few wasted words and great character development.

-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman

BLOOD RED (2014)

By Mercedes Lackey

Ninth in the *Elementary Masters* series, this story takes us to Germany and the surrounding area as Rosamund hunts shapeshifters and vampires. Rosa is an earth master - but not the nurturing kind, she is a hunter and the first female Hunt Master because of her exceptional skills and abilities. She's a strong character so I was concerned when, as part of her training, she has to be turned into a fashion plate, but then never uses what she learns of society to uncover evil. I didn't see the point other than to let us know Rosa is really pretty. I liked the setting and the new characters and the climax was very well-written, but



the end fizzled for me as I don't feel I got a good resolution. The series is still ongoing so we may see more of Rosa later and her story will continue.

-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman

KINSLAYER (2013)

By Jay Kristoff

Kinslayer is second in the Lotus War series after *Stormdancer* and Yukiko has just killed the Shogun, wounded her lover, Hiro, saved the Guild mech-boy, Kin and is prepared to lead the rebellion; but things never go as planned and this book is no different. The Kenning is making her sick and unable to control her powers she sets off an earthquake that lets more oni loose. Sent to the north with Buruu to learn more about her power, she leaves the rebellion in the hands of Daichi and the hidden rebels in the city. We meet new very interesting characters and revisit some of our favorites. Kristoff isn't squeamish about killing off my favorite characters so I was not prepared for the story to go in a direction I didn't see coming. The kicker ending of the first book was downplayed here and we don't learn much new about the lotus fields, but I'm sure they will play a bigger part in book three, *Endsinger*, out soon. I'm already on the waiting list for this one because of the awesome discovery at the end of this book.

-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman

THE SEVERED STREETS (2014)

By Paul Cornell

London Falling was so good, I had to have the next one. This is a little more involved with the magic underlying London and how today's police forces are totally unequipped to handle something so out of the ordinary, poorly defined and not subject to the niceties of police protocol and procedure. The characters are more intricately nuanced here with hidden motives and lying, self-centered actions and not telling each the whole truth but they still get the job done. Lots of loose ends left at the end of this one so I'm hoping there will be more books in the series. These two books were different in tone and atmosphere than Aaronovitch's *Rivers of London* series, but the magic was there infusing London with that certain something that lets you know you're not alone.

-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman



AFTERPARTY (2014)

By Daryl Gregory

This was a fast read and an interesting take on the future with the ability to make any designer drug on your 3D printer available to anyone with a miniscule chemistry background. The characters were very well-developed with cool quirks, in-depth background histories and storylines that were nicely integrated with the other characters' storylines. It kept me guessing all the way to the end with every new reveal adding coolness to the story. I like this author a lot and will have to go find his other books, the first one: *Pandemonium*, and the second one: *The Devil's Alphabet* (nominated for the Philip K. Dick Award and named one of the best books of 2009 by *Publisher's Weekly*).

-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman - www.prescottlibrary.info

UNDEAD WINTER

by T.M. Williams

After reading *Undead Winter* I have a new perspective on the writings of T.M. Williams. Having not yet delved into the horror titles of Williams I was not altogether prepared for this side of her writing style.

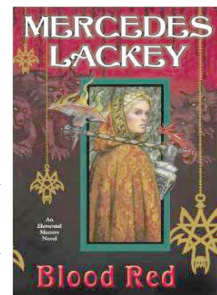
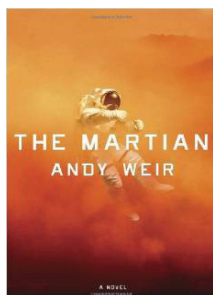
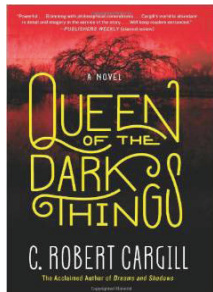
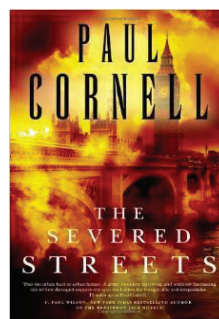
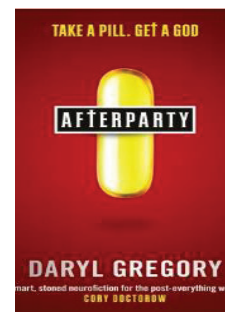
That said, Williams does a fair job of capturing the world after zombies, and of reaching into the fears of readers. The zombies are of course the man-eating fiends that we have, over the years come to expect from the genre. They are blood-thirsty and always driven primarily by instinct. The difference is the added level of thinking possessed by these monsters.

There is more of a hunter versus prey aspect to the dynamic of the zombies versus humans. These are not mindless eating machines. There are tactics and plans.

Equal parts, the humans are coping with the degradation of their humanity as the world falls apart around them. The lives once so simple are now driven by choices of survival. Sometimes those choices mean letting go of a portion of what we think of as a civilized mind.

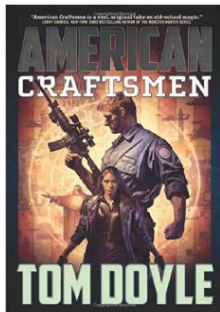
There are places in this story that make the reader wonder who the monsters really are, as the lines of both human and zombie are continually blurred.

-- Reviewed by J.J.M. Czep
Author of *Blackstrap's Ecstasy and Trolls*



AMERICAN CRAFTSMAN (2014)

By Tom Doyle



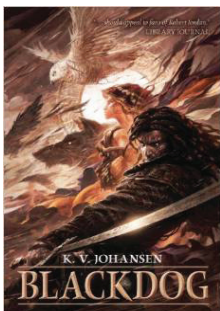
Another book in the style of Weston Ochse's Seal Team 666 or Chris Farnsworth's The President's Vampire, this debut novel by Tom Doyle gives us magic users in the military called Craftsmen. There are a variety of them, the Puritans, the Pagans and the Left Hand (the bad guys in this story). Captain Dale Morton, US Army, leads a pack of magicians fighting evil, even when that evil is one of his ancestors. The character development is good and the supporting characters are integral to the plot. When a mission goes wrong and Morton gets possessed, he needs to find the traitor in the organization. I loved the snarky banter Morton and his nemesis Major Endicott play on as they learn to respect each other and work for the common good. This is worldbuilding that I would like to see more of and that is a good thing because this is the first in a new series, so I have lots to look forward to.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

Prescott Public Library

BLACKDOG (2011)

By K.V. Johansen

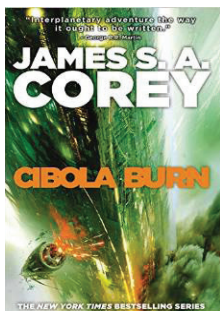


This was a great story. The timeline was long, but allowed for in-depth character growth and gave us enough time for plot setup. At 546 pages, the ending didn't feel rushed and was given the full treatment it deserved. Only one goddess in this world has chosen to incarnate as a human for a full lifecycle and be reborn anew upon her death. This gives Attalissa both some strengths and some weaknesses, but with her protector, the Blackdog, many of those weaknesses are offset by having an immortal protector that can watch through the times of her childhood where she is the weakest. This cycle a wizard arrives at their town and conquers it and Attalissa barely escapes. The Blackdog is not so lucky and must take over another human body in order to live but this is not one of Attalissa's chosen. Who is the wizard, what does he want, why start with Attalissa? This sets up the rest of the story, by showing how Attalissa grows outside of the confined areas of the temple and with only the guidance of a good man and the protection of the Blackdog. I loved this story when it first came out in 2011 and since K.V. Johansen's new book, The Leopard, is out already, I thought a re-read of this one was timely.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

CIBOLA BURN (2014)

By James S.A. Corey



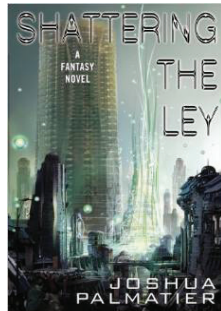
This was a great story. The timeline was long, but allowed for in-depth character growth and gave us enough time for plot setup. At 546 pages, the ending didn't feel rushed and was given the full treatment it deserved. Only one goddess in this world has chosen to incarnate as a human for a full lifecycle and be reborn anew upon her death. This gives Attalissa both some strengths and some weaknesses, but with her protector, the Blackdog, many of those weaknesses are offset by having an immortal protector that can watch through the times of her childhood where she is the weakest. This cycle a wizard arrives at

their town and conquers it and Attalissa barely escapes. The Blackdog is not so lucky and must take over another human body in order to live but this is not one of Attalissa's chosen. Who is the wizard, what does he want, why start with Attalissa? This sets up the rest of the story, by showing how Attalissa grows outside of the confined areas of the temple and with only the guidance of a good man and the protection of the Blackdog. I loved this story when it first came out in 2011 and since K.V. Johansen's new book, The Leopard, is out already, I thought a re-read of this one was timely.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

SHATTERING THE LEY (2014)

By Joshua Palmatier

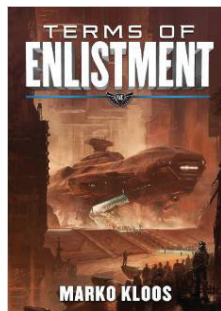


While I found the initial setup to be similar to his earlier series, The Throne of Amenkor, with a young girl who is coming into her powers as the main protagonist, the worldbuilding was sufficiently different, that I found this very entertaining. The idea of using ley lines as a power source is not new, but what Palmatier does with it is very different from the approach that Kim Harrison takes with The Hollows series or that Kat Richardson takes with the Greywalker series. Several great supporting characters compete for time, but when they all come together, you can see that their stories were integral to the plot resolution. The book is the first in a series, so be prepared for an ending that makes you want to read the next one.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

TERMS OF ENLISTMENT (2013)

By Marko Kloos

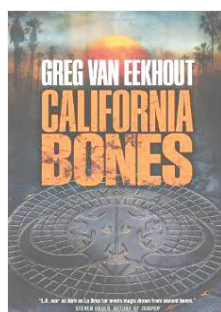


After the first 100 pages, I still didn't know the main character well and the story hadn't actually started yet. It does build a lot of support for what happens later but it moves so slow that when you get to the last 100 pages, it feels really rushed. It's obvious the author knows his military stuff because that is perfectly written, although a little boring for anyone already familiar with the military. There isn't a lot of secondary character development because (spoiler alert) most of them get killed off as the book progresses. Worldbuilding is also weak as the beginning is set in a slum on earth and the rest is set in various tightly controlled environments such as military barracks or space ships. That last 100 pages is pretty cool and mostly makes up for the sad state of the first 200 pages. I have the second one on my pile so maybe it gets better.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

CALIFORNIA BONES (2014)

By Greg Van Eekhout



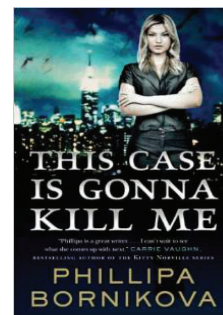
Indiana Jones meets the wizard Harry Dresden in a Mission Impossible story or The Italian Job with gondolas and motorboats. Daniel Blackland is an osteomancer, a magician who ingests bones from extinct magic creatures, such as the sphinx and the basilisk, to fuel his power in an alternate history, Los Angeles. Daniel's father made

a sword with his magical essence infused within and when it gets captured by the Hierarch, Daniel and his team of magic misfits has to get it back or become nothing more than a tool of the Hierarch. The characters are cool, funny and tragic and the end leaves room for a much-needed sequel. Why hasn't this been optioned for a movie? I would definitely go see it.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

THIS CASE IS GONNA KILL ME (2012)

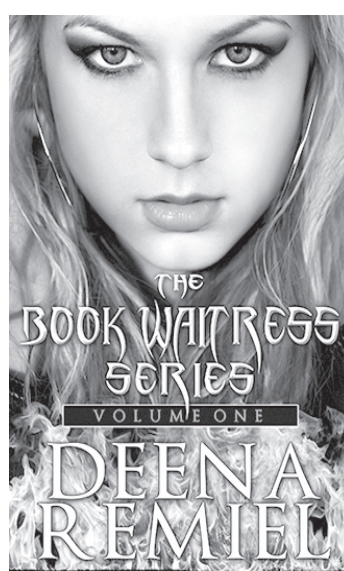
By Phillipa Bornikova



Vampire lawyers and werewolf security companies make practicing law more dangerous than ever. When an inheritance dispute threatens to dislodge werewolves from control of the biggest security firm in the country, newly graduated human lawyer Linnet Ellery finds herself under attack. Her boss has been killed by a rogue werewolf, she's been attacked and if she's not careful, on top of all that she may lose her job. The legal bits were funny and yet spot-on for how lawyers operate. The vampire and werewolf subplots gave us just enough danger to keep us interested and the number of beautiful people, vampires and elves made Linnet that much more interesting. This sets us up for the next in the series (Box Office Poison, 2013) and it looks to be as much fun as this one.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*


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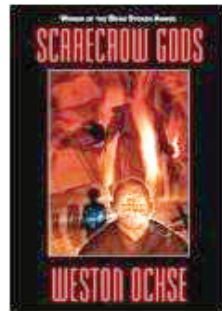
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SCARECROW GODS (2005)

By Weston Ochse

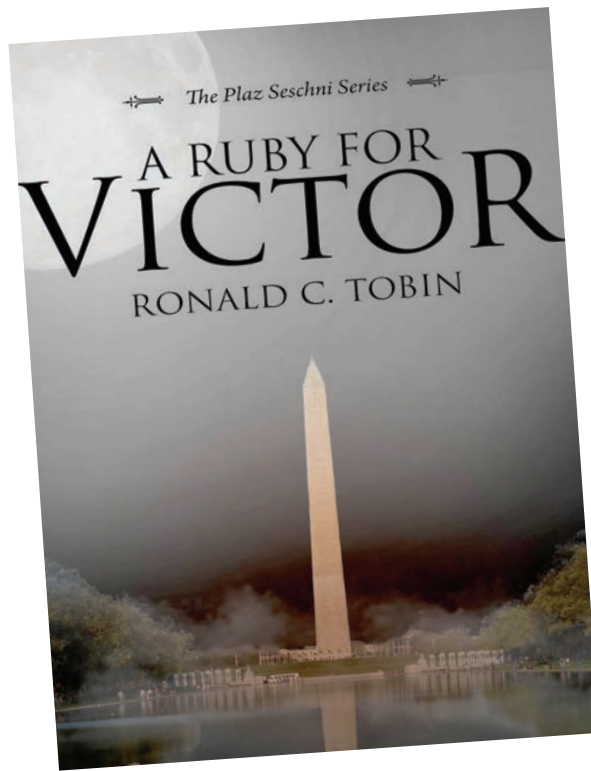


This is the book for which Ochse won the Bram Stoker Award for first novel. It's currently out-of-print, but I bought a copy from the author when he came up to Prescott for an author talk. Ochse says he named the main character after his son, Max, but the Max in the book is an African-American and a disabled Vietnam vet with a serious case of PTSD who can control animals during out-of-body experiences and when he wrote the book, Ochse's son was very young, is not African-American and not a Vietnam vet. This is a cool hook and it immediately drew me in to the story. When Max meets a young boy being bullied by schoolmates, they slowly and painfully form a bond and Max decides to teach the boy how to do what he can do.

This causes all kinds of problems and leads to the main conflict of the story - how Max can help the boy rescue his sister from a religious cult all the way across the country. There is just enough military language to make it real and just enough mystery/horror elements in the story to make it great. I would love to see a sequel for this, but I'd also be happy to see it back in print so I can buy a copy for my library to share with everyone - my copy is autographed and I'm not giving it up.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

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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 for only \$20 with Free Shipping, or \$25 hard cover. This book is also available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Mirabella & the Faded Phantom

"Something hissed and a wet chill wrapped around Mirabella's wrist and crawled toward her shoulder. She whipped around and glimpsed the outline of someone sitting on the edge of her bed. But as she stared, the image faded to a blur."

When twelve-year old Mirabella and her mother move into Great Aunt Clovinia's old house, Mirabella discovers they aren't the only ones living there. A mysterious faded specter haunts the place.

When the house is scheduled for demolition, Mirabella must unravel the mystery of the ghost's identity, and free it from the old house before it's too late.

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Illustrations by Ketch Decesare

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.

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.

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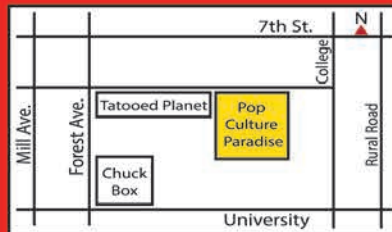
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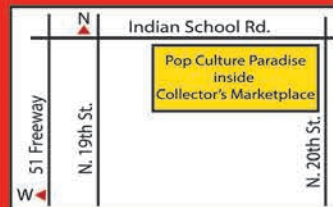
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