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Aliens & Alibis Books

August 2006

To be kind to your inboxes, we're including the New Books email in this newsletter.

Deb and Gary

MEET THE AUTHOR

Suzanne Adair is a reenactor with a Revolutionary War group. She's used some of what she's learned from the group in a mystery set in the South in the 1780's.

From the backwoods and Indian lodges of colonial Georgia, to the swamps of Florida, to America's first settlement at St. Augustine, and finally to a climax in Havana, Cuba, Suzanne Adair has written a tale that will thrill historical fiction fans. Full of adventure, romance, mystery and suspense, **Paper Woman** will leave you wanting more!

Come to Aliens and Alibis Books on Friday, November 4 from 7:00 to 9:00 to meet the author and buy copies of the book.

NEW BOOKS AT ALIENS & ALIBIS BOOKS

CRUEL SISTER by Deborah Grabien (\$23.95) is the fourth mystery in the Haunted Ballad series. In each book, Grabien has taken the name of an old English ballad and built a mystery around it. Her skillful blend of reality and the supernatural will chill even skeptical readers. We have all but the first of the series -- which is unfortunately out of print -- but each entry can be read as a stand-alone book.

George R. R. Martin has written a children's book -- **THE ICE DRAGON** (\$12.95). This book was originally printed in 1980 and has been reissued with illustrations. The story is haunting and dark in places; however the illustrations are delightful.

The Mislaid Magician or Ten Years After: Being the Private Correspondence Between Two Prominent Families Regarding a Scandal Touching the Highest Levels of Government and the Security of the Realm by Patricia C. Wrede and Caroline Stevermer (\$17) is a continuation of the story started in **Sorcery and Cecelia or The Enchanted Chocolate Pot: Being the Correspondence of Two**

Young Ladies of Quality Regarding Various Magical Scandals in London and the Country . Two young cousins, Cecilia living in the country and Kate in London, write letters to keep each other informed of their exploits, which take a sinister turn when they find themselves confronted by evil wizards. In **THE MISLAID MAGICIAN** they are both married with children but that doesn't stop them from falling into magic situations. The first book hooked me and I have enjoyed the sequels.

Connie Willis is an author that we gladly recommend to customers. She builds good characters and keeps you immersed in the world that she's created. We try to always carry two of her best books -- **TO SAY NOTHING OF THE DOG** and **THE DOOMSDAY BOOK**. Both have a plot that includes time travel, are excellent and come highly recommended. The Victorian parts of **TO SAY NOTHING OF THE DOG** are loosely based on the 1889 book **THREE MEN IN A BOAT** by Jerome K. Jermone who has been compared to comic master P.G. Wodehouse.

WHAT ANGELS FEAR by C. S. Harris (\$6.99) is a book that I recommended for the IMBA's Killer Books list. Take a look at the Killer Books web site for what Independent Mystery Booksellers are saying are some of the best books published recently.

We're trying something new. Sometimes the only way we can get the first in a series is through remainders because the book is designated as out- of-stock by the publisher. That happens much too often in my opinion but I will be nice and not go into my frustrations about that.

- **DEMON OF THE AIR** (\$10.99) is the first of Simon Levack's mystery series set in the Aztec Empire. The series continues with **SHADOW OF THE LORDS** (\$24.95), which we have in stock. If you like historical mysteries that have an unusual setting, this is highly recommended.
- **CHANNELING CLEOPATRA** (\$10.99) is the first in a two-book series by Elizabeth Ann Scarborough. soon, through genetic "blending," any woman will be able to share her secrets, her wiles, her way with men. First, though, her genetic material must be found. Forensic anthropologist Leda Hubbard jumps at the chance to be the first person to find Cleopatra's final resting place. And the chase is on-for whomever gets access to Cleopatra's genetic material will also gain access to all of her knowledge. And though some want to channel Cleopatra for love, others have far more sinister motives. The second in the series, **CLEOPATRA 7.2** (\$23.95). It continues the tale of Cleopatra's resurrection as the Queen of the Nile's DNA is blended with two present day hosts.

[Killer Books web site](#)

WE'RE IN PAGES MAGAZINE!

Next time you are in the store, ask for a copy of **Pages** magazine. On page 15 is ASK AN EXPERT and you will find some book recommendations that we made and a picture of the store interior. The copies are **FREE** but the number of copies we have is limited.

Pages can also give you some book ideas for the holidays. Remember that you can order most books through us.

[More Information about PAGES magazine](#)

LOCAL FIRST

As you may or may not have noticed, we have a sign (on the black wire rack) that points out the benefit to the community of buying in local independent stores. There is a growing movement throughout the US to help independent businesses survive.

A book on the subject of supporting local businesses, due out next month, is **Big-Box Swindle: The True Cost of Mega-Retailers and the Fight for America's Independent Businesses** by Stacy Mitchell. We have it on order. It's getting a lot of attention even before it hits the shelves in the bookstores. PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY had the following review of the book:

"Mitchell, chair of the American Independent Business Alliance, has produced a compelling indictment of Wal-Mart and other "big box" stores, based on numerous national examples. Deep-pocketed chains like Home Depot flood the market to drive out competition, she points out, then advertise some products at or below cost, while most other products may offer no better value than at independent stores. Meanwhile, she argues, independent businesses not only return profits to local communities and remain more civic-minded and accountable, but offer resiliency rooted in diversity, in contrast to the big-box "monocrop." She even provides evidence that Wal-Mart lowers, rather than boosts community economic well-being, and that firms with fewer than 100 employees give twice as much in charity per employee as those with more than 500 workers. Mitchell challenges Chris Anderson's Long Tail theory, suggesting that an indie bookseller's passion about a product can be more critical to its sales than wide access via a Web retailer. Mitchell catalogues diverse ways indie-minded consumers can fight back, by campaigning against government subsidies to big-box stores, and advocating for sales tax collection on Internet sales and stronger antitrust enforcement. Visible citizens' coalitions can fight big-box expansion, especially if communities fine-tune their land use policies. The big-box trend, she suggests, can be countered by increasing public awareness."

There are various sites on the Internet that advocate 'Local First'. If you are interested in learning more about 'Local First', click on the link below.

[Local First/New Rules](#)

THE FUTURE OF ALIENS & ALIBIS

Lately Gary and I have done some serious thinking about the future of Aliens & Alibis. While we love what we do and think you all appreciate the store, we have to be aware of our finances and unfortunately finances, in our case, are a bit of a problem.

Today there are chain stores that sell most of the top books in the genres we carry for much less than we can sell them. Books from Amazon come right to your door so you don't even have to leave the house. And we won't even talk about the state of the economy but it does mean that having the money for things like books is happening less than readers would like.

I could write much, much more about this but the bottom line is that unless things change, we are probably going to have to close. We are hoping to stay open at least until the end of November because of some commitments. Our sales have dropped significantly each month since July and we are in the uncomfortable position of not even making enough for the basic store expenses such as the phone and electricity. We know that we haven't been open long enough to make a profit but we hoped we

would be able to meet most of the critical expenses after being in business almost 18 months.

Moving to this location on Garners Ferry Road was done to make us more visible and therefore attract more customers, which it has done -- slowly.

We can stay open and ride out the slow growth with your help.

Ways you can help:

- Buy a membership in the store. Remember, the benefits may not be great now but they will improve. Membership information will soon be on our web site and will allow you to purchase a membership online.
- Tell your friends about the store.
- Even better -- bring your friends to the store.
- Buy a membership as a holiday or birthday gift for friends or family.
- If you can't come into the store, order books to be sent to your home.
- Give us feedback on what we can do better.
- Buy a membership in your company's name and give the coupons to employees.
- Give us feedback on your ideas for spreading the word about the store.

If we do have to close, I would rather that you all know why. We don't want to simply disappear.

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