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Aliens & Alibis Books

August 2006

I think we're actually early with our newsletter this month. It's probably due to the cooler weather. (grin) I love South Carolina but sometimes I get very tired of the humidity in the summer. I remind myself that it's better than shoveling snow when we lived in Rochester, New York.

Deb and Gary

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Autumn Sale

Don't forget about the 20% off sale through the end of September! This is a good opportunity to pick up holiday gifts -- or just books for the winter months when it's nicer to stay indoors and read.

Author Signing - October 3 at 4:00 PM

If you haven't read the Dr. Siri Paiboun series by Colin Cotterill, you're missing a treat. The first book in the series, **THE CORONER'S LUNCH** is set in Laos a year after the 1975 Communist takeover. Dr. Siri, the protagonist, has been "volunteered" to be the State Coroner. Faced with dueling cover-ups and an emerging international crisis, the doctor enlists old friends, Hmong shamans, forest spirits, dream visits from the dead--and even the occasional bit of medical deduction--to solve the crimes.

The second book in the series, **THIRTY THREE TEETH**, won the DILYS award for 2005. Colin will receive the award at the annual Bouchercon Mystery Conference in Chicgo. The award is given by the IMBA (Independent Mystery Booksellers Association) for the book they most enjoyed selling. The newest book is **DISCO FOR THE DEPARTED**.

Colin is originally from England and now lives in Thailand. One of his projects is to find ways to provide books for children in Laos. You can find more information about that -- and about him -- on his website. I think he's going to be very interesting to talk to!

The signing will start at 4 PM here at the store. I would like to put together a group to go out to dinner with him after the signing -- say 7:00 or 7:30. Please let me know if you'd be interested in going since, if the group is larger than 5 or 6 people, we should make reservations. He's a vegetarian so recommendations for a place to eat are appreciated.

[To learn more about Colin:](#)

New on the Fantasy/Science Fiction side:

One of the more interesting titles we've received lately is **THE ZOMBIE SURVIVAL GUIDE** by Max Brooks. Of course, when I explain that Max Brooks is the son of Mel Brooks (**YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN**, **BLAZING SADDLES**, etc.) you can get an idea of just how "seriously" to take this guide. Coming in October is **WORLD WAR Z: AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE ZOMBIE WARS** also by Brooks. You can see more about these at ><http://www.randomhouse.com/crown/zombiesurvivalguide/>. Even if you aren't going to read the books, the site is -- ah -- interesting might be the word.

The Temeraire series -- **HIS MAJESTY'S DRAGON**, **THRONE OF JADE** and **BLACK POWDER WAR** -- have been optioned by Peter Jackson, the director of Lord of the Rings fame. The series reimagines the world of the Napoleonic Wars with the addition of an air force of dragons and valiant aviators. You can find out more at <http://www.temeraire.org/> which not only has information about the books but a web game and wallpapers based on the series.

THE FOURTH BEAR by Jasper Fforde is one of those books that could be stocked on the science fiction/fantasy side of the store or the mystery side. This is a sequel to **THE BIG OVER EASY**. They both feature the Nursery Crimes Group -- Jack Spratt, Mary Mary, etc. On his web site, <http://www.jasperfforde.com/>, Fforde says "The Novel is my take on the unexplained and strangely inexplicable events surrounding Goldilocks and the three bears." The web site is wonderful and just as entertaining as the books.

And on the Mystery side:

Graham Hurley is a UK mystery author who is gaining recognition in the US. We have two books by him so far -- **TURNSTONE** which introduces his main character, DI Joe Faraday, and **ANGELS PASSING**. If you like British police procedurals, take a look at these. You can find out more about the author and the books at <http://www.grahamhurley.co.uk/>.

Genealogy has become a quite popular hobby. The mystery series -- **PALE AS THE DEAD** and **BLOODLINE** -- by FIONA MOUNTAIN play on that popularity as the mysteries are tied into bloodline puzzles of the past. The series has gotten excellent reviews. Check out more about the series at <http://www.fionamountain.com/>

THE HARROWING by Alexandra Sokoloff is another book that could probably "live" on either side of the store. Alexandra is a well-know script writer from LA who is now turning her efforts to the Horror genre. Comments from Booklist: "What better thing could strangers isolated in a big, near-deserted building while a raging storm takes out the electricity and compels the use of flickering candles possibly discover than an ancient, charred Ouija board? The previously unacquainted in question are five students sitting out Thanksgiving weekend in a 100-year-old residence hall. And that Ouija board turns wicked, of course, when it manifests a ghost named Zachary, who turns the place into a chaotic battleground for the forces of evil versus cosmic goodness and light." Alexandra was here for a signing a few weeks ago so we do have signed copies of the book. Her web site is <http://alexandrasokoloff.com/>

See us in Pages Magazine

For those of you who subscribe to **Pages Magazine** -- which is a good magazine about books -- please check us out in the Nov/Dec issue in the Bookseller Picks. For some reason we had not tried the magazine until they called us but we're certainly glad we did. Lots of interesting information and reviews.

For those of you who do not subscribe, fear not! **Pages** is kindly sending us a supply of that issue to give to our customers. We don't know when we'll receive the issues but we'll let you know when they come in.

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