



DJ McIntosh

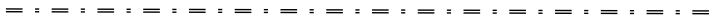
One teenage summer at the cottage spent submerged in Perry Mason paperbacks sealed my fascination with suspense fiction, a love affair that has never ended. Since those days books have been friends, entertainers, and teachers and when the opportunity for some personal time finally arose, I wrote my own novel.

Short stories came first and I was gratified to have two published. By then I'd gotten to know a number of authors and the tales about their constant piles of rejections were enough to give a new writer nightmares. So instead of sending my novel out to an uncertain slush pile future, I entered it into the Crime Writers Association (U.K.) Debut Dagger. Opening the email announcing *The Witch of Babylon* had placed on the shortlist was a watershed moment, one I'll never forget. One year later the novel won the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Unpublished Crime novel. My writing career was launched.

The Witch of Babylon has been sold in twenty countries. It was a national bestseller, an Amazon.ca Best Book, and was named one of CNN's Most Enduring Historical Thrillers. The sequel, *The Book of Stolen Tales*, is now available. I am a member of the Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies, a strong supporter of Reporters Without Borders and, the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Nowadays, when not staring at the proverbial computer screen, or walking my golden retriever, I indulge in the great venues that a big metropolis has to offer: films, galleries and museums and a special affection for any live music that features rock/blues guitar. I live in Toronto but in the summer, I swing to the polar opposite of this and spend four or so months enjoying the famous sunsets and wild beauty of Lake Huron shores at my cottage.

DJ' websites: <http://www.djmcintosh.com/> or <http://www.babylontrilogy.com/index.php>



Jacqueline Guest

Jacqueline Guest is an international award winning author with eighteen published novels. She has presented across Canada and in the United States to audiences of all ages including the University of Calgary; Manitoba Association of Teachers of English; Alberta Association of Library Technicians; MASC Conference Ottawa; University of Victoria; Cultural Diversity Institute North Central Teachers Association; Young Alberta Book Society; Wordsworth Writing Camp; Dreamcatcher Aboriginal Conferences; Saskatoon

Reading Council Teachers Conference; Batoche Historical Site; the Edmonton Young Offenders Centre; Mamawenig; Back to Batoche Days; Fort Calgary's Metis Cultural Festival, the American Indian Library Association, plus a host of other conferences and engagements. She has been Writer in Residence for the Marigold Library System and is the proud recipient of the 2013 Inspire Award for the Arts. Jacqueline has expertise in all aspects of writing including editing, publishing, touring, business and promotion and feels sharing her expertise can help new authors achieve their goals faster and with better results.

Jacqueline's Website is: www.jacquelineguest.com

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Brandon Sanderson

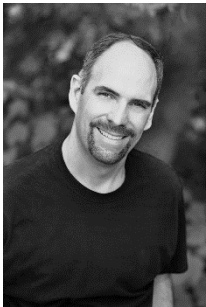
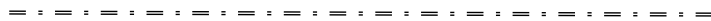
Brandon Sanderson was born in 1975 in Lincoln, Nebraska. By junior high he had lost interest in the novels suggested to him, and he never cracked a book if he could help it. Then an eighth grade teacher, Mrs. Reader, gave him *Dragonsbane* by Barbara Hambly.

Brandon was finishing his thirteenth novel when Moshe Feder at Tor Books bought the sixth he had written. In 2005 Brandon held his first published novel, *Elantris*, in his hands. Tor also published four books in Brandon’s *Mistborn* series, along with

Warbreaker and then *The Way of Kings*, the first in the planned ten-volume series The Stormlight Archive. Four books in his middle-grade *Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians* series were released by Scholastic. Brandon was chosen to complete Robert Jordan’s *Wheel of Time* series; the final book, *A Memory of Light*, was released in 2013. That year also marked the releases of YA novels *The Rithmatist* from Tor and *Steelheart* from Delacorte.

Currently living in Utah with his wife and children, Brandon teaches creative writing at Brigham Young University. He also hosts the writing advice podcast *Writing Excuses* with Mary Robinette Kowal, Howard Tayler, and Dan Wells.

Brandon’s website is at: <http://brandonsanderson.com/>



Mark Leslie

Mark Leslie Lefebvre’s passion for writing and love of reading led him to the book industry, where he has worked since 1992 as a bookseller in virtually every possible bookstore environment (mall store, chain store, big box store, online bookstore and campus bookstore). 1992 was the same year Mark sold his first short story, and his most recent books (under the name Mark Leslie) include *Haunted Hamilton* and *Spooky Sudbury*, two non-fiction books on the paranormal published by Dundurn. Mark has also edited anthologies such as *Tesseract Sixteen: Parnassus Unbound* and *North of Infinity II* (science fiction anthologies) as well as *Campus Chills*, a collection of university themed horror stories. A hybrid author, Mark self-published his first book *One Hand Screaming*, a collection of previously published short fiction, in 2004, back when no self-respecting author would even venture in that territory, and he continues to firmly embrace both indie and traditional publishing.

Mark is the Director of Self-Publishing & Author Relations at Kobo where he was part of the team that launched Kobo Writing Life, a DIY self-publishing portal for authors and small publishers that removes the barriers for making works available in Kobo’s global catalog to 190 countries. A past president of the Canadian Booksellers Association, Mark currently sits on the BookNet Canada Board of Directors. An author, bookseller, editor and avid reader, he often says the term “Book Nerd” is an apt description.

Mark’s website is at: <http://markleslie.ca/>



Diana Gabaldon

Diana Gabaldon is the author of the award-winning, #1 New York Times bestselling *Outlander* novels, described by *Salon Magazine* as “the smartest historical sci-fi adventure-romance story ever written by a science Ph.D. with a background in scripting ‘*Scrooge McDuck*’ comics.”

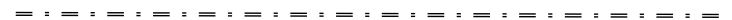
The adventure began in 1991 with the best-selling classic, *Outlander*, and has continued through seven more NYT best-selling novels—*Dragonfly in Amber*, *Voyager*, *Drums of Autumn*, *The Fiery Cross*, *A Breath of Snow and Ashes*, and *An Echo in the Bone*, with twenty-five million copies of her works in print worldwide. She is currently working on the eighth novel in the series, *Written in my Own Heart’s Blood*, which is scheduled for release on March 25, 2014.

Ms. Gabaldon’s successful writing career has been fruitful in different ways. She has written a spin-off series of mysteries featuring Lord John Grey, one of the characters in the *Outlander* world, created a graphic novel (illustrated story) titled *The Exile* set within the original storyline of *Outlander*, as well as publishing *The Outlandish Companion*, a non-fiction companion to her work which provides details on the settings, background, characters, research and writing of novels in general. A second volume of the *Companion* is in progress but no release date is scheduled.

Gabaldon’s popular writing style and memorable characters have been noticed by the Hollywood set as well. The *Outlander* books were recently picked up by Sony Television for production as a cable television series on the Starz network. Filming is scheduled to begin in September 2013 with the first season (comprising sixteen episodes) scheduled to air sometime in spring of 2014. Long-time television writer and producer Ronald D. Moore (“*Star Trek: the Next Generation*,” “*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*,” and “*Battlestar Galactica*”) and his production company, Tall Ships Productions, will be heading this long-anticipated project and has vowed to create a “faithful depiction” of this beloved story.

Diana Gabaldon and her husband, Doug Watkins, have three adult children (all intelligent, funny, and self-supporting), two fat dachshunds, live mostly in Scottsdale, Arizona.

You can find Diana at: www.dianagabaldon.com



Who We Are:

When Words Collide is a festival for readers, writers, artists and publishers of commercial and literary fiction, including genre, YA, children’s books, and Poetry.

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