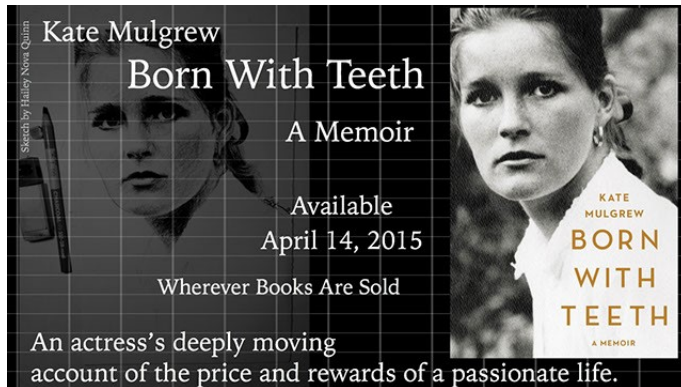


BOOK BAG



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April 2015



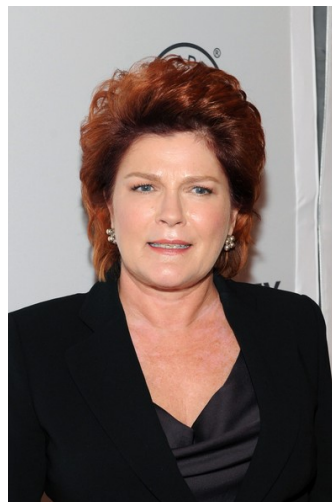
Kate Mulgrew in town

Denise I. O'Neal

Actress Kate Mulgrew, most recently seen on the “Orange is the New Black” and also known for her role on “Star Trek: Voyager,” comes to town in support of her book *Born with Teeth* (Viking).

The visiting Mulgrew talks about her memoir with Heidi Stevens from the *Chicago Tribune*.

The title, Mulgrew says, comes from the tough women she has played on the screen. Mulgrew's early roles include a regular stint on the soap opera “Ryan's Hope.” Mulgrew's character Mary Ryan, fresh out of college, falls in love and has an affair with the very cynical hard-nosed, hard-drinking reporter Jack Fenelli, a situation frowned upon by the Ryan clan.



Mulgrew, opens the door to her professional and personal life during a discussion and signing, 7 p.m. April 16 at Venue SIX10, 610 s. Michigan in Printer's Row. Tickets are \$25. The book will be available at retail April 14, 2015 [eventbrite](#)

Spencer strikes



Oscar winning actress, for her role in *The Help*, and young adult author Octavia Spencer pays a visit to Anderson's Bookshop, 123 W. Jefferson, Naperville, in support of her new book in her Randi Rhodes series, 7 p.m. April 8.

The book, *Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective: The Sweetest Heist in History* (Simon and Schusters Young Readers), is the second in Spencer's Randi Rhodes series, featuring the female teen ninja detective.

Spencer's series, geared toward middle graders, features the sassy teen sleuth and friends DC and Pudge solving crimes. In *Ninja Detective: Sweetest Heist in History* the crime busters are embroiled in a New York art heist mystery. **andersons**

April releases:

The **Alpine Zen**, Mary Daheim (Mystery): April 7

The **Beekeeper's Daughter**, Santa Montefiore (American version): April 14

The **Bone Tree**, Greg Iles (Thriller): April 21

Chasing Sunsets, Karen Kingsbury (Inspirational): April 7

Conspiracy of Blood and Smoke, Anne Blankman (Prisoner of Night and Fog): April 21

Falling in Love, Donna Leon (Mystery): April 7

Gathering Prey, John Sandford (Thriller): April 28

Death Wears a Beauty Mask and Other Stories, Mary Higgins Clark, (Thriller, Kindle edition)

Hot Pursuit, Stuart Woods (Suspense, Kindle edition): April 7

House of Echoes, Brian Duffy (Thriller): April 14

First There Was Forever, Juliana Romano (Contemporary): April 14

Magnolia, Maria Dahvana Headley (Fiction): April 28

Memory Man, David Baldacci (Thriller): April 21

Michelle Obama A Life, Peter Slevin (Biography): April 7

Play On, Michelle Smith (Contemporary fiction): April 21

Pleasantville, Attica Locke (Thriller): April 21

The **Rook**, Sharon Cameron (Hardcover fiction): April 28

Walls for the World, Alethea Williams (Fiction): April

Where The Found Her, Kimberly McCreight (Psychological Suspense): April 14



Comic corner:

The Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo (C2E2) is April 24-26 at McCormick Place, 2301 S. King Dr.

Celebrity attendees include Sean Astin,



“Lord of the Rings,” David Ramsey, “Arrow” and “Dexter,” Raphael Sbarge, “Once Upon a Time,” Neve McIntosh “Dr. Who,” Kevin Smith, “Clerks” and Kat Graham, “The Vampire Diaries (pictured).”

Guests scheduled to attend include Angel Medina (Venom); Ant Lucia (DC Comics); Babs Tarr (Batgirl); Ben Templesmith (Gotham by Night); Mat Banning (Superman and Wonder Woman); Chris Sabat (Dragon Ball Z); Brian Buccellato (Detective Comics) and Gordon Purcell (Star Trek Comics).

C2E2 Partners with Respawn Entertainment and Project Gaems for a livestreaming of Titanfall gameplay.

Other activities include a charity art auction; Galaxy Hero re-launch party; and Nerd Night speed dating. Panel sessions, toy vendors anime artists, autograph sessions and screenings **c2e2**

Book it:

T.C. Boyle discusses his book *The Harder They Come*, 6 p.m. April 9, Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State. **chipublib**



Erik Larson discusses his book *Dead Wake*, a non fiction work on the sinking of the *Lusitania*, 7 p.m. April 7, Wentz Concert Hall, 171 E. Chicago, Naperville. **andersons**



Poetry heat

State Secretary and State Librarian Jesse White announced the 11th Annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition Gwen-dolyn Brooks Poetry Award is now open. Entrants must be 18 or older. Entries must be postmarked by June 30, 2015. **illinoiscenterforthebook**

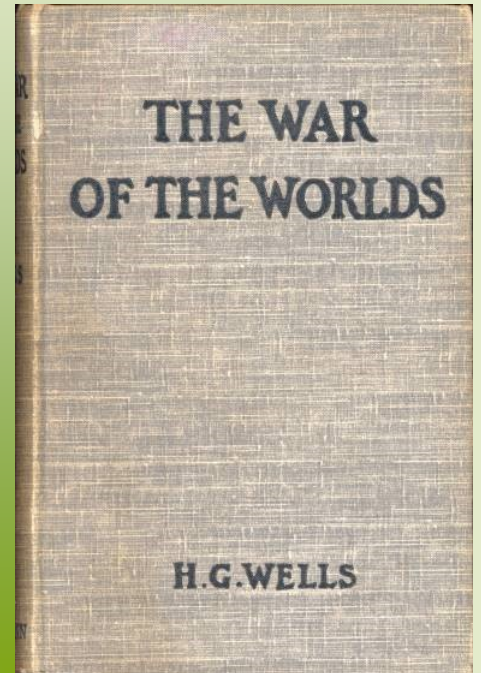
The Classics Revisited

Diane L. LaFonte

The War of the Worlds

Those who are familiar with Hollywood's numerous adaptations of H.G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds* may not know the original story, written between 1895 and 1897, first appeared in print as a serial in *Pearson's Magazine* (United Kingdom) and *Cosmopolitan* (United States) in 1897. The first book edition appeared in 1898.

Considered the first of its kind, *The War of the Worlds* with its fantasy/science theme centered around the conflict between man and an extraterrestrial race, is partially responsible for canonizing science fiction into popular culture.



Wells' training as a science teacher provided him with the technical information to develop the sci-fi plot that made the story more realistic. His knowledge empowering the invaders with advanced technology and chemical weapons (the Black Smoke and Red Weed) and their Heat Ray (lasers) all harbingers foreshadowing future military weaponry.

The book, set in late Victorian England when the British Empire was the predominant colonial and naval power on the globe, uses this as a wonderfully terrifying starting point of an invasion of Martians with their own imperialistic agenda.

The story, told by an unknown narrator, opens in an astronomic observatory where explosions are seen on the surface of the planet Mars, causing its inhabitants to seek another planet to dwell.

When, what is thought to be a meteor, lands near the narrator's home in a village outside of London, he discovers the object is in truth an artificial cylinder containing aliens from another planet. The Martians, who emerge briefly before experiencing difficulties existing on Earth, retreat back into the cylinder, which they use as a force shield, before beginning an assault on the villagers as more Martians arrive.

Continued on back

Wells paints a very frightening distorted picture of the Martians, who the narrator describes as big, grayish, oily brown skinned murderous beings the size of bears with two large dark colored eyes, v-shaped mouths dripping saliva surrounded by two Gorgon groups of tentacles. Given the description and time period one must wonder if Wells' story was cultivated from parallels between the races on earth.

As readers we empathize with the narrator's terrifying experiences of helplessness both for himself and his loved ones as well as those he encounters during his fight for survival.

Wells' depiction of late Victorian culture was an accurate reflection of his time of writing, his literature reflecting the increased feelings of anxiety and insecurity as international tensions between European imperial powers escalated towards the outbreak of World War I.

Wells' vision of a war bringing total destruction without moral limitations was not taken seriously by readers at the time of publication but the Martian strategy of the destruction of infrastructure leaving humans without any will to resist became more common as the twentieth century progressed.

Wells' *The War of the Worlds* spellbinding text was so prolific and realistic that as a 1938 radio broadcast, narrated by Orson Welles, it was so believable it spawned panic and chaos in the streets. The 1935 movie starring Gene Barrie (my favorite) is also an excellent retelling of Wells' masterpiece.

A futuristic scion Wells frequently used his works to predict what the future might hold including the onset of World War II in *The Shape of Things to Come*, released in 1933. He was also ahead of the curve predicting what the world would be like in the year 2000 in his bestselling work *The Reaction of Mechanical and Scientific Progress Upon Human Life and Thought*, subtitled *An Experiment in Prophecy*, his predictions of trains and cars resulting in the dispersion of population from cities to suburbs, moral restrictions declining as men and women seek greater sexual freedom; the defeat of German militarism and the existence of the European union.

At the time of his death H. G. Wells was remembered as an author, historian and champion of certain social and political ideals. And, with so many of his predictions being spot on, he is often referred to as the "Father of Futurism."

However, given his success with writing science-inspired fiction Wells is better known today as the "Father of Science Fiction." Although H.G. Wells died in London on August 13, 1946, many of his books remain, including his *The War of the Worlds*, viable reading material.

Maya Angelou stamp debuts

Author, poet, actress, singer—legend.

Marguerite Annie Johnson, known to the world as Maya Angelou, will be honored by the United States Postal Service with the Maya Angelou Forever stamp debuting April 7, 2015 in Washington.

Angelou's most popular work is her autobiographical fiction, the first book, *I know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, written in 1969.

In 2011 Angelou was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award, the highest award presented to a civilian.

Angelou died in May 2014.

