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Subject: Mystery Novel

Posted by [jmeadows](#) on Sun, 23 Oct 2011 23:40:24 GMT

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Mystery Novel

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel

Posted by [jmeadows](#) on Sun, 23 Oct 2011 23:49:32 GMT

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It must say something about my faith in your writing that when I read "has maths" I didn't immediately fall off my chair and wail that this will be the first novel of yours I can't read. I just did the eyebrow thing and moved on, knowing that somehow you would make it all right. (As long as \*I\* don't have to do math.)

Also: \*squee\* \*bounce\*

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel

Posted by [montuos](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 00:00:16 GMT

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The initial idea drifted past about eighteen months ago... But it's SHADOWS that came boiling out of the . . . shadows . . . when I knew I had to put PEG II aside, and said meeeeeeeeeeee.

This is a good sign; this means it wants to be written, now, and may even go out of its way to assist in that goal.

It's just a list; in my language is probably not what it is in anyone else's language.

Let me guess: It stands politely in queue (although periodically randomly reordering itself) while you're not looking at it, but as soon as you glance anywhere near its direction, it drops into a disorganized heap where you can't tell what's on top?

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel

Posted by [rainycity1](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 00:47:02 GMT

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Saw on facebook:

If you \*don't\* want to know anything about the mystery novel, as some of you say you don't--don't read tonight's blog.

and I couldn't sign onto the blog fast enough. ;)

and then I saw:

There is origami.

There may be trying to be some . . . maths.

and now my curiosity is \*really\* piqued. Every since you mentioned it the first time, I've been eyeing copies of ALEX IN NUMBERLAND, which over here has the silly reticle of HERE'S LOOKING AT EUCLID. Guess the publishers think we'll be more familiar with Bogey than Carroll. ;-/

Although I think it is in SUNSHINE's . . . continuum, as you might say. It's not the same world, but I think it's the same universe. I'm pretty sure all my 'high' fantasies join up somewhere; it wouldn't surprise me if all my alt-moderns do too.

Hmmmm.... that would include Dragonhaven as well then?

'The question is,' said Alice, 'whether you can make words mean so many different things.'

'The question is,' said Humpty Dumpty, 'which is to be master - that's all.'

I need a 'Like' button. This is a very good quote for a writer, I think.

Hope things, four legged and two, continue to mend and that SHADOWS cooperates, knowing how very pleased we all are about the upcoming appearance.

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel

Posted by [Stardancer](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 01:03:52 GMT

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The first works of yours that I read were all "high" fantasy ones, so when I found your "alt-modern" works, I wasn't sure what to think. Of course I loved them, so I'm excited that this is one of them.

I also find I love the idea that all your high works and all your alt-modern works connect on some...plane? Perhaps, beyond the borders, the map of Damar goes on for a while into some of your other lands :)

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel  
Posted by [blondviolinist](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 01:52:30 GMT  
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::bounces along with Jodi:: Yay! I'm excited for this book!

I'm glad Darkness seems to be on the mend, and I hope the ME doesn't take the opportunity to knock you down.

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel  
Posted by [guardcat](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 03:54:57 GMT  
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I'm so excited to read Shadows! I love alternate worlds! I love contemporary! And I love math too (don't hate me).

Also the way you summed up the random facts about Shadows was fun. It felt like the end of a mystery story where they suddenly string together all the seemingly disconnected clues and tell you the solution. I found myself thinking, so that's why the origami and NUMBERLAND were in the blog earlier...

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel  
Posted by [Diane in MN](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 07:34:42 GMT  
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I'm glad that Darkness is better. Being myself entirely neurotic about my dogs, I would translate "worry easily" as "worry ALL THE TIME," so I hope your vet has some solid (and convincing) information for you so the worrying can go back to a subclinical state. And I hope that shuts down the stress cycle for you and lets you give the ME the boot.

That's an intriguing list of random facts about SHADOWS. I'm looking forward to seeing how they

all play out. Yum! :)

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel  
Posted by [Ithilien](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 10:24:06 GMT  
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I hope Darkness continues to improve rapidly.

As for SHADOW.... I'm so excited! I love maths. And origami. And reading YA novels. I'm sure it will be wonderful. I can't wait!

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel  
Posted by [AJLR](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 11:02:30 GMT  
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Quote:And I'd rather call it SHADOWS than NOT PEGASUS or MYSTERY NOVEL, if you don't mind. Well, even if you do mind. Author's prerogative. I have to write the thing.

I'm sure we can all get a nice warm buzz going around the name - sort of help it to feel it is loved and wanted and therefore needs to emerge without too many birth pangs and second thoughts. :)

Really looking forward to this. I like alternate-reality stories. Quite apart from everything else, it makes the ways in which this world seems to go a bit alternate sometimes more bearable.

Fingers crossed for Darkness' continued improvement. And that the ME decides to give you a miss.

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel  
Posted by [Mrs Redboots](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 18:57:46 GMT  
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Yay for SHADOWS. I love origami. Don't much care for maths, mind, but as long as you don't expect me to understand any.

But, as you know, I like all your novels, and love the vast majority of them! Trying to decide which one to buy for my 12-year-old niece for Christmas..... (probably The Blue Sword).

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel

Posted by [Aaron](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 21:18:59 GMT

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I read your reaction to the presentation of the items mentioned below and was tempted to bore the assembled with my take on these points but I resisted. Quote: I'm with him so far. But that's as far as I am with him. I felt distinctly ill at ease with Konigsberg's seven bridges; there was no of course; about the solution to me; but I crashed off the rails for good with Euclid's proof that prime numbers are infinite;.

While I was congratulating myself on a rare example of self control I read this:

Quote: e) There may be trying to be some . . . maths. I am resisting this. This is also why I pulled ALEX IN NUMBERLAND off the shelf where it's been sitting for over a year, and when I discovered www.audible.co.uk had it, bought, downloaded and listened to it. I haven't decided yet if this was a good idea or a bad one. It doesn't seem to have had any influence on the story, but then my futile attempts at research rarely do. These attempts do, however, occasionally allow me to keep up.

I will therefore observe that when trying to moving quickly a native guide may be preferable to a description of the terrain. If keeping up does prove to be a problem you might want to consider that the forum includes at least one, and probably several, people native to Numberland who feel themselves in your debt.

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel

Posted by [Stephanie](#) on Tue, 25 Oct 2011 02:59:57 GMT

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I am looking forward to getting my hands on the next book - it sounds very interesting. I can't wait to see the cover for a McKinley YA with math, hee hee hee. It WILL be awesome, I'm just aware that I have no idea what to expect.

I am very glad to hear that Darkness is feeling better, and I hope that by the time you read this you are feeling much recovered too.

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel

Posted by [Sanderling](#) on Tue, 25 Oct 2011 04:09:19 GMT  
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I'm very excited about this project! I've of course enjoyed all the McKinley novels I've been able to get my hands on, but the contemporary-type ones (SUNSHINE, absolutely, and DRAGONHAVEN) have been my favourites. I'm guessing the origami is to the protagonist of SHADOWS what baking was to SUNSHINE, but I'm very curious to find out how the math fits in.

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Subject: Re: Mystery Novel

Posted by [harpergray](#) on Tue, 25 Oct 2011 09:59:38 GMT  
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I add myself happily to the SHADOW bouncing. New and interesting things are always fun to read, be they in your contemporary or high fantasy - I wasn't nearly so intrigued by baking before I read SUNSHINE, and I read DEERSKIN only shortly before getting involved with a pack of hounds myself. The two weren't directly related, but on my re-readings now the sighthounds have an amusing tendency to merge with my (well, the club's) PBGVs. So origami? Maths? Sounds good to me!

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