

SOFIA SAMATAR



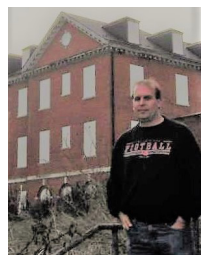
Sofia Samatar is the author of the novels *A Stranger in Olondria* and *The Winged Histories*, the short story collection, *Tender*, and *Monster Portraits*, a collaboration with her brother, the artist Del Samatar. Her work has received several honors including the John W. Campbell Award, the British Fantasy Award, and the World Fantasy Award. She teaches Arabic literature, African literature, and speculative fiction at James Madison University.

TAMARA SHOEMAKER



Tamara Shoemaker's fantasy books include the *Heart of a Dragon* trilogy: *Kindle the Flame*, *Embrace the Fire*, and *Unleash the Inferno*, as well her *Guardian of the Vale* trilogy: award-winning *Mark of Four*, *Shadows of Uprising*, and *Guardian of the Vale*. Her latest release, *River Running*, combines her fascination with history, magic, and romance, all captured in one story. In her spare time, she teaches school, freelances as an editor for other works of fiction, chases three children hither and yon and tries hard to ignore the brownie mixes that inevitably show up.

DAVID SIMMS



David Simms lives in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia with his wife, son and trio of furballs after escaping New Jersey and Massachusetts. He is a special education teacher, college English instructor, counselor, music therapist, ghost tour guide, and book reviewer. *Fear the Reaper* is a thriller that's a mostly true story about the eugenics movement in America- basically, how we directly influenced Hitler and began the horrors right here in the states. *Dark Muse* was his first novel and a YA musical dark fantasy will be re-released late spring through Crossroad Press.

SHERNAE STORELLA



Shernae is a wife, a mother, a kindergarten teacher, and the author of a wide variety of several well loved children's books. Shernae's books are interactive and encourage youngsters of all ages to step back and observe the world around them. Her books focus on real life situations that children will encounter on a daily basis. Her desire is to remind her readers that he or she is surrounded with the beauty of God's creation and that they themselves are His wonderful creations, the most magnificent part of all! Shernae has authored and illustrated *You Are Not From Here, Now Go Home*, *The Frowning Frog*, and *Who Awakened the Sleeping Giant*.

BETH TRISSEL



Beth Trissel lives on a farm in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia surrounded by her human family and furbabies. An avid gardener, her love of herbs and heirloom plants figures into her work. The rich history of Virginia, the Native Americans, and the people who journeyed here from far beyond her borders are at the heart of her inspiration. She's especially drawn to colonial America, the drama of the American Revolution, and the Civil War. And she loves a good ghost story. She writes Young Adult, New Adult, historical, time travel, and paranormal romance, plus nonfiction. Her recent release, *Secret Lady* (Ladies in Time), was based events that occurred to her ancestors and her husband's Mennonite forebears during the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley.

J. ELIZABETH VINCENT



Janell E. Robisch writes and publishes a variety of nonfiction, including books on writing and self-publishing. Her alter ego, J. Elizabeth Vincent, is the author of several short stories, a novella, and *Raven Thrall*, the first novel in the epic fantasy series, *Legends of the Ceo San*, the tale of a girl called upon to rescue others when she hasn't even figured out who she is yet. In both personas, Janell plans to keep writing and publishing as long as she can.



Saturday, April 6, 2019

Central Library

1 PM - 4 PM

Reading Schedule:

- 1:30 PM: Shernae Storella
- 2:00 PM: Brandon Jones
- 2:30 PM: Margaret Locke
- 3:00 PM: David Simms
- 3:30 PM: Sofia Samatar

CHRIS BARCOMB



Chris Barcomb is the writer/creator of the all age's comic book series *The Amazing Adventure of Superior Sam*. Superior Sam is an amputee superhero without any superpowers. Despite not having any powers Superior Sam shows people what its like to be different while taking on the challenges of protecting his school from bullies. Chris is also an amputee and retired police officer.

P.A. DUNCAN



P. A. Duncan is a retired bureaucrat but one with an overactive imagination—or so she's been told since she wrote her first stories using her weekly list of spelling words. She graduated from Madison College (now James Madison University) with degrees in history and political science. History and politics

always find their way into her writing. Her fiction has appeared in numerous literary magazines and anthologies, but she's particularly proud of the short story, "Reset," which won the Virginia Writers Club 2016 Golden Nib Award. Her debut novel, *A War of Deception*, received the New Apple Literary Award for Excellence in Independent Publishing as a Featured Selection in Best Historical Fiction. She lives and writes in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, where she also cheers on the New York Yankees, watches NASCAR, and spoils grandchildren.

ALLISON GARCIA



Allison K. Garcia is a Licensed Professional Counselor, but she has wanted to be a writer ever since she could hold a pencil. She is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers, Shenandoah Valley Writers, Virginia Writers Club, and is Municipal Liaison for Shenandoah Valley NaNoWriMo. Allison's novel

Vivir el Dream has been a finalist for four awards: the 2016 ACFW Genesis Contest, the 2018 Eric J. Hoffer Montaigne Medal, the 2018 Eric J. Hoffer Ebook Honorable Mention, and the 2018 IAN Book of the Year Award in the Christian/Religious Fiction category. Her highly-anticipated novel, *Finding Amor*, was released in September 2018. Allison lives in Harrisonburg with her husband, Julio and their son, Miguel.

BRANDON JONES



Brandon grew up in New Jersey and has always had a passion for writing, but it initially came out as drawing. From drawing up to a 70 issue comic series in high school, to creating some role playing games on a program called RPG Maker, to writing a five novel series in college. When he moved to Virginia, he pushed himself to get back into writing and wrote the first part of *The Diamond League* for a NaNoWriMo contest. He then self-published *The Diamond League* in 2016, and it was a personal success. After publishing *The Black Death* in 2018, he continues to work on the final book of the Diamond League trilogy and various other writing projects to this day.

TARYN NOELLE KLOEDEN



Taryn Noelle Kloeden is a lover of nature and all things furry and feathered. As a PhD student in environmental science with a master's degree in anthrozoology, she is dedicating her life to understanding and protecting animals, both human and nonhuman. This zeal for the outdoors combined with a lifelong love affair with fantasy and horror stories led her to create the YA dark fantasy series, *The Fenearen Chronicles*. Taryn lives in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley with her Prima donna cat, Stella, adorable dog, Eddie, and fiancé, Lorenzo.

MARY FULK LARSON



Mary Fulk Larson is the pseudonym for three co-authors, Mary Mattern Smith, Tammy Fulk Cullers, and Barbara Larson Finnegan, who write the *Custer's Mill Mystery* series. On the surface, it might not seem as though a college professor, a middle school English teacher and a business owner would have much in common. But Mary Fulk Larson came to life because three people who chose different career paths shared an unrelenting dream of become published authors. They also share a mutual love of books, and a fascination with words and stories. Cumulatively, the authors have ten grown children and nine grandchildren, and live with their husbands in the lovely Shenandoah Valley.

MARGARET LOCKE



Margaret Locke, 2018 RITA® Finalist and USA Today Bestselling Author of the *Magic of Love* and *Put Up Your Dukes* series, writes binge-worthy romance that keeps you up past your bedtime. She delights in making readers laugh, cry, and think. Because love matters. You can usually find her in front of some sort of screen (electronic or window); she's come to terms with the fact she's not an outdoors person. Newly obsessed with coffee, she also fangirls over Jane Austen, history, cats, books, and Colin Morgan. When not writing, Margaret adores spending time with her fabulous husband, two fantastic kids, and three funny felines. And chocolate. Don't forget chocolate.

CHRISTOPHER MARKHAM



Spewed forth from the belly of ambition the same year *Star Wars* debuted in the last century, it is only natural that Markham has achieved greatness and cultivated such an entrepreneurial spirit. After conquering Chicago, he stepped up his game by returning to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, started his own theatre company (*Impressions Theatre*) that travels to libraries in the summer performing for the summer reading program (Often accompanied by marmosets and clown pies). He also performs in a *Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre* at a local resort. *Missing* is his debut novel and the first in a series.

LINDA MILLER



Linda Miller is a seasoned educator with 36 years of teaching experience. She is the daughter of teachers and raised four teachers of her own. Her official training includes bachelor and master's degrees in elementary education from Madison College (James Madison University). Linda volunteers at CrossRoads, helping field trip students get a glimpse of daily life experiences relevant for settlers of the Shenandoah Valley. She and her husband enjoy traveling, including explorations of historical or cultural sites with their grandchildren. When at home, Linda's artistry finds expression in creating silk scarves and quilting.