

J.M. FREY

Press Kit, 2011



Author. Actor. Speaker.
Fanthropologist. Professional Geek.

Thoughtful, insightful, and quirky, J.M. is the go-to gal in the Toronto scifi/fantasy scene for anything academic-nerd.

With her debut science fiction novel *Triptych* about to hit the shelves, J.M. is rapidly becoming a force for academic fandom, proving that girls can be scholars and geeks, too.

BIOGRAPHY

There's more to J.M. than just a pretty face. With a BA in Dramatic Literature from Brock University, and an MA in Communication's Culture from both Ryerson and York Universities, J.M. is a proven intellectual with a passion for pop culture.

Self-proclaimed *Doctor Who* fan and anime *otaku*, J.M. grew up in the comic book convention circuit, consuming copious amounts of scifi and Japanese TV, spending all her pocket money on comics and *manga*, and honing her skills as an award winning costumer. And all the while watching fan and celebrity interaction – which later became the basis for her academic studies in theatre, performance, sociology, anthropology, and gender.

Trained from an early age in musical theatre (singing, dancing, acting), and becoming a voice actor while in university, J.M. is fearless before a crowd. She has appeared as a model for art exhibitions, and in Liana K's Toronto-based Steampunk Fashion Show circuit. She was an invited panelist on the SPACE Channel's premier chat show *InnerSPACE*, has appeared in documentaries, and lent costumes to the Ontario Science Centre for their exhibition on Steampunk in spring 2011.

Already being compared to Robert J. Sawyer, Frey's ambition is to give Canadians a well rounded, approachable, down-to-earth and intelligent female science fiction writer to speak for them on the world stage.



TRIPTYCH



"You know..." she said slowly, and almost so softly that Evvie didn't hear it. "You know those movies where the aliens come to Earth, and they... I dunno, they try to steal our natural resources, or create a nuclear winter so they can turn the Earth into slag, or they melt the polar ice caps and New York is under fathoms of water, or they clone us for slaves, or create terrifying bioweapons and wipe us all out and use our cities for farmland, or...all that stuff?"

Evvie's heart trembled. She could taste her pulse and her fear, thready and metallic on the back of her tongue. "Yes," she said softly.

Gwen looked up. "It was nothing like that."

A science fiction novel with literary fiction aspirations, *Triptych* is about a world where the aliens have come to Earth not as enslavers or invaders, but as the down-on-their-luck homeless seeking aid and a place to fit in. Addressing such social issues a gender performance and family dynamics, culture clashes and culture shock, prejudice, violence, and the death of children, *Triptych* is the modern answer to Arthur C. Clarke and Isaac Asimov, a social commentary as well as a compelling, crafted fiction.

"JM Frey's *Triptych* satisfies any sci-fi reader looking for a different take on the first contact motif, or anyone looking to explore the possible evolution of human sexuality and love."

--LAMBDA Literary Review

"Time travel, aliens, and the politics of sexuality combine with tragic violence in Frey's deeply satisfying debut [...] The story is so well-grounded in the characters that it never once loses its course. Frey tells the story from varying points of view in distinct voices, imagining a world at once completely alien and utterly human."

-*Publisher's Weekly*, Starred Review

"Frey delivers gloriously unpretentious science fiction, with enough fun and romantic intrigue to make you forget that something smart is going on until the closing pages."

– Liana K., Co-Host, Writer & Producer for *Ed The Sock*

"A strong talent, especially with nuances of conversation and emotional interaction. A seamless blending of sci-fi action and intrigue with a sensual romance, reminiscent of Heinlein."

– Eric Allen Montgomery, *Memory Boxer*

InnerSPACE hosts Teddy Wilson and Ajay Fry in Alien Ears. →



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Book Trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=OipOs5i3GBE

MEDIA APPEARANCES

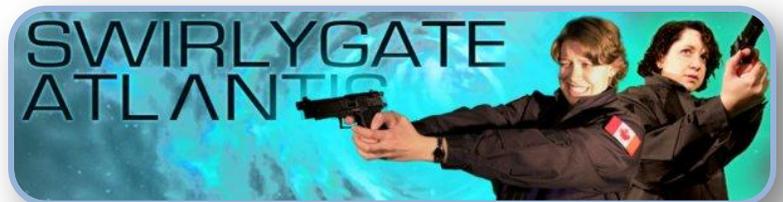


In July of 2010, the SPACE channel invited Frey to be a panellist in the InnerSPACE *Live Doctor Who Panel Discussion* and season finale episode airing. Frey's comment that the Doctor makes the characters, and the audience, want to be "Bigger On The Inside" was chosen as one of SPACE's top moments of 2010.

Frey was the co-host of Hardcorenerdity.com's specialty run *GeekU* podcast, and was one formerly one of the triumvirate of Toronto Geek celebrities in the weekly *G33KN3RDDORK* podcast, along with award winning and internationally renowned standup comic Gavin B. Stephans, and the co-founder of Dorkshelf.com Jeff Brown.

Frey also appeared as the academic expert in 2009's *Leaving Mundania*, a refreshingly upbeat documentary about cosplay culture by Jiro C. Okada, and as Anne Shirley in the forthcoming *The Maud Squad* a documentary about Anne of Green Gables fandom by Lisa Lightbourn-Lay.

Frey was also the primary investigator and writer after the pilot, as well as one of the two lead actors in *The Swirlygate Project*, a webseries that spoofed the common genre and gender stereotypes of science fiction television by poking fun at *Stargate: Atlantis*.



Among many short films, Frey starred in *Ext. 5683 (L-o-v-e) a.k.a. Telemarketing: The Musical*, alongside renowned Toronto musical theatre performer Scott Pietrangelo. The film went on to win the award for best writing at the 2009 Toronto Youth Shorts Film Festival. Frey has also been a guest presenter at two local awards shows. In 2009 she presented the award for the Joe Shuster's Excellence in Canadian Comic Books for best writing, and in 2010 at the Constellation Awards for Canadian Science Fiction TV and Film, for best writing in a television episode.



SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

JM Frey was invited to read from *Triptych* at the prestigious and internationally renowned Eden Mills Writers Festival in 2010. She annually appears at Toronto-area conventions and conferences to speak on panels about everything from *Doctor Who* to tips for writing science fiction, living as a foreigner in Japan to the connection between anime and Japanese traditional theatre, from social issues in modern fantasy to cosplay, and webseries funding and production.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PROSE

- *(Back)* – short story, SilverThought Press, Spring 2008
- *Triptych* – novel, DragonMoon Press, April 2011
- "The Once and Now-ish King", short story in the *When the Hero Comes Home* anthology. Dragon Moon Press, August 2011

POETRY

- On the Hazards of Dating a Vancouver-Based Actor, *In My Bed Magazine vol 5*, Fall 2009
- Tobogganing, *The White Wall Review vol 32*, Ryerson University Press, 2008
- Water Garden, *The White Wall Review vol 32*, Ryerson University Press, 2008

ACADEMIC

- "Identiplay: Cosplay, Cons, Camp, and the Carnavalesque" – presented at the Pop Culture Association of America's annual conference, San Francisco, March 2008
- "Whose Doctor?" – presented at the Whoniversal Appeal academic conference at the University of Cardiff, Wales, November 2008
- "Un-caped Crusaders: Illness Memoirs, 9/11, and Comics" – presented at the Ryerson Grad Seminar, Spring 2009.
- "Modern Mixed Media: Techniques for Using Online Fandoms for Teaching and Research" – presented at the Technology and Pedagogy conference at York University in March, 2009.
- "Social, Political and Artistic Contexts, Affecting The Development of Kabuki from Origins to Contemporary Supakabuki, Prevalent in Masahi Todayama's *Inu Yasha*" – Bachelor of Arts thesis, Spring 2005, Brock University
- "Water-Logged Mona Lisa: Who Is Mary Sue and Why Do We Need Her?" – Master of Arts thesis, Spring 2009, Ryerson and York Universities
- "Whose Doctor?" essay in *Doctor Who In Time And Space*, McFarland Press, Summer 2012.

JOURNALISM

- "Dodesho?! Speak American Dammit!" in *Fukuoka Now*, September 2007
- "Living and Working In The Land of the Rising Sun" in *Our Canada (Reader's Digest)*, October 2007

FILMOGRAPHY

Commercial: *Jessica's Story* - "Works For Me" Campaign for McDonald's Canada, worksforme.ca

Television: *Doctor Who Live Panel!* – "InnerSPACE" for SPACE Channel, July 2010

Short Film: *Ext. 5683 (L-o-v-e) a.k.a. Telemarketing: The Musical* – Ryerson University Film Students, 2009

Short Film: *Skeletons in the Closet* - Ryerson University Film Students, 2008

AWARDS

Best Short Story, Dragon*Con 2007 for *Zoh Onna Omote (The Nothing Woman's Mask)*

CONTACT



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Notable Blog Entries: <http://www.delicious.com/jm.frey>

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Further publicity photographs can be found at http://www.jmfrey.net/promotional_pics