

J.M. FREY

Press Kit, 2012



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.

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 her fellow fans – which later became the basis for her academic studies in theatre, performance, sociology, anthropology, and gender.

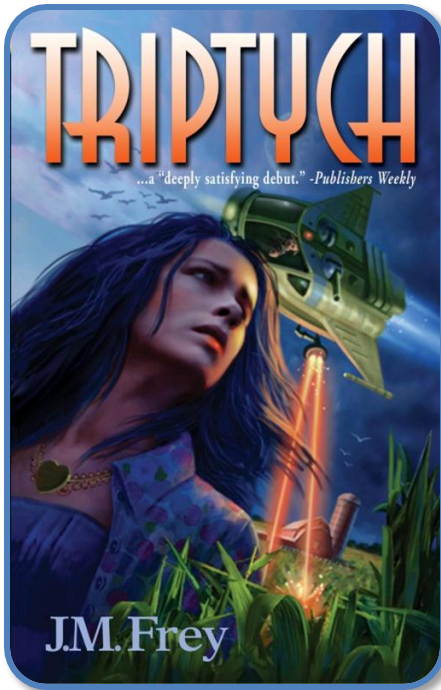
Trained from an early age in musical theatre and voice acting, J.M. is fearless before a crowd. She has appeared as a model for art exhibitions, a model for a charity cosplay calendar, and in Liana K's Toronto-based Steampunk Fashion Show circuit. She was an invited panellist on the SPACE Channel's premier chat show *InnerSPACE*, has appeared in documentaries, and lent costumes to the Ontario Science Centre for their exhibition on Steampunk in spring 2011. She appears in the lauded 2012 webseries *LESLIEVILLE*, and can be found on the soundtrack for *A Life In The Library*, a musical tribute to Canadian national treasure Lillian H. Smith.



Already being compared to Robert J. Sawyer and Robert A. Heinlein, Frey's work is insightful, thought-provoking, socially relevant tales, as well as touching and engaging human stories.

TRIPTYCH

Named one of the Best Books of 2011 by *Publishers Weekly* and one of the Best Overlooked Books of 2011 by *The Advocate*.



"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, and use our cities for farmland, or...all that stuff? It was nothing like that."

A science fiction novel with literary 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 classic sci-fi, an updated social commentary in vein of Heinlein, and a compelling, crafted fiction about what it means to fight for what you love against intolerance, prejudice, and mob mentality.

"I finished *Triptych* in one go last night, couldn't put it down even. It's a very impressive first novel and if Ms. Frey continues to do with science fiction what she's done in this book she might single-handedly be credited with reviving the entire genre. Bravo! Encore, encore!"
—Todd McCaffrey, *The Dragonriders of Pern* series

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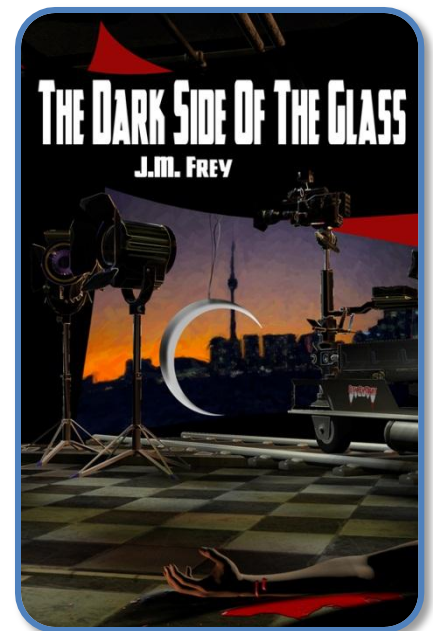
Review copies available upon request.

THE DARK SIDE OF THE GLASS

Coming Soon from Double Dragon Publishing

Review copies available upon request.

This is a story about Mary, number one fan of the hottest cult vampire detective TV show, *City By Night*... until it becomes all too real. An accident sends her hurtling into the world of the show, and Mary is thrilled until she realizes that living in TV-land isn't all it's cracked up to be. And of course, the lead character Leondre DuNoir falls for her! Sure, fine, he's hot... but he's also a bit flat. And his admiration comes with its own set of problems: Antonio, Leondre's psychotic stalker, has a habit of killing off the girls-of-the-week. Not only is Mary disillusioned with what she thought was a lush world until she had to try to maneuver in it, now she's about to be murdered by one of the stupidest clichés in the history of television in a world that, pardon the pun, totally *sucks*.



A loving satire of the Toronto Film Industry, vampire-cop TV, and what it really means to be a "Fan".

MEDIA APPEARANCES



In July of 2010, the SPACE channel invited Frey to be a panelist 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 of the triumvirate of Toronto Geek celebrities in the weekly *G33KN3RDD0RK* podcast, along with award winning and internationally renowned standup comic Gavin B. Stevens, and the co-founder of Dorkshelf.com Jeff Brown.

Frey 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 currently plays Casey, a lesbian planning her wedding, in the highly-anticipated webseries *LESLieVILLE*, which debuts in March 2012.

Frey was 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*.



Frey starred in *Ext. 5683 (L-o-v-e) a.k.a. Telemarketing: The Musical*, alongside 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 three local awards shows. In 2009 she presented the award for the Joe Shuster's Excellence in Canadian Comic Books for best writing, and the 2010 and 2011 Constellation Award for Canadian Science Fiction TV and Film, for best writing. Frey is also the vocals for *A Life In The Library*, a multimedia musical presentation about Lillian H. Smith, the first trained children's library in the British Empire.



SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

JM Frey was invited to read from *Triptych* at the prestigious and internationally renowned Eden Mills Writers Festival in 2010.

She appears frequently 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, Dragon Moon Press, April 2011
- "The Once and Now-ish King", *When the Hero Comes Home* anthology. Dragon Moon Press, July 2011
- *The Dark Side of the Glass* – novella, Double Dragon Publishign, June 2012

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

Web: *LESlieVILLE* – Nadine Belle & Make Go Work Productions, March 2012

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 Univ. 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)*



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