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

Biography

With a BA in Dramatic Literature from Brock University, and an MA in Communication & Culture from Ryerson and York Universities, J.M. is a proven intellectual with a passion for pop culture.

J.M. grew up in the comic book convention circuit, consuming copious amounts of scifi and Japanese TV, spending all her pocket money on *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 charity cosplay calendar, and the Toronto-based Steampunk Fashion Show circuit. She was a recurring invited guest on the SPACE Channel's premier chat show *InnerSPACE*, has appeared as an academic expert in documentaries, podcasts, and radio programs. She can be found on the soundtrack for *A Life In The Library*, a musical tribute to Canadian national treasure Lillian H. Smith, and in the webseries *LesLIEville* and the international multi-award-winning *Out With Dad*. She is a regularly invited to be a speaker and panelist at science fiction conventions all over Ontario, has been a Guest of Honor at conventions in San Jose, upstate New York, Winnipeg, and St. John’s, been a keynote speaker for Grant McEwan University and the JET Programme, and has read at literary festivals such as the Eden Mills and Elora Writer’s Festival.

Compared often to the work of Ursula K. LeGuin, Tamora Pierce, Diana Wynne Jones, Spider Robinson, Mercedes Lackey and Robert A. Heinlein, Frey's tales feature insightful, thought-provoking meta-narratives, socially relevant tales surrounding themes of feminism and sexuality, wrapped in engaging human stories.
Triptych
Publisher: Strange Fuse | ISBN 13 978-1775340218 | Review copies available

Named one of the Best Books of 2011 by Publishers Weekly and one of the Best Overlooked Books of 2011 by The Advocate; nominated for a CBC Bookie and two Lambda Literary Awards.

A science fiction novel with a literary foundation, *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. *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

City by Night
Publisher: Short Fuse | ISBN 13 978-1937791735 | Review copies available (e-book only)

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. 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".*

"Frey's *The Dark Side of the Glass* is an exceptionally fun read [...] A refreshing and mind-twistingly meta take on the Mary Sue convention in fanfiction, *Glass* managed to subvert all of my expectations, and leave me smiling. [...] Funny, light-hearted, and full of cracks about the tropes of genre television, *The Dark Side of the Glass* is an awesome read - and the ending is amazing!"
–Sam Maggs, *The Geek Girl’s Guide to the Galaxy*
**Hero is a Four Letter Word**

*Publisher:* Short Fuse, 2013 | *ASIN:* B00FD9XNJ8 | *Review copies available* (e-book only).

Good and Evil. Two sides of the same coin? Or something less defined, something more liminal? Entertaining and always thought-provoking, author J.M. Frey offers three remarkable stories that explore the grey area of the hero/villain dichotomy in this debut short story collection.

Funny and irreverent, "The Once And Now-ish King" finds King Arthur reborn. "Just A Four Letter Word" follows Jennet, descendant of mythic lovers. In "The Maddening Science", a former supervillain is forced to return to a life of crime to save his stalker.

Heroes. Villains. Monsters. Fairy Tales. Myths. Legends. Who is the good guy, who the bad, and who gets to decide which is which? After all, 'hero' is just another four letter word.

"It's challenging, it's got a ton of character, and it keeps you guessing in ways that are deliciously disconcerting. [...] The issues this story explores are handled with a deftness that bespeaks Frey's years of experience bending genre literature toward deeper discussions. The handlings of certain dialogues demonstrate a new level of maturation in Frey's technique, as she strikes a balance of character and message wherein each reinforces the other. [...] At once dark and pretty, it is sweet, challenging, funny, and poignant. This is Frey's best work yet."

- Jason Meyer, Konomi Digital and CoreTCG

"Frey's latest work is devastating and awesome, as usual."

- Kat Curtis, *The Naked News*

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**The Secret Loves of Geek Girls**

*Publisher:* Dark Horse Comics, 2016 | *ISBN 13:* 978-1506700991 | *Review copies available*

Secret Loves of Geek Girls is an exciting new nonfiction anthology of comic and prose stories from women in fandom. All the stories in this collection revolve around personal experiences and thoughts on romance, sex, and dating.

J.M. Frey’s chapter: *How Fanfiction Made Me Gay* explores the way fandom offers young queer and questioning youth a roadmap for self discovery and understanding.

"Written by both fans and professional writers, The Secret Loves of Geek Girls ‘collects successes as well as embarrassments … and reassures us that no matter what we’re going through or have gone through, we are never alone.’"

--The Guardian
The Accidental Turn Series
Publisher: Reuts Publications | Review copies available

Series Titles and Publication Dates

An epic fantasy meta-narrative about megafan Pip, who wakes up in the novel series that she’s loved since being a teenager. But the world is a darker, far more dangerous place than she could have predicted, especially as the hero is a bigger misogynist than she knew. The Accidental Turn series chronicles the adventures of Pip in a world whose tropes, clichés, pitfalls and loopholes she can predict and circumnavigate, and what happens when she pulls the characters outside of the comfort of the fantasy world for which they were written.

Master Forsyth Turn isn't a hero. He’s never wanted to be one, either; not since his older brother Kintyre found the Foesmiter and waltzed away from his family, his estate, and his responsibilities.

And then, raiding the castle of a wanted criminal, Forsyth's men rescue Lucy Piper. A bafflingly blunt woman, oddly named and even more oddly mannered, Lucy Piper claims to know things about Kintyre and Forsyth’s lives that she can't possibly be privy to. She crashes into Forsyth’s quaintly sedentary life like an errant comet and before he knows it, she has him convinced that he is the only man who can join her on her quest to find a magical gateway back to her far-away home. She drags Forsyth into the kind of adventure that only his brother could have imagined, testing his mettle and forcing Forsyth to confront his own self-shame, and the bullying that had characterized his childhood. But the Viceroy, Kintyre’s arch-nemesis, is after Lucy Piper and her magical gateway as well. And the truth of why threatens the stability of the whole Kingdom... Perhaps even their whole world.

Lucy Piper might be able to convince Forsyth that he can be a hero, but is it really his fate to defeat the one villain that even the great Kintyre Turn has never managed to best?

“INSANELYAMAZING! The Untold Tale tears apart the tropes of heroic fantasy and gives back what we need: true heroes, true love, and the astonishing realization that yes, real people are magical.”
--Julie Czerneda, Author of A Turn of Light & A Play of Shadow; Prix Aurora Award winner

“I started reading Untold Tale, and was captivated. This superb novel grabbed me from the opening sentence, and never let go. The very best fantasy stories show us fresh new settings in which deeds and events matter—but first and foremost, they give us colorful, captivating characters we fall in love with, or love to hate, or are fascinated by. The Untold Tale does all of this, and more. We see someone from a world we know plunged into a world that is strange to us, through the eyes of that unfamiliar world. And we care what happens to her, and to everyone we meet in Untold Tale’s pages. And the whole tale is several clever twists on the oh-so-familiar fantasies we’ve read before. I want more. Books more”.
--Ed Greenwood, Forgotten Realms
Acting, Interviews, and Documentaries

In July of 2010, the SPACE channel featured Frey as 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 repeated her guest appearance for SPACE’s Doctor Who 50th Anniversary special in 2013, and has been invited back to speak on InnerSPACE a dozen more times since.

Frey appeared as the academic expert in 2009’s Leaving Mundania, an upbeat documentary about cosplay culture by Jiro C. Okada, as Anne Shirley in The Maud Squad documentary by Lisa Lightbourn-Lay, and in A Dirigible Journey, a documentary about Steampunk.

Frey played Casey in the highly-lauded webseries LESlieVILLE, and a small recurring character in the international award-winning mega-hit webseries Out With Dad. She is regularly a judge for TOWebfest, the Toronto Webseries Film Festival. She recently appeared in the Elora Community Theatre productions of Little Women as Marmee and Alice in Wonderland as the Queen of hearts.

Frey also features as the voice of Lillian H. Smith in the multimedia musical play A Life In The Library, about the first children’s librarian in the British Empire. Frey appears as various voices in the radio dramas The Weight of Information and I Wish I Were Dead, as well as the voice of several commercials, jingles, mini-documentaries, phone systems, as well as the English voices of Angela and Dream Woman in the dub of the Italian indie hit feature film Tre Tocchi.

Frey was profiled by THIS Magazine (October 2014), the AESC Canadian Science Fiction Blog (2011), and further forthcoming articles. She is currently the reoccurring pop-culture smartypants guest on Accessible Media Inc.’s morning chat show, Live From Studio Five.

Speaking Engagements

J.M. Frey read from Triptych at the prestigious and internationally renowned Eden Mills Writers Festival in 2010, and was a featured author at the Elora Writer’s Festival in 2016. She speaks often at local libraries, festivals, weekend workshops, and for the Canadian Author’s Association on topics such as The Path To Publishing, How to Read Your Own Work, and How To Finish A Novel.

She appears frequently at conventions and conferences to speak on panels about everything from feminism in Doctor Who, to tips for writing science fiction and worldbuilding, 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.

Frey also gave the keynote address at the 2011 Japanese Exchange Teacher’s Predeparture Orientation meeting, and one at the Elora Rotary Club’s 2016 Presidential Handover night, and the 2017 Grant McEwan English Student Conference. She’s appeared as a guest or talking head on podcasts including Hysteria, Super Geeked Up, The Watchtower, Page of Reviews, The OTPodcast, and many, many more.
Bibliography

Prose

- (Back), SilverThought Press, Spring 2008
- Triptych, Dragon Moon Press, April 2011
- "The Once and Now-ish King", in When the Hero Comes Home. Dragon Moon Press, July 2011
- "On His Birthday, Reginald Got", in Klien. FutureCon Publications, December 2011
- The Dark Side of the Glass, Double Dragon Press, June 2012
- "Maddening Science", in When the Villain Comes Home, August 2012
- Hero Is A Four Letter Word, Fast Foreword, September 2013
- Lips Like Ice, (as Peggy Barnett), Circlet Press, February 2015
- "The Twenty Seven Club", in Expiration Date. EDGE Publishing, May 2015
- "Zmeu" in Gods, Memes, and Monsters, Stone Skin Press, July 2015
- The Untold Tale (Book #1 of The Accidental Turn Series), Reuts Publications, December 2015
- Ghosts, (an Accidental Novella), Reuts Publications, April 2016
- The Forgotten Tale (Book #2 of The Accidental Turn Series), Reuts Publications, December 2016
- Arrivals, (an Accidental Novella), Reuts Publications Spring 2017
- The Silenced Tale (Book #3 of The Accidental Turn Series), Reuts Publications, December 2017
- “The Promise” in Valor vol 2, Fairlylogue Press, Autumn 2017
- The Accidental Collection (Book #4 of The Accidental Turn Series), Reuts Publications, August 2018
- The Skylark’s Song (Book #1 of The Skylark’s Saga), Reuts Publications, September 2018
- The Skylark’s Sacrifice (Book #2 of The Skylark’s Saga), Reuts Publications, September 2019
- Woman of the Sea, Wattpad (serialized) February 2019

Comics

- “Bloodsuckers” & “Toronto the Rude” in The Toronto Comic Anthology vol 2, March 2015

Poetry

- On the Hazards of Dating a Vancouver-Based Actor, In My Bed Magazine vol 5, Fall 2009
- The Dark Lord and the Seamstress: An Adult Coloring Book, CreateSpace, October 2014

Academic / Non-Fiction

- "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
- "Whose Doctor?” – presented at the Whoniversal Appeal academic conference at the University of Cardiff, Wales, November 2008

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"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


"Whose Doctor?" essay in Doctor Who In Time And Space, McFarland Press, April 2013

“Power-Playing; Advice to Romance Writers Now That Fifty Shades of Grey is a Film”, on The Mary Sue, February 2015


“Time To Move”, The Secret Loves of Geek Girls Redux, Bedside Press, October 2017

Screenplays

To A Stranger, feature-length romantic drama, signed with Divine Paradox Films (pre-production)

Untitled Superhero Dating Comedy, TBA

Awards

Triptych

Best Science Fiction / Fantasy book at the San Francisco Book Festival (May 2012)

Nominated in the Bisexual and LGBT SF/F categories of the Lambda Literary Awards (March 2012)

nominated in the 2nd Annual CBC Bookies awards (March 2012)

Triptych named one of the Best Overlooked Books of 2011 by The Advocate (Dec-Jan 2011-2012)

#3 Best Book of 2011 in the Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror category by Publishers Weekly

Other Works

Lips Like Ice nominated for a Passionate Plume Award (2015)

Bloodsuckers nominated for an Aurora Award (2015)

When the Hero Comes Home nominated for best Anthology in the ForeWord Book Of the Year Awards (April 2012)

When the Villain Comes Home nominated for best Anthology in the ForeWord Book Of the Year Awards (April 2013)

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

“Bloodsuckers” nominated for a Prix Aurora Award in 2016

Presenting at the 2009 Joe Shuster Awards

Triptych is announced as a nominee for the 2011 Lambda Literary Awards
Work With Me

Available Workshops and Lectures
I am available to teach workshops and classes. Below is a list of workshops that are already written and prepared. Each workshop comes with a Q&A session and a handout for participants. Workshop lengths may be altered at your request. If there is a topic you would like me to speak on, feel free to shoot me an email to discuss it.

Appearance and travel fees may apply.

“I Did It, It’s Done, Now What?”
*PowerPoint; approx 1 hour with 20-30min for Questions*
So you’ve written a novel! Congratulations on finally typing “The End”!
Now what do you do with it? This presentation explains the common routes and methods of writing a query letter, signing with an agent, and publishing your book (both traditionally and through self-publishing avenues). I will discuss some of the pros and cons, the common pitfalls, and what specific widely-used terminology means. An excellent presentation for people new to the publishing world.

“Worldbuilding through Culture”
*PowerPoint; approx 1 hour of speaking, 1 hour of workshopping, with an additional 20-30min for Questions*
Every memorable speculative fiction story has a world we wish we could live in – from Hogwarts to Middle Earth, from the USS Enterprise to Panem. The geography of your secondary world is key, but the culture and the way it influences your characters is even more important. This session will focus on the nitty gritty of the influence of culture, values, and hegemony on your societies, people, places, and plot. We encourage authors to bring their ideas for their own worlds and cultures to the table, as well as note-taking materials.

“Reading for Writers”
*Participatory Workshop; approx 1 hour*
Hate reading from your book at launches and festivals? Worried you’re boring your audience? Using techniques commonly employed by professional performers and voice actors, this workshop is designed to help nervous and inexperienced writers read their own works in a way that is compelling, entertaining, and appropriate for the genre.

Readings, Signings, and Q&As
*Any desired length.*
J.M. is available for school visits, public library/bookstore visits, conferences, and conventions. Where possible, it is preferred to have travel costs covered at minimum, and for the venue to be accessible.

Keynote Addresses
*Any desired length.*
Further Reviews

#bookreview: The Untold Tale by @scifrey from ATSP
My rating: 5 of 5 stars

If I could mark this as 10/5 stars, I would, but that's impossible, so 5/5 it is, with much hearts and swoons.

The Untold Tale is delicious, each word meant to be savoured, breathed in, nibbled at, full of hidden delight and wonder. Frey has a beautiful writing style - all at once slightly old-fashioned and delectable, whilst also being modern and quick-paced. It's tongue-in-cheek and it's serious. It's like an epic fantasy and a modern YA all in one. It is a book for every bookworm or geek who has wanted to enter the worlds of their favourite books, to experience for themselves the wonder of Narnia, or Middle Earth, or Hogwarts, or the Rain Wilds, or in this case, Lysse Chipping. But most of all, it is a book for writers - and Frey delivers.

J.M Frey's, “The Untold Tale” – A Feminist Fable, Science Fiction Style
by Dallas Barnes for Pink Play Magazine

When Pip, badly beaten and left for dead, enters Forsyth Turn’s world, all things Forsyth knows as true are no longer. This tale of both fantasy and reality synthesizes together in a narrative about an unlikely hero, and his quest to be more than a ‘secondary character’.

J.M. Frey, a Canadian award-winning science fiction and fantasy writer has uniquely turned upside-down the concept of the misogynistic and unbent fantasy world that is so common in the contemporary Sci-Fi/Fantasy genres. Instead, she introduces us to a kick-ass and quirky feminist warrior, brought into Turn’s world with a stronger-than-fiction platform.

Similarly to the ground-breaking novel Sophie’s World by Norwegian author Jostein Gaarder, the reader is left unsure of what is real in a macrocosm of old-world lore, and philosophical perplexity. Directed by a celestial entity known as the Writer, we come to realize that the unsure, and hard-on-himself Forsyth lives in a world that is in fact, a series of novels. Furthermore, Pip is a Reader mysteriously dropped into this unforgiving narrative, with a desire to simply go home.

This story is nothing short of fun, unexpected, and a little bit queer. If your interested in a Science Fiction/Fantasy undertaking with all of the ingredients of a queer anthology, The Untold Tale is for you.

The Untold Tale by J.M. Frey
http://docperschon.blogspot.ca/2016/01/the-untold-tale-by-jm-frey.html

Let me start by saying, for those who are of the "TLDR" persuasion, that I think that J.M. Frey's The Untold Tale is the most important work of fantasy written in 2015. It may be the most important work of fantasy written this decade, but I'll have to get back to you on that in 2020.

People who think that modern Sword and Sorcery should still read like Robert E. Howard's "Vale of Lost Women," (to be clear, I love Howard - but "Vale" is sexist and racist and is, by consensus, one of the man’s worst stories): not only will you hate this book, but you’re the reason this book was written. And for the record, if the Sad Puppies are right, there’s a conspiracy going on right now to see this book win the Hugo, because if it does, Vox Day is going to transform into that Dagon monster at the end of Conan the Destroyer and he’s going to go on a rampage. So if that’s something you want to see happen, then you’re probably someone who should read this book.
The Untold Tale does for fantasy what Redshirts did for SF. It addresses a particular area that needs to see change. And before you say that writers like Frey are just placing feminist shackles on everything, make sure you read the rest of The Untold Tale. Because Frey doesn’t just slap the guys with the male power fantasy. She slaps the self-righteous voices that ignore a partner’s “right to desire.” In the case of The Untold Tale, that partner is male, because it is Forsyth who calls Pip out on this. And this is appropriate, because it’s likely mostly men who will feel the full brunt of Frey’s chastisement. I breathed a sigh of relief when I read those words, because I’d been arguing that very thing in my head for chapter after chapter. The metacommentary had felt very one-sided to that point. And Frey doesn’t stop with that. She takes a few more turns (all puns intended) with her meta-conversation before the end of the book, concluding in a fashion which is exceedingly satisfying.

In his essay “On Fairy Stories,” Tolkien talks about the eucatastrophe, which is effectively the consolation that emerges from the darkness near the end of good fantasy. Something terrible must happen before the hero can win out, or the stakes aren’t high enough: if the stakes are high enough, the happy ending, as Tolkien put it, “pierces you with a joy that brings tears.” But this cannot come without Frodo at the edge of the Cracks of Doom, overcome by the Ring. We as the reader must despair, or the victory will not feel worth having. Frey takes her reader on a very dark journey – one that is primarily internal and emotional in terms of darkness. Forsyth and Pip perch at the edge of a volcano, but it is a relational one, not physical. And the book took its darkest turn for me when Forsyth gave his love as a sacrifice so they could complete their quest. It’s my favourite moment of the book, though when I read it, it was just painful. The idea of giving the love you feel for someone because that love causes you pain was incredible.

And this is the best reason to consider reading The Untold Tale, and why it’s one of the most important works of fantasy from 2015. Because it isn’t just smart metacommentary—a book with nothing but a social agenda usually makes for crap reading, because it isn’t a story, it’s a sermon. Beyond what it has to say about the genre of fantasy, The Untold Tale is a wonderful fantasy story set in a beautiful secondary world: one I look forward to journeying through again.

More reviews can be found at http://jmfrey.net/reviews-and-press/
Travel and Speaking Accommodations

Please be advised that J.M. Frey does occasionally walk with a cane, so accessible venues are preferable. Where possible, travel and accommodation coverage is preferred as Frey’s current publishers do not have touring budgets.

Contact

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Social Media

Amazon Author Page: http://www.amazon.com/J.M.-Frey/e/B004T3JREO/ref=dp_byline_cont_ebooks_1
Facebook Fanpage: https://www.facebook.com/JMFrey.Fanpage
Twitter: @scifrey
Tumblr: http://scifrey.tumblr.com
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJj60y9VVWRuMs_c3jdwHKQ
Instagram: https://instagram.com/j.m.frey/
Pinterest: https://www.pinterest.com/scifrey/

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