

SPIRIT OF THE CENTURY™
PRESENTS

**BEYOND
DINO CALYPSSE**

**BY
CHUCK
WENDIG**



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PART ONE:
THE RESISTANCE!

CHAPTER ONE

Jet Black fell.

He did not fall through open air. He did not plunge deep into water.

He tumbled through time and space. Everything was light and dark at the same time—bright flashes pulsing and long shadows stretching like cooling tar. It felt like he was falling through an endless tunnel, a pit-like perforation in the cosmic continuum.

All around him rose the voices and sounds of history: cannon-fire, erupting volcanoes, jackhammers breaking asphalt, the cheers and jeers of infinite crowds, the wailing of animals, the sobbing of children. All sounds warped, melting from one into another. A mad cacophony of noises kicking through his ear-drums and nesting deep in his mind.

It went on like this.

For a minute or a millennium, Jet could not say.

But for all the time, through all the space, one word formed crystalline in his mind, resonating like a fork tapping glass:

Sally.



When last he left her, Sally was crying his name. She reached out for him across the massive underground chamber, a sculpted space beneath Atlantis, as he hung frozen and limp in the invisible grasp of not one but *two* Doctor Methuselahs.

She had fired a sonic blast through the funnel-tube that wound around the chamber like a golden snake, and then everything *unstuck* as the platform dropped suddenly toward the whirling portal below, the two Doctors going with it. Jet suddenly flew forward, slamming hard into the side of the chamber—seeing stars, his head tolling like a bell—before dropping down toward the portal with all the others.

All the others except Sally.

Sally, left behind on the elevator platform.

Reaching. Yelling. Her body damaged by Methuselah's cruel mathemagic attack.

Jet plunged into the portal.



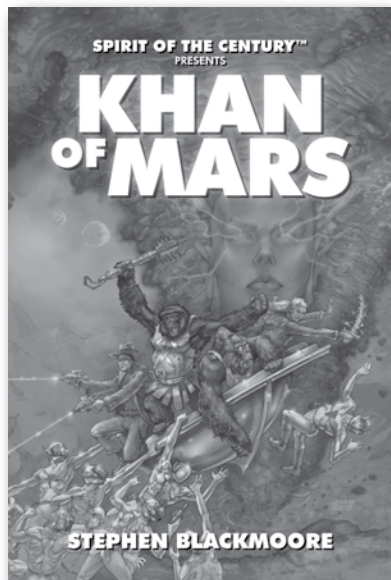
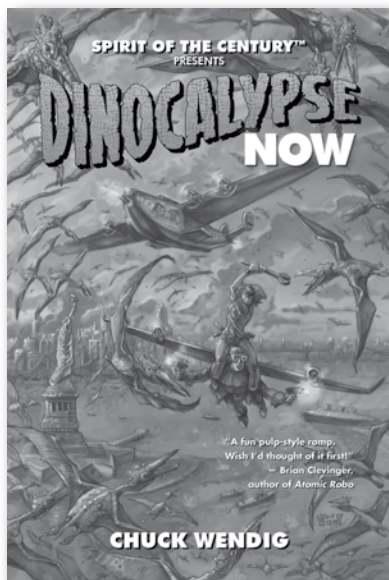
He didn't fall to the ground so much as the ground fell upward to meet him. There came the vacuum *pop* of Jet exiting the continuum of time and space and—

There he was. Standing on wobbly legs.

A wall of humid air, hot as a bull's breath, hit him in the face. Colors and light resolved into shape and object, and as Jet's internal compass spun slower and slower, he saw that he stood in the middle of a wild, verdant jungle. Vines thick as his thigh hung between twisted jungle trees, trees whose roots lay exposed, whose trunks were bulbous and bottle-shaped. The ground lay spongy beneath his feet. Everything felt wet. The air, heavy. Thick like in a cloud of steam.

A dragonfly flitted before him, herkily-jerkily darting left, then right, then up, then up again. Its eyes were like golden marbles. Its body, a knitting needle of sapphires.

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ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

Evil Hat Productions believes that passion makes the best stuff—from games to novels and more. It's our passion that's made Evil Hat what it is today: an award-winning publisher of games and, now, fiction. We aim to give you the best of experiences—full of laughter, story-telling, and memorable moments—whether you're sitting down with a good book, rolling some dice, or playing a card.

We started, simply, as gamers, running games at small conventions under the Evil Hat banner, making face to face connections with some of the same people who've worked on these products. Player to player, gamer to gamer, we've passed our passion along to the gaming community that has already given us so many years of lasting entertainment.

Today, we are turning that passion into fiction based on the games we love. And, much like the games we make and play, we need and *want* you to be part of that process.

That's the Evil Hat mission, and we're happy to have you along on it.

You can find out more about us and the stuff we make at www.evilhat.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chuck Wendig's novel *Double Dead* hit shelves in November, 2011. His second novel, *Blackbirds*, has received rave reviews. Its sequel, *Mockingbird*, was published at the end of 2012.

He, along with writing partner Lance Weiler, is an alum of the Sundance Film Festival Screenwriter's Lab (2010). Their short film, *Pandemic*, showed at the Sundance Film

Festival 2011, and their feature film *HiM* is in development with producers Ted Hope and Anne Carey. Together they co-wrote the digital transmedia drama *Collapsus*, which was nominated for an International Digital Emmy and a Games 4 Change award.

Chuck has contributed over two million words to the game industry, and was the developer of the popular *Hunter: The Vigil* game line (White Wolf Game Studios / CCP). He is a frequent contributor to *The Escapist*, writing about games and pop culture.

He currently lives in Pennsylvania with wife, dog, and newborn son. You can find him at his website, terribleminds.com, where he is busy talking about storytelling and the art and craft of writing. You can find his writing advice collected in e-books such as *Confessions of a Freelance Penmonkey* and *500 Ways to be a Better Writer*.

