

An Interview with Karina Fabian and Vern, the Dragon Detective

April 2009 Blog Tour Featured Authors
at

Time with Tannia

(<http://timewithtannia.tripod.com>)

By:

Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés



1) You have been writing stories about Vern, the dragon detective and his partner, the mage Sister Grace for quite some time. What is the origin of Vern and his detective work?

I've shared how I came up with Vern in several other interviews, so let me give you the story from his point of view:

Nearly nine centuries ago, Vern was your typical Faerie dragon, large and in charge, enjoying take out from the nearby village (cows not virgins), rolling in his treasures in an abandoned dwarf mine of Caraparavalciana (approx where our Ethiopia is), swimming in the Red Sea and sunning himself in the hot sands. While sunning himself, he fell asleep in a trap set by St. George.

He and George had an epic row--40 days of magic and argument--and in the

end, he'd lost all his dragon size, power, magic, wisdom, flight, and fire. Then George offered a deal he could not refuse: earn it all back by serving God and His creatures under the direction of the Faerie Catholic Church. He's been a faithful employee ever since. He's done it all from pope's pet to agent of the Inquisition; he's battled demons and demigods, and taken a lot of hits to do God's will.

While recovering from one of those "hits," he was on sabattical with the Silent Brothers in Peebles-on-Tweed. When a combination nuclear accident on our side and magical mishap on his side opened the Gap between our worlds, he felt a Calling and followed it to the Mundane.

He found himself living in the garage of Little Flowers Parish, depending on the charity of humans and fending off accusations that he had eaten Mrs. McLeery's cats. He could not get a Green Card because the government decided dragons did not qualify as "persons." When the priest goes to comfort some migrant workers after one of their own is murdered, he realizes magic is involved and solves the mystery. After that, he decided that was interesting work--dragons love novelty--and set up his shingle as a PI.

2) Share with us the inside story of how Vern and Sister Grace met, started collaborating with each, other and how they became partners. Considering Vern's temperament, how did you managed for him to accept a partner? Do you consider that this partnership added more charisma to your stories?

This whole story is coming out in Book of Tentacles (Samsdot Publishing) in the summer in a story called "Mishmash." Essentially, Sister Grace suspects a nonsense song is really a spell in an ancient language and hires Vern to help her. Everyone (including Vern) thinks she's nuts, but of course, she proves to be right, they defeat the monster, and (as Vern would say), it was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

As for temperament, you'll see in the story that Grace is a force to be reckoned with. She can out-stubborn Vern, and has no compunctions about chiding him for his faults. He respects that. Plus she gives good cheek scratches.

3) How did you and Vern choose the artist and the publishing house for his debut novel?

I've blogged about that--it was quite a process!

I had a specific style in mind for this story--because it was funny, I wanted a cartoonish style a la Phil Foglio's MythInc, adventures. We had several artists do sample sketches of Vern, and Roe was closest. He and I worked over several drafts to get Vern just right. Roe is new to the book publishing world, and I think he's got a promising future.

4) Your characters have very unique and interesting names. Do their names have something to do with their role in your story? Or are they just a result of your creativity?

Do I sound pompous if I say both? I wanted to parody the fact that fantasy creatures often have unpronounceable names. So the elves have these hideously long names--however, if you pronounce them, they say something about the character. I made an appendix with the names, pronunciations, and meaning. I think the rest of the creatures have pretty ordinary names. I got them from legends or an atlas or some aspect of their personality.

5) Tell us how *Magic, Mensa and Mayhem* differs from other detectives stories. How would you pitch this book to a skeptical buyer?

Magic, Mensa and Mayhem--like all the DragonEye, PI stories--is fun. It's belly laughs and puns, clever twisting of clichés, myths and legends. It's film noir comedy improve as only a snarky, superior dragon can do it.

6) Where can our readers buy the book?

From the publisher: www.swimmingkangaroo.com/mensa.html This is especially recommended for overseas buyers, as Dindy will give you better shipping rates.

From Amazon: in print at <http://tinyurl.com/mmmamazon>

For Kindle at <http://tinyurl.com/mmmkindle>

Or check Fictionwise or other online e-book stores for the e-book version.

I'm also tickled when folks go to their favorite bookstore and order it from them.

For folks who purchase and want an autographed bookplate, they can contact me through my website, www.fabianspace.com

7) Success comes with a lot of work and a contact place, where can our readers contact Vern and obtain more information about his services, fees and, areas of expertise?

www.dragoneyepi.net The home of DragonEye, PI, website. If folks register on the website, they get a free story ("Amateurs," an Honorable Mention in Year's Best Fantasy and Horror, 2008), and subscription to "A Dragon's Eye View," with special offers on stories and products.

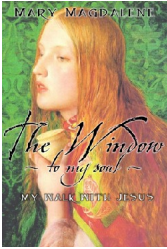
There you can:

--click on the cover art to learn more about the books and stories

--purchase stories for sale in electronic format

--join the DragonEye, PI, fan club. By registering on the website, you get a free story, subscription to "A Dragon's Eye View" and special offers on DragonEye stories and products

--read Vern's blog, join in the forum



Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés, author of *The Window To My Soul; My Walk With Jesus* (ISBN 0975393359; 2004 Tate Publishing; www.tatepublishing.com).

Author's websites: timewithtannia.tripod.com, www.shoutlife.com/tanniaortizlopes, and www.myspace.com/tanniaortizlopes The author also has a blog at www.amazon.com

Copyrighted April 2009, Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés – All Rights Reserved