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Dragon\*Con 2012

# The Daily Dragon

## Heir to Tolkien and Jordan: An Interview with Brandon Winn Sanderson by Debbie Yutko

Bestselling author **Brandon Winn Sanderson**, master of brilliant world building, stunning plot twists, and innovative magic systems, has returned to Dragon\*Con. Five years ago, he was chosen to complete the late Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time*, and he has proven himself a rising star in epic fantasy fiction with his *Mistborn* series and *The Way of Kings*, the first book in his new series *The Stormlight Archive*. Although he is busy prewriting the second book, Sanderson graciously agreed to answer some questions for the *Daily Dragon*.

**Daily Dragon (DD):** *The Wheel turns, and the Wheel of Time series has come to an end with your completed final draft of A Memory of Light, due out from Tor Books on January 8, 2013. It must have been exciting yet daunting to be chosen to finish such an acclaimed series. How has the experience affected you*

*as an author and as a fan?*

**Brandon Winn Sanderson (BWS):** It's been a very interesting experience, both as a writer and as a fan. Picking up something that you've loved for many, many years as a fan and then becoming the writer on it really changes your perspective on the entire process. Suddenly I had to dig into it in a way I didn't as a fan. I'm not one of those fans who always have all their favorite lines memorized or anything like that. I never had to keep track of all the subplots and minor characters, and suddenly I not only have to keep track of them, I have to know them intrinsically, which is quite the challenge.



**DD:** Your work is often praised for unique magic systems with interesting limitations, like the application of the laws of physics to the abilities of a Coinshot in the *Mistborn* series. What kinds of limitations do you think have the most potential?

**BWS:** It depends on how creative you are with your storytelling. I like to found my magics with certain rules so that I can force myself and my characters to be more creative in their application. I think that a good magic system is going to have some of this. There are a lot of great stories that don't do magic the way I do it. But if you're trying to tell a story where the way the magic works is a very big part of the story, then limitations are vital. I would say the best limitations are ones where creativity is forced on the part of the characters.

## Life with the Demon Trapper's Daughter: An Interview with Jana Oliver by Nancy Northcott

Atlanta author **Jana Oliver** writes an award-winning young adult fantasy set in an alternate Atlanta and featuring the Atlanta Demon Trappers Guild. A Dragon\*Con regular, Oliver sat down with the *Daily Dragon* to discuss her books.

**Daily Dragon (DD):** *Can you give readers a quick description of this series?*

**Jana Oliver (JO):** It puts a 17-year-old young lady, Riley Blackthorne, in the middle of the grand battle between

heaven and hell. I've always wanted to look at that chess game. It's like the CIA and the KGB during the Cold War. One makes a move and the other makes a countermove.

**DD:** *How many years have you been coming to Dragon\*Con?*

**JO:** This is my 11th year, and



it's always great.

**DD:** *What advice would you have for aspiring writers?*

**JO:** I like the phrase "committed persistence." Just refuse to give up. Keep practicing every day. If it takes you five years or 10 years or 20 years, you should continue writing every day. If this business is in your gut and you have to keep writing, you'll eventually succeed.

*Read the complete interviews on the Daily Dragon website.*

## Friday Night Costuming Contest

With a focus on craftsmanship, the Friday Night Costuming Contest is never short on amazing pageantry. It was no easy feat choosing the winners.

The Judges for the event were: **Freddy Clements**, **Cheralyn Lambeth**, **Pamela Cole**, and **T. Scott Merrill**. Leading this elite team was Head Judge **Kathleen O'Shea David**.

The winners are:

Youth: **Jo Gratz** as Steve from Minecraft

Novice: **Maggie Cogan** as Bene Gesserit

Journeyman: **Ellen Dimiduk** as Loki

Professional: **Vera Campbell** as Katniss Everdeen

Overall: **Harrison Krix** and **Catherine Jones** as Dovahkiin



Audience Choice Award: **Jo Gratz** as Steve from Minecraft

# Schedule Changes

Hy = Hyatt  
M = Marriott  
Hil = Hilton  
S = Sheraton  
W = Westin

Due to professional commitments, the following previously confirmed guests will not be able to attend Dragon\*Con 2012: **Corey Castellano, David Franklin, Steven McQueen, Kathy Najimy, Tim Sale, Michael Trevino.**

## Additions

NEW GUESTS: **Nathaniel Buzolic, Sebastian Roche, Michael Trucco**

\*NEW\* **Suzanne Church** will be on "Wake Up Writers Roundtable" Sat 10AM, Embassy D-F (Hy).

\*NEW\* **"Remembering Jerry Nelson"** Jerry Nelson performed characters such as Count von Count on *Sesame Street* and Floyd Pepper, Lew Zealand, and Robin on *The Muppet Show*. Join friends and colleagues as they share their memories of Jerry. Sat 1PM, M101 (M).

**Nathaniel Buzolic and Sebastian Roche** will be on "Vampire Diaries" Sat 1PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

\*NEW\* **"How NOT to Make a Movie: Filmmaker Horror Stories"** With Hunter Cressall and Jeff Elio. Making a movie never goes according to plan. Often, the failures are more entertaining than the final product. Sat 2:30PM, Embassy C (Hy).

**"Babylon 5: Gathering of the Babblers"** After Bruce Boxleitner and Mira Furlan appear, get together with your fellow *Babylon 5* fans! Sat 2:30PM, A703 (M).

**Kelly Lockhart** will be on "Belief Systems in SF 102" Sat 2:30PM, Fairlie (Hy).

**Philippa Ballantine** will be on "The World is Bigger Than England: Multi-Culturalism in the Alt. Hist Environment" Sat 2:30PM, Int'l B-C (W).

\*NEW\* **"John Barrowman Live!"** Sat 4PM, Atrium (M).

**Michael Trucco** will be on "BSG—Welcome to the Quorum" Sat 4PM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

\*NEW\* **"Performance by Jarred Claxon"** Sat 5:30PM, Baker (Hy).

\*NEW\* **"Filk Show with Matt Leger and Rob Wynne"** Sat 7PM, Baker (Hy).

**Aaron Poole and Joseph Scrimshaw** will be on "Gonzoroo II" Sat 8:30PM, Atrium (M).

\*NEW\* **"Open Filking"** Sat 1AM, Baker (Hy).

**"Weapons in Fiction"** Laser blasters or M4s? How and when gun accuracy is important in the comics medium from Nathan Edmondson. Sun 10AM, Kennesaw (Hy).

\*NEW\* **"The Future of TV is Online, Featuring Aaron Douglas"** Aaron talks about his new show, Hemlock Grove, and other works. Sun 11:30AM, A601-602 (M).

\*NEW\* **"Performance by Matt Leger"** Sun 11:30AM, Baker (Hy).

**"Aliens: Friendly Visitors or Invading Foes?"** From *V* and *Falling Skies* to *ET* and *Contact*, we've seen different reasons for alien visits. Sun 11:30AM, M106-107 (M).

**Nathaniel Buzolic and Sebastian Roche** will be on "Vampire Diaries" Sun 11:30AM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

\*NEW\* **"Open Filking"** Sun 1PM, Baker (Hy).

**"Metalocalypse Fan Panel"** Join groups for Dethklok to talk about all things Metalocalypse! Sun 1PM, Dunwoody (Hy).

**"Reading: Van Allen Plexico"** Sun 2:30PM, University (Hy).

\*NEW\* **"Performance Workshop with Craig Crumpton"** Sun 4PM, Baker (Hy).

**"Ask Zombie Squad"** Sheltering in place, bug out bags, and skills for the apocalypse. Zombie Squad will answer your questions. Sun 4PM, Vinings I-II (W).

**"Lantern City Signing"** Join the creators of *Lantern City* for an exclusive signing event! Sun 4PM, Augusta (W).

**"Venture Bros. Signing"** Following "The Venture Bros." panel, Doc Hammer, Jackson Publick, and James Urbaniak will be signing autographs. Sun 4PM, tables outside Atrium Ballroom (M).

**Michael Trucco** will be on "BSG—Bright Shiny Futures are Overrated" Sun 5:30PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

\*NEW\* **Suzanne Church** will be on **"Short and Not So Sweet Stories"** Sun 7PM, Embassy D-F (Hy).

**Aaron Poole and Joseph Scrimshaw** will be on "Gonzo Quiz Show IV: The Quest For Quiz" Sun 7PM, Atlanta Ballroom (W).

**Michael Trucco** will be on "BSG—Galactica will bring us Home" Mon 11:30AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

**Sherrilyn Kenyon** will be signing autographs Mon 11:30AM, M301-304 (M).

**"Make the Internet More Skeptical With One Mouse Click"** Tim Farley discusses how to help make the Internet more skeptical. Mon 1PM, 205-207 (Hil).

**Aaron Poole** will be on "Make the Bad Men Stop, The Sequel—Stop Harder and Faster" Mon 2:30PM, M106-M107 (M).

## Cancellations

**David Franklin** will not be on "Dueling Overrides: Farscape Cast Reunion Part Two" Sat 2:30PM, Int'l North (Hy); and "Pop the Frelling Bubble: Farscape Cast Reunion" Sun 1PM, Int'l North (Hy).

**Kathy Najimy** will not be on "Voice Acting" Sat 2:30PM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

**Steven McQueen and Michael Trevino** will not be on "Vampire Diaries" Sat 1PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

**Van Allen Plexico** will not be on "Between the Candle and the Star: *Babylon 5's* Bruce Boxleitner and Mira Furlan" Sat 1PM, Int'l North (Hy).

\*NEW\* **"How to Make a Short Film"** Sat 2:30PM, Embassy C (Hy).

**"Inside the Artists Studio—Tim Sale"** Sat 2:30PM, Hanover F (Hy).

**Tea Morris** will not be on "The World is Bigger Than England: Multi-Culturalism in the Alt. Hist Environment" Sat 2:30PM, Int'l B-C (W); "How Do You Take Your Steampunk—Light or Dark?" Mon 1PM, Int'l A (W).

\*NEW\* **"Torchwood Q&A: Barrowman, Marsters and Owen"** Sat 4PM, Atrium (M).

\*NEW\* **"Performance by the Gekkos"** Sat 5:30PM, Baker (Hy).

**"Miyazaki, Gender, and Joseph Campbell on the Heroic Quest"** Sat 5:30PM, Courtland (Hy).

**"Performance by Alex Boyd"** Sat 7PM, Baker (Hy).

**"Animal, Human and..."** Sat 8:30PM, M106-107 (M).

\*NEW\* **"Open Filking"** Sat 11:30PM, Baker (Hy).

**"The Activity"** Sun 10AM, Kennesaw (Hy).

\*NEW\* **"Performance Workshop with Craig Crumpton"** Sun 11:30AM, Baker (Hy).

**"Dr Sperry's Strangest Cases"** Sun 11:30AM, M106-M107 (M).

**Kat Graham, Steven McQueen, and Michael Trevino** will not be on "Vampire Diaries" Sun 11:30AM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

**"Kathy Najimy in the Spotlight"** Sun 11:30AM, A601-A602 (M).

**"Children's Show by Alex Boyd"** Sun 1PM, Baker (Hy).

**Corey Castellano** will not be on "Movie Magic: Makeup, Special Events & Props" Sun 2:30PM, Regency V (Hy).

**Leanna Renee Hieber** will not be on "Victorian Orientalism and Steampunk" Sun 2:30PM, Int'l A (W).

\*NEW\* **Carlos Pedraza** will not be on "Ms. Star Trek Universe" Sun 4PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (S).

\*NEW\* **D.J. Grothe** will not be on "James Randi: Why Skepticism Matters" Sun 5:30PM, Int'l N (Hy).

**Philippa Ballantine** will not be on "How Do You Take Your Steampunk—Light or Dark?" Mon 1PM, Int'l A (W); "Women in Alternate History" Mon 2:30PM, Int'l B-C (W).

**Aleksandra "Sasha" Chernova** will not be on "Costuming Biz & Shop Organization" Mon 10AM, M103-M105 (M).

**"From Believer To Skeptic"** Mon 1PM, 205-207 (Hil).

**Veronica Belmont** will not be on "Reaching the Fans" Mon 11:30AM, 209-211 (Hil); "When Things Go Wrong" Mon 1PM, 204 (Hil); and "Podcasting Track Sign-Off" Mon 4PM, 204 (Hil).

## Updates

**"How Have Movies Treated the Paranormal"** moved from Fri 10AM to Sun 5:30PM, M106-107 (M).

**"An Hour with Sean Maher"** Sat 5:30 PM moved from Int'l D-E to Augusta (W).

**"Fringe: What's Next?"** moved from Sun 5:30PM to Sat 8:30PM, M106-107 (M).

**"Disasters Past, Present, and Future—Hear from the Feds"** Sun 11:30AM moved from 202 (Hil) to Valdosta (S).

**"Behind the Brooms: The Sci-Fi Janitors"** moved from Sun 1PM to Sun 11:30AM, M101 (M).

**"Game of Thrones"** moved from Sun 7PM to Sun 10PM, Greenbriar (Hy).

**"Rebuilding the World"** Mon 10AM moved from Roswell 1-2 to Augusta 1-2 (W).

**"The Return"** Mon 11:30AM moved from Roswell 1-2 to Augusta 1-2 (W).

**"It's the End of the Track as We Know It"** Mon 1PM moved from Roswell 1-2 to Augusta 1-2 (W).

**"Last Call!"** Mon 2:30PM moved from Roswell 1-2 to Augusta 1-2 (W).

**"Leavetakings"** Mon 4PM moved from Roswell 1-2 to Augusta 1-2 (W).

## Corrections

**"DJ Spider"** DJ Dance will run two hours not four hours, Sat 3-5AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

**"Making Video Games with Artix Entertainment"** is Sat 5:30PM, Grand Salon E (Hil).

## Furry Meetup

Inviting all furies, fursuiters, nekos, otherkin, and fur friendly fans for a meet-up and photo op. Sat 6PM, Stairs in front on Peachtree St. (W).



## An Evening at the Winespring Inn

The Wheel of Time Track's annual party: an evening of music and merriment at everyone's favorite inn! Sat 10PM, Atlanta Ballroom (W).



## Heroes and Villains Ball Sponsored by Guild Launch

The MMORPG Track and the British Sci-Fi Track join forces to throw one big bash. DJ Jennocide will be spinning tunes. Sat 10PM, Grand Ballroom (S).



## Mighty Fine Shindig

Join the Whedonverse Track and guests Pandora Celtica and Marc Gunn to dance the night away on Persephone! Sat 10PM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).



## The 5th Annual Quest for the Bling Gnome (MMO Trivia)

Show off your knowledge of MMO games and become immortalized on the Bling Gnome's throne for the inspiration of future generations of hardcore MMO geeks. As always, we'll have prizes and swag to give away, courtesy of our friends at Guild Launch. But the real prize is the proof that you have pwned a room full of noobs, and isn't that what it's all about? Sat 2:30PM, Grand Salon E (Hil).



## Valerie

It's been six years since I proposed and nearly puked on you 'cause of nerves in my stormtrooper armor in the Hyatt lobby! Love you.

—Paul



## Happy Birthday A.J. Scudiere

We look forward to many more Dragon\*Con adventures with you. We love you!

—Eli & family

**"DJ Nemesis"** DJ Dance will run two hours not four hours, Sun 3-5AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

**"DJ little Jen"** DJ Dance will run two hours not four hours, Mon 3-5AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).