MARCH
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22
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Zoom link will be sent out
to registered attendees
the day prior to the
program.

Editor DENISE HAMILTON with
contributors FRANCESCA LIA BLOCK,
LISA MORTON, and
LUIS J RODRIGUEZ

“A thrill ride of grand ideas and warnings.” —MICHAEL CONNELLY
The debut title in a new city-based anthology series featuring all-new stories with speculative, sci-fi, and paranormal themes—each using distinct neighborhood settings as a launching pad.

As an incubator of the future, Los Angeles has long mesmerized writers from Aldous Huxley to Octavia E. Butler. With its natural disasters, Hollywood artifice, staggering wealth and poverty, and urban sprawl, one can argue that Los Angeles is already so weird, surreal, irrational, and mythic that any fiction emerging from this place should be considered speculative. So, bestselling author Denise Hamilton commissioned fourteen stories (including one of her own) and did exactly that. In Speculative Los Angeles, some of the city’s most prophetic and diverse voices reimagine the metropolis in very different ways. In these pages, you’ll encounter twenty-first-century changelings, dirigibles plying the suburban skies, black holes and jacaranda men lurking in deep suburbia, beachfront property in Century City, walled-off canyons and coastlines reserved for the wealthy, psychic death cults, robot nursemaids, and an alternate LA where Spanish land grants never gave way to urbanization.

As with our city-based Akashic Noir Series, each story in Speculative Los Angeles is set in a distinct neighborhood filled with local color, landmarks, and flavor. Since the best speculative fiction provides a wormhole into other worlds while also commenting on our own, that is exactly what you’ll find here. (Akashic Books)

DENISE HAMILTON

LA native Denise Hamilton is the author of seven crime novels and the editor of Speculative Los Angeles (Feb 2021). She edited the best-selling Los Angeles Noir (which includes a short story that won the Edgar award) and Los Angeles Noir 2: The Classics. Hamilton is a former L.A. Times journalist, Fulbright scholar and finalist for the Edgar Award for her fiction. Her next novel is a work of speculative fiction set in Los Angeles.

Author photo credit: Blake Little

FRANCESCA LIA BLOCK

is the author of more than twenty-five acclaimed and widely translated books, as well as numerous short stories, essays, and poems. She has received the Spectrum Award, the Phoenix Award, the ALA Rainbow Award, the 2005 Margaret A. Edwards Award, and citations from the New York Times Book Review and Publishers Weekly, among others. She lives, writes, and teaches creative writing in Los Angeles.

Author photo credit: Nicolas Sage

LISA MORTON

is a screenwriter, author of nonfiction books, and prose writer whose work was described by the American Library Association’s Readers’ Advisory Guide to Horror as “consistently dark, unsettling, and frightening.” She is a six-time winner of the Bram Stoker Award, and the author of four novels and over 150 short stories. For more information, visit www.lisamorton.com.

Author photo credit: Seth Ryan

LUIS J RODRIGUEZ

has published sixteen books of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, children’s books, and essays. Best known for his memoir Always Running: La Vida Loca: Gang Days in L.A., he has also been a print and radio journalist and written plays, movie scripts, and worked as a script consultant on three TV shows, including FX’s Snowfall. From 2014–2016, Rodriguez served as Los Angeles’s official poet laureate.

Author photo credit: Pocho Sanchez